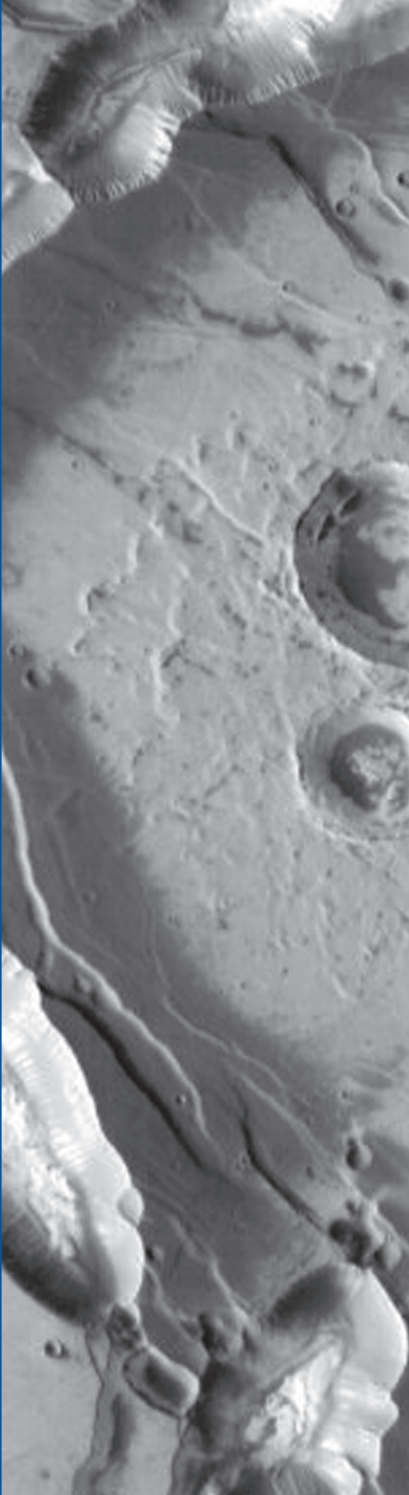# MARS EXPLORATION
Student Data Teams

NASA

FORUM BASICS

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
MARS EDUCATION Program
http://marsed.asu.edu

NASA

ASU Mars Exploration Student Data Teams FORUMS

Mars Exploration Student Data Teams Board	Welcome, Brian. You last visited: Yesterday at 10:37 PM Private Messages: Unread 0, Total 0.

User CP	FAQ	Members List	Calendar	New Posts	Search ▽	Quick Links ▽	Log Out

Forum	Last Post	Threads	Posts
Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter Teams involved in MRO data analysis			⊗
CRISM Data analysis for the Compact Reconnaissance Imaging Spectrometer for Mars (CRISM).	Data Sets by Brian 10-02-2006 10:24 PM ▶	3	3
CTX Data analysis for the context imager	Never	0	0
MCS Data analysis for the Mars Climate Sounder	Never	0	0
Mark Forums Read **View Forum Leaders**			

What's Going On?

Currently Active Users: 1 (1 members and 0 guests)

Most users ever online was 28, 11-29-2003 at 12:23 AM.
Brian

Mars Exploration Student Data Teams Board Statistics

Threads: 778, Posts: 1,642, Members: 94
Welcome to our newest member, test

Forum Contains New Posts

Forum Contains No New Posts

Forum is Closed for Posting

Log Out Brian

All times are GMT. The time now is 09:07 PM.

JPL   ASU ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY   ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY MARS EDUCATION Program http://marsed.asu.edu

Getting the Most From the Forums

Written and Developed by:

Brian Grigsby
Assistant Director
ASU Mars Education Program
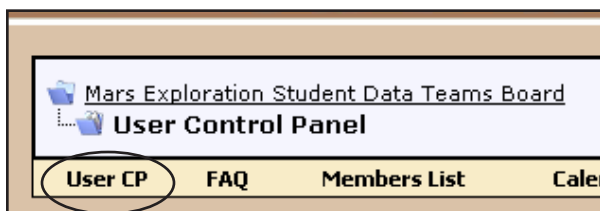
Additional Content Provided by:

Keith Watt
ASU Mars Education Program

Getting the Most From the Forums

This guide will introduce some of the features of the vBulletin© software that we use for our forums. The system is not at all difficult to use and you can post and reply to messages without reading any of this information. You will however, find the forums much more useful if you use the hints presented here!
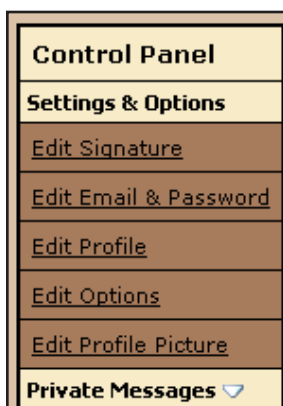
IMPORTANT NOTE: *You may need to change the drop-down box on the lower right of the screen from the default "show posts from the past 30 days" to "show posts from the beginning" to see all the posts!!!*

User Control Panel (aka User CP)

One of the most important things you will want to do is update your user profile.

1. Look at the buttons along the top of the forum topics list.

2. One is labeled "User CP", which stands for "User Control Panel".

3. Click this button. Along the top of the User Control Panel are a group of "edit" options.

4. Remember that since the student groups all share a single account, changes made here will affect everyone in your group!

Settings and Options

From this page you can set or change the email address you would like vBulletin to send messages to. You have vBulletin send you email when a reply is made to a topic you have posted. You can also have vBulletin email you your password if you forget it. You should set the email address either to your student team leader, a student in your group assigned to manage communications, or to an email account that the entire group has access to. Also on this page you can provide a link to your group's web page (if you have one) and to a number of instant messaging services. The "*Edit signature*" block will contain text that can be added automatically to every post you make. Finally, you can enter some personal information about your group's hobbies and interests.

Getting the Most From the Forums

Edit Options
This page will let you set various options for using the vBulletin system. Most are self-explanatory and can usually be left in their default settings.

Edit Password
You should use the "Edit Password" option as soon as you log on for the first time. When you choose this option, you will be asked to put in your old password and your new password (twice for confirmation). WRITE DOWN YOUR NEW PASSWORD!

Buddy/Ignore List
This allows you to create a "friend list" for quick access to information on other teams. For this forum, we won't be using the "Ignore" selection.

Private Messages
From this option you can send private messages to any other group in MESDT. Remember that your "private" messages aren't really private – they can be read by the entire group and by the MESDT staff.

Register
Because the MESDT forum is open only to MESDT groups, this option has been disabled.

FAQ
FAQ stands for "frequently asked questions". If you are having problems with the vBulletin system, check here first for answers.

Members List
This option lists all of the participants in MESDT and provides links to their profiles.

Calendar
This calendar will have dates for major events as well as the watch schedule for each of the three teams.

Search
Forget where that interesting or informative post was? You can use the Search option to search the entire forum for specific keywords.

Getting the Most From the Forums

The Forum Areas

Topics for MESDT are organized in a number of "forums" to make it easier to access the information you need and to participate in discussions. As a team, you will only have access to the area specific to the instrument you are working with (i.e. if you are working with CRISM data, then you only have access to that area on the forum)

The General Forum has three sections:

1. Announcements

This area is read-only and is where the MESDT staff will post important information about the program. You should check here daily!

2. Training and Materials

This area is where we will post guides (including this one) that will teach you how to use the various tools you have available to you.

3. Questions for the MESDT Staff

This is your place to ask any general questions you might have. While the MESDT staff reads all of the topics in each forum, posting here will catch our attention and will also make it easy for other people to see if their question has already been asked and answered. We ask that you not use email to contact us, but instead post your questions here – that way everyone can benefit from the answers!

4. MESDT Teams Forum

This area contains an area for the teams. You have both read and write access to your team's board, but you can only read the other two boards. Within each area are three sub-areas:

a. Plans and Procedures
Each of the three teams will be responsible for developing the plans and procedures that will be used by its members. Use this area to work out how you will solve the problem!

b. Data and Analysis
This area is where you can post and discuss the results of some the data you have looked at as you try to solve your problem.

c. General Discussion
This area is open to anyone on any subject you want to talk about!

There are additional areas for MESDT Mentors and Staff that aren't visible to students.

Getting the Most From the Forums

Forum Contains New Posts

Forum Contains No New Posts

Forum is Closed for Posting

Using the Forum System

The first thing you should do when you log on every day is check to see if there are new messages. First off, you can see if a forum has a new post by looking for the symbols like the ones you see to the left. Within the thread, you can immediately tell which forums have new messages because they will be marked with a yellow (instead of grey) checkmark. Just follow the checkmarks until you get to the new messages! Using these checkmarks, you can quickly get caught up on the day's messages. Of course, you always look at previous messages to see if someone has already answered any questions you might have or if there is an interesting post you'd like to reply to. You can quickly mark all posts read by pressing the "Mark this forum read" link below the list of threads.

You can post new messages by simply clicking on the "New Thread" button within the area that is related to the message. Once there, you can give your thread a title and can type your message. Press the "Preview Post" button to see what your post will look like or press the "Submit New Thread" button when you are finished and ready to post your message. You will be taken to your message so that you can see it. If you found you made a mistake, you can always press the "edit" button and you can make changes to your post. Replying to a message works almost exactly the same way, but you simply press the "Post Reply" button instead of the "New Thread" button.

Conclusion

The forum system has many more features, far too many to list here, but these are the features you will use most often. If you have tips for your teammates, be sure to post a message about them in the forum!