

Skype Launches New 3G VoIP App for iPhone

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Skype announced the launch of the new version of its iPhone application. Available to download from the Apple App Store, the new update allows iPhone users to make and receive Skype-to-Skype calls and to call mobiles and landlines around the world over a 3G data connection.

According to a press release, Skype-to-Skype calls on 3G will be free for a trial period, which will run until the end of 2010. The company said details on pricing will be announced in the coming months and will "be in line with commitment to providing customers with great value."

Skype-to-Skype calls over Wi-Fi will still remain free.

"Using Skype on iPhone without being restricted to the availability of a Wi-Fi network will open up new ways for Skype customers to stay connected and make free or low-cost calls whenever they want, wherever they are in the world," said Russ Shaw, general manager for Mobile, Skype.

Additional features of the Skype for iPhone application include: near CD-quality sound for Skype-to-Skype calls using wideband audio on iPhone 3GS or second-generation iPod touch and onward; enhanced call quality indicator, which will help customers choose the best moment to call; improved start-up time; and rapid access to the dial pad from the home screen.

The new version is compatible with the iPhone, iPhone 3G, iPhone 3GS, iPod touch and iPad. Skype requires iPhone OS version 3.0 and above.

Calling functionality is available on iPhone, iPhone 3G, iPhone 3GS and second-generation iPod touch onward. iPod touch requires a compatible headset with a microphone.

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