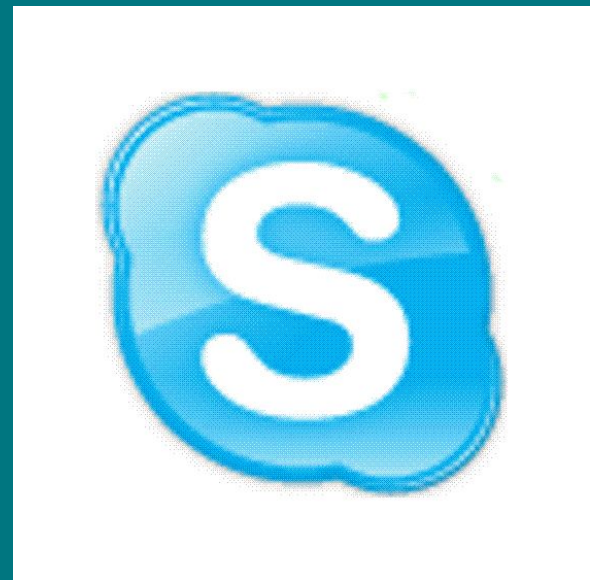




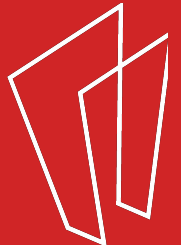
Skype and Other Free Alternatives

By Ben Egger
Digital Literacy Specialist



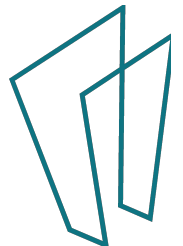
What is Skype?

- Skype is a way of sending phone calls across the internet... and because it's the internet calls are **FREE**
- Skype uses technology called VOIP “voice over Internet protocol”
- Free calls over the Internet
- Free to download software



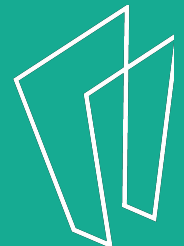
Who are Skype?

- Founded in August 2003, Skype is the leading global Internet communications company
- Skype is headquartered in Luxembourg (offices in Europe, US and Asia)
- **35%** of small businesses use Skype as a primary means of communication
- **13%** of global long distance happens over Skype.
- **74 Million** active users worldwide
- **560 Million** people who have ever used Skype
- On 10 May 2011, Microsoft acquired Skype for **\$8.5 billion**
- Skype is available in **28 languages**



What Do I Need to Make Calls?

- A **computer or device** with access to the internet
- The free software called **Skype**
- A **microphone or headset**
- Optional: a **web camera** for video



How to Download?

- Available on Windows 10 devices
- Available for download at [Skype.com](https://www.skype.com) or through your device's App Store



Free Features

- Skype-to-Skype voice and video calls (including group calls up to 25 people)
- Instant messaging through the Skype app
- Screen sharing during calls
- File transfers between users

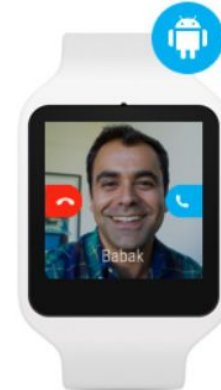


What Devices Use Skype?

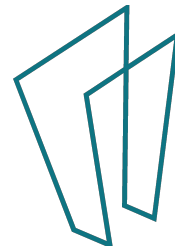
- Computers
- Mobile Phones
- Tablets
- Xbox One
- Smart Watches



Apple Watch



Android Wear



Pay As You Go

Pay As You Go - United States

| Calling | Calling - per minute ¹ |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| United States | 2.3¢ |
| United States - Alaska | 2.3¢ |
| United States - Hawaii | 2.3¢ |
| North America - Toll Free ² | \$0.00 |

| Text Message | Cost per message |
|---------------|------------------|
| United States | 11.2¢ |

1. A connection fee of 4.9¢ applies, unless otherwise indicated.

2. A connection fee of \$0.00 applies.

US Subscription Rates

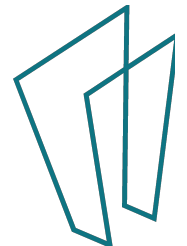
| | |
|-------------------|--|
| \$6.99 per month | Unlimited minutes. Call landlines and mobiles in the US (and US territories), Canada, and Mexico |
| \$13.99 per month | Unlimited minutes. Same as above, plus call landlines in 63 countries |
| \$2.99 per month | Unlimited minutes. Call mobiles and landlines in US, Guam, and Puerto Rico |

Pay either monthly, every three months, or annually. Discounts apply to more long-term commitments



Skype Number

- Create up to 10 Skype phone numbers
- People can contact your Skype phone number with their mobile or landline and reach you while you're anywhere in the world
- Charged on a 3-month or 12-month basis
- Prices vary depending on the location that you set up your number for



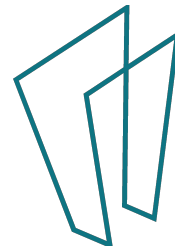
Skype to Go

- Make international calls on the move
- Tell Skype the number you want to call and they'll give you a new number to dial that is routed through them
- Allows you to dial an international number on either mobile or landline
- Makes it easy to keep in touch with friends and family back home while out of country



Skype for Businesses

- Meetings with up to 250 people
- Instant message, draw on a virtual whiteboard, and view and take control of each other's screens
- Charged monthly per user in organization



Cool Features

- Skype Translator - calls and text
- Browser extension to quickly and easily call numbers
- Skype for Outlook to go from e-mail to video
- Add a “contact me” button to your blog or website so that people can call you easily



Limitations

- Skype calls require high-speed internet
- Skype is not a replacement for your traditional telephone service and cannot be used for **emergency calling**
- SkypeOut and SkypeIn calls don't carry the same fidelity experienced with Skype-to-Skype calls
- Microphone-headsets or speakerphones are needed with Skype



Skype Advantages

- Free or low cost
- Video conferencing for friends or business
- Speak with friends from out of country
- Job interviews



Viber

- Make video and voice calls to other Viber users for free
- Send video, voice, and text messages
- Use on your computer, tablet, phone, or smart watch
- Either pay as you go or purchase a 30-day plan to make phone calls to the country of your choice



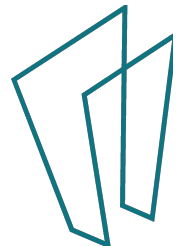
Telegram

- Text and voice chat across phones, tablets, and computers
- Focuses on speed and safety (encrypted chat and voice calls)
- Create groups (channels) for up to 20,000 people to chat in
- Appoint admins to help keep the peace
- Share an unlimited number of photos, videos, and files up to 1.5 GB each
- Seamlessly view and access your chats across all of your devices simultaneously



Signal

- Send high-quality group, text, voice, video, document, and picture messages anywhere in the world without fees
- Available on Android, iPhone, and Desktop
- Heavily encrypted to provide privacy
- Set messages to delete themselves after a set interval of time



Whatsapp



- Use the internet to connect with other Whatsapp users for free voice, text, and photo messages along with free voice calls
- Group calls up to 256 people at a time
- End-to-end Encryption to ensure privacy
- Available on Android, iPhone, Mac, PC, and Windows Phone



Thank You

Want a copy of this presentation?
Visit www.skokielibrary.info/handouts
where this presentation will be available
for four weeks.

