



Microsoft



Microsoft confirms \$8.5bn Skype deal

Microsoft has confirmed that it will buy Skype for \$8.5 billion in cash.

According to Microsoft, the acquisition will increase the accessibility of video and voice communications for both consumers and enterprises when it is integrated into the Redmond stable.

In an announcement that goes some way to answer swirling questions over why Microsoft would want to buy Skype – which boasted 170 million connected users and over 207 billion minutes of voice and video conversations last year – Microsoft said it would be putting live communications at the heart of its business.

“Skype will support Microsoft devices like Xbox and Kinect, Windows Phone and a wide array of Windows devices, and Microsoft will connect Skype users with Lync, Outlook, Xbox Live and other communities,” the company said, adding that it would continue investment and support for Skype clients on non-Microsoft platforms.

There is a suspicion that at least part of the motivation for the acquisition was to prevent Skype from falling into the hands of rivals. VoIP specialist Skype had previously been in talks with both Google and Facebook.

Skype has more than 660 million registered users worldwide, even more than Facebook. Yet, despite the enormous global user-base, Skype remains a loss-making venture.



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Auction house eBay bought the company from its founders for \$2.6bn in 2005, but the company eventually wrote down Skype's value by \$1.4bn, before selling off a 70% stake to a group of investors in 2009.

The latest deal would include Microsoft taking on nearly \$700 million of Skype's debts.

Skype quietly patches "dangerous" Mac flaw

Skype has patched a vulnerability that allowed attackers to take control of a computer via malicious messaging – but waited weeks before telling users the fix was available.

The vulnerability was first spotted by chance by Australian security researcher Gordon Maddern of Pure Hacking, who stumbled across the weakness during routine use of Skype.

"The long and the short of it is that an attacker needs only to send a victim a message and they can gain remote control of the victim's Mac. It is extremely wormable and dangerous."

Pure Hacking said it wouldn't release further details about the flaw until a fix had been made available, criticising Skype for taking a month to release a patch.

However, Skype said it issued a manual patch last month, but didn't publicise it because the VoIP firm hadn't seen widespread exploits of the vulnerability, said Adrian Asher on the Skype blog.

"As there were no reports of this vulnerability being exploited in the wild, we did not prompt our users to install this update, as there is another update in the pipeline that will be sent out early next week."

The patch is available from ww.skype.com

Tip of the Month - Word 2010 - Screenshot

Microsoft Office 2010 has lots of new features and improvements. Word 2010 now has a provision to take screenshots and paste it directly into the word document.

To take a screen shot, select the Insert tab in the ribbon and here you can see screenshot option.



When you click this screenshot button, it pops up with the screenshot of all existing active windows running. If you want a selective screenshot of a particular area, select the link at the bottom.