

How to Use Skype Safely For Your Business

If you're unfamiliar with Skype, it's a way to make phone calls to anyone around the world from the convenience from your computer. It's easy to use and extremely affordable, in fact in many cases it's free to make a phone call. And for business owners, it can offer the convenience they're looking for.

Skype offers you the ability to:

- Receive calls from anyone on any type of phone
- Call anyone from your computer whether they're on their computer, a landline, or a mobile phone.
- Video and conference calling – all you need is a web camera

However, because Skype requires an install and transferring files during calls, it can seem like a security threat to your business. Fortunately, Skype has taken that into consideration and has taken steps to protect your computer systems.

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As a business owner you have access to the Business Control Center. This center gives you the ability to manage Skype accounts, for example you can create accounts for each of your employees or contractors and add credits to their account from the Control Center.

Additionally, within the Business Control Center you have added protection features to protect you and your business from, spam, spyware and adware. This security center comes with:

Antivirus compatibility – each of your inbound and outbound Skype file transfers are scanned by the major antivirus products.

Secure firewalls – most often you don't need to make any changes to your firewalls to run Skype on your business computer.

However you don't have to use the Business Control Center to use Skype as a business owner. You can get started with it and still protect your privacy. Here's how:

You've downloaded and installed Skype, set up your account profile and privacy settings. You can choose who you allow calls and chats from and whether or not you want your status to be shown on the web. Your profile is public and can be viewed by other Skype Users so take care to only put things in your profile that you're comfortable with other people seeing.

How to Get Started Using Skype

1. Visit Skype and create an account.
2. You'll download and install the software. Note nothing is installed without your consent so read each step carefully as you're installing the software to make sure you're not accepting anything you don't want to.
3. Set up your Account and privacy control settings or set up your Business Control Panel. The Skype for Windows – Business version download includes a Windows Installer Package, which makes it really easy to configure for your system needs.

Skype is a simply and cost effective solution for the business owner, whether you have a bevy of employees or are a single work from home entrepreneur. Take a look at the benefits of using Skype today and rest assured, security measures are in place to protect your business computer from spam, spyware and adware.