Collaboration Tools

Skype

What is Skype

Skype is free software that lets you make free phone calls over the internet.

Calls between Skype users is free while a fee is charged for calling from Skype to mobile phones or to landlines

Additionally using Skype you can send instant messages, transfer files over the internet and perform video conferencing.

Brief History of Skype

Skype was first developed in 2003; its first version was released in August of 2003 and largely due to the low cost services it provided it had grown to serve a remarkable 100 Million users by April of 2006.

Skype was built as a multi-platform software, meaning that it ran on Microsoft Windows, Apple Macintosh and Linux computers.

This year, a report by international research firm TeleGeography Research stated that calls between skype users accounted for 13% of all international call minutes in 2009, this worked out to a massive 54 billion minutes spent by Skype-to-Skype users.

In keeping with the times, in May of this year Skype released a version of its software for the Apple iPhone that allowed a users to make a phone call over the iPhone's internet connection. Skype is also available for Google's Android telephones and for select Nokia, Samsung, Sony Ericsson and Panasonic mobile phones.

Between its 2003 release and this year, Skype has grown from a service that initially only offer voice call to include a multitude of features such as

1. Skype-to-Skype – Calls between two or more users on Skype

2. Phones and mobiles – Calls between a Skype user and an landline or cell phone

3. Conference calling – Sharing of a call by multiple users

4. Voicemail – Voice messages left for a user by in the event that they were unreachable at the time of the call

5. Call forwarding – Configure Skype to redirect calls to your mobile phone if the Skype software on your computer is not running or your computer is switched off.

6. Call transfer – The ability to relocate a call from on phone to another

7. Video calling – Calls between users that employ the a webcam or some other camera to allow users to view each other as they converse.

8. Group video calling – This is the same a video calling but rather than a one-on-one call it lets multiple people see and talk to each other.

9. Screen sharing – allows you to show people what you are viewing on your computer.

10. Instant messaging – Send and receive instant textual messages from your computer

11. Sending files – Transfer files between two computers anywhere in the world over the internet.

12. Text messaging – Send and receive sms via Skype

13. Facebook Interaction – keep in touch with your facebook contacts by calls, texts and/or sms

What Can Skype Do for Your Business

1. Cut costs

Thanks to the widespread adoption of Skype internationally many businesses abroad have official Skype numbers that you can reach them on, since Skype-to-Skype calls are free, calling your international contacts from Skype means you can make massive savings on you international telephone costs.

Implementing Skype in the branches of your company means that you are able to reach and stay in touch with your people for free and again this means that huge savings are made on cost of telephone calls.

2. Better Collaboration

Whether you are working on a large project involving a team or you are in charge of logistics for your business or whatever else activity you are performing that involves multiple players, Skype can increase your efficiency by allowing you team to stay in touch with each other through out the duration of the activity.

Want to get your team together to discuss and plan? Use Skype's group video call.

Want to share a drawing or schematic on your computer with your team? Skype offers screen sharing so you can show then exactly what you are seeing.

After finalizing your plan why not share it with the members of your team using Skype's file transfer feature; it doesn't matter what corner of the globe the recipient is the file will be instantly uploaded to them.

From one-on-one calls to conference calling to group video calls, screen sharing and a slew Skype's other features, you will be able to monitor, discuss, plan and execute your activity through Skype.
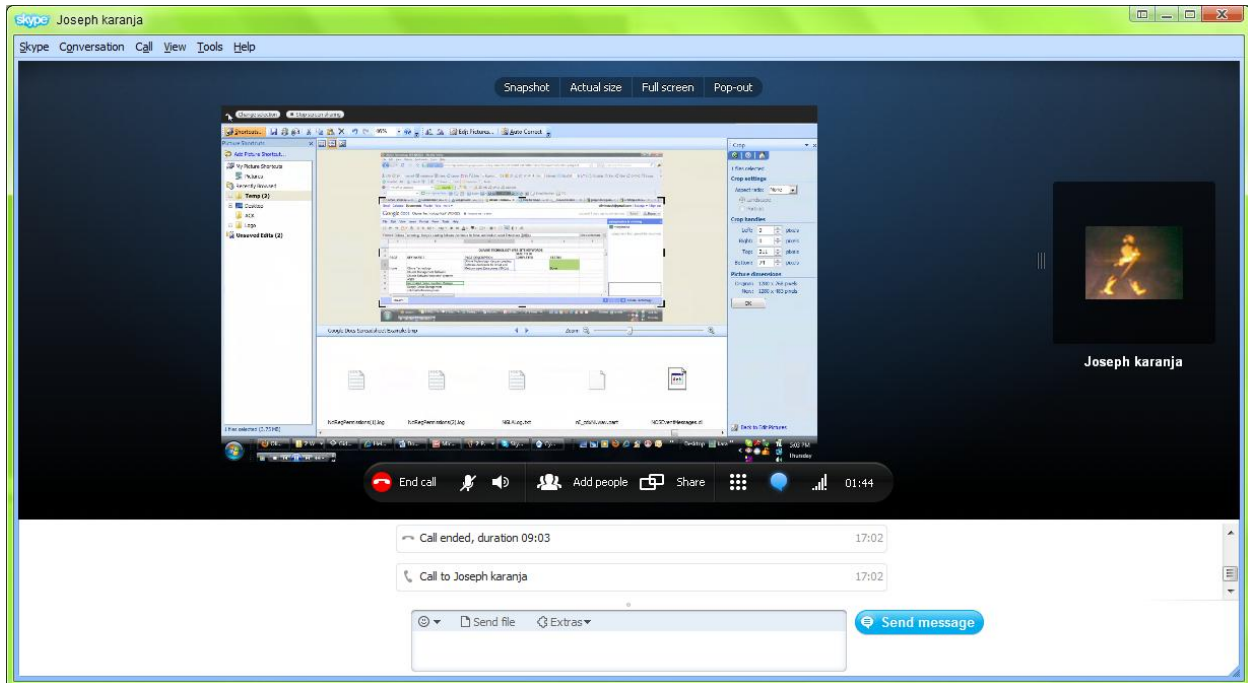
Skype In Action

Video call on Skype

Video call and instant message chat

Screen sharing on Skype

What is eBuddy?

eBuddy is a web and mobile messaging application that supports numerous instant messaging services.

Using eBuddy you can communication with users on Yahoo!, Google, Msn, MySpace and Facebook via instant textual messages.

What is Brief History of eBuddy?

eBuddy was first created in 2003 and at first only supported Microsoft's Msn instant messaging service, however after an overwhelming reception by users and their request for it to support more messaging services, eBuddy was expanded to allow messaging in a variety of services.

eBuddy initially was a mobile application but following repeated requests for a web version, one was created as well.

eBuddy supports supports over 600 of the most common mobile phones models.

What Can eBuddy Do for Your Business

1. Keeping you connected

Whether on your mobile phone or from the internet, eBuddy gives you a way to stay always connected to with you team via instant two way chart messaging allowing you co-ordinate, supervise, and get realtime information on activities at a very low cost.