InkStorm for Tapwave User Guide

TrumpetSoft

Using InkStorm

Welcome!

Welcome to the InkStorm for Tapwave! InkStorm for Tapwave lets you communicate with other Tapwave devices using the Bluetooth™ communication radio built into your device. With InkStorm you can

- engage in a colorful chat session with up to eight of your friends
- share a live whiteboard with up to eight of your friends

How It Works

InkStorm allows up to eight devices to share ink-based chat messaging and live multi-user whiteboards. These features are similar to popular instant-messaging services, with several differences. InkStorm uses *ink* as its primary data to communicate between devices. Additionally, it uses the Bluetooth radio built into your Tapwave device. Bluetooth is a short-range wireless radio; operating up to 30 feet.

System Requirements

InkStorm 1.0 is designed for Tapwave Zodiac device. Please visit our web site www.trumpetsoft.com often for product updates and the latest information about InkStorm.
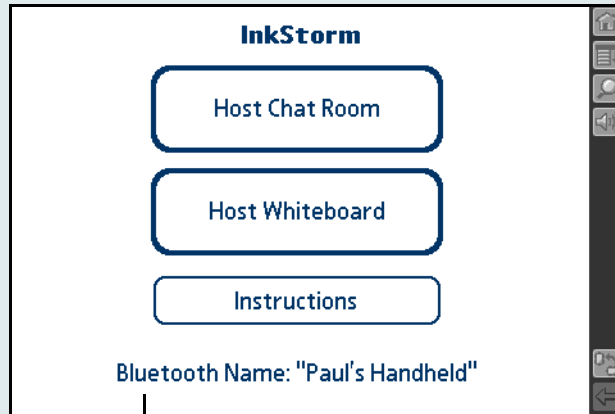
Configuring InkStorm

You can change your Bluetooth device name—this is the name your device appears as to other users over the Bluetooth network.

Changing Bluetooth Wireless Device Name

There is a name that identifies your device to other devices over wireless connections. Your Tapwave device contains the default name of "Tapwave Handheld" when shipped from the factory or after a hard-reset where memory is cleared. You will want to change this before using InkStorm. Here's how:
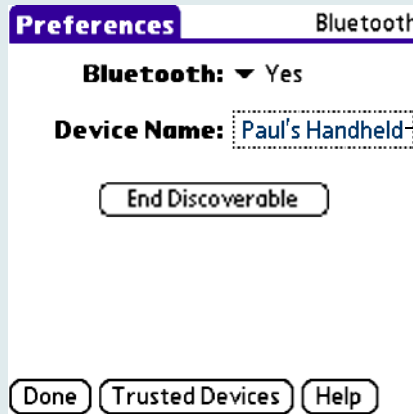
To change your wireless device name:

1   **Launch InkStorm**

2   **Tap on the text at the bottom of the screen "Bluetooth Name..." This will launch the Bluetooth Control Panel.**

Bluetooth name is shown in the main screen: this is the name that shows up when "searching" for other devices. Tap here to change it.

3 Change the Device Name field from the system default (e.g., "Tapwave Handheld") to something more personal. It is common to use your name here, or (if your name is Paul) something like "Paul's Handheld."

Tap here to change the Bluetooth device name.

4 Select <Done>. The name change is reflected in the bottom of the InkStorm screen.

Using Ink Chat

Ink chat allows up to eight devices to share an ink-based messaging chat. This is similar to popular instant-message services, except you will use ink to form messages (and pictures) to send to other users, and other users must be within 30 feet (Bluetooth) range to communicate.

To start an ink chat, do the following:

1 Run InkStorm on all devices wishing to communicate.

One user must be the chat host. There can be only one host at a given time, and host status can not be transferred to other devices.
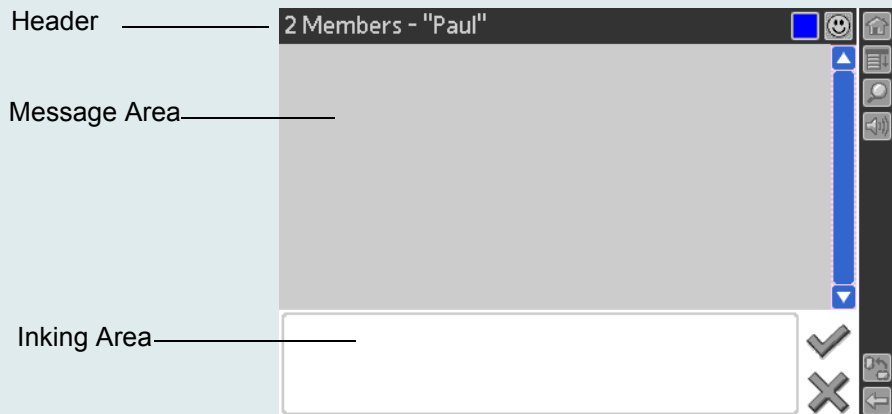
2 One (and only one) user decides to host—this user taps <Host Chat Room>. This will cause the Bluetooth Inquiry to start.

3 Select which devices will be included in the chat.

TIP: You can always add additional devices later, but you need to select at least one other device to get the chat session started.

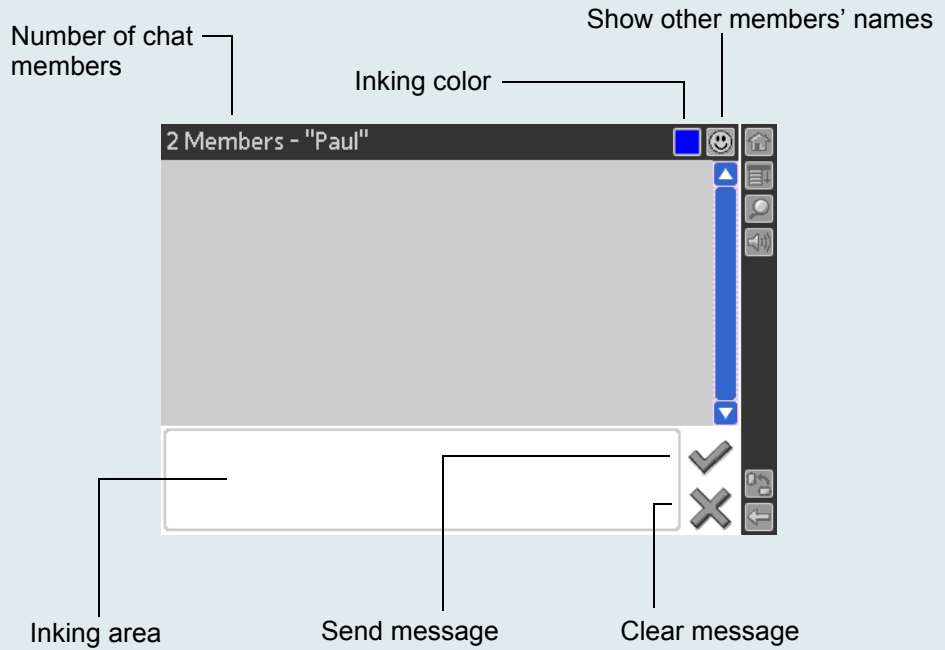**4 After some delay, the chat session will start.**

The figure below shows the chat session when it starts. There are three major areas of the chat session screen. The header, the message area, and the inking area.

Header This area shows information about the session: number of members, the name of your device, and current inking color.

Message Area This area, in the middle of the screen, shows all messages that have been sent from all connected devices. There is a scroll bar on the right that is used to view the message history, including messages that may have scrolled off the screen.

Inking Area This area is used to compose messages. Messages can include any color, and can also include text by entering graffiti characters.

Number of chat
members

Show other members' names

Inking color

2 Members - "Paul"
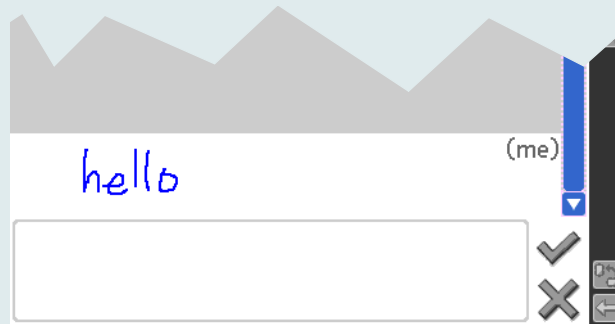
Inking area

Send message

Clear message

The header shows how many members are currently participating in the chat session and the current device's name.
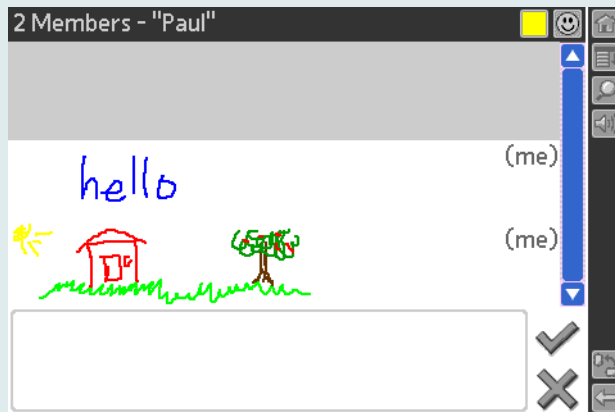
Messages are composed in the inking area. Use the stylus to draw pen strokes. Change the color of the pen's ink by selecting the color well icon in the upper right of the header.

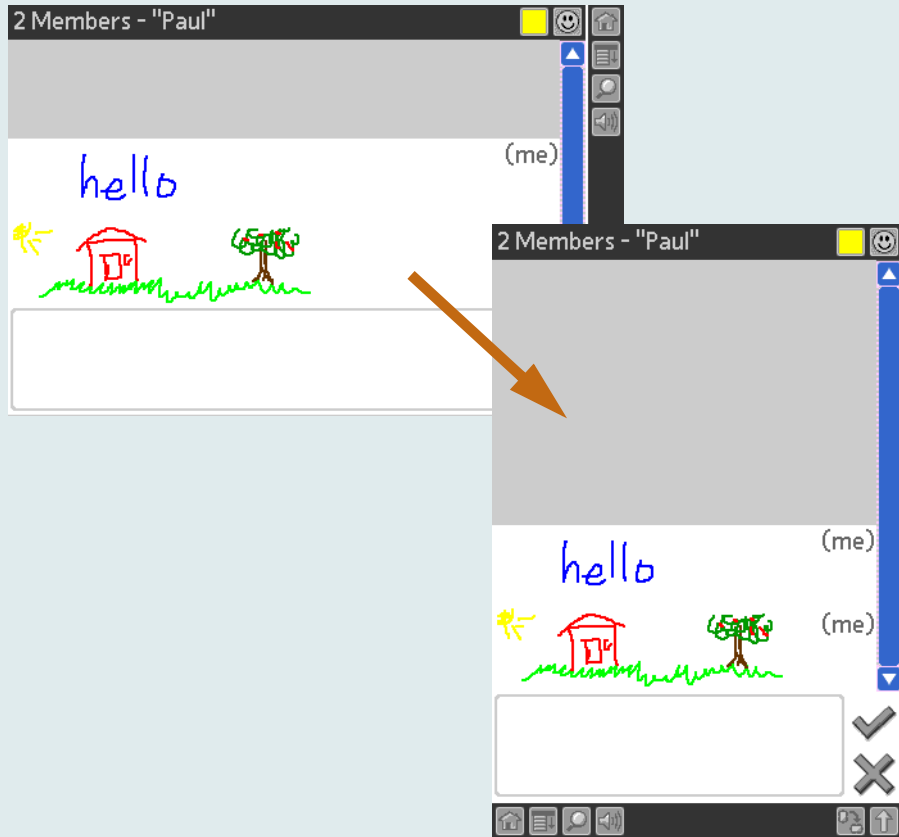hello

When the message is complete and you want to send it to the group, tap the check mark—the message is sent to all group members, and is shown in the message area. In the upper right of the message, the creator's name is shown.

(me)

hello

Complex, colorful messages can be drawn and shared with other users. Messages in the inker area are cleared by tapping on the "x" button on the right.

The aspect ratio of the screen can be changed by using the button in the Tapwave tool bar. Note that when you change aspect ratios, the messages are scaled to fit the new screen size.

You can add other members in a chat conference after it has already started. Note that only the host can do this—this provides a bit of security as to who can join and who can not.

To add other member(s) into the chat session:

1 **Select Chat > Invite others... from the menu. The Bluetooth discovery dialog opens up.**

2 **(Optional) Select <Find More> to locate additional devices.**

3 **Select one or more devices to add to this chat session and select <Connect>.**

Newly added members will not receive the entire message history; parties only see what happens since they join.

The chat session lasts until

- The host leaves (**Chat > Leave**),
- the host's device is powered off, or
- all guests leave the chat session.

Using Whiteboard

Unlike chat mode, the whiteboard operates by all the users sharing a common drawing area. This allows for collaborative drawings and pictures.

To start a whiteboard session, do the following:

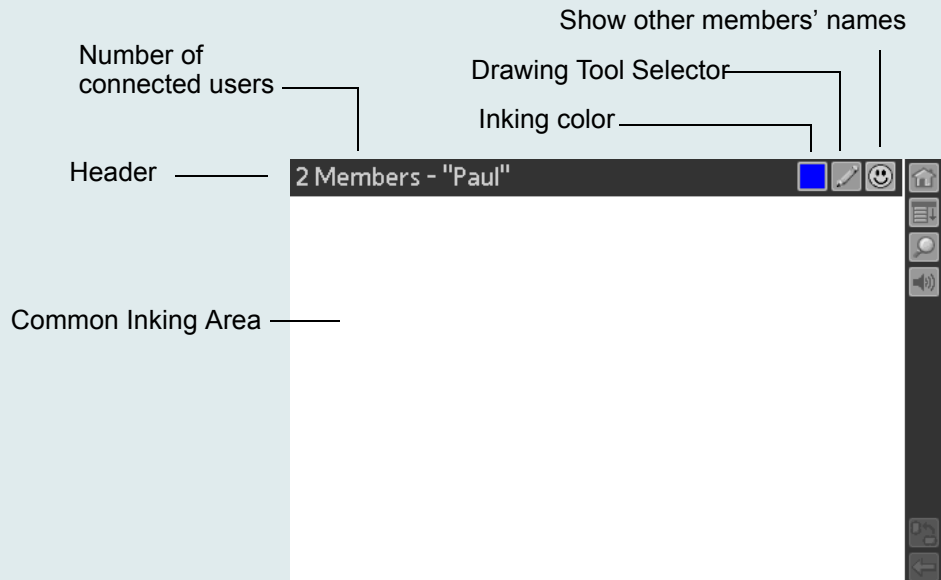1 **Run InkStorm on all devices wishing to communicate.**

   One user must be the host. The host handles which members join and is the only user who can "boot" users (force them leave the session).

2 **One (and only one) user decides to host—this user taps <Host Whiteboard>. This will cause the Bluetooth Inquiry to start.**

3 **Select which devices will be included in the chat.**

   TIP: You cannot add additional devices later once the whiteboard session has started.

4 **After some delay (it takes time to connect the other devices), the whiteboard screen will appear.**

Show other members' names

Number of connected users

Drawing Tool Selector

Inking color

Header

2 Members - "Paul"

Common Inking Area

Unlike the chat mode, there is no scroll bar or inking area. Instead, the drawing area is fixed in size and shared by all users. The header area is slightly different from the chat mode in that it contains the tool selection button (pencil or eraser).

Number of Connected Users This shows how many devices are currently sharing the whiteboard.

Show other Members' Names This button brings up the members browser which shows the names of all that are participating.

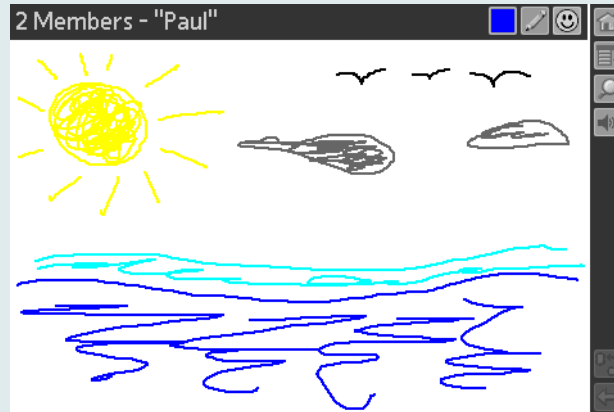**Drawing Tool Selector** Tap here to toggle between tools: Pencil and Eraser.

Inking Color This shows what color will be drawn on the whiteboard area. Tap here to change this color.

Header This area shows information about the session: number of members, the name of your device, current inking color, and provides the tool buttons.

Common Inking Area This area is used to create collaborative drawings. Drawings are created by using pencil tool.
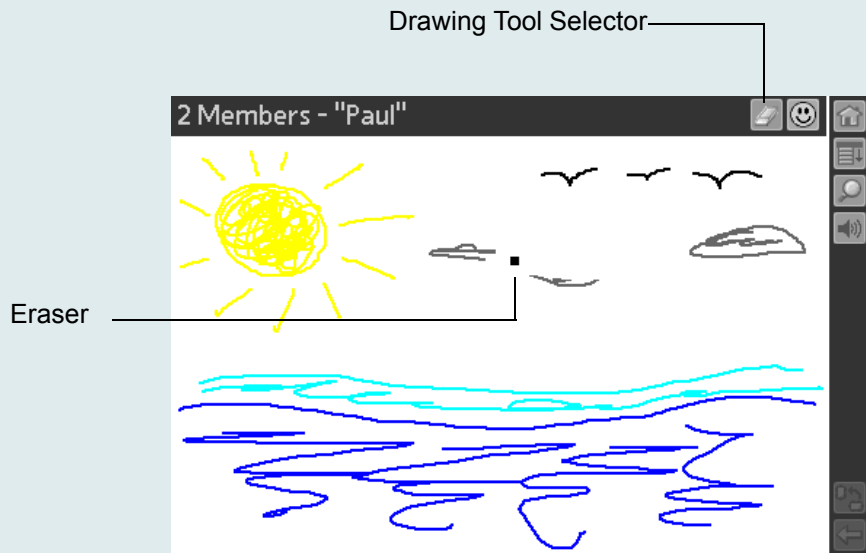
An Example Drawing

In the whiteboard mode the shared drawings look much the same as if all the users have a bundle of ink pens as shown in the drawing. Each user contributes to the drawing. This means that as soon as a user draws an ink stroke, it appears on the screen of all the connected users. Ink strokes (and eraser strokes) are not transmitted until the stylus is released.

Using the Eraser Tool

Like most paint programs, whiteboard has an eraser tool. Select the eraser tool by tapping on the tool selector button—this button toggles between eraser and pencil tools. While the stylus is down the eraser appears as a small black box, however when the stylus is lifted the eraser box disappears leaving the erased background. The image below depicts the eraser in action.

Drawing Tool Selector

2 Members - "Paul"

Eraser

The eraser tool is designed for fine-tuning the drawing, not for erasing the entire drawing. To erase the drawing—for all users—use the **Clear Whiteboard** menu command.

Clearing the Whiteboard

Select **Board > Clear Whiteboard** toto clear the whiteboard image on all devices. There is no undo for this option.

Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Answer
What is the maximum number of participants in a conference?	Eight. InkStorm forms a Bluetooth Piconet, which is limited to eight members, including the host.
How can I change my Bluetooth Device Name?	Launch InkStorm and tap on the text at the bottom 'Bluetooth Name: "..."' This will launch the Bluetooth Control panel where you can edit the Device Name field.
Where can I get more information about InkStorm?	Visit www.trumpetsoft.com for updates and other products.
Can I save the whiteboard drawing?	No. Check www.trumpetsoft.com for product upgrades and enhancements.

Troubleshooting

Problem	Explanation and Solution
My device can not locate the other device.	Both devices need to be running InkStorm and be at the start screen. Bluetooth only works up to about 30 feet. However, if you put a wall (or other obstacle) in the way, this distance can get drastically reduced.
I can not add another user to a whiteboard session.	This is by design. All users who are going to participate in a whiteboard session must be gathered at the start. In chat mode, users can be added and removed during the chat session.
The chat mode is getting sluggish!	Try clearing the Message History: From the menus select Messages > Clear History.

Problem	Explanation and Solution
In the Bluetooth Discovery dialog a device is listed twice! (...or more than once!)	There are likely two devices in range (or were in range) that have the same names. Bluetooth devices are designated by their MAC addresses, which are guaranteed to be unique. The device name, however, is entered by you and is not guaranteed to be unique. This does not affect the device's behavior, but it can be confusing when people use the same name.

Upgrades and More Information

For information on InkStorm and other TrumpetSoft products, check out our web site at **www.trumpetsoft.com**. We look forward to your feedback.