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Bondee: Everything You Need to Know about This Adorable New Social App

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Here's everything you need to know about Bondee, the new social app taking Asia by storm.

Within a week of its official launch on January 17, the new social networking app has taken Asia by storm, quickly topping charts in app stores across multiple countries.

With the pandemic lockdown behind us, everyone is busy personalising their virtual rooms thanks to the brand-new social app Bondee.

If you want to know why your friends have been sharing cutesy avatars and QR codes on their Instagram Stories, or posting screenshots of virtual picnics, read on for our full guide to the new app from the company Metadream.

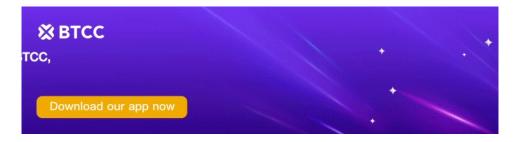
What is the Bondee App?



Bondee is a new social networking platform developed by Singapore-based tech firm Metadream. Billed as a "next-gen social app", Bondee features 3D-animated avatars (think *Animal Crossing*) that can be customised by users.

Whether it's your avatar's appearance, emotions (think facial expressions and status updates), hobbies, or the rooms it lives in, the world of Bondee is your oyster.

Through Bondee, users can chat with friends and have their avatars take part in virtual activities such as camping, swinging, dancing, sailing and more. Your avatars can visit each other's rooms and even leave notes.



Download App for iOS

Why is This New Social App So Popular?

Since its launch in January 2023, Bondee has quickly become one of the most popular apps in Asia, topping the Social Networking rankings on the App Store in Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand. In Japan, Bondee ranks among the top 10, while the app has yet to break into the top 10 in South Korea.

The app has been praised by several users on social media for its customisability and its interactive activities, while others have made comparisons to games such as *Animal Crossing*, *Habbo Hotel* and *Club Penguin*.

How Do I Start Playing with Bondee?

First off, get the Bondee app here on the <u>App Store</u> or <u>Google Play</u>. Once you've downloaded the app on your device of choice, register your account using a mobile number and a password. From there, you'll be able to customise an avatar to your preferences with a plethora of cosmetic options, from facial features to clothing, accessories/companions including a cat – and yes, you can pet the cat.



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How Do I Add Friends?

Next, you should add friends - there's not much you can do in Bondee without them. Either search for their usernames or scan a QR code (we've found the latter to be a more efficient way of finding your pals).

Upon successfully adding a friend, you can begin a chat with them. Apart from regular texting options, there are also customised emojis and actions that will affect both users in a chat. These range from sitting on a sofa, camping, having a picnic, clubbing (aka dancing) and sitting on a swing. Individual actions include standing around, sitting on the floor, a beanbag, rocking chair, books, piles of cash, jelly, on the toilet and more.

Users can even use a sailing function that allows their avatars to venture out into the digital world and meet random users that they can be friend. You will also be able to find random notes floating around the open sea and the chance to win prizes, including new gear.

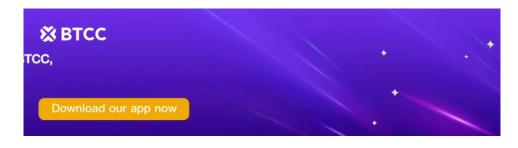
At present, you can add up to 50 friends in Bondee.

How to Design My Room in Bondee?

Once your avatar has been created, you'll be able to design your own room with a varied selection of furniture and accessories including bookshelves, TVs, desks, sofas, potted plants, musical instruments and more. Probably the most customisable element of your Bondee room are the posters, which you can upload your own images for.

Go wild, but keep in mind that space in a room is limited so you should plan your room's layout carefully to maximise its potential.

Once you add friends on Bondee, you'll be able to see your room and theirs at a glance in a tessellation that resembles the cross-section of an apartment building.



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Do I Need to Pay for the Bondee App?

The Bondee app is free to download. Its app store page, though, shows that there are in-app purchases available, where you can buy quantities of "B-Beans" with real cash.

B-Beans purchase price:

- **100 B-Beans** -S\$1.48/RM4.90/THB35/PHP49/JPY160/KRW1,500
- **500 B-Beans** S\$6.98/RM23.90/THB179/PHP249/JPY800/KRW7,500

- **1000 B-Beans** S\$14.98/RM44.90/THB349/PHP499/JPY1,600/KRW10,055
- **2000 B-Beans -** S\$28.98/RM94.90/THB729/PHP999/JPY3,200/KRW 30,000
- **3000 B-Beans -** S\$44.98/RM144.90/THB1,100/PHP1,490/JPY4,800/KRW45,000
- **5000 B-Beans** S\$68.98/RM239.90/THB1,800/PHP2,390/JPY8,000/KRW79,000

At the time of publication, several outfits in the app are available for a "limited free trial", suggesting that these outfits might have to be purchased using B-Beans once the trial runs out.



Is Bondee a "Scam"? Is It Safe Enough?

On January 27, screenshots began to circulate on social media alleging that Bondee was a "scam" and claiming that users had had their credit card information leaked and unauthorised bank transfers made.

Bondee creator Metadream issued a statement that same day calling the allegations "false and untrue", saying that the app does not collect credit card details or financial information. Metadream also said that it had "undertaken a precautionary review" of its systems and assured that "our systems and our users' personal data remain safe and secure".



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Who Created Bondee?

Bondee is developed by Singapore-based tech startup Metadream. Metadream is an independent technology company that acquired the intellectual property rights to True.ly in May last year. True.ly was an app that had laid the foundation for what would eventually become Bondee, with the Metadream team making creative changes to True.ly for the last six months ahead of its launch earlier this year.

Apart from an office in Singapore, Metadream is currently working on Bondee in Japan and South Korea, where the company has product, research and development and operational bases. Per a press release, Metadream is currently planning to set up new operation centers in Thailand and the Philippines to meet "the immediate demands of local users". (Metadream also runs three independent data centers in Singapore, Japan and the United States.) The official Bondee website is also advertising job roles in San Francisco and Seoul.

In addition to running Bondee, Metadream says it's currently "developing a series of metaverse creative products".

Is It an NFT and Metaverse App?

Yes, Bondee includes non-fungible token (NFT) and blockchain elements. While NFTs within Bondee have seemingly not rolled out yet, its official privacy policy notes its inclusion.

The privacy policy states that users will be able to "create a blockchain-based wallet on the public blockchain within the platform". While B-Beans will be purchased with real-world currency, B-Beans can be used to purchase NFTs which will then be stored in users' blockchain wallets.

The app will collect the following information for purchases: blockchain wallet balance, B-Beans order information and NFT order information. Bondee's privacy policy also notes that it will not be able to access users' wallet mnemonics phrase, private key, wallet password and other private

data. It is currently unknown what Bondee's NFT offerings will entail.

So there you have it, everything you need to know about Bondee. Download now to play with your friends?

FAQs

What is Bondee for?

Bondee is a new social app conceptualised as a virtual plaza where users can interact with up to 50 friends in a metaverse setting, having their avatars take part in virtual activities such as camping, swinging, dancing, sailing and more.

Is Bondee available in Android? How to download Bondee in PC?

Yes. It is available in Android and free to download. Users can download Bondee app from the <u>App Store</u> (iOS) and <u>Google Play Store</u> (Android).

What to do in Bondee game?

Similar to video games like Animal Crossing: New Horizons, Bondee allows you to visit friends' spaces or plan virtual activities together. Think camping, dancing, and a picnic trip. No fishing yet though. Also, you can post comments as reminder notes as if you were actually living with them.

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