Welcome to OpenSim!

Before I get to the free land, let me answer some questions...

What is OpenSim?

It's like an open source version of Second Life that you can run on your own computer for free. Or you can run it on a server, and create a public grid for everyone to enjoy. Which there are hundreds of.

Hey, if it's free, how come OpenSim grids are charging money?

The OpenSim software is free, but servers, bandwidth, backups, and tech support all costs money. But because the basic software is free, they are able to save a little – in fact, the average OpenSim region costs about a tenth of what a similar region in Second Life would cost.

But the title says, "Free land." Hey, wait a minute...

No, you don't have to set up your own server. It's really free land on an existing grid. Though if you do want to run OpenSim yourself, that's what my next guide will be about.

So what's the catch?

Many grids offer free small residential plots and stores in order to attract residents and merchants. They hope to make money when those users buy currency, or trade up to more land.

Other grids have donated capacity that they are wiling to share with the public, or have funding to support educational groups or other special users.

MetaMaria

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3rd Rock Grid

Residential Offers

Size: One parcel
Prims: 200 to 250
Duration: Unlimited
Eligibility: Active residents

Commercial Offers

Size: One store
Prims: 150
Duration: Unlimited
Eligibility: Active residents

- **NO HYPERGRID**
- **NO REGION EXPORTS**
- **VIVOX VOICE**
- **CURRENCY**

About the grid

3rd Rock Grid is a medium-sized, closed commercial grid known for its sense of community and its vibrant music scene. It is a top-ten grid by popularity.

Details

Stop by either the Harold or the Maude residential region to claim parcels. There are rental boxes on each parcel, with instructions and rules. The commercial space is on the Bazaar mall region. Use the rental boxes to select your shop.

Avalonia Estate

Residential Offers

Size: 5,000 square meters
Prims: 3,000
Duration: Unlimited
Eligibility: Active residents

Commercial Offers

Size: One store
Prims: 1,000
Duration: Unlimited
Eligibility: Active residents

- **HYPERGRID**
- **REGION EXPORTS**
- **TEAMSPEAK3 VOICE**
- **OMC CURRENCY**
- **OVER 18 ONLY**

About the grid

Avalonia Estate is a small startup grid dedicated to the "FemDom" adult lifestyle community.

Details

Free parcels are set on a tropical island region and include a pre-made home. To request a free parcel, send an instant message in-world to Justin Ireman or email him at **justin.ireman@avalonia-estate.co.uk**.

AvaCon Grid

NonProfit Offers

Size: 15,360 square meters
Prims: 2,000
Duration: One year, renewable
Eligibility: Non-profits, social good organizations

- **HYPERGRID**
- **REGION, PARCEL EXPORTS**
- **VIVOX VOICE**
- **NO CURRENCY**

About the grid

The AvaCon Grid is the new virtual headquarters of AvaCon, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the growth and development of the metaverse.

Details

The **Social Good Community** spaces on the AvaCon Grid will be available to eligible organizations that are registered as a non-profit, organizations that have a charity or foundation status recognized by the US Internal Revenue Service, or whose organizational mission is focuses on a "social good" cause or public charity purpose. The lease is for one year, renewable annually. Apply online at the AvaCon website.

Avination

Residential Offers

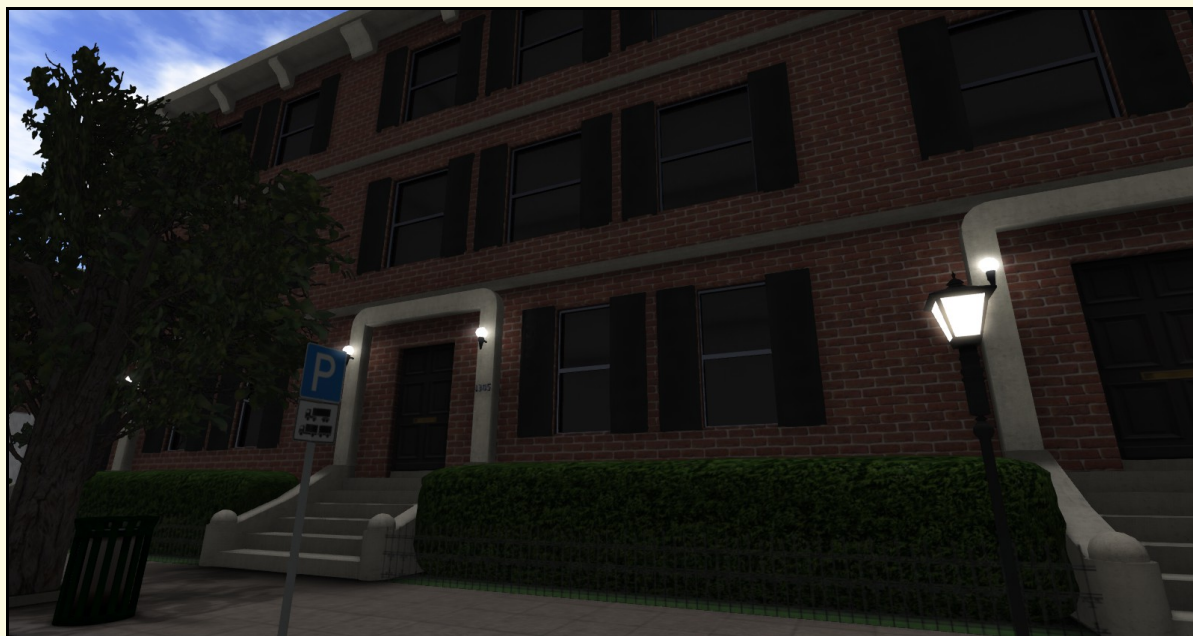**Size**: One brownstone
Prims: Fair use
Duration: Unlimited
Eligibility: Active residents

- **NO HYPERGRID**
- **NO REGION EXPORTS**
- **VIVOX VOICE**
- **CURRENCY**

About the grid

Avination is the second most popular commercial grid and is known for donating code back to the OpenSim community.

Details

Visit the **Vintner City** and **Vintner Bay** regions to get your free, three-story attached brownstone in a city-themed build with convenient shopping and a nearby club. Or contact **Malikye Vintner** in-world to request the free home. Click the rental box at least once a week to maintain the residence.
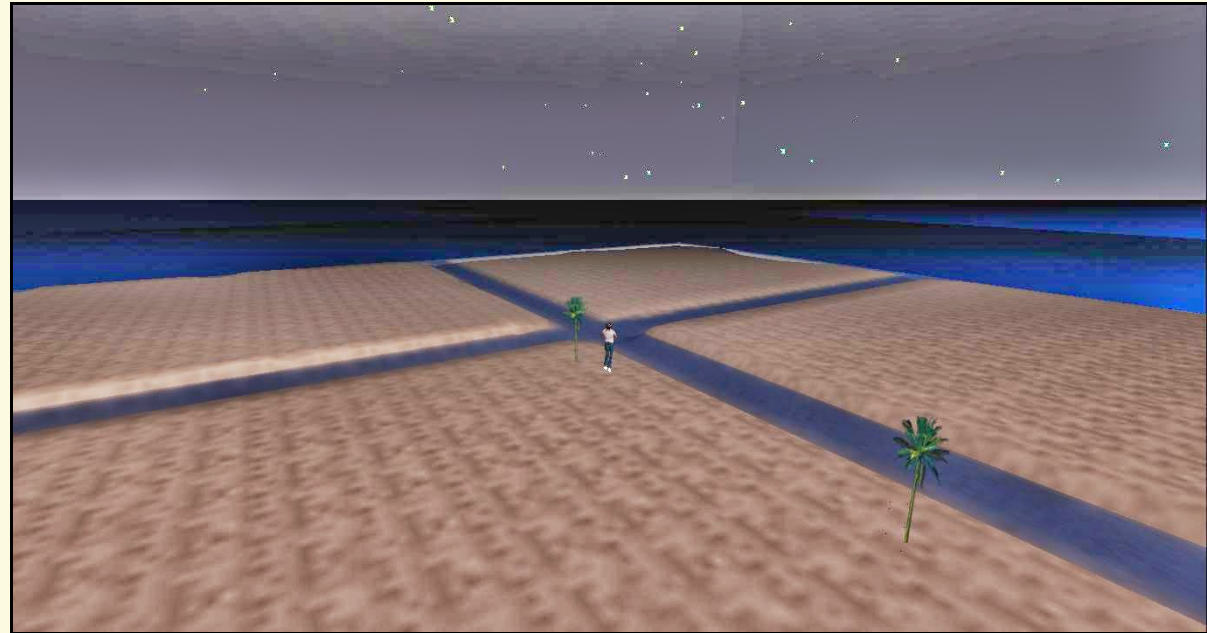
AviWorlds

Residential Offers

Size: Quarter regions
Prims: 7,500
Duration: Unlimited
Eligibility: Active residents

- **NO HYPERGRID**
- **NO REGION EXPORTS**
- **VIVOX VOICE**
- **CURRENCY**
- **OVER 18 ONLY**

About the grid

AviWorlds is a mid-sized closed commercial grid with a large Portueguese-speaking community. It ranked ahead of all other grids in content, support and technology in the most recent *Hypergrid Business* reader survey.

Details

Choose a quarter sim on any of 50 residential regions. To maintain the parcel, visit the AviWorlds office and click on the parcel rental kiosk once a week.

Craft World

Residential Offers

Size: One island
Prims: 800 prims
Duration: Unlimited
Eligibility: All residents

- **HYPERGRID**
- **VIVOX VOICE**
- **NO CURRENCY**

About the grid

Craft World is a large non-profit grid, popular with artists and creative folks.

Details

Choose an open island on the Kalahari Sahara regions to build your home from scratch. Or choose a pre-built home, with a 500-prim allowance, on the Victoria region. Residents must renew their free leases via a rental box at least once a month.

Dorena's World

Residential Offers

Size: One parcel
Prims:
Duration: Unlimited
Eligibility: New residents

- **HYPERGRID**
- **VIVOX VOICE**
- **NO CURRENCY**

About the grid

Dorena's World is a medium-sized German-language commercial grid, and one of the oldest grids on the hypergrid.

Details

Choose a free parcel on the **Isola** or **Hope Island** regions, but must actively use the land in order to retain the rights to it. Unused plots will revert back to the grid.

Great Canadian Grid

GREATCANADIANGRID.CA

Residential Offers

Size: One plot
Prims: 1,000
Duration: Unlimited
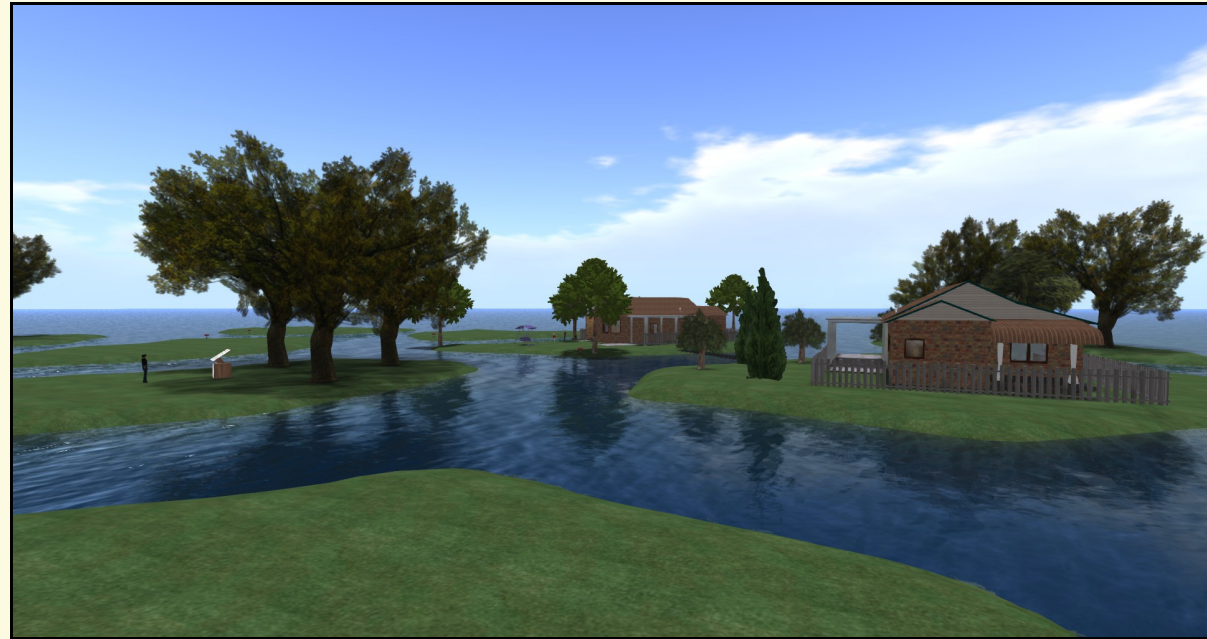**Eligibility**: Active residents

Commercial Offers

Size: One store
Prims: 500
Duration: Unlimited
Eligibility: Active residents

- **HYPERGRID**
- **NO REGION EXPORTS**
- **VIVOX VOICE**
- **PAYPAL PAYMENTS**

About the grid

Great Canadian Grid is a startup-grid commercial serving Canadians and people interested in Canada. While hypergrid-enabled, the grid uses the new OpenSim export permissions, so that creators can choose whether to allow buyers to take content to other grids.

Details

Teleport to the **Free Beachfront Property** region or the **Free Riverfront Property** region and click the free rental sign to claim land.
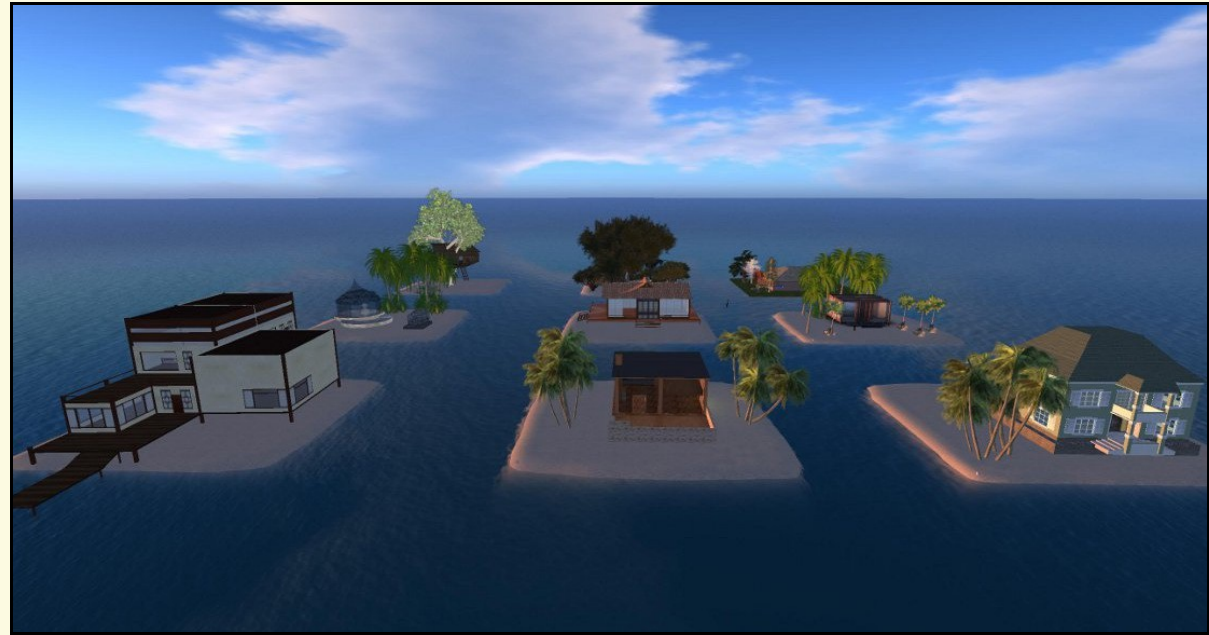
Island Oasis

Residential Offers

Size: 4,896 square meter parcels
Prims: 280
Duration: Unlimited
Eligibility: Active residents

- NO HYPERGRID
- NO REGION EXPORTS
- VIVOX VOICE
- CURRENCY
- OVER 18 ONLY

About the grid

Island Oasis is a mid-sized closed commercial social grid.

Details

Pick up a welcome folder from the grid's welcome region and use the provided landmark to teleport to the free residential islands. Then choose a parcel and click the rental box. To retain use of the parcel, click on the rental box at least once a week.

jOpenSim World

Residential Offers

Size: 4,096 square meters
Prims: 450
Duration: Unlimited
Eligibility: Active residents

- **NO HYPERGRID**
- **NO REGION EXPORTS**
- **VIVOX VOICE**
- **CURRENCY**
- **OVER 18 ONLY**

About the grid

The jOpenSimWorld grid is a small commercial grid originally created as a showcase for the jOpenSim Web interface and now changing to a community grid.

Details

Teleport to the **Canary Islands** region, find one with a rental box marked "vacant," click on the box and follow instructions. To main the land, click on the rental box at least once a week.

Littlefield

Residential Offers

Size: One house
Prims: 100
Duration: Unlimited
Eligibility: New residents

Commercial Offers

Size: One or more stores
Prims: 500
Duration: Unlimited
Eligibility: Grid residents

- **HYPERGRID**
- **VIVOX VOICE**
- **NO CURRENCY**
- **OVER 18 ONLY**

About the grid

Littlefield is a medium-sized community grid which originally started as an adult lifestyle grid but has since grown to support a wide variety of virtual communities. It is a top-ten grid by popularity.

Details

All Littlefield residents get free furnished homes in a residential complex. Contact a member of the grid administration or support teams. Contact information is available in the welcome region. In-world stores may only contain free items.

Logicamp

Residential Offers

Size: One parcel
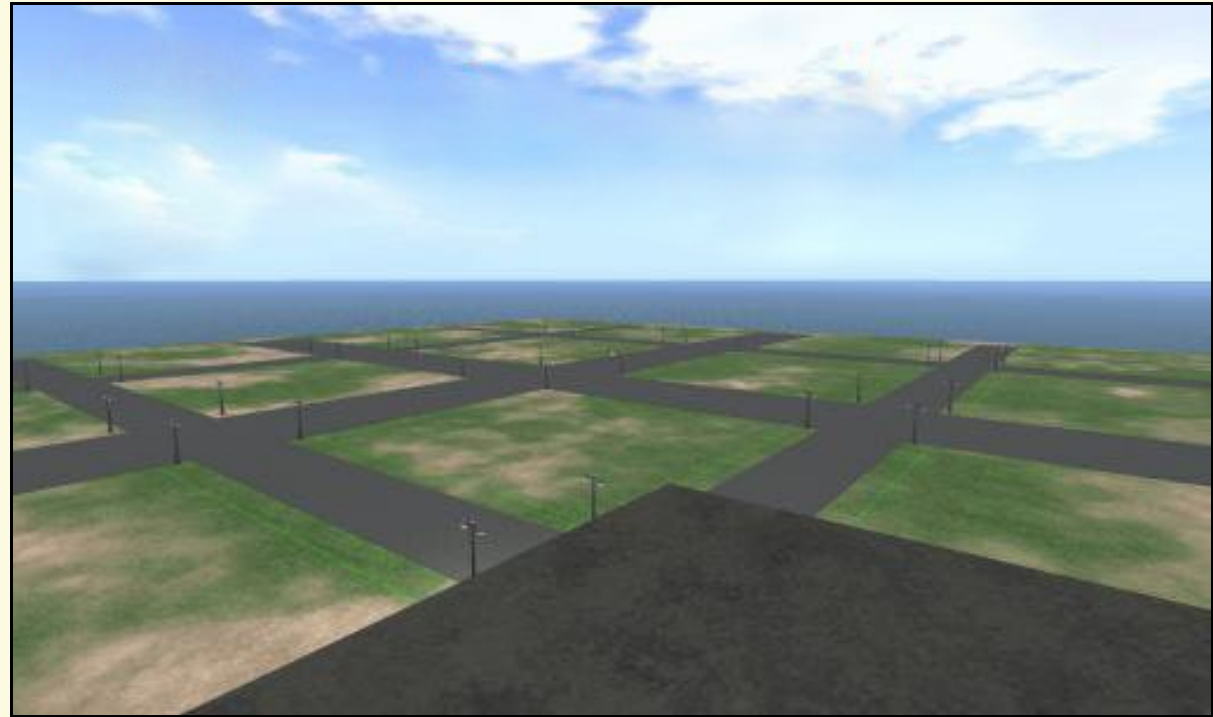**Prims:** 750
Duration: Ulimited
Eligibility: Active residents

● **HYPERGRID**
● **NO REGION EXPORTS**
● **VIVOX VOICE**
● **CURRENCY**

About the grid

Logicamp is a non-profit French-language grid based in Belgium. One of the oldest grids on the hypergrid, it has a strong educational focus.

Details

Visit the **Freeland** region on the Logicamp grid to claim a free parcel. You must actively use the land to retain rights to it. Unused plots will revert back to the grid.

Lost Paradise

Residential Offers

Size: One lot
Prims: 1,500
Duration: Unlimited
Eligibility: New residents

- **HYPERGRID**
- **VIVOX VOICE**
- **OMC CURRENCY**

About the grid

Lost Paradise is a medium-sized, open commercial grid. One of the few hypergrid-enabled grids with currency and shopping.

Details

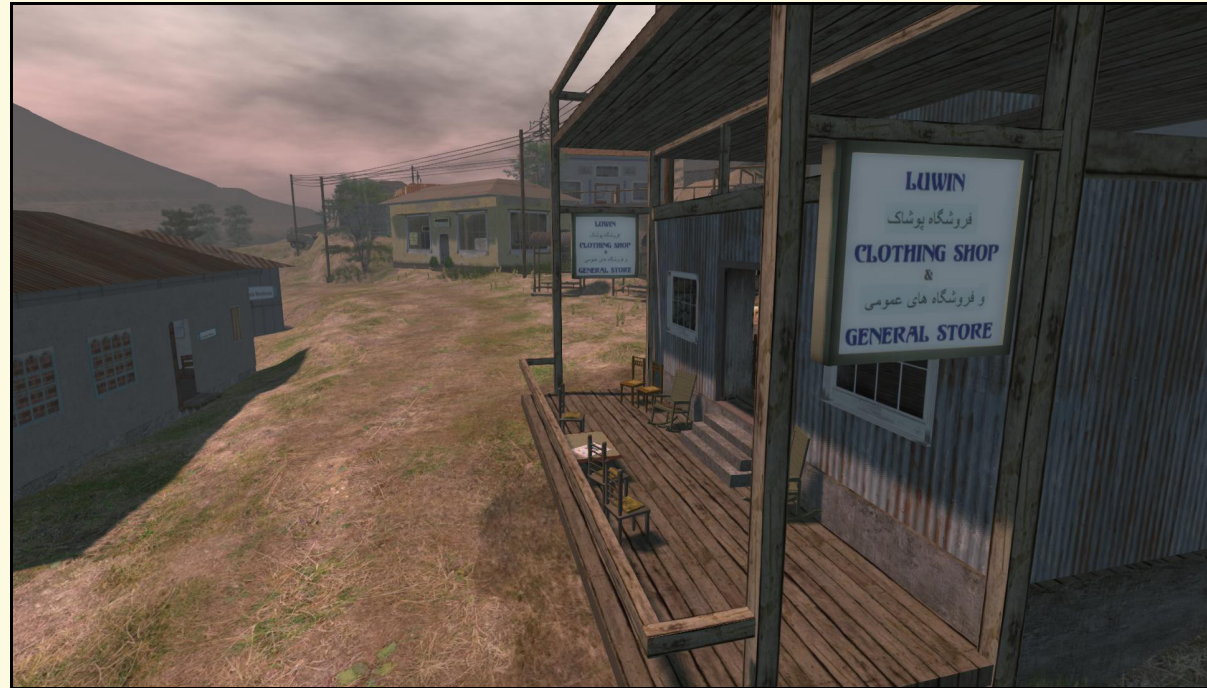Stop by the **Canbridge Ltd.** region to claim a free lot.

MOSES

Free Land Offers

Size: One to 12 full regions
Prims: 25,000 per region
Duration: Renewed annually
Eligibility: Government
agencies, private companies
and educational institutions

- **NO HYPERGRID**
- **ALLOWS REGION EXPORTS**
- **FREESWITCH VOICE**
- **NO CURRENCY**
- **OVER 18 ONLY**

About the grid

MOSES is a coalition of military, industry, and academic partners who share a common interest in the advancement of virtual world technology for simulation based training. The research grid is hosted at the US Army Research Laboratory.

Details

Email a short project proposal to the MOSES Program Office at
arl.sttc.open.simulator@us.army.mil to request MOSES resource allocation.

PMGrid

Residential Offers

Size: One parcel to entire region
Prims: Unlimited
Duration: Unlimited
Eligibility: New residents

- **HYPERGRID**
- **ALLOWS REGION EXPORTS**
- **VIVOX VOICE**
- **NO CURRENCY**

About the grid

PMGrid is a non-commercial grid that prides itself on being a launching pad for creators new to OpenSim.

Details

Creative builders can request free land by contacting Bob Wellman in-world or via email at **bob.wellman@hotmail.co.uk**. OAR uploads and downloads available via a Web interface to import and export entire region files. The only requirement is that you have to actively use the land.

Sammers World

Residential Offers

Size: One house
Prims: 100 to 1,200
Duration: Unlimited
Eligibility: New residents

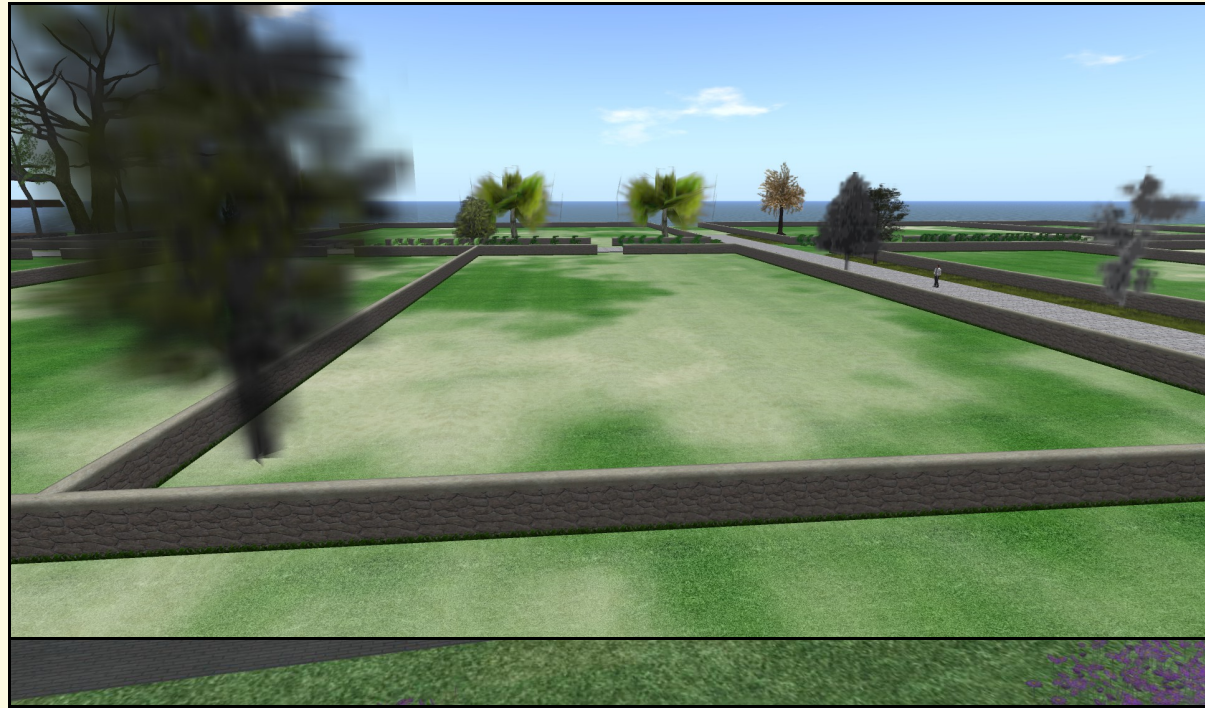## Commercial Offers

Size: One store
Prims: 100
Duration: Unlimited
Eligibility: New residents

- **HYPERGRID**
- **VIVOX VOICE**
- **CURRENCY**
- **FEE FOR UPLOADS**

About the grid

Sammers World is a recently-launched German-language commercial grid.

Details

Teleport to the **Free Home** region to claim your land, or to the **Marketplace** region to claim the store. Store owners also need to join the **Opensim Market Place 2014** group.

SimValley

Residential Offers

Size: 1,024 square meters
Prims: 234
Duration: Unlimited
Eligibility: New residents

- **HYPERGRID**
- **REGION EXPORTS**
- **VIVOX VOICE**
- **OMC CURRENCY**

About the grid

SimValley is a mid-sized international grid based in the Netherlands, with one of the biggest help islands in OpenSim. The grid is bilingual, with an English-language website and in-world materials.

Details

Contact **John Silver** in-world for the free land plot allocation, or email him at **silverj@xs4all.nl**. Also contact him to inquire about free full regions, which are available for builds and projects that benefit the broader grid community such as public marks or shopping malls.

Spellscape

Residential Offers

Size: 4,096 square meters
Prims: 1,875
Duration: Unlimited
Eligibility: Active residents

Commercial Offers

Size: 320 square meters
Prims: 146
Duration: Unlimited
Eligibility: Active residents

- **NO HYPERGRID**
- **NO REGION EXPORTS**
- **VIVOX VOICE**
- **CURRENCY**

About the grid

Spellscape is a small commercial grid focused on gothic fantasy and magic roleplay.

Details

Choose a parcel on a residential region by clicking on the red box in the middle of the parcel. To claim a store in the main town, **Vandenbergh**, contact grid administrators **Xander Bing** or **Alicia Raven** by instant message. To keep your parcel, you need to renew it once every three months on the land management section of the grid website.

Tropical Paradise Virtual World

Residential Offers

Size: One home
Prims: 75
Duration: 30 days
Eligibility: New residents

Commercial Offers

Size: One store
Prims: 75
Duration: Unlimited
Eligibility: New creators

- **NO HYPERGRID**
- **NO REGION EXPORTS**
- **VIVOX VOICE**
- **CURRENCY**

About the grid

Tropical Paradise Virtual World is a new tropical-themed grid that features live music performances.

Details

After logging in for the first time, pick up a welcome packet at the landing zone and follow the landmark to the free houses on the **Paradise Estates** region, and to free stores on the **Storm Front** region.
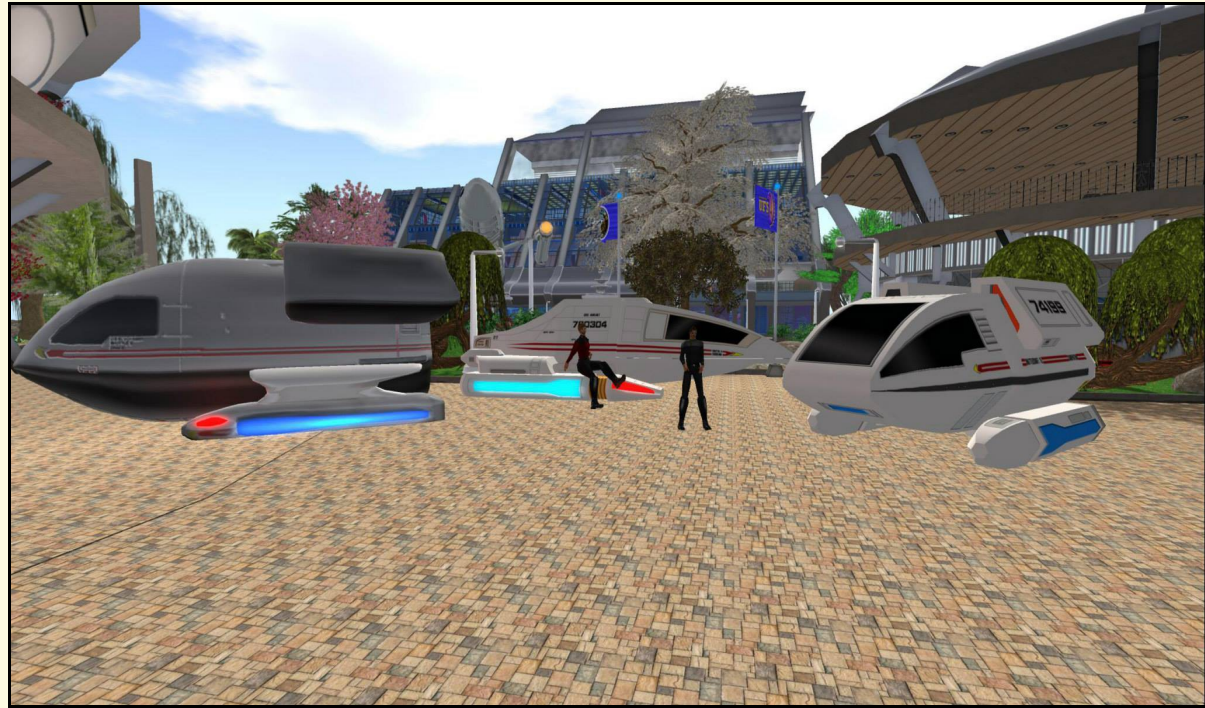
UFS Grid

Role Playing Offers

Size: Quarter region or larger
Prims:
Duration: Unlimited
Eligibility: Active role playing groups

- **NO HYPERGRID**
- **NO REGION EXPORTS**
- **VIVOX VOICE**
- **OMC CURRENCY**

About the grid

UFS grid is a premium commercial grid serving the science-fiction themed roleplaying communities.

Details

Role playing groups should contact UFS Grid administrators for the land offer. Land allocation will depend on the size and activity level of the group. The free land offer will remain in effect as long as the group actively uses the land.
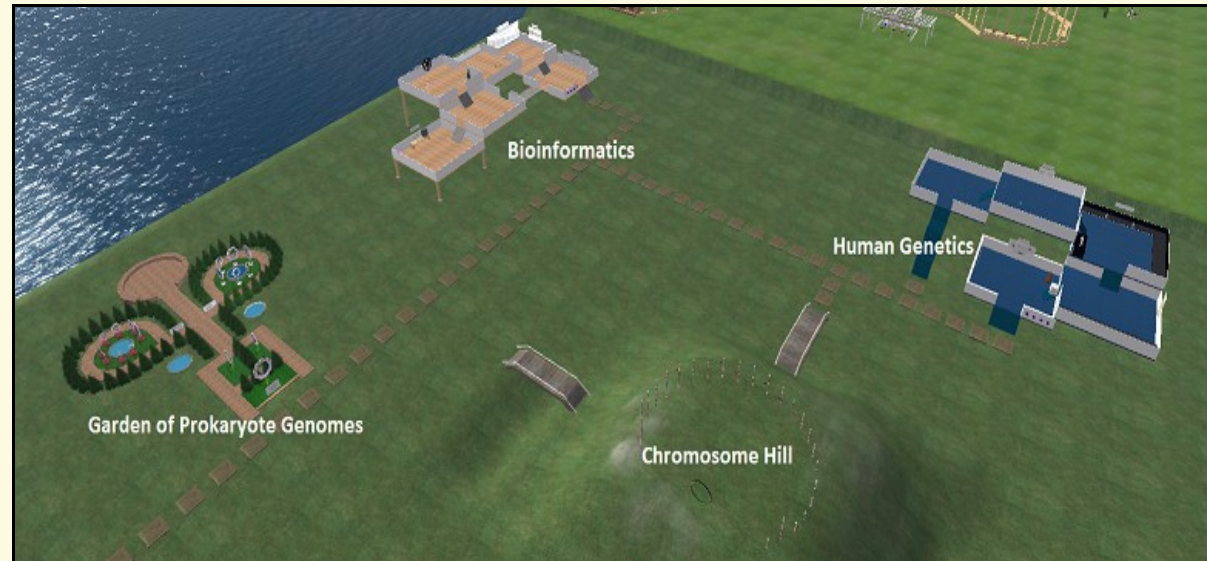
VIBE

Educational Offers

Size: Entire grid
Prims: Unlimited
Duration: Unlimited
Eligibility: Educators only

- **HYPERGRID**
- **VIVOX VOICE**
- **NO CURRENCY**

About the Grid

VIBE is an education-focused collaborative project where a number of small, education-focused grids are linked together by hypergrid teleport.

Details

VIBE offers free grids to active virtual world educators looking to use OpenSim to course content delivery or professional training. VIBE also provides free technical guidance and training. For more information, contact grid founder Stephen Gasior at **stephenxootfly@gmail.com**.

Virtual Highway

Residential Offers

Size: 4,096 square meters
Prims: 312
Duration: Unlimited
Eligibility: Active residents

- **NO HYPERGRID**
- **NO REGION EXPORTS**
- **VIVOX VOICE**
- **CURRENCY**

About the grid

Virtual Highway is a medium-sized closed commercial grid known for its live music scene.

Details

Visit the information building at **Virtual Highway Landing** and grab a free islands landmark and instructions. Then teleport over and choose your free lot. Each island has a rental box on it – click on it to claim your free land.

Stuff you should care about

OpenSim might look and feel a lot like Second Life. The viewers are the same, building is the same, and most scripts – except those that rely on vehicle physics – work equally well.

Most grids and hosting company have the same Vivox voice as in Second Life and support mesh and media-on-a-prim.

However, OpenSim offers a few advantages.

For example, there are no built-in prim limits. As a result, grids offer regions with as many as 45,000 or 100,000 prims – or no maximum at all.

There are two other very major differences: hypergrid and region exports.

Hypergrid

The majority of OpenSim grids have hypergrid enabled. This means that you can teleport from one grid to another as easily as you can teleport from one region to another.

You can shop on other grids and bring your purchases home. Make friends on other grids and send instant messages to them from wherever you are. You can join groups.

And, now, you can even shop on an online marketplace, the Kitely Market, and get your purchases delivered right to your avatar.

To travel the hypergrid, you can use a hypergate, such as the ones shown above, or simply enter the hypergrid address into the Map search field and hit "teleport."

Region exports

OpenSim allows grid owners to save entire regions in the form of OAR files.

Many grids and hosting companies make this feature available to their customers.

This means that you can get or buy an OAR file and upload it to your region, such as one of the free Linda Kellie OARs.

It also means that you can save your entire region to have a local backup, to move it to another grid, or to share your build with friends and colleagues.

Grid owners can choose to filter these OAR files, so that you can only save content you yourself have created, or for which the original creators have given export permission.

How to get started

First, you will need an OpenSim-compatible viewer.

If you want to see mesh and media-on-a-prim, choose a modern viewer, like Singularity or Firestorm.

Some builders prefer to use an older viewer, however, like Imprudence.

Singularity

SINGULARITYVIEWER.ORG

Firestorm for OpenSim

FIRESTORMVIEWER.ORG

Imprudence

KOKUAVIEWER.ORG

Once you have installed your viewer, create an account on your OpenSim grid via the grid's website.

To log into a grid, select it from the list provided by your viewer. If your grid is not in the viewer, you will need to manually add it, by typing in the loginURI of the grid.

Here are the loginURIs for the grids mentioned in this report.

If the grid is hypergrid-enabled, the hypergrid address of the grid's welcome region is the same as the loginURI. Open the Map dialogue and type or paste the address into the search field, then hit the **Teleport** button.

3rd Rock Grid
grid.3rdrockgrid.com:8002

AvaCon Grid
grid.avacon.org:8002

Avalonia Estate
avalonia-estate.co.uk:8002

Avination
login.avination.net

AviWorlds
aviworlds.com:8002

Dorena's World
dorenas-world.de:8002

Great Canadian Grid
login.greatcanadiangrid.ca:8002

Island Oasis
islandoasisgrid.biz:8002

jOpenSimWorld
grid.jopensim.com:8002

Littlefield
lfgrid.com:8002

Lost Paradise
lpgrid.com:8002

Moses
moses.militarymetaverse.org

PMGrid
www.pmgrid.org:8002

Sammers World
sammers-world.de:9000

SimValley
sv.simvalley.nl:8002

Spellscape
grid.spellscape.co.uk

Tropical Paradise Virtual World
login.tropicalparadisevirtualworld.com:8052

UFSGrid
login.ufsgrid.com:8002

VIBE
vibe.bio-se.info:9000

Virtual Highway
login.virtualhighway.us:8002