# Microsoft announces the discontinuation of Skype



On 5 May 2024, Microsoft will officially discontinue Skype, the internet calling service that has been influential in redefining global communication since its inception in 2003. This announcement comes as Microsoft aims to consolidate its communication offerings and focus more on its development of Teams, a collaboration platform that has gained significant traction in recent years.

The introduction of Skype marked a transformative moment in the early 2000s, as it allowed users to make audio and video calls over the internet, radically disrupting the traditional landline industry. At its peak, Skype catered to hundreds of millions of users, making it a household name. However, in recent years, it has faced stiff competition from more user-friendly and reliable platforms such as Zoom and Slack, which have secured a substantial market share particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, when demand for online communication surged.

Microsoft's strategic pivot towards Teams included aggressively integrating the service with other Office applications to cater to corporate users, a demographic that once significantly relied on Skype. As stated by Microsoft in a recent communication, "We are honoured to have been part of the journey. Skype has been an integral part of shaping modern communications."

When Microsoft acquired Skype in 2011 for $8.5 billion—after outbidding competitors like Google and Facebook—the service had approximately 150 million monthly users. However, this number dwindled to around 23 million by 2020, despite a temporary spike during the pandemic. The technological underpinnings of Skype, which became outdated with the rise of smartphones, contributed to its decline.

The company struggled to seamlessly integrate Skype into its suite of productivity tools and faced increasing competition from alternatives such as Apple’s FaceTime and Google’s various communication applications. The launch of Teams in 2017 marked a further shift in priorities, with the service quickly becoming more central to Microsoft’s communication strategy.

To facilitate the transition for Skype users, Microsoft has announced that individuals will be able to log into Teams for free using their existing Skype credentials, with chats and contacts transferred automatically to the new platform.

The decision to retire Skype has raised questions about the ongoing challenges faced by major tech firms in launching and sustaining successful communication tools. Skype, once synonymous with online video communication, now joins the ranks of defunct platforms such as Google Duo and AOL Instant Messenger, reflecting the rapidly evolving landscape of digital communication.

Microsoft has not disclosed the latest user statistics for Skype nor indicated any job losses as a result of this decision. Teams currently boasts approximately 320 million monthly active users, underscoring the company's shift in focus towards this collaborative platform.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://siliconangle.com/2025/02/28/microsoft-discontinue-skype-20-years/> - This article confirms Microsoft's decision to discontinue Skype and transition users to Microsoft Teams, highlighting Skype's decline and Teams' growing popularity.
* <https://ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/technology/2025/02/28/microsoft-teams-skype-shut-down-> - It supports the information about Skype's shutdown and its replacement with Microsoft Teams, detailing the transition process for users.
* <https://www.statista.com/statistics/243683/number-of-skype-users/> - This link would typically provide historical user statistics for Skype, though it is not directly available in the search results. However, it would support the claim about Skype's user base over the years.
* <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams> - This is Microsoft's official page for Teams, which outlines its features and capabilities, supporting the claim about Teams' functionality and integration with other Microsoft tools.
* <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-04-30/zoom-s-surging-popularity-is-a-double-edged-sword> - This article discusses the rise of Zoom during the pandemic, which contributed to Skype's decline as users shifted to more modern platforms.