



Save Money. Slash your Phone Bill with

Skype (Sky Peer-to-Peer) which is a voice-over-Internet Protocol (VOIP) service and software application originally created in 2003 by Swedish entrepreneur Niklas Zennstrom and his Danish Partner Janus Friis. It has been owned by Microsoft since 2011.

The service allows communication with peers by voice, video and instant messaging over the Internet. Phone calls may be placed to recipients on the traditional telephone networks. Calls to other users within the Skype service are free of charge, while calls to landline telephones and mobile phones are charged via a debit-based user account system. Skype now has additional features, including file transfer and videoconferencing. Skype's competitors have grown over the years.

Skype has 663 million registered users as of September 2011. The network is operated by Microsoft, which has its Skype division headquarters in Luxembourg while most of the development team and 44% of the overall employees of the division are situated in Estonia.

Video conferencing between two users was introduced in January 2006; 13 March 2008 and Version 5 beta 1 for Windows was released on 1 May 2010 and offers free video conferencing with up to five people. In 2010 Skype had 13% of the international call market share. On 5th March 2012, Skype broke through to 36 million simultaneous online users. On 19 July, it was announced that Skype users have logged 115 billion minutes of calls over the past quarter, which was a 50% increase since the last quarter. And in June 2012, Skype surpassed 70 million downloads on an Android Device.

TO START: "If it's your first time opening Skype on your computer"

If you have the "S" Skype icon on your desktop, double click and the page will open up.

Or "Google" Skype, Click on www.skype.com/intl/en/home. Then Go to 'Get Skype' on the top of the page.

Click on "Get Skype for Windows" to download the free Skype program. Once loaded and installed, you can sign in and "create an account". Enter your profile information which makes it easier for your friends to find you on Skype. You will need to create your Skype Name and Password. Choose names that you can remember.

If you know your friend's Skype names, add their names as contacts then you can call, video call or instant message with them for free. Choose a contact; click the

call button and your away. You can call people who aren't on Skype too, at really low rates.

There is a lot of valuable information on the Skype website, enjoy and investigate in your own time. For example how to purchase 'credit'. View your log of calls. Add a contact or create a group.

By pressing on the Support button you will get a drop down menu with FAQs. One section is" "New to Skype" and offers many tips and hints which can be very valuable for you.