



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

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL4

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