
Microsoft Phases Out Skype, Pushes Users to Teams

Description

(Getty Images) type unknown

[Microsoft \(MSFT\)](#) has announced the winding down of [Skype](#), an app that dominated the video-calling landscape for over two decades.

Once synonymous with video calling, Skype has seen its popularity wane as alternatives like WhatsApp and Zoom have surged ahead, rendering it less relevant in a fast-evolving digital environment.

Effective May 5, users will need to either export their data or transition to Microsoft Teams, which offers comparable chat and calling features, albeit lacking the facility to call traditional phone numbers, a hallmark of Skype's early success.

Founded in 2003, Skype initially revolutionized communication and attracted hundreds of millions of users at its peak. However, it struggled to adapt to the smartphone era, leading to its decline.

Users will be able to access Teams for free, seamlessly migrating their chats and contacts. With this closure, Skype joins other Microsoft ventures, such as Internet Explorer, that failed to navigate changing market demands effectively.

Microsoft has not disclosed current user numbers for Skype, which have plummeted from 150 million at its acquisition in 2011 to around 23 million by 2020, despite a brief pandemic resurgence.

Microsoft remarked, "Skype has played a vital role in shaping modern communication."

"We are proud to have been part of this journey."

Additional reporting by agencies

Vocabulary List:

1. **Winding down** /'waɪndɪŋ daʊn/ (verb phrase): The process of gradually reducing or terminating activity.
2. **Dominated** /'dɒməˌneɪtɪd/ (verb): To have control or influence over something or someone.
3. **Comparable** /kəm'pærəbl/ (adjective): Similar in some way; capable of being compared.
4. **Relevance** /'rɛl.ə.vəns/ (noun): The quality of being closely connected or appropriate.
5. **Navigation** /ˌnævɪ'geɪʃən/ (noun): The act of planning and directing the route or course of something.
6. **Resurgence** /rɪ'sɜːrdʒəns/ (noun): An increase or revival after a period of little activity.



Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. When was Skype founded?

- Option: 2001
- Option: 2003
- Option: 2005
- Option: 2008

2. What alternatives led to the decline in Skype's popularity?

- Option: Zoom and Google Meet
- Option: WhatsApp and Discord
- Option: WhatsApp and Zoom
- Option: Messenger and Skype Lite

3. What service can users transition to after Skype shuts down?

- Option: Google Hangouts
- Option: Microsoft Teams
- Option: Slack
- Option: Zoom

4. How many users did Skype have at its peak?

- Option: 50 million
- Option: 100 million
- Option: 200 million
- Option: 300 million

5. Which Microsoft venture is mentioned to have also struggled with changing market demands?

- Option: Office 365
- Option: Bing
- Option: LinkedIn
- Option: Internet Explorer

6. What type of resurgence did Skype experience briefly in 2020?

- Option: Financial resurgence



- Option: Pandemic resurgence
- Option: User resurgence
- Option: Feature resurgence

True-False

7. Skype was founded in 2005.
8. Microsoft Teams allows calling traditional phone numbers.
9. Skype reached 150 million users by 2020.
10. Microsoft disclosed current user numbers for Skype.
11. Skype struggled to adapt to the smartphone era.
12. Users can access Teams for free.

Gap-Fill

13. Microsoft announced the winding down of Skype effective from _____.
14. Skype attracted hundreds of millions of users at its peak before facing a decline in the smartphone era, leading to its _____.
15. Skype started revolutionizing communication in _____.
16. Users will have to either export their data or transition to _____ after Skype shuts down.
17. Microsoft has not disclosed current user numbers for Skype, which have plummeted from 150 million in 2011 to around _____ by 2020.
18. Despite a pandemic resurgence, Skype's user numbers only briefly saw an increase before decreasing



to around _____ by 2020.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. 2003 2. WhatsApp and Zoom 3. Microsoft Teams 4. 200 million 5. Internet Explorer
6. Pandemic resurgence

True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. False 10. False 11. True 12. True

Gap-Fill: 13. May 5 14. decline 15. 2003 16. Microsoft Teams 17. 23 million

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What is a legally binding agreement between two parties?
Option: A) Purchase
Option: B) Contract
Option: C) Sale
Option: D) Offer
2. Which compounds can be found in various fruits and vegetables known for their antioxidant properties?
Option: A) Carbohydrates
Option: B) Polyphenols
Option: C) Proteins
Option: D) Fats
3. Which term refers to the introduction of new ideas methods or products?
Option: A) Replication
Option: B) Conservation
Option: C) Innovation
Option: D) Imitation
4. What measures the efficiency of production output?
Option: A) Profitability
Option: B) Productivity
Option: C) Quality
Option: D) Speed
5. Which term describes something that is absolutely necessary or extremely important?
Option: A) Optional



- Option: B) Essential
- Option: C) Luxurious
- Option: D) Trivial

6. What means to act against or neutralize something?

- Option: A) Enhance
- Option: B) Improve
- Option: C) Counteract
- Option: D) Support

7. Which term refers to the distribution or positioning of resources and personnel?

- Option: A) Extraction
- Option: B) Deployment
- Option: C) Storage
- Option: D) Disposal

8. Which term is related to mental processes such as thinking learning and understanding?

- Option: A) Emotional
- Option: B) Cognitive
- Option: C) Physical
- Option: D) Spiritual

9. Which hormone is produced by the pineal gland and regulates sleep patterns?

- Option: A) Insulin
- Option: B) Estrogen
- Option: C) Melatonin
- Option: D) Serotonin

10. What term describes a deep mental involvement or absorption into an activity or experience?

- Option: A) Observation
- Option: B) Immersion
- Option: C) Distraction
- Option: D) Detachment

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

- 11. A _____ material is one that can withstand or recover from difficult conditions.
- 12. It is important to consume alcohol in _____ to avoid negative health effects.
- 13. The new software update offers several features for the _____ of user experience.



14. The two products are not _____ in terms of quality and performance.
15. After a long day at work I enjoy _____ by reading a book or listening to music.
16. In online gaming a high _____ can result in delays in player actions.
17. The study aims to investigate the _____ of historical events to current social issues.
18. GPS devices are widely used for accurate and efficient _____ during travel.
19. The performance of the team showcased their _____ over their opponents.
20. A _____ artist can work in various styles and mediums with equal proficiency.
21. Proper nutrition and rest are essential for muscle _____ after intense workouts.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

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| 22. During the drought there was a severe shortage of water in the region. |
| 23. The project proposal outlined a viable plan for sustainable energy production. |
| 24. A diet rich in fruits and vegetables provides the body with essential antioxidants. |
| 25. Regular exercise can help reduce inflammation in the body and improve overall health. |
| 26. His pragmatic approach to problem-solving focused on practical solutions rather than theoretical concepts. |
| 27. The software company developed an enterprise-grade solution for large-scale businesses. |
| 28. The virtual reality game offered an immersive experience that made players feel like they were in another world. |
| 29. The architect presented a new concept for the design of the city park. |
| 30. His logical reasoning skills helped him analyze complex problems and reach sound conclusions. |
| 31. The band experienced a resurgence in popularity after releasing their latest album. |



Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. B) Contract 2. B) Polyphenols 3. C) Innovation 4. B) Productivity 5. B) Essential 6. C) Counteract 7. B) Deployment 8. B) Cognitive 9. C) Melatonin 10. B) Immersion

Gap-Fill: 11. resilient 12. moderation 13. enhancement 14. comparable 15. winding down 16. latency 17. relevance 18. navigation 19. dominance 20. versatile 21. recovery

Matching sentence: 1. Shortage 2. Viable 3. Antioxidants 4. Inflammation 5. Pragmatic 6. Enterprise-grade 7. Immersive 8. Concept 9. Reasoning 10. Resurgence

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL4

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