

DU Learning Guide

Internet Telephones and Webcams

"I can see my grandchildren, even though they are miles away."

What's it all about

You can make unlimited phone calls to anywhere in the world over the Internet, all for free. They could be 'video' calls, too, where you see the person as you're speaking to them. This technology is called **Voice over IP** (VOIP for short).

You and anyone that you want to call will need a broadband (high-speed) Internet connection to use VOIP. You must install VOIP software on your computer, which you can download free from the website of the VOIP service. You'll also need to connect a microphone and loudspeakers or headphones. If you and the person that you are calling also have a **webcam** (i.e. web camera), you can make video calls.

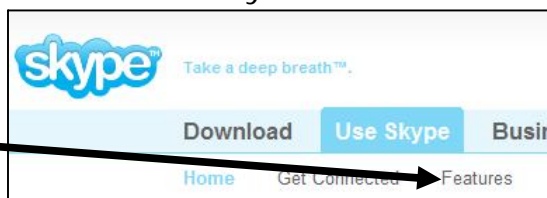
The Silver Surfers' Day Event that you are visiting may not have the equipment to demonstrate internet telephony or video calls.

If they do, the people helping there will demonstrate it.

Try this

The best known VOIP service is called **Skype**. If you cannot see a live demonstration, you can still get an idea of how Skype works, by looking at their website.

- Type www.skype.com into the address bar of your browser.
- Press **Enter** and the Skype home page will be displayed.
- Click on Features.
- On the next page, click on Skype to Skype calls.



Calls that you make from one computer to another using Skype are free. Skype make their money by selling other services, such as calls to normal telephones (which is why they advertise them so hard on their website!)

For more about this, see our **Learning Guide: Install and Use Skype**.

More websites to explore

Google Talk

www.google.com/talk/intl/en-GB/index.html

Google are also developing an Internet telephone service.

Vonage

www.vonage.co.uk

Vonage is designed to let you call normal telephones via the Internet. It is only available as a paid-for service.