

## Phone Calls Are Almost Free with Skype!

### It's like magic!

You call a local phone number from any phone, and your loved one's mobile or landline rings on the other side of the world.

If you have a laptop with a wireless card (or a Mac laptop with Airport), all you need is access to wi-fi and you can get almost free phone calls. The key to this is a computer phone system called Skype.

If your laptop has a built-in camera and speakers, you can use them with Skype. Skype will set you up with a unique phone address like <**John.Doe**>. You can give this "phone number" to other people who use Skype. Skype-to-Skype calls use your computer. It looks like futuristic video-and-audio phones people half a century ago thought everyone would be using by now. Well, it IS the future now, right?

You don't have to use the camera. That means you don't have to comb your hair or put make-up on to answer the phone. I leave the camera off to avoid scaring small children early in the morning.

But there's more than Skype-to-Skype calls. You can phone any phone number for a small fee, from your computer or from a local phone. There's no such thing as long distance charges with Skype.

At home I have a wi-fi hub connected to a satellite system. My laptop works well with this. On the road, my laptop wi-fi has worked well in motels, in some businesses, and in restaurants. Except for Motel 6, it was all free.

So, find some free wi-fi, connect, and you have almost free phone calls with Skype. In an emergency this privilege may disappear with the electricity that powers the wi-fi hubs. Until then, enjoy it!

By the way, I haven't given you all the details about Skype. There are several options, and there may be special offers. **Go check <Skype.com>**.

**One problem:** Skype cannot be used for emergency phone calls to 911. Skype says it does not replace a landline phone used for this purpose.