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## Skype: The Recent Personalised One-to-One Technology in the Educational Field

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### Abstract

This paper deals about the advantage of 21st century learners' innate interest in technology and collaboration to introduce them to the similarities and differences among schools and communities around the United States. The virtual field trips upon which students will embark can foster a greater understanding of the unique cultural and behavioral traits that characterize residents of the 50 states, reveal similarities that transcend regions, and help students develop their public speaking and listening skills. Begin by signing up for a free Skype in the classroom account, and ensure that the classroom computer is equipped with a webcam, microphone, speakers and an Internet connection. Next, develop a questionnaire that can guide conversation during each virtual field trip with another class. (For example, students could prepare questions for their peers in other schools that focus on broad categories such as school, community and state.) Assign each student at least one question to ask during each field trip, and give students time to practice how they will ask their questions prior to the event. Model for them how they should sit in front of the webcam, the tone and volume they should use when asking their questions, and how they should react as they listen to their peers' responses.

**Keywords:** Recent Technology, Personalised one-to-one teaching learning Process

### 1. Introduction

The name was derived from sky and peer. Skype was first released in August 2003. It was created by Janus Friis (Denmark) and Niklas Zennström (Sweden) in cooperation with Ahti Heinla (Estonia), Priit Kasesalu (Estonia), and Jaan Tallinn (Estonia), who supplied the backend which was also used in Kazaa. Microsoft's Skype division headquarters is in Luxembourg, but most of the development team and 44% of the overall employees of the division are still situated in Tallinn and Tartu, Estonia.

The service allows users to communicate with peers by voice using a microphone, video by using a webcam, and instant messaging over the Internet. Phone calls may be placed to recipients on the traditional telephone networks. Calls to other users within the Skype service are free of charge, while calls to landline telephones and mobile phones are charged via a debit-based user account system. Skype has also become popular for its additional features, including file transfer, and videoconferencing. Skype is a hybrid peer-to-peer and client-server system. It makes use of background processing on computers running Skype software, and this is reflected in Skype's original proposed name of Sky Peer-to-Peer. Skype clients are also available for smartphones running on Android, iOS and BlackBerry 10 operating systems. International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) has evaluated species conservation status world wide and today the IUCN Red Lists have become one of the most important information about the conservation status of world's flora and fauna worldwide. In the IHR, attempts have been made to identify the threatened plants by various workers (Pangtey & Samant, 1988; Samant *et al.*, 1993, 1996 b, 1998a, 2000a, 2001a&b, 2002a, 2007a &c; Pant & Samant 2008; Singh *et al.*, 2009; etc.). Under the current scenario, about 20% of all species are expected to be lost within 30 years and 50% or more by the end of 12<sup>th</sup> Century (Myers, 1993). In, IHR over exploitation and habitat degradation are the two major factors responsible for decrease in population of the species (Samant *et al.*, 1998a &b). No such studies are reported from tarai region of Kumaun, Uttarakhand, though there are huge developmental activities have been taken place. So the present paper aim to document the threaten species of tarai region of Kumaun, Uttarakhand.

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### Educational Usage

Skype is a commercial product, its free version is being used with increasing frequency among teachers and schools interested in global education projects. For example Skype is being used to facilitate language exchange. Students in different parts of the world are paired off, each is a native speaker of the language that the other wishes to learn. In conversations over Skype they alternate between the two languages.

Teachers are using Skype in unique ways to fulfill educational goals. The video conferencing aspect of the software is valuable in that it provides a way to connect students who speak different languages, hold virtual field trips, and reach out to experts in varying fields of study. These experiences allow students a chance to apply what they are learning in the classroom to real-life experiences and it also achieves further learning opportunities.

Skype in the classroom is another free tool that Skype has set up on its website. It provides teachers with a way to make their classrooms more interactive and interesting. Skype in the classroom is a service that teachers can sign up for that will allow students to meet other students, talk to experts, and share ideas. Teachers can collaborate with other teachers around the world and design different learning experiences for their students. There are various Skype lessons, in which students can participate. Teachers can also use Skype's search tool and find experts in the field of their choice.

Skype provides students with "access to a large amount of up-dated information, promote flexible and interactive education, facilitate student autonomy, foster person- alised instruction and enable collaborative teamwork in class" (Garcia-Martin & Garcia-Sanchez, 2013, p.117) <sup>[5]</sup>. More specifically within an educational context, Skype offers a low cost, real-time communication and collaboration tool for students in the form of a virtual classroom (Kilimci, 2010). Functionally, Skype can be used as a teaching tool by having all students connected separately to the teacher or in a group with individual student computers connected to a projector within the classroom and beyond (Gronn *et al.*, 2013) <sup>[7]</sup>. Skype is able to simulate a face-to-face environment of a traditional classroom while still allowing a students or guest speakers to participate at a distance. (Kilimci, 2010). Skype offers a flexible and accessible global learning context to enhance education (Hwang & Vrongistinos, 2012) <sup>[9]</sup>. The conferencing capabilities and recording option can be used to connect students to subject experts or other students from around the world (Godwin-Jones, 2005) <sup>[6]</sup>. Guest lecturers can share live demonstrations within an interactive context from virtually anywhere in the world with an internet connection (Hwang & Vrongistinos, 2012) <sup>[9]</sup>. Skype is not bound by time or space and can be used to connect users outside of class time in a virtual mentoring capacity (Hwang & Vrongistinos, 2012) <sup>[9]</sup>. With no time limitations, this software can easily be implemented for sharing time sensitive information and can be more effective than using either email or telephone (Garcia-Martin & Garcia-Sanchez, 2013) <sup>[5]</sup>. Skype is used to promote collaboration by providing students with a platform for brainstorming and negotiating when working on projects (Ang *et al.*, 2013) <sup>[1]</sup>. This tool allows collaborators to "research new topics immediately, record notes together and...become more productive and efficient. All the while, colleagues can be talking, typing, and

watching one another, taking multi-tasking to a new level"(Hargis & Wilcox , p. 10) <sup>[8]</sup>. In addition, other practical applications for Skype include implementing the audio and video conferencing component to practice oral communication skills (Cararoglu & Basaran, 2010) <sup>[2]</sup>. It is a popular tool to assist with improving English and intercultural communication (Chen & Vannoy, 2013) <sup>[3]</sup>. Students are able to "listen to and speak with the teacher and each other, write on the same window, and see what the others and the teacher write (similar to a chalkboard)" (Kilimci, 2010, p. 107).

Skype requires Internet access as well as the software download and installation, depending on the user comfort level, the program will require time to set up and navigate (Hargis & Wilcox, 2008) <sup>[8]</sup>. Additionally, Skype requires a reasonably fast Internet connection which may limit access for some schools (Godwin-Jones, 2005) <sup>[6]</sup>. Unfortunately, the speed of the Internet connection will affect the overall sound quality which is dependent on the network service (Gronn *et al.*, 2013) <sup>[7]</sup>. For slow connections, the video can be intermittent and delayed but audio calls are generally good quality (Gronn *et al.*, 2013) <sup>[7]</sup>. Furthermore, although it is possible to link up to five separate audio conference call connections through Skype, the sound quality tends to degrade with more Internet connections in the same conversation (Godwin-Jones, 2005) <sup>[6]</sup>. While the basic Skype account is free, there are additional equipment costs to consider for basic use including; a web-camera, microphone and headphones which are preferred over speakers to prevent echoes from either the microphone or conversational partner for video conferencing or just a micro-phone and headphones for the audio option (Kilimci, 2010). Overall service quality and options will increase with the premium paid version which permits "up to 10 users for simultaneous video conferencing" (Gronn *et al.*, 2013, p. 261) <sup>[7]</sup>. Although it is also possible to use Skype to call a land-based phone, this Skype Out option requires a fee for use service (Godwin-Jones, 2005) <sup>[6]</sup>. Skype has also been criticized for the small size of the video chat screen; not being able to see the other parties in multi-user chat; and not being able to see contact list when using difference computers and therefore having to add personal contacts for different computer" (Eroz-Tuga & Sadler, 2009) <sup>[4]</sup>. Many educators are using Skype in conjunction with other technology such as white board because of its limited features (Gronn *et al.*, 2013) <sup>[7]</sup>. Unfortunately, there is limited research conducted to determine the viability of using Skype in an education setting (Yang & Chang, 2008) <sup>[13]</sup>. In addition, cultural and demographic considerations should also be considered in further research, (Yoo and Huang 2011) <sup>[15]</sup> found that South Korean students tend to be more apprehensive about using Skype for learning than American students. Further research should also investigate the education implication of using Skype to stimulate more rigours intellectual participation in education (Yang & Chang, 2008) <sup>[13]</sup>.

### Usage Skype in the Classroom

Imagine taking your class on an "around the world" field trip or having your favorite children's author lead today's read-aloud. You can do both of these and more without leaving your classroom thanks to Skype. It's a great use of technology in the classroom Skype is free communication software that allows you to make calls,

instant message and video conference online. Here are just a few of the endless possibilities for using this ed tech tool in the classroom.

Author and illustrator Mike Artnell is one of many authors using Skype to visit classrooms. When Artnell skypes with classes, students can ask him questions about writing and illustrating, watch him sketch and show him their own in-class illustrations. Make sure the screen is large enough for the kids to see what's going on. When kids ask questions, it's fun to actually have them stand up and walk in front of the camera.

It's important to do a "test" Skype call ahead of time to make sure everything's working well. Invite colleagues/administrators in to see how this advanced technology in the classroom works.

### Skype: Teaching Techniques

Schedule a student-free Skype session with the teacher with whom your class will be connecting prior to your virtual field trip. That way, both sides will be able to steer the video conference between the two classrooms in the desired direction. Be mindful of time zone differences. Create a digital portfolio of each virtual field trip your students take. Such efforts provide a fascinating diary of the learning that takes place throughout the year.

- Get started by downloading Skype ahead of time.
- Choose the venue that works best for your purposes (whether it be your classroom, the library or a media center.)
- Be careful about your privacy settings.
- Only allow student supervised access to Skype.
- Try Skype's built-in recording option to rebroadcast your conversations later!
- Whether you're conferencing with an author or another class, have your students prepare test questions to make the most of your chat.
- The whiteboard feature also allows you all the freedom of being in the classroom and writing notes on the board for students.

Get in touch with Michael Artnell and other authors who Skype by visiting the Skype Author Network. Schedule Skype conferences with parents whose work or commute interfere with them making the meeting. It can also make a call home more effective by speaking with the student and parent(s) together. It's a great way to demonstrate your mastery of technology in the classroom.

### Lesson Description In The Classroom

This paper takes advantage of 21st century learners' innate interest in technology and collaboration to introduce them to the similarities and differences among schools and communities around the United States. The virtual field trips upon which students will embark can foster a greater understanding of the unique cultural and behavioral traits that characterize residents of the 50 states, reveal similarities that transcend regions, and help students develop their public speaking and listening skills.

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broad categories such as school, community and state.) Assign each student at least one question to ask during each field trip, and give students time to practice how they will ask their questions prior to the event. Model for them how they should sit in front of the webcam, the tone and volume they should use when asking their questions, and how they should react as they listen to their peers' responses.

### Resources

Skype in the classroom: [education.skype.com](http://education.skype.com)

Skype 'R US: [sites.google.com/site/skyperusiowa](http://sites.google.com/site/skyperusiowa)

Chatting Across the

USA: [sites.google.com/site/chattingacrosstheusa](http://sites.google.com/site/chattingacrosstheusa)

Students should be graded on content accuracy, writing quality and presentation skills.

### Conclusion

VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) technology is developing rapidly, and Skype is the most popular VoIP product on the market. Skype allows users to reduce telephone charges significantly compared to traditional telephone networks, with no loss of connection quality. A second advantage is ease of use. Users worldwide are up and running in seconds: Simply install Skype and plug in a microphone. That done, one can talk, exchange files, text messages and so on. However, Skype take-up has gone beyond domestic users - it is also used on corporate networks. This is not surprising when one considers how it significantly reduces the cost of long-distance and international calls and simplifies inter-office and person-to-person communications.

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