

Skype

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What Are the Uses of Skype? What Does It Do?

The main purpose of Skype is **to connect people**. People from around the world can connect through many different ways. They can connect through one or two way audio, one or two way video, one or two way audio and video or through text. People can also call any telephone around the world though this costs money, but talking between Skype users does not cost a thing. It can be used on Windows, Mac, and Linux operating systems so almost all computers are compatible. It also works with many different cell phones and mobile devices so individuals can use it whenever/wherever they want. It also can be used by a teacher who is teaching an online class.

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Who Uses Skype?

Skype in Business

Skype is used for businesses that need to reach people around the country or world for as cheap as possible. When business workers use Skype they can get more done, talk more to your clients, and cut your phone bill. Business workers can make free calls to people when they are using Skype and if they choose to call mobile phones or landlines it is very cheap. They can also use Skype from many mobile phones so you can use it anywhere. Skype also allows users to make video calls so business workers can make conference calls for free anytime, anywhere.

Skype in School

Skype is great for all teachers. A teacher could utilize Skype in instances of distance learning or cultural / language learning. For instance, a teacher could teach students geographically separated by lecturing through Skype on the computer while the students sit in their homes anywhere in the world. Calls concerning questions about the lecture would be free of charge between Skype users. Another example might include a Spanish teacher who has their students interface with students from a Spanish speaking country in order to explore and learn about culture and language, benefiting students of both parties. Since Skype is available in 28 different languages, students can use it to communicate with other students across the world to learn their language and culture.

Skype for Personal Use

Skype can be used for a variety of different way but one of the most popular ways people use this program for their own personal use. People are now able to talk to family who live halfway around the world or friends that live down the street. Since Skype is a free service between Skype users, it is much more cost efficient than calling loved ones over the phone. Millions of people daily are using Skype to keep in touch with their loved ones.

Skype in the Military

Different people use Skype for various different reasons but lately more and more people are using this program is to communicate with loved ones that are far way. One example of this is when people who serve in the military all around the world can talk to their family back at home. Through Skype, people in the military can see their family who they haven't seen in several months. Since Skype is a free service between Skype users, it doesn't cost the people skyping any money. This is a great feature and some people are even getting married via Skype.

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www.militarynewsnetwork.com

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">I. History

">I.1 Development

Skype was founded in 2003 by two entrepreneurs Niklas Zennström and Janus Friis. The two founders worked with a team of Estonian programmers to create Skype. Skype is a free software that allows users to make calls over the internet. This was the first collaboration of the three programmers and founders. They previously developed the program Kazaa in 2001. Kazaa is a peer to peer media sharing software that now allows users to download songs and ringtones.

Skype was launched with high expectations; Janus Friis hoped "that one day instead of saying 'I'll call you,' people will say 'I'll Skype you.'" It was launched with the idea of being the telecoms company of the future. Originally the name for this project was "Sky peer-to-peer" which became abbreviated to "Skypyr". However there were problems with common domain names, so it was decided to drop the "r" giving the current name of "Skype". Skype Limited is the operator of this network and is partially owned by eBay. These headquarters are located in Luxembourg, while the main development team can be found in Tallinn, Estonia. Skype also is currently available in 28 different languages and is used in almost every country. This allows many different cultures to get together and allows several different people to communicate across the world.

Skype has won many awards, it's most recent being the CNET Webware 100 Award on June 19, 2007. Niklas Zennström was recognized by TIME magazine as one of the most influential people. He and Janus Friis have won many awards on behalf of



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I.2 New Updates

2007: Skype Find, Skype Prime, Send Money, video in mood, inclusion of video content in chat, call transfer, auto redial

2008: Sony hand-held gaming system versions, version 2.0 for Linux with support for video-conferencing, version 4 for Windows

Discontinued SkypeCast and capped daily usage on SkypeOut subscriptions

2009: Skype 4, Linux client updated, Skype for SIP

2010: Skype 5.0 beta, named Tony Bates CEO, Skype 5.0 for Windows, acquisition of Qik

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II. How Skype Works

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Start: To begin using Skype one must go to <http://www.skype.com/download/skype/windows/downloading/> to download program onto computer. Downloading Skype is free and there is no start up costs involved to install it onto a computer.
Video Tutorial - How to Install Skype and Make an Account

Devices needed in order to use Skype: To use Skype you need to have a PC which is a Windows 2000, Windows 7, XP, or Vista. Furthermore you will require a microphone or Skype phone in order to communicate to another party and will also require a webcam if you wish to make Skype video calls.

How to download Skype: On the given web address link this screen below will appear and leads the user through a simple 3 step process to download it.

The 2 main uses of Skype are to make calls to phones/ cell phones and secondly to make free video calls to other PC's:

A.) How to make phone and mobile calls with skype Check to see if the user you want to call is already a skype user, because calling between skype users is free. If not, you will need to have sufficient Skype credit before making the call to non-skype people.

Skype to skype calls: Simply add contact if they are not already on your contact page. Click on the person you want to call and click the green phone button. The recipient of your call cannot be on invisible or offline.

Skype credit: With Skype credit you can use Skype's great pay-to-use products like voicemail and text messaging feature, plus use for calling phones and cells. Create an account or sign into your current account and from there you can check your existing balance or buy more Skype Credit. Credit remains active for 180 days after your last use of a product or feature that uses credit. So making a single call, or sending a single text message will ensure your Skype Credit is active for a further 180 days. Skype Credit works on Windows, Mac OS X, Linux, Windows Mobile, WiFi phones, Cordless phones, Nokia Internet Tablet.

Once you have Skype Credit you're all set to make a call, here's how:

Make a call

Once you have Skype Credit you're all set to make a call, here's how:

1. Open the Call Phones tab in Skype.



2. Select the country you are calling.
3. Enter your friend's phone number including country code.
4. Press the big green button to make the call.

Save contacts

Once a call has finished, you can save the number in your [contacts](#).

So, for the future, click the **History** tab, right click a previously dialled number and select **Add to Contacts**. You can rename the contact as you wish.



B.) How to make free video calls to other Skype users To make free video calls you'll need the latest version of Skype and a webcam and headset (if you don't have a headset you can use the in-built speakers and microphone on your computer).

Step 1

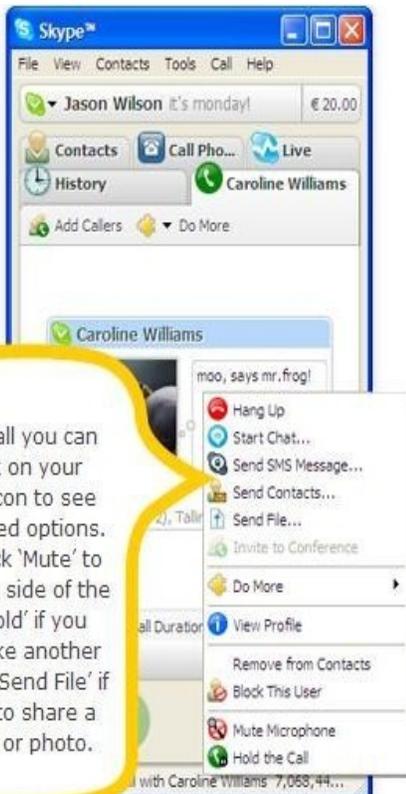


Click the name of the person you want to call and press the big green button.



Your contact's Skype will ring until they answer your call.

Step 2



During a call you can right-click on your contact's icon to see the advanced options. You can click 'Mute' to silence your side of the call, or 'Hold' if you need to take another call. Select 'Send File' if you want to share a document or photo.

Step 4

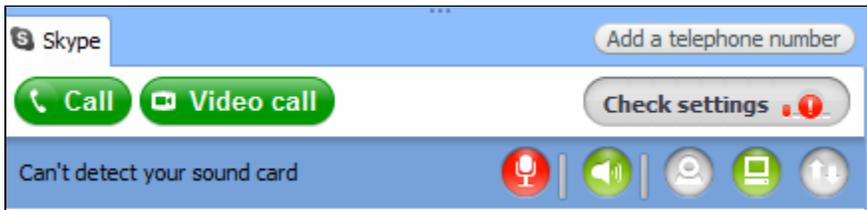
Step 5



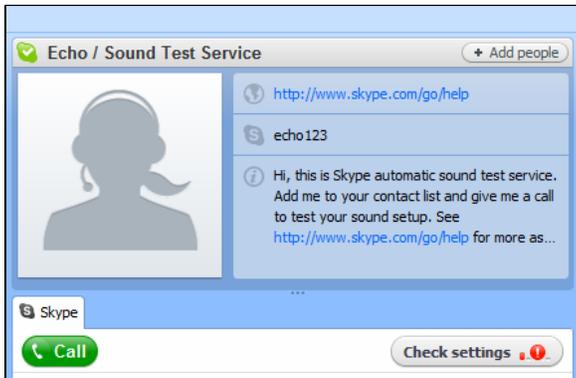
To end the call, simply click the big red button. Don't forget to say goodbye...

Things to be aware of:

- **Connection:** Since Skype runs off of your local internet connection, make sure your connection is strong. Just click on "Check settings" to see what component is causing problems. If your connection is weak, your video chat or text chat will not work properly. If you have this problem close other programs that are using the internet connection as well.



- By clicking and calling the "Echo/Sound Test Service" you are able to check how well the microphone, speakers, and connection is running.



- **Profile:** Skype, just like many other programs, has the option of personalizing your profile. You may update your current residence, profile picture, birthday, and phone number. Along with this you are able to update a status to let your friends know what you are doing at that time.
- **Others:** Skype lets you do a variety of things such as play games, view your conversation history, search for friends, and change views to make you feel more comfortable.

Skype Tutorial--Features of Skype

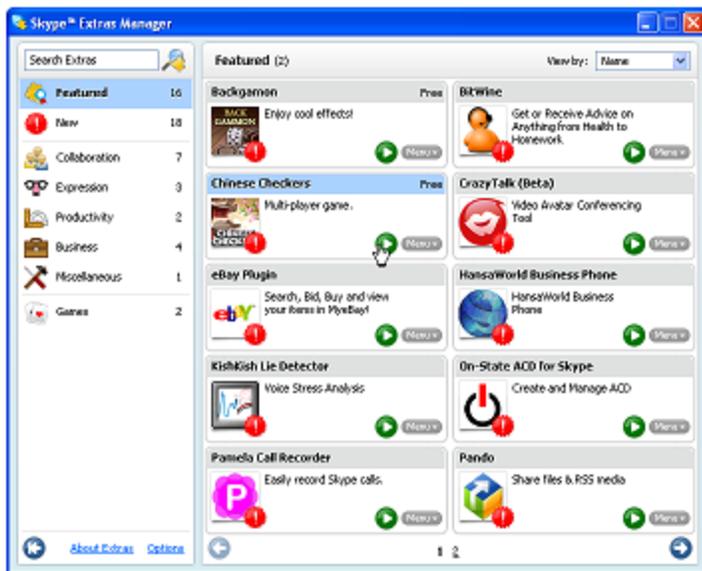
">III. How Skype Relates to Other Applications

Skype can be used on:

- certain mobile phones
- with Windows 2000
- Windows XP
- Windows Vista
- Windows 7
- WiFi phones
- cordless phones
- Skype also can be coupled up with friends who use MyspaceIM with Skype; this enables users to share their profiles through their Skype accounts
- Skype can also be used for Mac OS X
(Click [here](#) to download Skype for Mac OS X)
- PSP@2000 series with the latest system software
(Click [here](#) to learn more.)

Extras

There are also many free applications offered once you set up Skype. Just click on the Tools tab, the put your cursor over 'Do More.' A tab will open with a list of popular features, or you can select the 'Get Extras' option from the menu. A box like the one shown below will open.



From this point, you are able to browse through any of the Extras that you'd like. They range from business oriented to educational enhancement features. You can do something as silly as creating your own Skype Avatar or as serious as sharing a white board with your business team to improve a conference call. Whatever your need, there is most likely an application to meet it.

">III.1 Unique Ways to Use Skype

The possibilities of Skype are endless. Some organizations, businesses, and colleges have found interesting ways to use Skype.

Blind Ambition

Ed Gallagher, a blind man, was featured on the Today Show (September 29, 2008) for his innovative use of Skype technology. *Blind Ambition (video)* shows how Ed uses Skype to go bike riding, ski, shop, and even sail. Ed uses a webcam mounted on his forehead through which his Skype navigator can see. He reacts to number of paces and degrees [to turn] as told by his Skype guide.



Library Reference System

Ohio University has a Skype based reference system at a kiosk in the Athens library. Students and patrons alike are able to call in questions when they are not on campus. It is important to realize that this system could be possible in any educational settings, especially in districts that are short staffed on librarians. The process is much faster and more efficient than replying to hundreds of emails.

Send Money

Another handy Skype feature is the "send money" option. This makes it easy for you to pay your employees, spot your daughter some cash, or pay a person for their products and services. The feature is associated with Pay Pal, and allows you to make a direct transfer with only the Skype information.

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">IV. Real World Application

">IV.1 Educational Lesson Plans

">i. Elementary Lesson Plan

In today's world technology plays a significant part in everyone's lives. Thanks to technology, education can reach new heights and expand the learning experience of each student. With the use of Skype students can explore their world on a more realistic level than ever before. One day they could discuss the rainforest with a botanist in Ecuador and the next learn about poetry from a writer in Great Britain. Imagine your students learning about the Chinese culture by a child their age that lives in China (check out the lesson plan below) or even learning about becoming a brain surgeon by talking to one that works three states away (check out the lesson plan below). The possibilities are endless with Skype!

Cultural Awareness Lesson Plan

Overview: Over the course of a week, students will get to meet individuals of different cultures around the world and learn more about these cultures through discussion.

Objectives:

To teach students about the different regions and cultures around the world.

To teach students about diversity.

["Cultural Awareness Lesson Plan" .doc](#)

["Cultural Awareness Lesson Plan" .pdf](#)

Research Paper Lesson Plan (S.T.E.M.)

Overview: Students will write a research paper that will include an interview about what they want to be when they grow up.

Objectives:

- Students will gain a better understanding of how to write a research paper.
- Students will learn how to properly conduct an interview.
- Students will have an understanding of how to use technology and video chat.

["Research Paper Lesson Plan" .doc](#)

["Research Paper Lesson Plan" .pdf](#)

Mathematics Tutoring Lesson Plan

If your child is having problems in the classroom Skype has made it easier to get them the help they need! This lesson plan explains everything you need to know about how to go about getting your child help in a much more convenient way. No need to travel anywhere or go out of your way. Tutoring through Skype is efficient and very effective.

[SKYPE lesson plan.pdf](#)

[SKYPE lesson plan.doc](#)

Learn the Irish Step Dance via Skype Lesson Plan

Unless you are a professional Irish Step Dancer, you probably can't teach your students how to do this famous dance. That's where Skype comes in. This lesson plan allows the teacher to use the program called Skype to have a video conference with Irish Step Dancers in Ireland. Students will also learn information about the country of Ireland and the culture there.

[^LESSON PLAN.pdf](#)

[^LESSON PLAN.doc](#)

Exchanging Cultures

Learning about different cultures is very educational, but is most often done through book work. With the use of this application, students can get a first hand experience with those cultures. This activity will link students around the world and give them the opportunity to ask questions that interest them.

[Elementary Culture Exchange \(pdf\)](#)

[Elementary Culture Exchange \(doc\)](#)

ii. Secondary Lesson Plans

Thanks to technology, people's knowledge all over the world has expanded. Teachers are now able to incorporate a great number of things into their lesson plans that they may not have been able to before. With the use of Skype, teachers may be able to reach a whole new level of knowledge. Can you imagine; instantly you could be text chatting with a famous author who is living in Europe for a paper that the students are working on. Or you could be on the other end of a video call to a famous archeologist who is working on his next project in Africa for a history project.

English Paper Lesson Plan (S.T.E.M.)

Objectives:

- Students will be able to text chat with an author who is residing in Europe for a paper.
- Students will gain background on the author as well as his work, with first hand information to help them develop their papers.
- Students will have an understanding of how to use technology and video chat.

["English Paper Lesson Plan" .doc](#)

["English Paper Lesson Plan" .pdf](#)

History Project Lesson Plan (S.T.E.M.)

Objectives:

- Students will be able to video chat with an archeologist residing in Africa for a history project.
- Students will gain information on the archeologist, as well as the history of the work he is currently working on.

["History Project Lesson Plan" .doc](#)

["History Project Lesson Plan" .pdf](#)

Mathematics Lesson Plan (S.T.E.M.)

Overview: Students will conduct a tutoring session with each other using the web cam features.

Objectives:

- Students will learn two-step equations
- Students will gain knowledge in video chatting to complete their homework while tutoring other students

[Two-Step Equations Lesson Plan DOC](#)

[Two-Step Equations Lesson Plan PDF](#)

">iii. Post Secondary Lesson Plans

Skype and Foreign Language

Marquette University in Milwaukee, has found an effective way to marry Skype with their Italian and Spanish foreign language programs. Students in both programs use Skype to practice their Italian or Spanish with a native speaker. These "language partners" take turns speaking the languages they are learning for 25 minutes each. Colleen Coffey, a Spanish teacher at Marquette, said, "This is revolutionizing our language teaching." Penn and Dickinson College both plan to add Skype to their Japanese, German, and Spanish classes. The University of Tennessee already uses it in it's French and German courses, but plans to expand it to other foreign language courses.

Foreign Language Lesson Plan

Objectives:

- Students will better understand common phrases, pronunciation, and culture of the language being studied.
- Students will be more comfortable speaking the language.

["Foreign Language Lesson Plan" .doc](#)

["Foreign Language Lesson Plan" .pdf](#)

Skype and Music

A Grove City College professor, Joseph Pisano, has found an interesting way to use Skype in his classroom. He is a music professor and conductor at the college, and firmly believes in using Skype to enhance learning. He uses it to invite experts in the music industry to speak to his students. He teamed up with Travis Weller, director of band grades 7-12 at Mercer Area Middle School and High School, to use Skype during a live performance. Weller directed the students live while three composers answered questions and comments from the audience about the performance.

Skype and Ohio University

During their International Week, students at Ohio University experienced just how helpful Skype can be. The director of the Al-Khatim Adlan Centre for Enlightenment and Human Development in Sudan, Albaqir Mukhtar, spoke and lead a discussion on the crisis in Darfur. Mukhtar used his laptop with a built in video camera and Skype to interact with the students.

Skype and News

Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania is also making new strides with Skype. Students there felt that the media was only presenting a select few stories to report of the daily happenings in both Iraq and Afghanistan. The students used Skype to locate locals of both countries to interview them on their experiences with the war in their country. One of the students, Hansi Lo Wang (senior producer of War News Radio), said, "My most memorable interview was when I heard gunfire going off in the background." It is obvious that students can gain important insight through experiences such as these.

Journalism Lesson Plan

Objective: Students will be able to write an article on their finding of the ongoing conflict in Iraq or Afghanistan based on a native's personal experiences.

["Journalism Lesson Plan" .doc](#)

["Journalism Lesson Plan" .pdf](#)

Student Teacher Introduction to Skype

Overview: Students and student teachers will be introduced to the basics of the Web 2.0 utility known as Skype, designed as an easy and cheap method to communicate through the Internet. Students will be expected to work in pairs.

Objectives: Following the perusal of the Skype wiki, a pair of students will successfully demonstrate their knowledge of the Skype utility by downloading the program to their computer, creating a Skype account and executing three different types of communication with their partner through Skype only.

["Student Teacher Introduction to Skype" .doc](#)

["Student Teacher Introduction to Skype" .pdf](#)

">IV.2 Business/Industry

According to the Skype website, Skype has three main goals for it's role in business:

1. Make your money work harder.
2. Help you work smarter.
3. Let you work wherever.

Make your money work harder.

Using Skype, you'll find that you are actually getting your money's worth. All Skype to Skype calls are free, so it would be to your advantage to encourage your customers to use Skype. If that isn't possible, Skype offers affordable rates on all calls made to landlines or cell phones. Skype also has an application in which you can manage the Skype credit of all your employees. By using Business Control Panel, you can alter the settings to automatically transfer more Skype credit into an employees account when it drops below a certain number. It's also easy to print off expenditure reports to keep a close watch on budgeting.

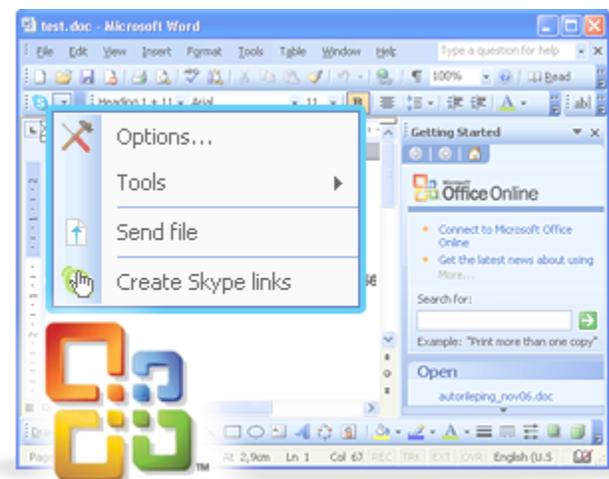
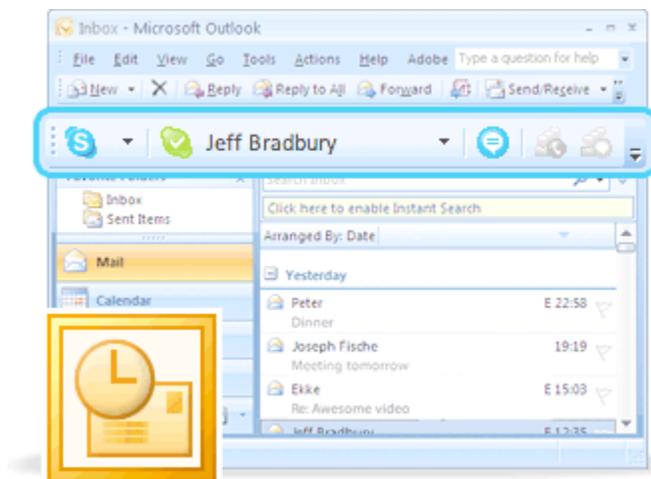
Help you work smarter.

Skype has alot of features and extras to help you run a smarter office. For example, through chat you are able to transfer any files or send a fax to an associate, client, or boss. Chats can also be saved so if there is confusion later, there is an actual text for an employee to refer to.



There is also the option of using video call to interact with others. Skype also has an extra that allows you to record video calls that way they can be referred to at a later time. Video conference calls are an efficient way to talk with others while saving money on transportation costs. Skype allows you to build a more personal relationship with your clients by dealing with them face to face even though they are miles away.

Skype also offers toolbars to incorporate Skype into programs that you use everyday, such as MS Outlook and MS Office.



Let you work wherever.

With Skype, it doesn't matter where you are, you can still do business. With Skype mobile, employees can go anywhere and still access Skype. WiFi compatible phones, special Skypephones, or even phones with Windows Mobile can connect to Skype. If your employees don't have any of these devices, Skype to Go is always a reliable option. By subscribing to Skype to Go, you will be given a special access number that allows you to make calls from any phone (land or mobile) Your company also has the option to set up monthly subscriptions for unlimited calls to landlines anytime by region, country, or worldwide.

Unable to render embedded object: File (skypetogo.png) not found.

To learn more about what Skype as a company aims to accomplish in the business environment, watch this video.

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">V. Demonstration of Educational Value

Guest Speakers

Teachers, like Travis Weller, are using Skype to invite guest speakers into their classroom. This is an effective and cost efficient way for schools to provide an enhanced learning experience for their students. He invited three accomplished composers to speak to his students. Since the

speakers all had Skype, this cost him nothing. They were also able to do a video session, in which the guest speaker was projected from an LCD projector.



Distance Learning

Mr. Crosby of Agnes Risley Elementary School in Sparks, Nevada, learned that he had a new fourth grade student who had leukemia and couldn't come to school because of treatment. Instead of abandoning that student in her time of need, he thought of an interesting way to teach her without having her leave her home. Mr. Crosby uses Skype to teach Celeste from her home. While this is an exceptionally inspiring story, it shows how useful Skype can be in the classroom. This little girl now has the opportunity to attend class without actually being present in the school.

Click [here](#) to watch the video on Mr. Crosby's class.

Extra Help for Students

Skype is a great tool for students that need extra help for understanding material that was taught in the classroom. This program can allow teachers to give their students extra help without them being in the classroom. Aside from being a useful tool for teachers, private tutors may also find this tool useful in teaching their students. One way that Skype can be useful is if a student is out of town and can't be able to meet with their tutor. The tutor or instructor can help the student understand material by using Skype.

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">VI. Using Skype Internationally

"It's a small world after all..." A commonly known song is brought to focus as Skype connects nations and eliminates certain distance boundaries. Skype can effortlessly and FREELY connect a citizen of one country to a citizen of another and they both can hold a conversation as if they were right next to each other. It surpasses using the telephone because it is free and there is the possibility of using a webcam to include nonverbal communications including facial expressions and body language. What does this mean? So many things can be made possible through this type of free international communication. It can go beyond conversation and expand to business meetings, interviews, public or private services and much much more.

">VI.1 Alliance for International Women's Rights

Lisa Herb, the founder of the Alliance for International Women's Rights, has found a creative way to use Skype. After spending some time in Central Asia, she formulated a plan that would allow women of this region to learn English to improve their lives. Through the Armchair Development Program, Central Asian women work with ESL instructors via Skype. Lisa Herb said this of the women, "They need to speak English to reach out to the international community for funding, for research, for information about what women in other countries are doing about similar problems, for example domestic violence, what legislation exists in other countries. All of that is done in English."



Alliance for International Women's Rights

">VI.2 Long Distance International Psychotherapy

A man by the name of Jason Phelps from Montreal offers his services as a Psychotherapist internationally by using Skype. On his website he encourages the downloading of Skype as a free method of communication. He has a link on his website that allows owners of Skype to instantly contact him. It is amazing what can be accomplished with technology. As a result of the convenience provided by Skype he has expanded his possible clientele list and can more widely distribute his services. It can be inferred from this that other businesses can be expected to use technologies such as Skype to further their business progression.

VI.3 Companies Embracing Skype

Many companies are using Skype as a way to communicate with international clients. Many CEO's, presidents of sales and managers of big companies are falling in love with the capabilities and features that Skype has to offer. An example who is an avid user of Skype is Jeff Craig. Craig is the vice president of sales for a company in Chicago, IL called BridgePort Networks Inc. This company deals with developing new technology for cell phones. Craig uses Skype as a way to have conference calls with foreign clients and he has found this method to be much more cost efficient than actual phone calling. "We did it as a way to reduce our costs that we incurred for conference calls," Craig said. Many other companies are using Skype in this way and are finding it very helpful for their business.

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VII. Security Issues

Skype is said to be a secure way of communicating and that encryption cannot be disabled. Registration requires no proof of identity, only choice of nicknames. However, a third party evaluated Skype and presented at Black Hat Europe 2006 with a number of security issues. Traffic has been able to be watermarked and made identifiable even after passing through an anonymizing network. Kurt Sauer, Chief Security Officer of Skype, said in an interview, "We provide a safe communication option. I will not tell you whether we can listen in or not."

In 2007, users in China attempting to download were redirected to a site of TOM, where a modified Chinese version can be downloaded. The chief executive of Skype, Niklas Zennstrom, reported that TOM "had implemented a text filter, which is what everyone else in that market is doing. Those are regulations." "One thing that's certain is that those are in no way jeopardizing the privacy or the security of any of the users." Then in 2008, it was found that TOM had actually been saving contents from text conversations on its servers, and a server misconfiguration made these files accessible to the public.

Customer Service has also had its fair share of complaints. Aside from indirect assistance through web portals and select email addresses, there isn't a phone number for complaints. It is also unclear on the country that would hold jurisdiction if there would be need for conflict resolution.

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