How to Move Your Avatar

There are three methods to move your avatar from which you can choose based on your input preferences.

The first is using the “Movement Control Panel” that appears in your viewer when you first open Second Life.

If the movement controls are not visible, you can activate the on screen controls by clicking on the pull down menu “View” and then “Movement Controls”.

Click on the arrow in the direction you want to move and your avatar will move in that direction. Click on the right arrow and your avatar moves to the right. Clicking on the up arrow and your avatar moves forward. This method is somewhat cumbersome and the “arrow menu” covers some of the viewer space, so we do not recommend using this method. You can close the Movement Control Panel by clicking the “x” in the upper right corner.
The second method is to use the arrow keys on your keyboard. You do not need to have the Movement Control Panel open. Click on the right arrow to move your avatar right, the left arrow to move your avatar to the left, the up arrow to move your avatar forward, and the down arrow to back up.

The third method is to use the A, S, D, and W keys. This method is preferred by many gamers or users who like the efficiency of not having to use your mouse hand for navigation. To use the A, S, D, and W keys, you need to close the Local Chat bar in your viewer.

Close the chat bar by clicking the Show/Hide Local Chat icon in the lower left corner of your viewer.
Close the chat bar by clicking the “Show/Hide Local Chat” button in the lower left corner of your viewer.

The image shows the Viewer with the Local Chat bar closed. If you prefer using the W, A, S, and D key method, you can set your Preferences to only show the “Local Chat” bar by hitting enter.

From the pull down menu select “Edit” and then “Preferences”.
Click on the “Text Chat” tab.

Under Chat Options check the box for “Close chat bar after hitting return”. This will make the Local Chat bar hidden or closed when you log into Second Life, and your A,S,D, and W keys will be available for navigation.

Now click “Apply” to keep your new settings then click “OK” to close the Preference window.
Flying is the other method of moving in Second Life. To start flying, click the “Fly” button in the lower part of your viewer. You can also start flying by pressing the “Home” or “F” key.

To fly up, press “Page Up” or “e”. To fly down, press “Page Down” or “c”. You can change your direction by either using your arrow keys or the A, S, D, and W keys.

To stop flying, click the “Stop Flying” button. You can also stop flying by pressing the “Home” or “F” key. Your avatar cannot die, so do not be alarmed if you accidentally stop flying several meters in the air, and you see your avatar come crashing to the ground. She/he will simply stand back up, and you are ready to try again.