

# Skype

Skype is software that enables the world's conversations. Millions of individuals and businesses use Skype to make free video and voice calls, send instant messages and share files with other Skype users. Everyday, people also use Skype to make low-cost calls to landlines and mobiles.

Skype was founded in 2003. It's based in Luxembourg, with offices in Europe, the US and Asia. It's owned by an investor group led by Silver Lake and which includes eBay Inc, Joltid Limited and Skype founders Niklas Zennström and Janus Friis, the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board and Andreessen Horowitz.

Responsible for 8% of global international calling minutes, and with its users making 3.1 billion minutes of calls to landlines and mobiles in the third quarter of 2009, Skype is a leading global internet communications company. And of course, Skype-to-Skype voice and video calls are completely free. In the third quarter of 2009, Skype users made 27.7 billion minutes of Skype-to-Skype calls, and over a third of these were video calls.

## To start Skype

### If it's your first time opening Skype:



#### **Open Skype on your computer.**

That means double-clicking this icon on your desktop or choosing it from the Windows > Start menu. Having trouble? [Launch it from here](#). This will open a start-up screen.

#### **Click Don't have a Skype Name?**

This opens a Create account window.

#### **Type in your name, then create a Skype username (called a Skype Name) and a password.**

- Pick ones you can remember so you can sign in next time.
- Follow the directions from there and click Sign in.

### If you've opened Skype before:

#### **Open Skype from your desktop or Windows > Start menu.**

#### **In the start-up screen, click in the box under Skype Name and type it in. Then do the same for your password.**

(If you forget your password, click the Forgot your password? link and follow the directions from there.)

**This will sign you in to Skype, ready for you to use.**