

**If you have not tried to use iChat, it is very easy to setup and use.**



## **Setting up IChat**

iChat lets you communicate using .Mac, AIM, Google Talk, and Jabber accounts. The steps here explain how to set up an account, or get a new one from .Mac or AIM.

### **Open IChat - Select Preferences**

**To specify your name and password:**

- 1** Choose iChat > Preferences, and then click Accounts.
- 2** Click the Add (+) button, and choose an account type from the Account Type menu.
- 3** Enter your user name and password.

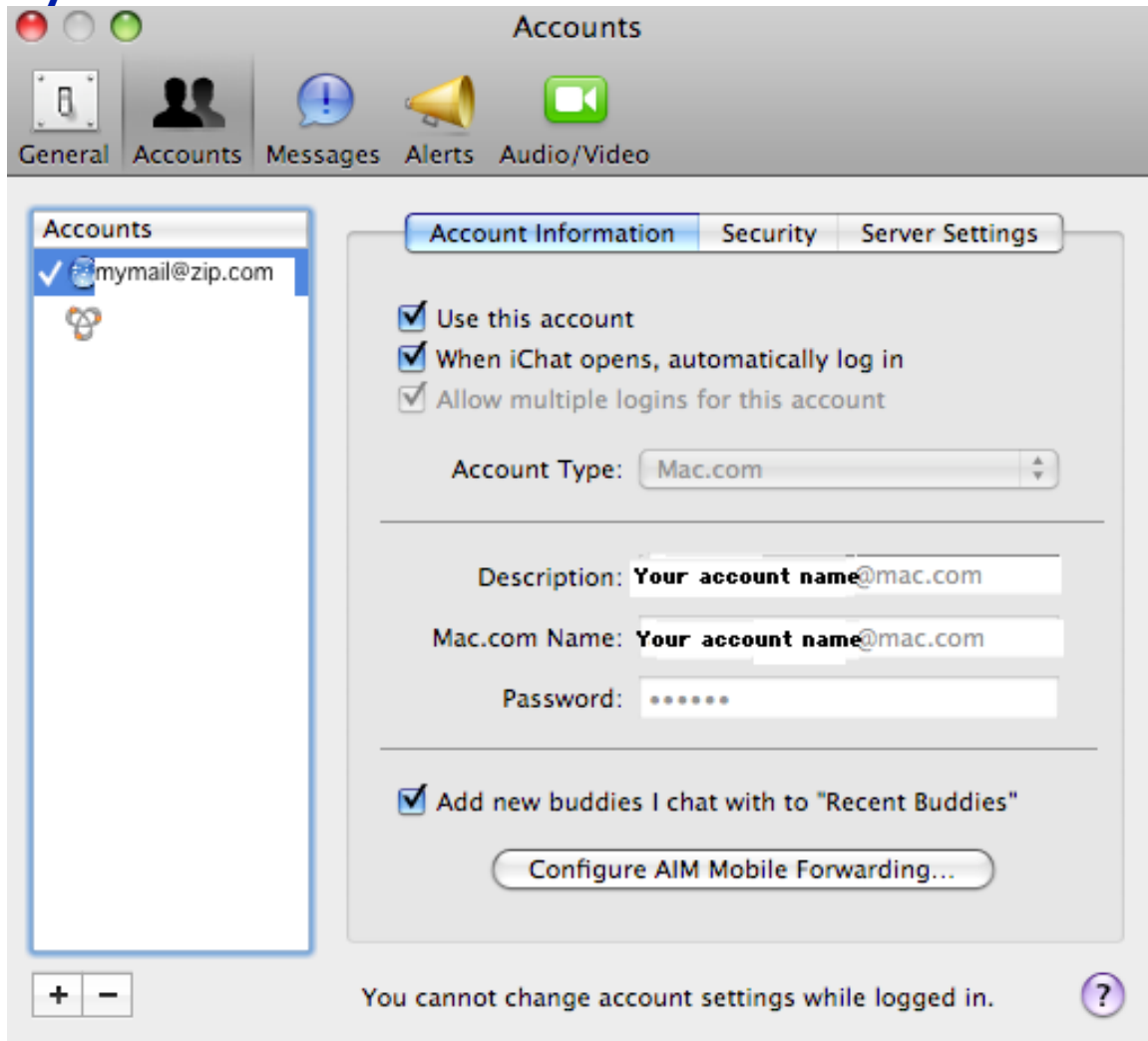
.Mac: Enter your full email address (for example, [tclark3@mac.com](mailto:tclark3@mac.com)) and password. Your .Mac password cannot be longer than 20 characters.

- 4** Click Done.

You may be able to use Bonjour to chat with nearby iChat users. Choose iChat > Preferences, click Accounts, and select "Use Bonjour Instant Messaging."

**This is how I setup IChat. As you can see it is really quite simple.**

## My Account Prefs are set as follows:



**Other settings are presented further down in this article.**



### Setting up secure chatting [Setting up secure chatting](#)

You can secure your iChat communications so no one can listen in on your conferences. To have secure chats, you and your buddy must both have MobileMe subscriptions and request MobileMe certificates.

MobileMe subscriptions include accounts that end in "me.com" and "mac.com."

## To set up secure messaging:

Choose iChat > Preferences, and then click Accounts.  
Select the account you want to secure.

Free trial MobileMe subscriptions are not eligible for secure messaging.

Click Security, and then click Encrypt.

As part of the setup process, you need to type an encryption password. This is the password you need to enter if you are using secure messaging on a second computer. This password may be different from your Mac OS X password.

When you and your buddy have MobileMe certificates installed and you start a chat, a lock icon appears in the upper-right corner of the iChat window. Text, audio, and video are encrypted on your computer, sent across the Internet encrypted, and are not decrypted until they reach your buddy's computer.

To view your Secure iChat certificate, open Keychain Access, and click My Certificates in the Category list. Double-click the certificate that is the same as your MobileMe name.



### **Sending messages directly to another person**

As with all Internet communications, instant messages pass through a central Internet server, and there is a slight possibility messages could be intercepted. **To avoid the central server, use the Send Direct Message option.**

**IMPORTANT:** The Send Direct Message option does not encrypt your messages. For information on encrypting messages, see this topic, {above}: [Setting up secure chatting](#)

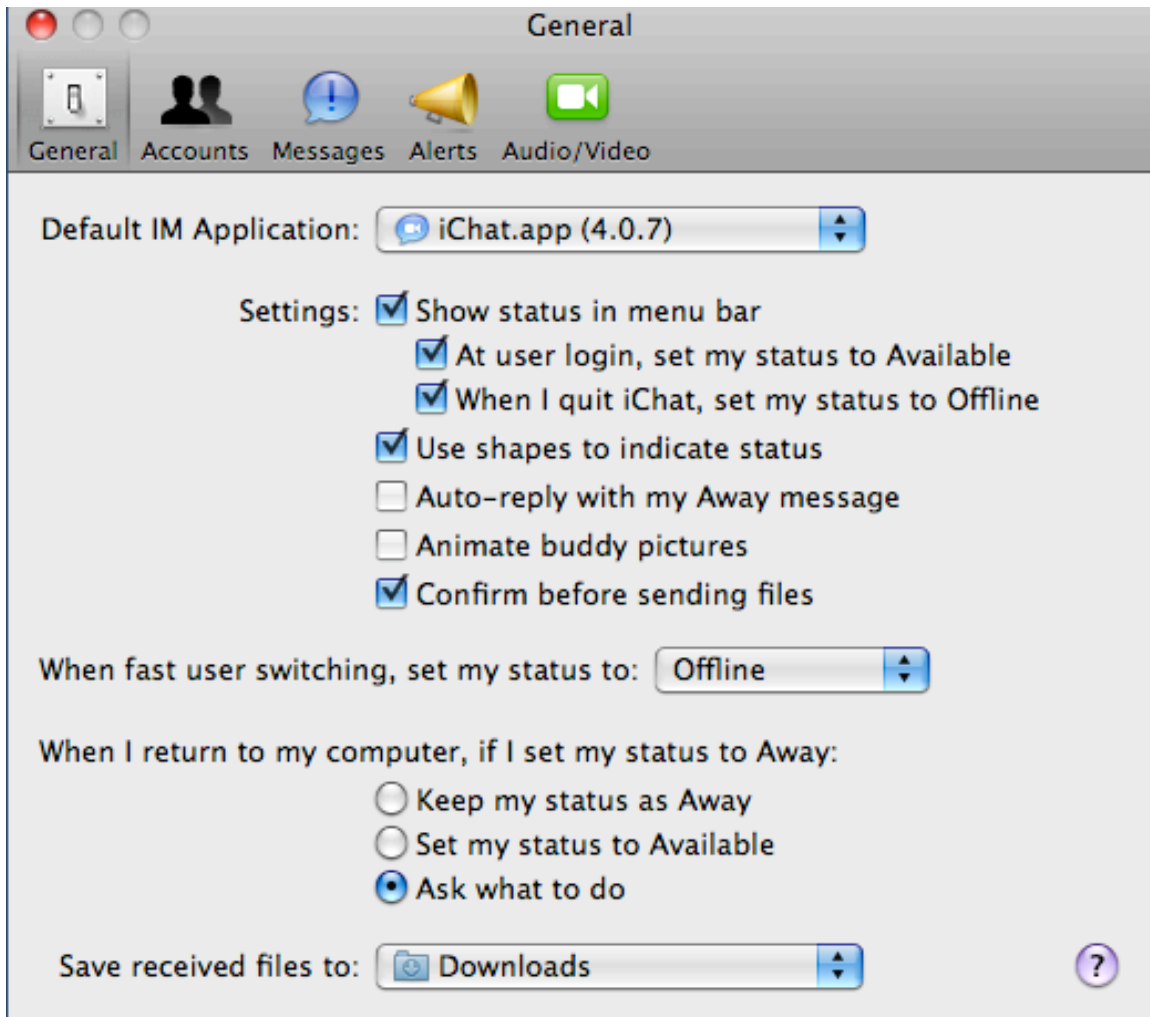
### **Links to Related Topics**

[Chatting on your local network](#)   [Using multiple accounts](#)

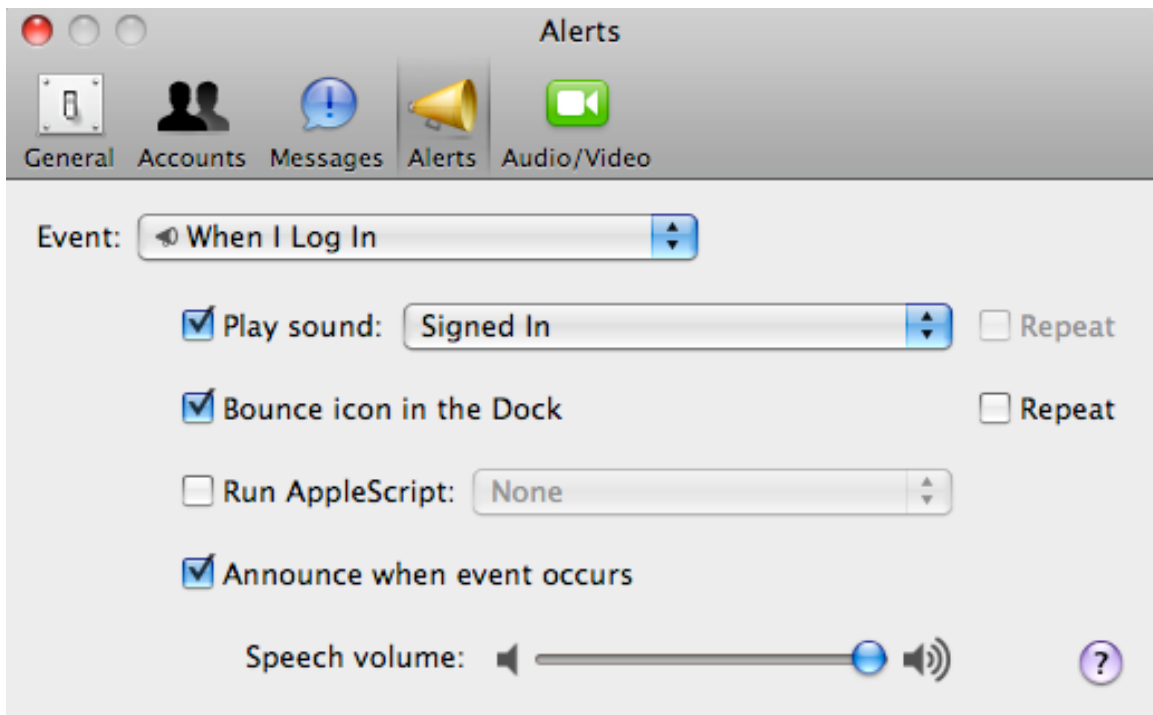
Open the [Mac website](#) or

[AOL website](#)

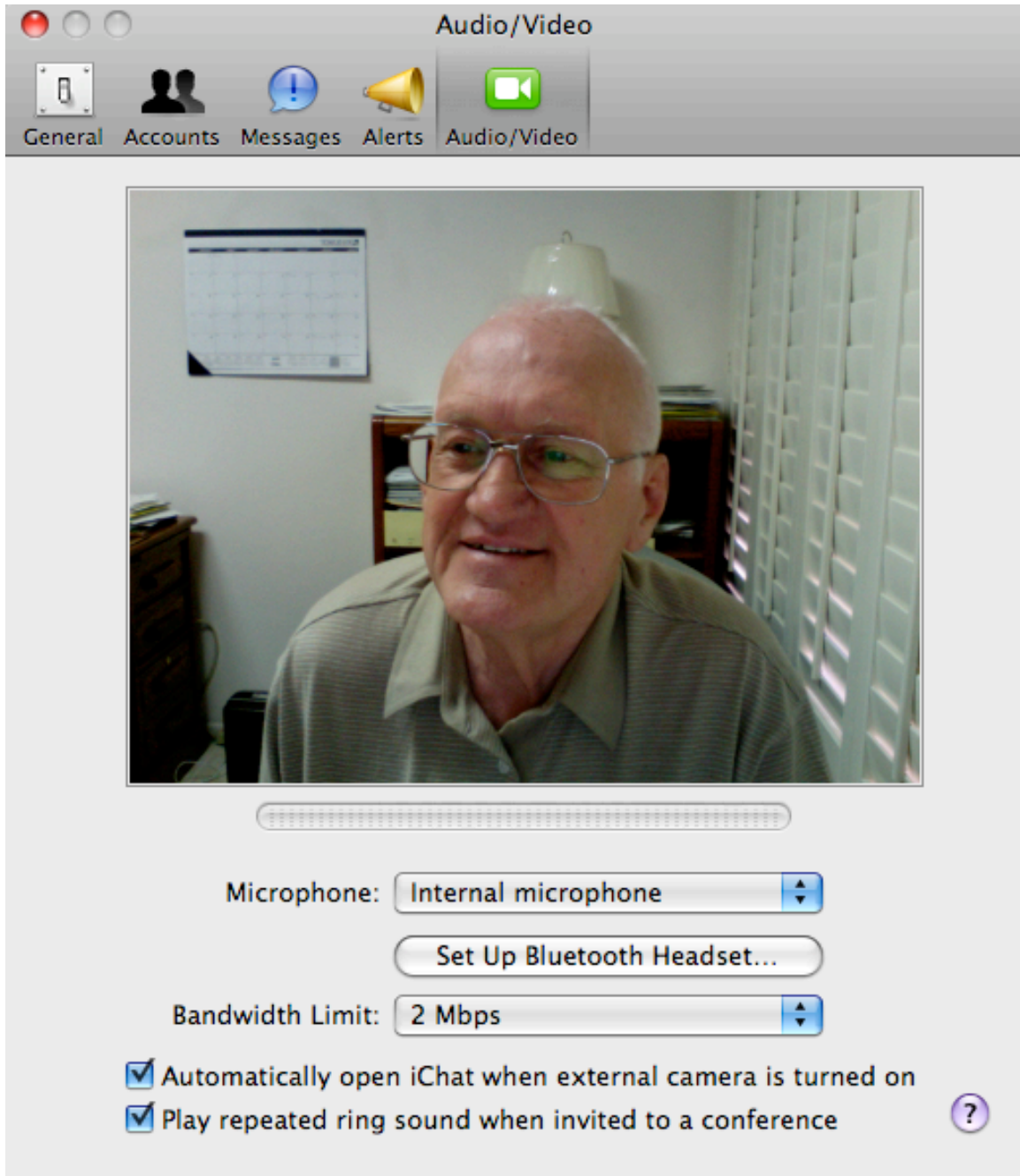
## My General IChat Prefs are set as follows:



## My IChat Alert Prefs are set as follows:



## My iChat Audio/Video Prefs are set as follows:



Very Ugly, Huh?  
**Note: The Dunce Cap is crooked....**