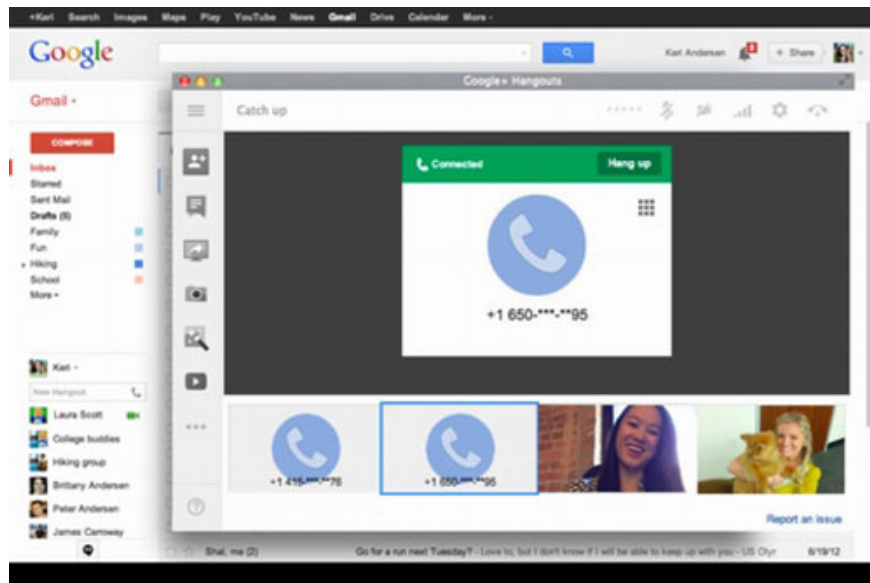


Gmail will integrate the free calling function

After temporarily removing free calling on Gmail a few months ago, Google decided to restore it.

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Voice calls have disappeared from Gmail since May, when the company replaced **Google Chat** with a new feature called **Hangout**. While Hangouts still allows users to make video calls and receive calls from Google Voice numbers, the ability to make calls to mobile and fixed phones has disappeared.



But in the next few days, Google will roll out Hangouts updates to restore phone calling and add new features to this service. Users can create group calls by adding multiple phone numbers. Google has also created some silly effects like clapping and laughing, through the **Google Effects** app.

Calls in the US and Canada are still free. **Hangouts** users in other countries can now call to the US and Canada for free. Calls outside the US and Canada are subject to minute charges.

There is currently no information about SMS that is integrated on Gmail, but it will likely be applied. Google said, Hangouts is designed to be the future of **Google Voice** so they will integrate more features about voice than SMS. Furthermore, SMS and voicemail seem to be too old. Currently users can still send text messages from Google Voice numbers using the **Google Voice** website.

Google said that voice calls will be integrated again in the next few days. This function appears as a phone icon in the right corner of the 'New Hangout' box. Users will also be able to make calls through Google+ and the Hangouts Chrome extension using the pull-down menu to the right of the 'New Hangout' box.

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