



Skype: Developing Ideas

Listening Questions 1:

1. How much do calls between Skype users cost?
2. Who founded Skype?
3. When was the first public beta version released?
4. What was one of the initial names for the project?

Listening Questions 2:

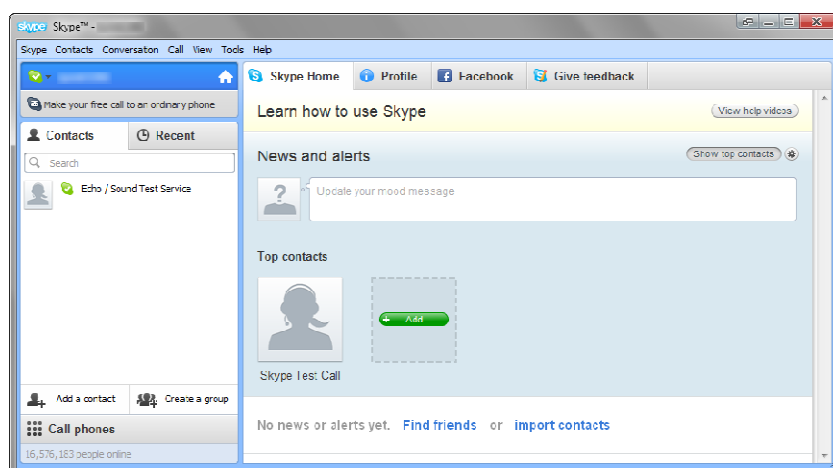
1. How much did Microsoft agree to pay for Skype?
2. Who is the former CEO of Skype?
3. Who will the president of Skype report to?
4. What do some people fear about the high price Microsoft has agreed to pay?

Transcript 1:

Skype is a software application that allows users to make voice and video calls over the Internet. Calls to other users within the Skype service are free, while calls to telephones and mobile phones can be made for a fee.

Skype was founded in 2003 by Niklas Zennström from Sweden and Janus Friis from Denmark. In April 2003, the Skype.com and Skype.net domain names were registered and in August 2003, the first public beta version was released.

One of the initial names for the project was "Sky peer-to-peer", which was eventually abbreviated to "Skype".



Transcript 2:

On May 10th, 2011, Microsoft announced it had agreed to acquire Skype for \$8.5 billion. It was Microsoft's largest acquisition ever. Skype is now a division within Microsoft, with Skype's former CEO Tony Bates, now its president, reporting to Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer.

The price Microsoft agreed to pay for the company is 32 times Skype's operating profits. Some people question the value in the purchase for Microsoft and others fear a new tech bubble.