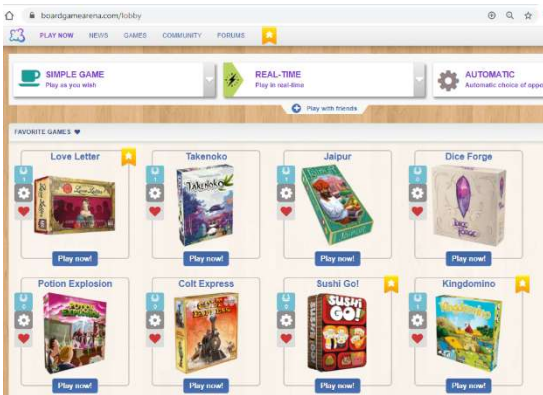


The **DEALT HAND** Guide to Online Board Gaming

There are lots of great solutions for connecting with folks online playing boardgames. There are a few things to consider – cost, ease of play and resources available – here are a few of our favorite options!



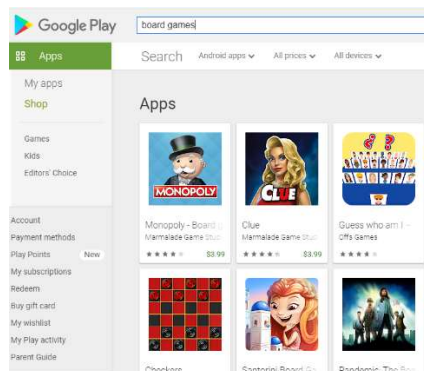
BoardGameArena.com

Board Game Arena is a great, web-based site that has a selection of modern board games available to play. BGA's best feature is that the games are rules-programmed, meaning that they are set up so you are presented with the options available! It is a great environment to learn. The community is great, but other than a small text chat box, there is not a great communication channel – though if you're looking to play with folks you already know, that's an easy fix!

Cost: Free, paid premium to unlock additional features

Tabletop Simulator

Tabletop Simulator is a program you can purchase within the Steam software environment that has a small selection of included games, and then a large selection of games that are created by the community within it – some of these games are free, many have a cost. If you are looking for a particular game not included in something like BGA, you might find it here – but quality can vary, and most games are not rules programmed, so you'll have to fully understand the game to begin playing. If you are already on Steam for other videogames, any friends you have connected with will also be already there! Cost: \$19.99 – additional costs per game \$5 and up



Mobile Apps

There are lots of great board game apps that are on smartphones – many of your favorite games have been digitized, and often allow for matching with other players you know! Be sure to check out Splendor and Toikado. Cost - varies

Get Creative!

If you and the folks you want to play with all have the same copy of the game, you can set up the game in multiple locations, with one person controlling the cards – and use your phones to talk and share the board state!

The Dealt Hand is a Central Iowa based business focused on playing games and building inclusive communities. They do live events (when not in a global pandemic) with a large collection of board games and have pivoted to online game solutions and board game rentals to help folks stay connected while staying separate. You can find out more about The Dealt Hand at TheDealtHand.com, on Facebook, Instagram or their Patreon at Patreon.com/TheDealtHand. Feel free to email us with questions: joe@thedealthand.com



The **DEALT HAND** Guide to Online Role-Playing Games

There are tons of different ways to play Role Playing Games – while Dungeons and Dragons is the most known one, there are LOTS of different things you can do. Here’s a couple of resources to get you up and running!



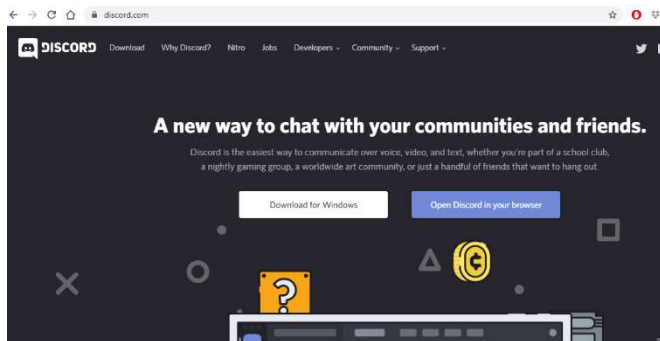
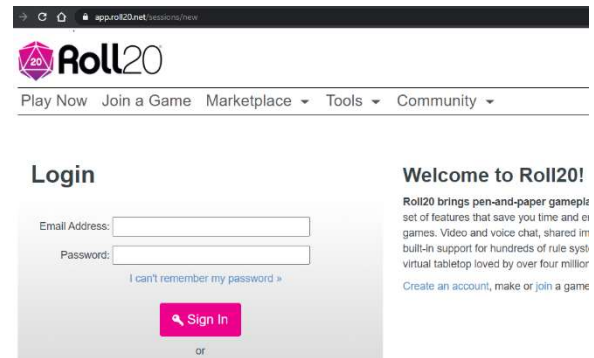
Dungeon World

Perhaps our favorite system, Dungeon World is a straightforward and simple system that allows for great fantasy storytelling. It’s a low cost system (\$25 for the physical rulebook and pdf) but they also have a Standard Rules Document, which means you can see the rules, without cost at <https://www.dungeonworldsrd.com/>

Roll20

Roll20 is an online tool for running Role Playing Games. There are lots of game systems that are supported on the the platform (including Dungeon World), and it has a built in voice and text chat. There is also online game finding, but that opens you up to a very varied community.

The basic account is free, with Plus and Pro memberships adding in more features and more simultaneous games to play and run.



Discord

Discord is a chat and community tool – think of it as being both a forum tool, a private audio and video chat room, plus a tool to do screen sharing, all rolled into a free platform! It is a good way to be able to connect and collaborate – many games don’t require a map or shared play space, and Discord is a simple tool that creates a space for you to play in!

There are tons of other great free things to try if you are looking for options – check out Lasers and Feelings, Lady Blackbird or Honey Heist! And you’re not restricted to fantasy settings either. Some of our other favorite systems are Scum and Villany, Fate and Dread.

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