

What do you need to set up Skype?

This content refers to a previous version of Skype - go [here](#) for the current version.

Video: Setting up your computer for Skype



You may already have everything you need to use Skype on your computer. Having a few extra items, like a comfortable headset, can make things easier. Before you download Skype, it's a good idea to learn about the different equipment options and ensure your computer is set up correctly.

Equipment checklist

Review the checklist to make sure you have everything you need to use Skype. You'll need:

- **A high-speed Internet connection:** This can be DSL, satellite, or a cable modem. A dial-up connection is OK for instant messaging on Skype, but it isn't enough for voice or video calls.

- **Speakers and a microphone (built into your computer or separate):** Some people like to use headphones or even a full headset so they can hear and talk to the other person more clearly.



- **A webcam if you want to make video calls:** Many new computers even come with built-in webcams. If your computer doesn't have one, you can buy one online or in stores—sometimes for as little as \$25.

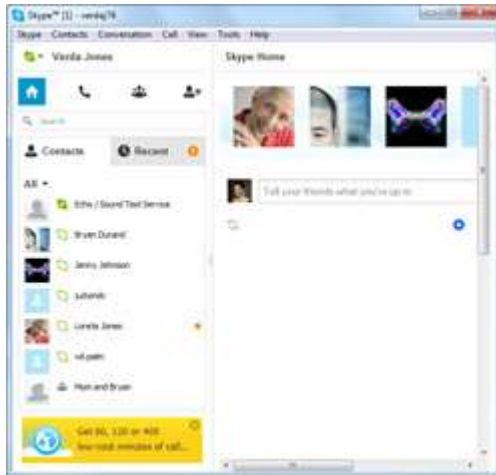


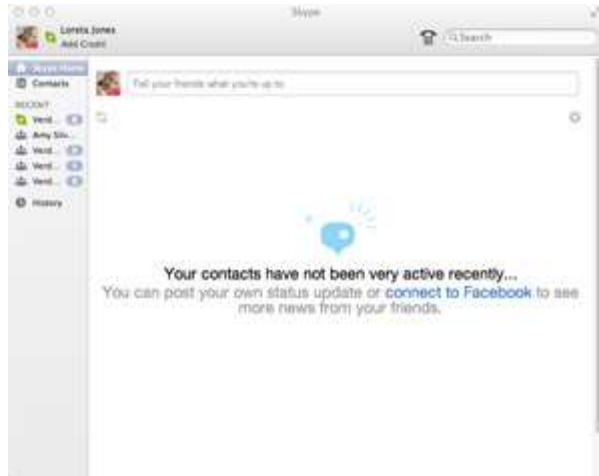
There are other accessories you may want to consider, like an **actual phone** you can plug into your computer—or use wirelessly—to talk to people on Skype. These accessories can be expensive, but they are a good

investment for some, especially if you plan to get your own **Skype number** and use it frequently in place of your ordinary phone. Learn more about it on Skype's [Accessories](#) page.

Windows vs. Mac

There are two different versions of Skype, depending on the type of computer you have: **Skype for Windows** and **Skype for Mac**.





We'll focus on **Skype for Windows** in this tutorial—but if you have a Mac, don't worry. The features in each version are mostly the same. Once you get to know the Mac interface, you'll still be able to follow along and participate in all of the things we talk about in this tutorial.

Downloading and installing Skype

Video: Creating a Skype account



It only takes a few minutes to set up Skype for the first time. You'll start by creating an **account** on the website. Then you'll download and install the **software** you need to run Skype on your computer.

If you have an @hotmail.com or @outlook.com email address—or an account that lets you use Microsoft services like **OneDrive** or **XBox Live**—you already have a Skype account. Just select **Microsoft Account** and sign in with your existing information.

To download and set up Skype:

1. Go to [Skype.com](https://www.skype.com) and select **Sign In** in the upper-right corner.
2. Select **Create an account**, and the **sign up form** will appear. Follow the directions and enter the required information, such as your name, birthdate, and gender.

Sign in

Create an account

Skip this step by signing in with your Microsoft or Facebook account



Microsoft account

A Messenger, Hotmail or Outlook.com account.



Facebook

First name*

Loreta

Last name*

Jones

Your email address*

LoretaLynn@yahoo.com

Repeat email*

LoretaLynn@yahoo.com

Note: no-one can see your email address.

3. Review the **terms of service** and the **Skype Privacy Statement**, then click **Continue**.

Inform me about new products, features, and special offers. When you sign up for SMS notifications, our first SMS will allow you to get Skype on your mobile (where applicable, your operator may charge you for receiving SMS messages).

By SMS

By email



Can't read the text in the box?



Refresh



Listen



Help

Type the text above here*

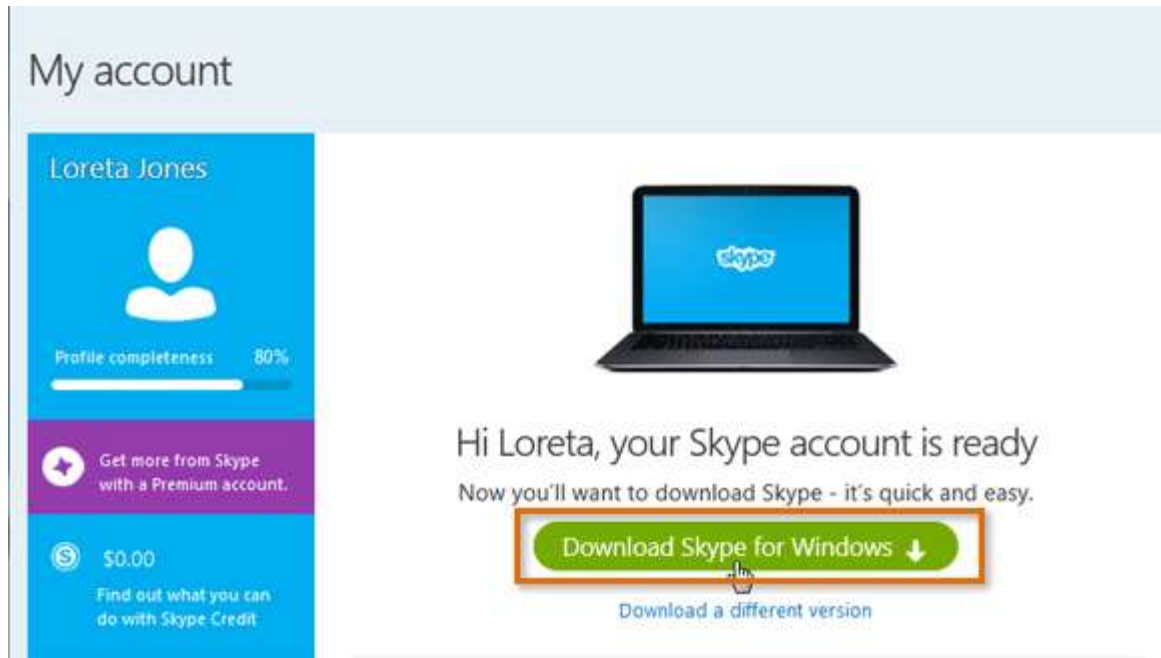
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Yes, I have read and I accept the [Skype Terms of Use](#) and the [Skype Privacy Statement](#)

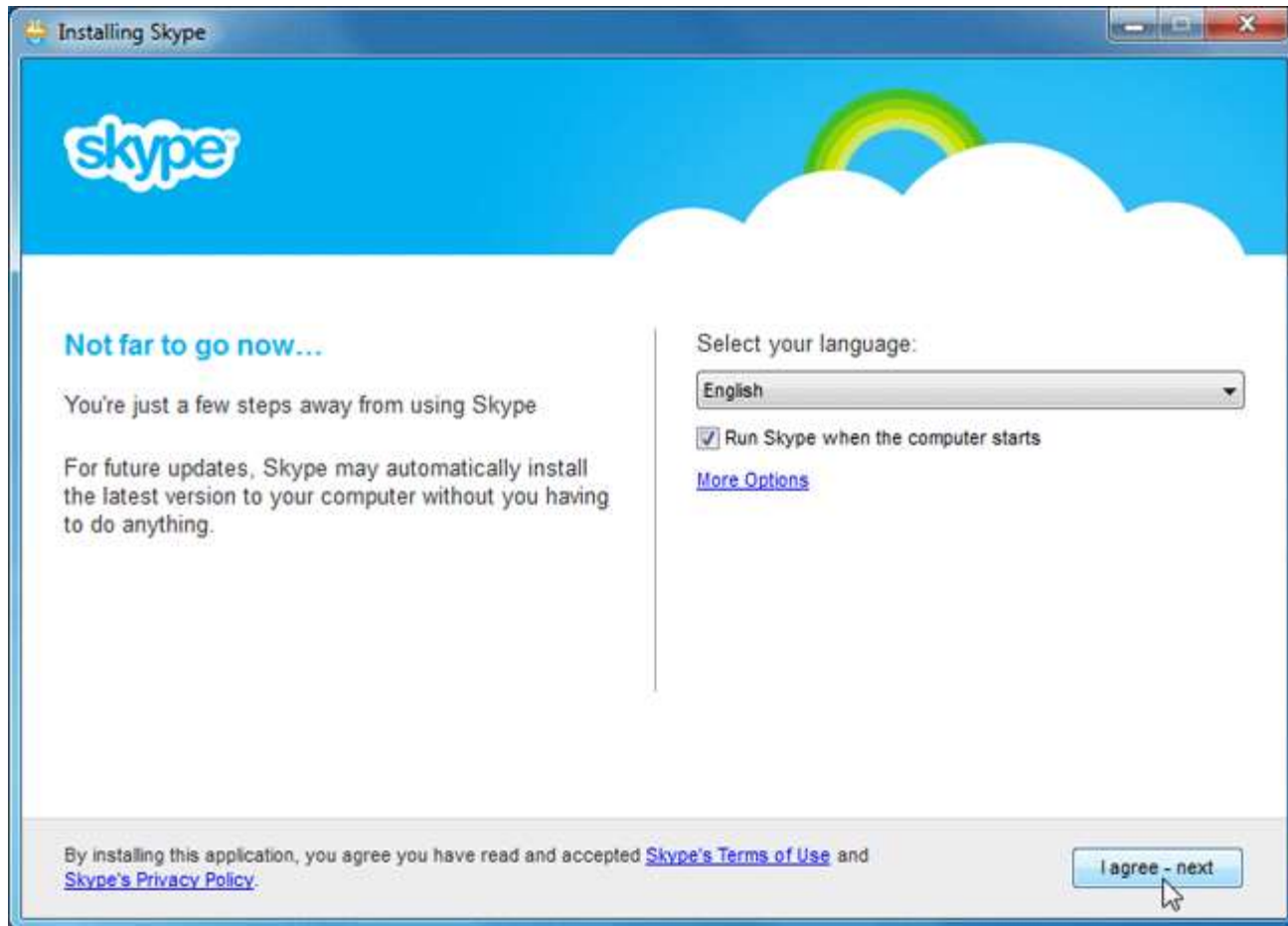
I agree - Continue



4. Your **account** has been created. Select **Download Skype**.



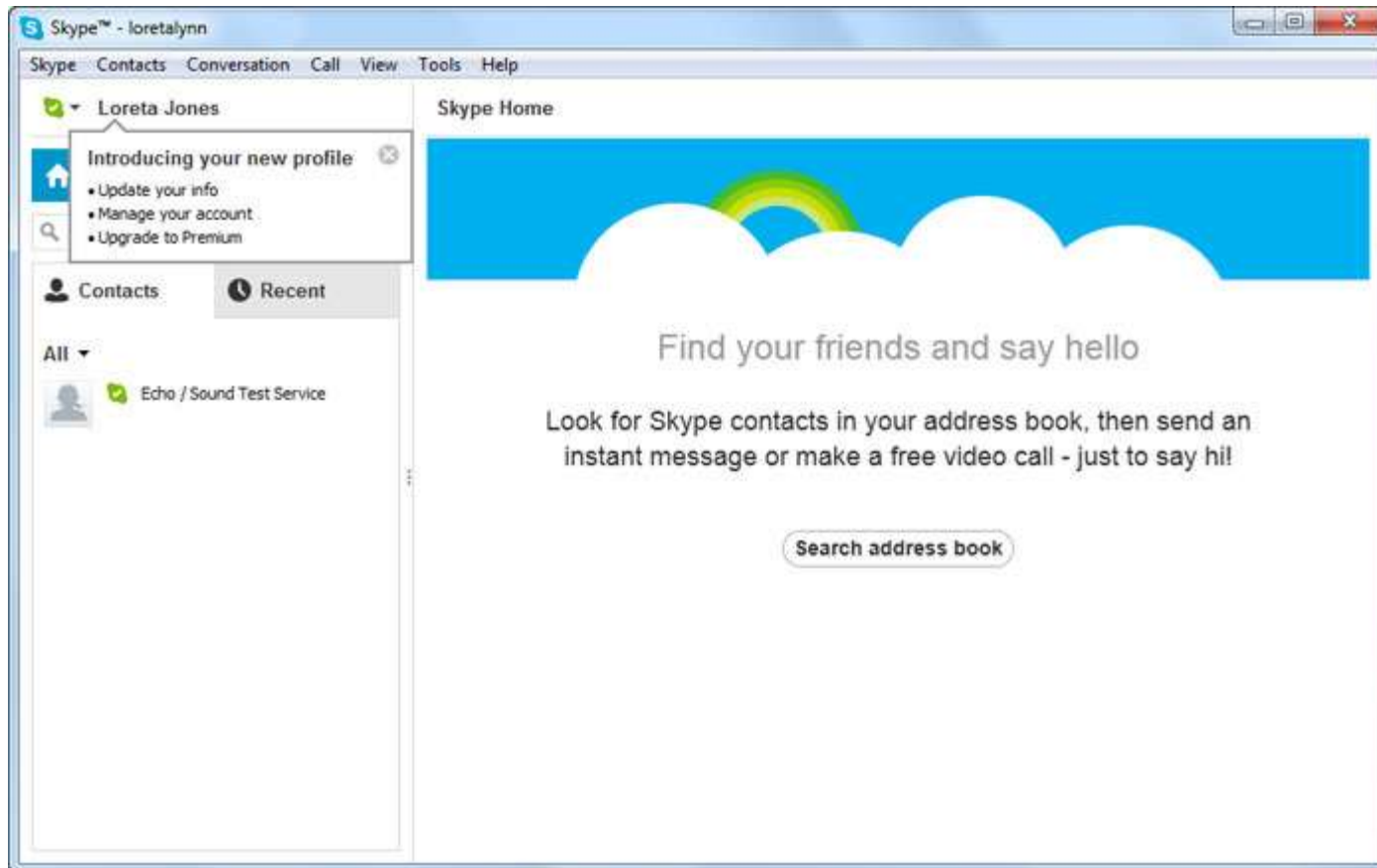
5. Locate and select the installation file on your computer, then follow the instructions to install Skype.



6. Enter your **user name** and **password**, then click **Sign in**.



7. The **Skype** window will appear.



If you don't download Skype after creating an account, you can also download it [here](#).