

How to Install Skype in Ubuntu

The Skype developers have made the latest version of their popular video & audio chat client available for 64-bit Linux. They've published it in the snap store which makes it easy to install on all currently supported releases of Ubuntu....

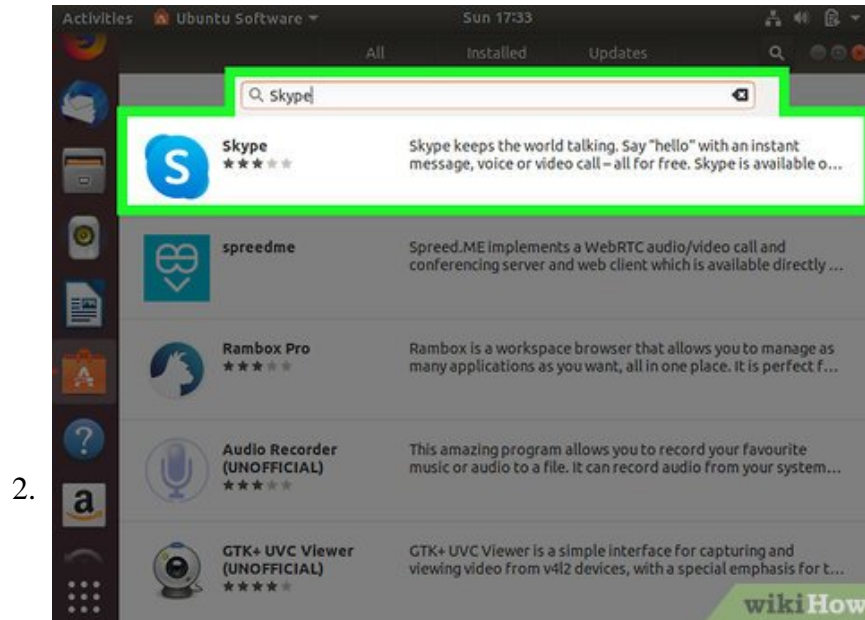
Method 1 of 5:

Installing Skype Snap

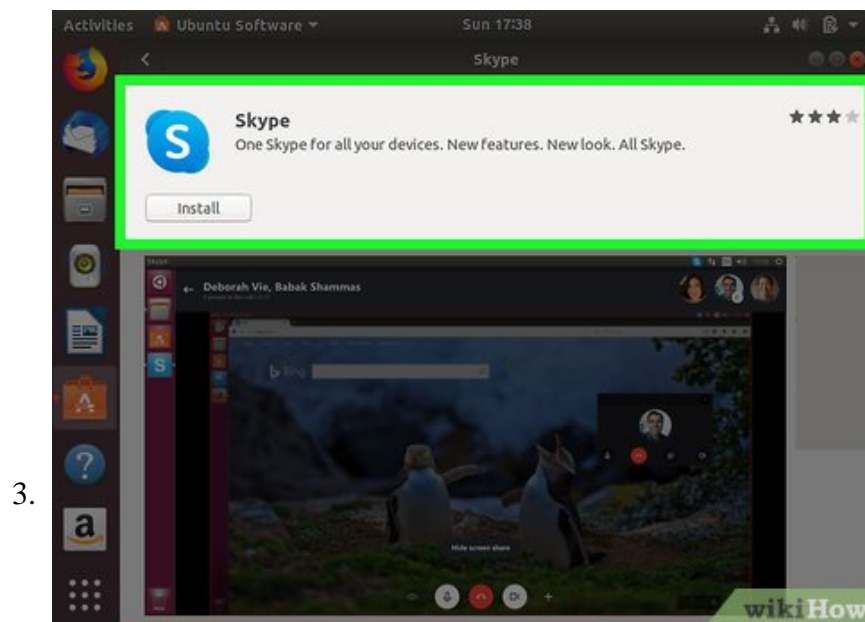
1.



Open Ubuntu Software. On Ubuntu 16.04 and above it's super easy to install Skype from Ubuntu Software - the app store shipped in Ubuntu. On 14.04 you will need to use the terminal which is covered below.

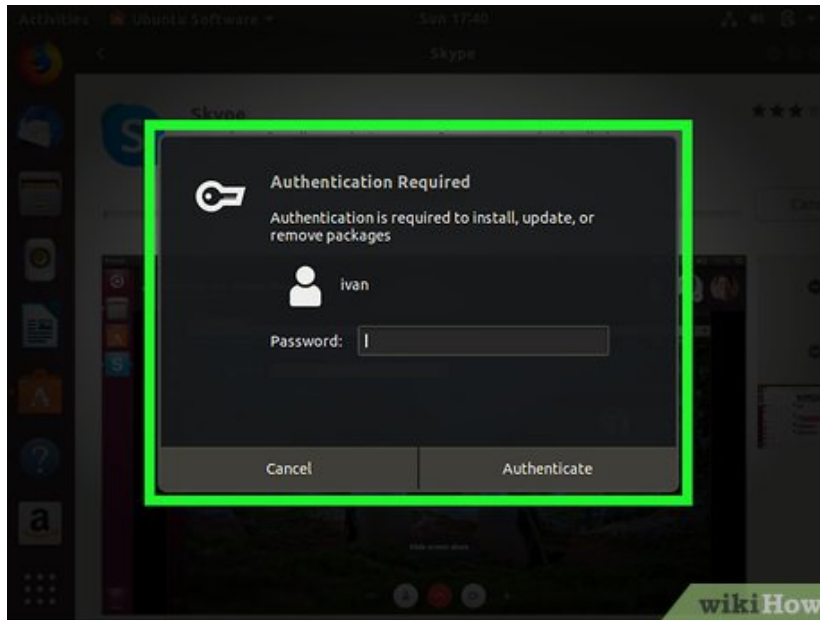


Search for Skype. In Ubuntu Software, click the search icon in the top right, then type "Skype" in the search box.



Click Skype in the results. A list of applications will appear. Click the familiar Skype icon.

4.

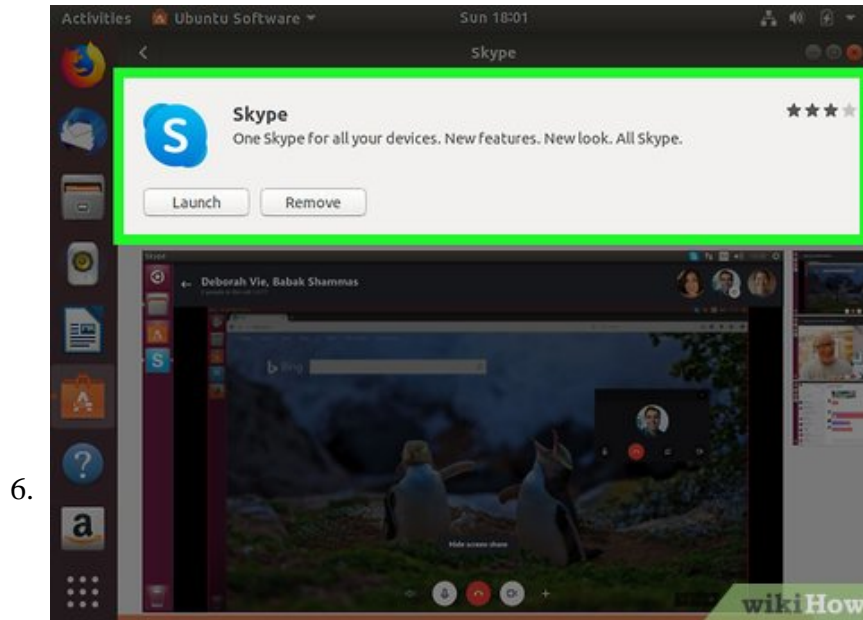


Install the snap. Click the "Install" button at the top of the window. You may get prompted to type your password, because Ubuntu Software is making changes to your system.

5.



Wait for the install to complete. Depending on your network connection, this may take a few moments. Wait for it to finish.



Launch Skype in Ubuntu Software. Once installed, you can launch Skype immediately from Ubuntu Software by clicking the "Launch" button.

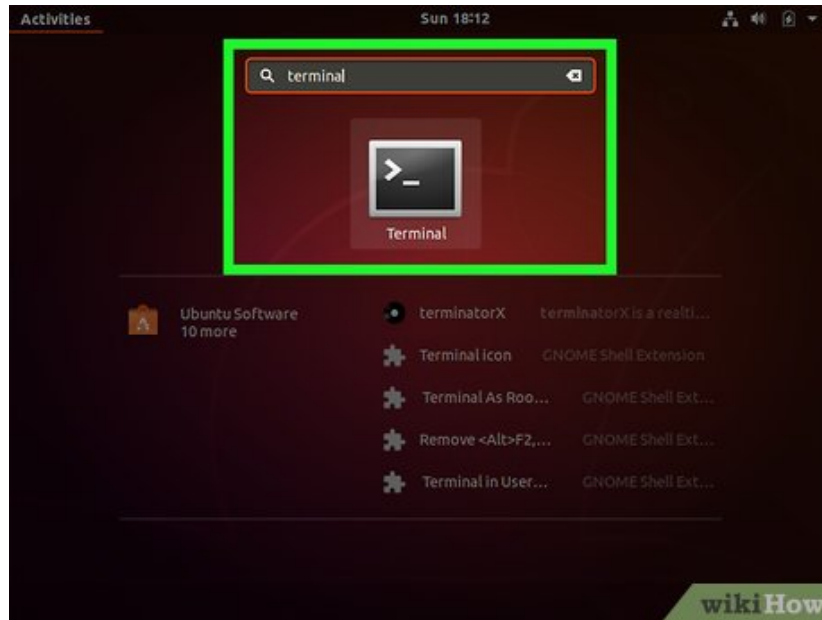


Launch Skype. Once you close Ubuntu Software, you should find Skype in the Ubuntu launcher.

Method 2 of 5:

Install Skype Snap in a Terminal

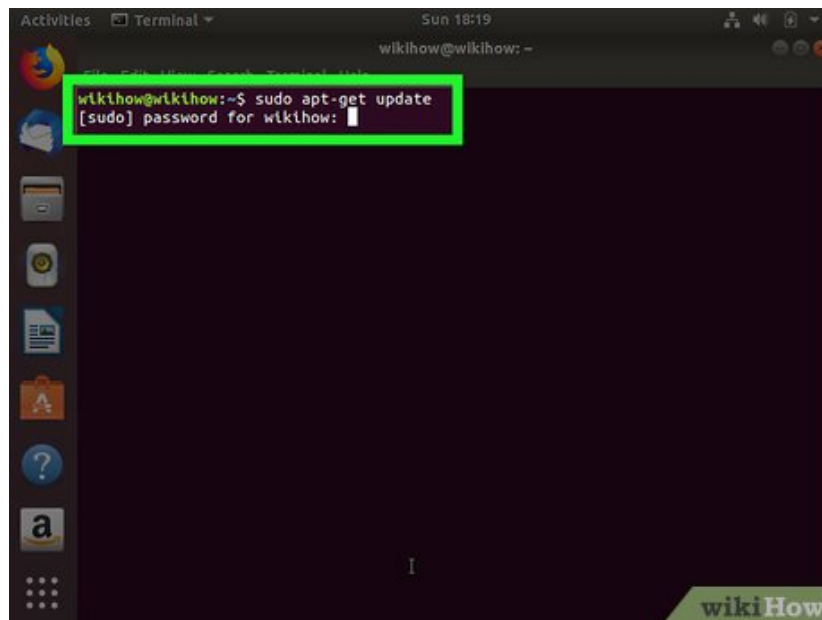
1.



Open your Terminal. In Ubuntu 14.04 and above, you can use the terminal to install the Skype snap. This only requires a couple of commands and a few moments to do.

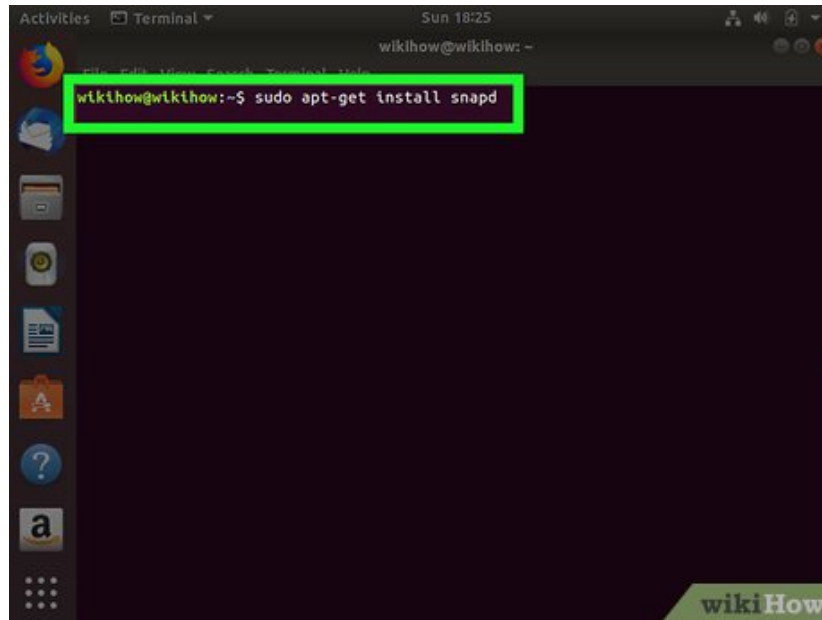
1. You can quickly open the Terminal by pressing `Ctrl + Alt + T` or by searching for "terminal" in the dash

2.



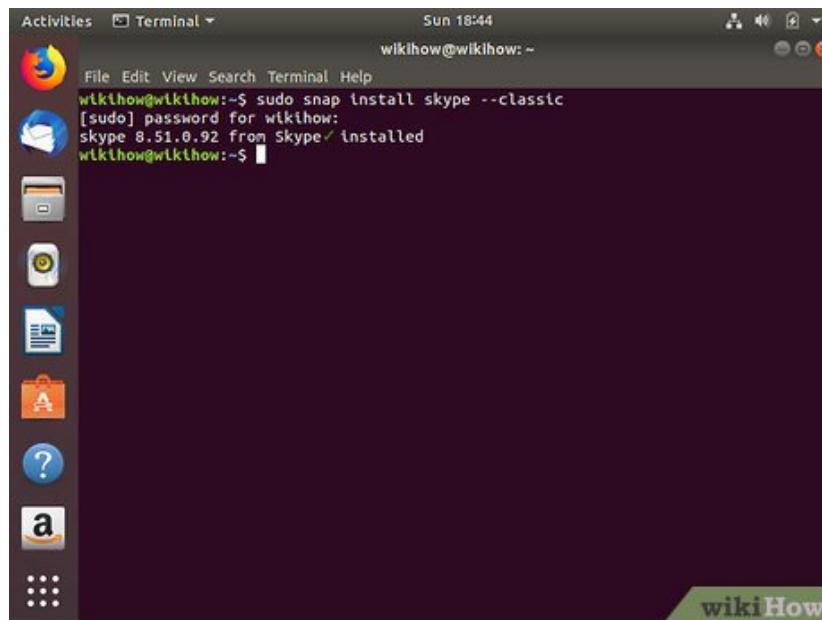
Update the package list. The first command refreshes the list of packages available. Type `sudo apt-get update`. Enter your password if prompted.

3.

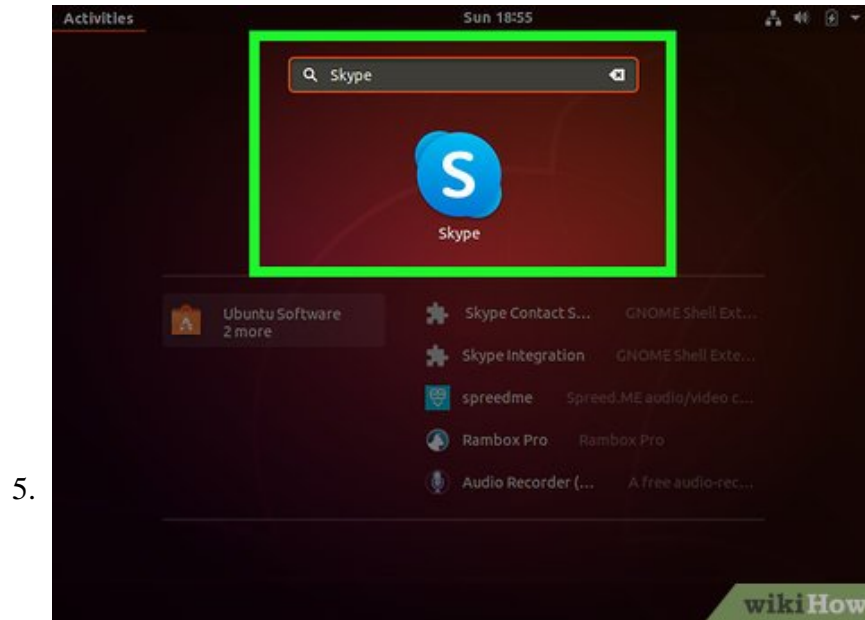
A terminal window titled 'Terminal' with the user 'wikihow@wikihow: ~'. The command 'sudo apt-get install snapd' is entered and highlighted with a green box. The terminal shows the prompt 'wikihow@wikihow:~\$' followed by the command. The background of the terminal is dark purple with a 'wikiHow' logo in the bottom right corner. The desktop environment is visible on the left side of the terminal window, showing various application icons like Firefox, LibreOffice, and Amazon.

Install snapd. In order to install snaps, you need to install the "Snap Daemon" which manages the installation & upgrades of snaps. In Ubuntu 14.04 it needs installing manually. In later releases of Ubuntu (from 16.04 onwards) it's already installed. Type `sudo apt-get install snapd`. Enter your password if prompted. Press "Y" when asked if you want to continue.

4.

A terminal window titled 'Terminal' with the user 'wikihow@wikihow: ~'. The command 'sudo snap install skype --classic' is entered. The terminal shows the prompt 'wikihow@wikihow:~\$' followed by the command. The output shows '[sudo] password for wikihow:' followed by 'skype 8.51.0.92 from skype / installed'. The terminal shows the prompt 'wikihow@wikihow:~\$' followed by a cursor. The background of the terminal is dark purple with a 'wikiHow' logo in the bottom right corner. The desktop environment is visible on the left side of the terminal window, showing various application icons like Firefox, LibreOffice, and Amazon.

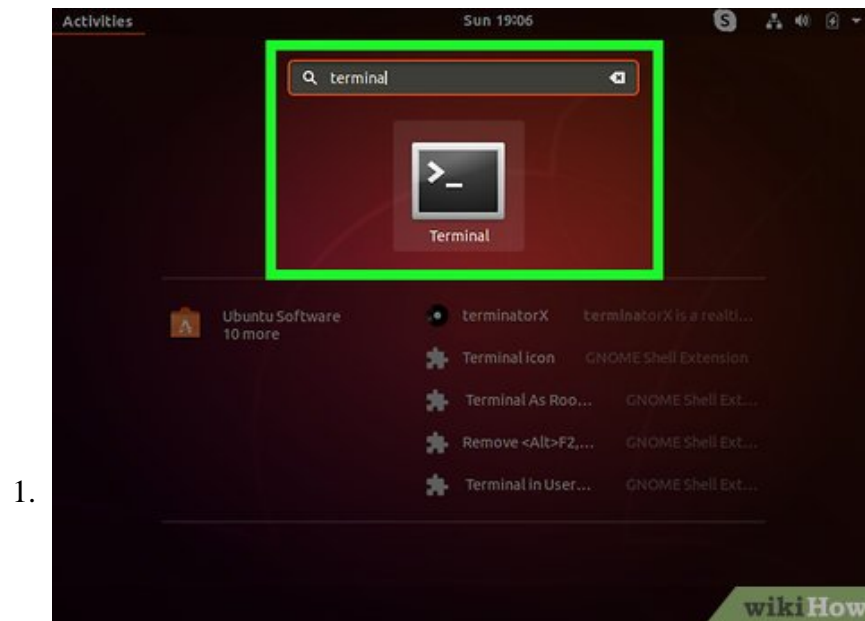
Install Skype snap. Finally, in the terminal, type `sudo snap install skype --classic` which will install the Skype snap. Once finished, close the terminal window.



Launch Skype. Click the Ubuntu button (or press the 'Super/Windows' key on the keyboard) and search for Skype. Click the familiar Skype icon when found.

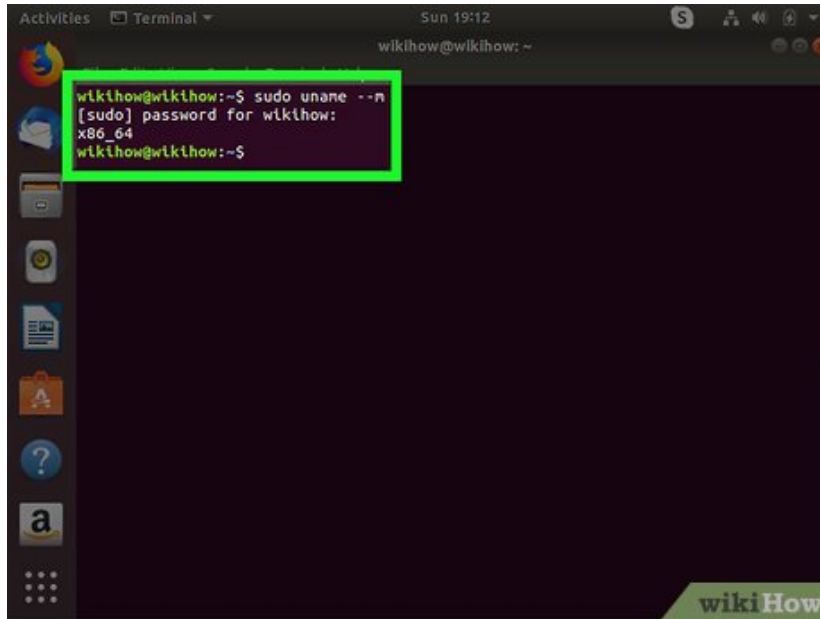
Method 3 of 5:

Installing Legacy Skype



Open your Terminal. Ubuntu previously recommended installing Skype using the Canonical (Ubuntu developer) repository instead of the packages from the Skype website. This will ensure that you get the proper version for your system. The Terminal may be intimidating, but you'll just need to enter a couple different commands.

1. You can quickly open the Terminal by pressing `Ctrl + Alt + T` or by opening "Applications" ? "Accessories" ? "Terminal".

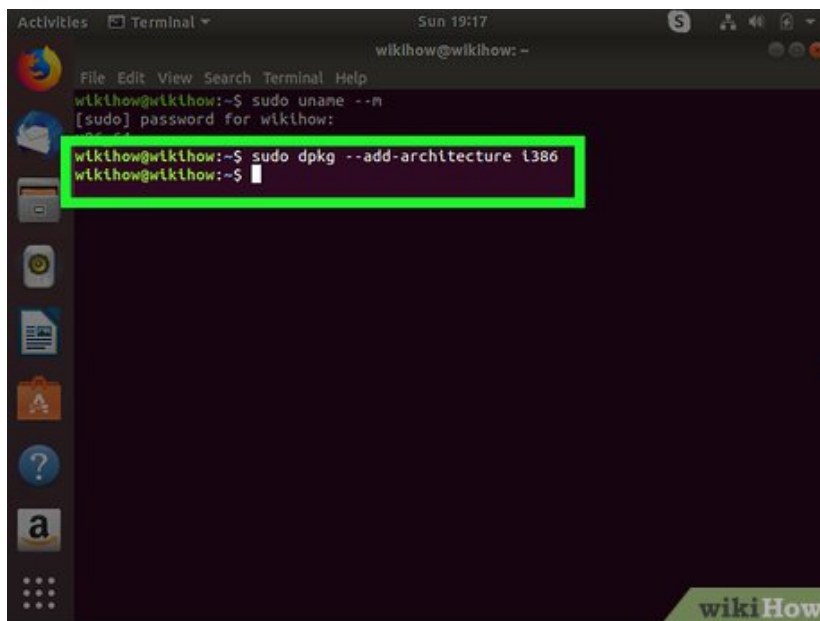


```
Activities Terminal Sun 19:12
wikihow@wikihow: ~
wikihow@wikihow:~$ sudo uname --m
[sudo] password for wikihow:
x86_64
wikihow@wikihow:~$
```

2.

Determine if you're running the 32- or 64-bit version of Ubuntu. You'll need to know this before proceeding so that you can install the correct software.

1. Type `sudo unname --m` and press `Enter`. Type in your administrator password.
2. If the Terminal returns `i686`, you are running the 32-bit version.
3. If the Terminal returns `x86_64`, you are running the 64-bit version.



```
Activities Terminal Sun 19:17
wikihow@wikihow: ~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
wikihow@wikihow:~$ sudo uname --m
[sudo] password for wikihow:
x86_64
wikihow@wikihow:~$ sudo dpkg --add-architecture i386
wikihow@wikihow:~$
```

3.

Enable MultiArch if you are running 64-bit Linux. This allows for better compatibility with programs compiled for other computers.

1. Type `sudo dpkg --add-architecture i386` and press `Enter`. Type in your administrator password to download the package.

```
Activities Terminal Sun 19:23
wikihow@wikihow: ~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
wikihow@wikihow:~$ sudo uname --n
[sudo] password for wikihow:
x86_64
wikihow@wikihow:~$ sudo add-apt-repository "deb http://archive.canonical.com/ $(lsb_release -sc) partner"
Hit:1 http://ph.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic InRelease
Get:2 http://ph.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-updates InRelease [88.7 kB]
Get:3 http://ph.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-backports InRelease [74.6 kB]
Get:4 http://archive.canonical.com bionic InRelease [10.2 kB]
Hit:5 https://dl.winehq.org/wine-builds/ubuntu bionic InRelease
Get:6 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security InRelease [88.7 kB]
Get:7 http://archive.canonical.com bionic/partner i386 Packages [2,316 B]
Get:8 http://archive.canonical.com bionic/partner amd64 Packages [2,320 B]
Get:9 http://archive.canonical.com bionic/partner Translation-en [1,276 B]
Fetched 268 kB in 2s (152 kB/s)
Reading package lists... Done
```

4.

Add the Canonical partner repository. This will give you the ability to install any of the programs hosted on this repository, which includes the latest versions of Skype.

1. Type or paste `sudo add-apt-repository "deb http://archive.canonical.com/ $(lsb_release -sc) partner"` and press `?Enter`.

```
Activities Terminal Sun 19:26
wikihow@wikihow: ~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
wikihow@wikihow:~$ sudo apt-get update && sudo apt-get install skype
Hit:1 http://ph.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic InRelease
Get:2 http://ph.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-updates InRelease [88.7 kB]
Get:3 http://ph.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-backports InRelease [74.6 kB]
Hit:4 https://dl.winehq.org/wine-builds/ubuntu bionic InRelease
Hit:5 http://archive.canonical.com bionic InRelease
Get:6 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security InRelease [88.7 kB]
Fetched 252 kB in 3s (76.1 kB/s)
Reading package lists... 7%
```

5.

Install Skype. Now that you have the proper dependencies and the Canonical partner repository, you can download and install the Skype software.^[1]

1. Type `sudo apt-get update && sudo apt-get install skype` and press `?Enter` to install Skype. The installation process may take a few minutes to complete.
2. You can also install Skype using the Software Center since you've added the Canonical partner repository. Open the Software Center, search for "Skype", and then click the "Install" button to download and install it.

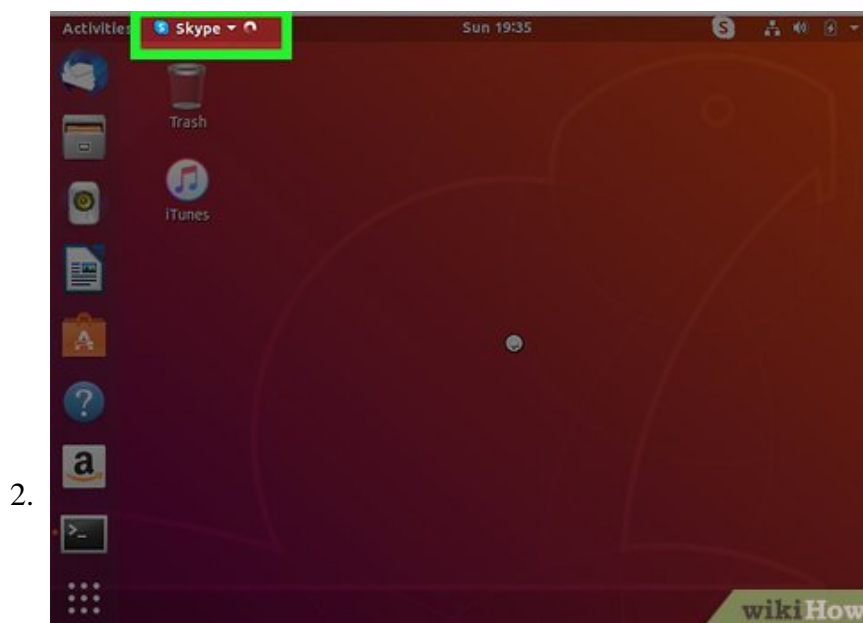
Method 4 of 5:

Running Skype

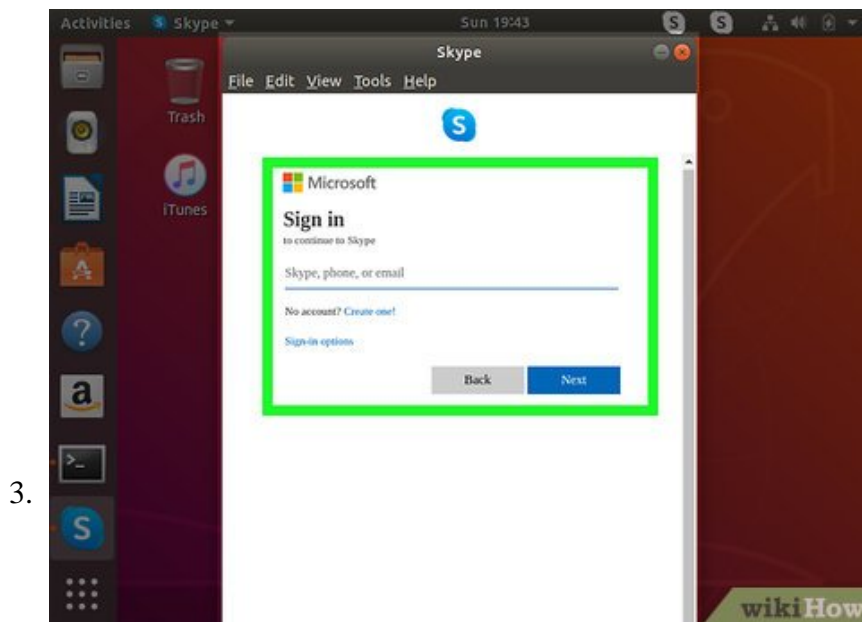


Open Skype. It may not be immediately obvious that Skype has been installed, as no icon will appear on your desktop or Launcher bar. There are a couple of different ways you can find it.

1. Click the Dash and search for "Skype". After opening Skype, you'll see the Skype icon appear in your launcher bar. Right-click it and select "Lock to Launcher" to keep the Skype icon on your Launcher after it is closed.
2. Navigate to "Applications" ? "Internet" ? "Skype". You can use this to create a shortcut on your desktop for Skype.



Wait for Skype to load. The first time you run Skype, it will likely take a minute or two to start. During this time, it will appear as if nothing is happening. Be patient and it should start after a little while. When you start it again in the future, it should start immediately.



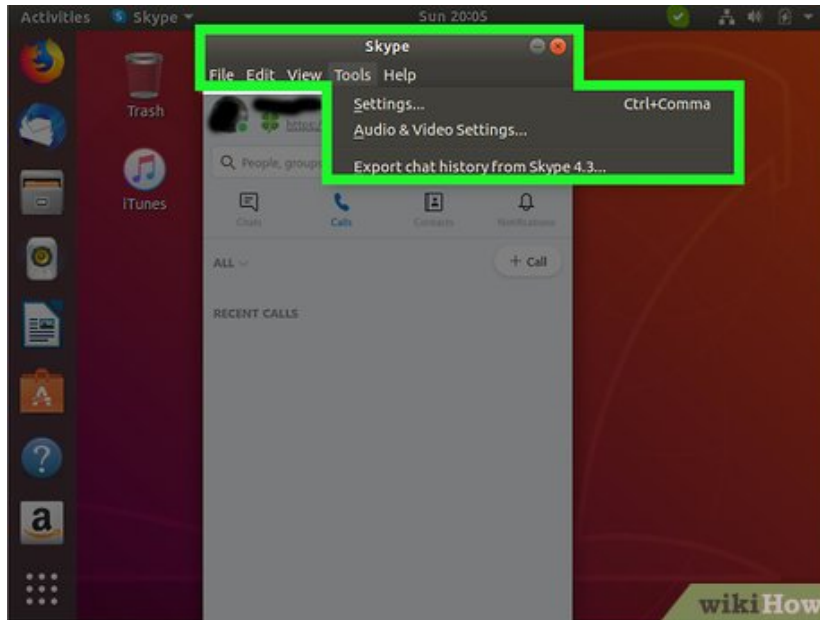
Log in using your Skype username or Microsoft account. You can also create an account for free if you don't have one. Click here for more details on Skype accounts.



Test your microphone. When you first start Skype, you'll see a contact named "Echo / Sound Test Service". Select it and then click the call button. This will allow you to test your microphone and speakers to ensure that you are sending and receiving sound.

1. If your speakers or microphone are not working, see the Troubleshooting section below.

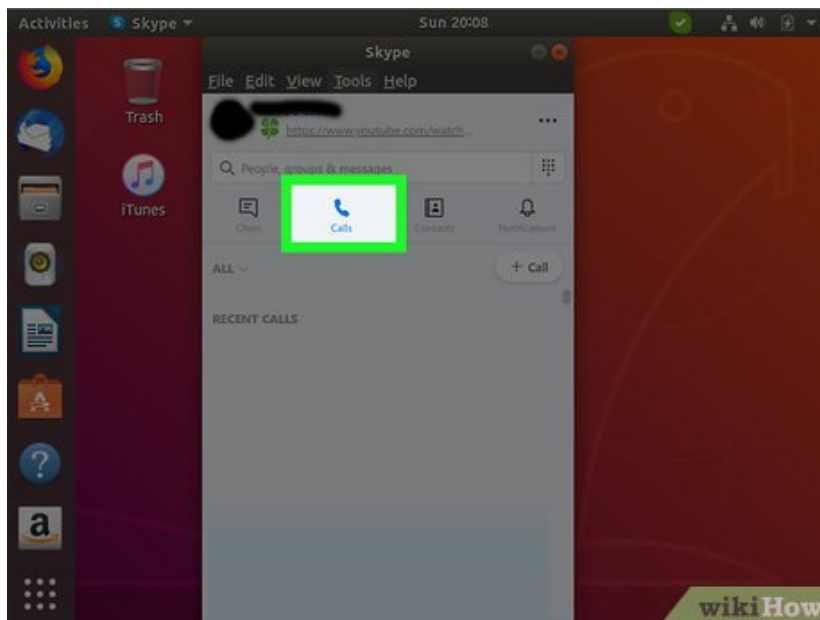
5.



Test your webcam. If you have a webcam connected, you can test it to ensure that it is working. Click the "Tools" menu and select "Options". Click the "Video settings" option in the "General" section. The image from your webcam should appear in the Skype window.

1. If your webcam is not appearing, see the Troubleshooting section below.

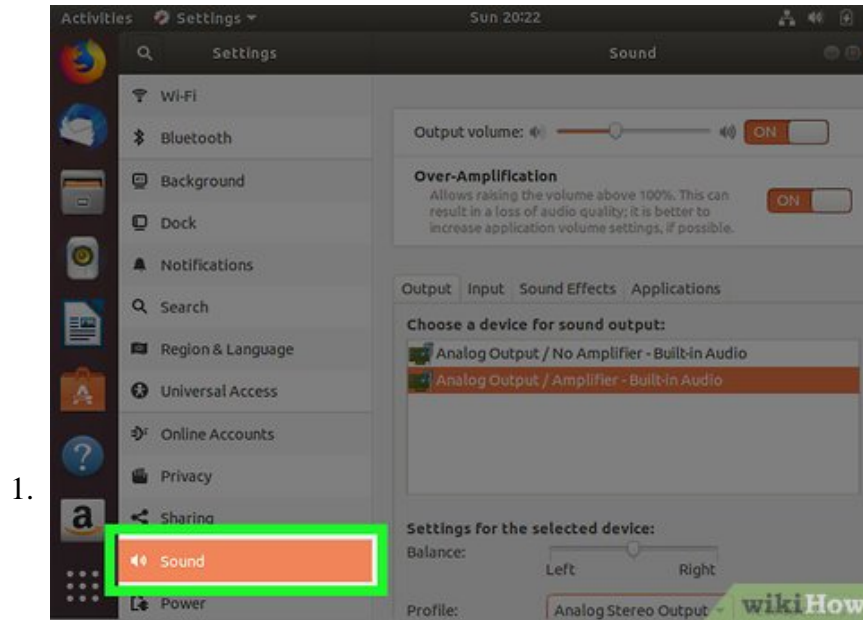
6.



Start using Skype. Once you've confirmed that your devices are working properly, you can start using Skype to chat via text, voice, and video. Click [here](#) for details on using the Skype client.

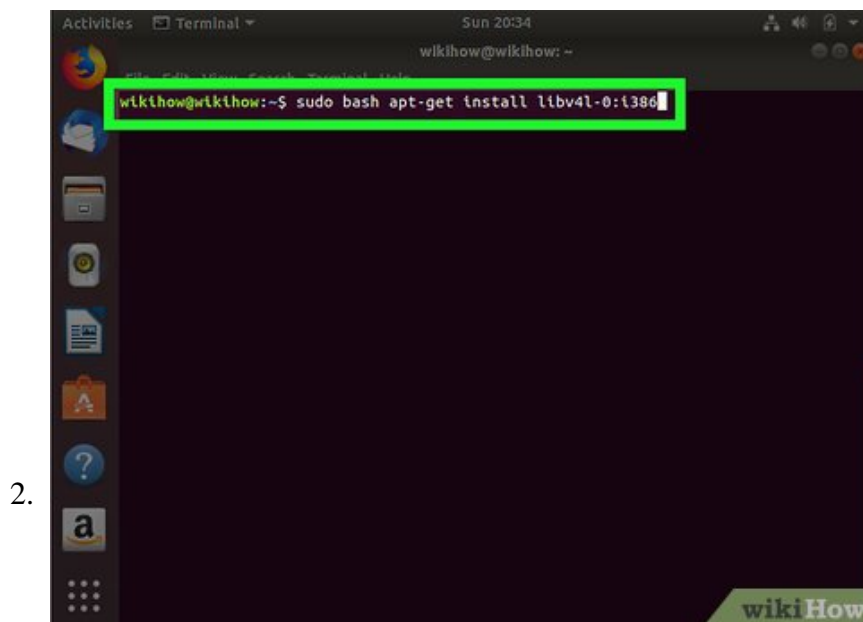
Method 5 of 5:

Troubleshooting



Fix a microphone that is not working. For most newer versions of Ubuntu, you can handle all of microphone settings from the Speaker button in your toolbar. Ensure that your microphone is properly connected, enabled, and that the levels are set correctly.^[2]

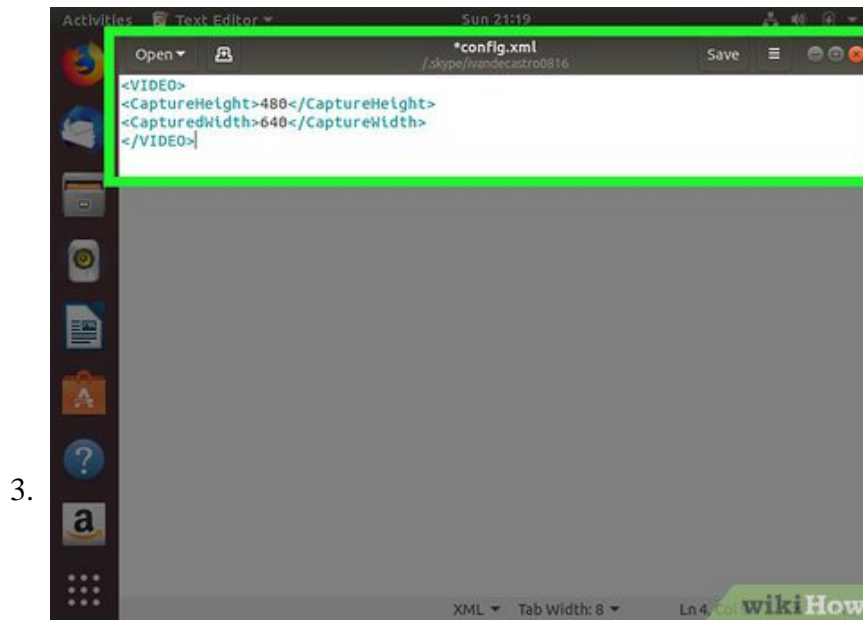
1. Skype will sometimes override your system mixer settings and cause the microphone to not work. You can prevent Skype from taking control of your system mixer by clicking "Tools" ? "Options" ? "Audio settings" and unchecking the "Allow Skype to automatically adjust my mixer levels" box.



Fix a webcam that is not working. For many webcams that don't work, installing the "v4lcompat" driver will fix the problem. If this doesn't solve your issue, you'll need to check for instructions for your specific webcam. Not all webcam models work with Skype on Linux.

1. Make sure that there are no other programs running that may be using your webcam. The webcam video feed can only be used by one program at a time.

2. Open the Terminal, type `sudo bash apt-get install libv4l-0:i386`, and press `?Enter`.
3. Right-click on Applications and select "Properties". Click "Edit menu" and then select "Internet". Right-click on Skype and select "Properties".
4. Change the command to `env PULSE_LATENCY_MSEC=30 LD_PRELOAD=/usr/lib/i386-linux-gnu/libv4l/v4l1compat.so skype`.
5. Check this Ubuntu support page if the above steps don't work. The page contains a list of webcams that should "just work", webcams that need specific tweaks to get working, and webcams that don't work at all or require a significant amount of effort to get running.



Fix a Skype video that has low resolution. Skype for Linux does not officially support 640 x 480 video, which can make the image look blurry. There is a hack you can use to force 640 x 480, but it isn't guaranteed to work for everyone:

1. Make sure Skype is functioning properly and then close it completely before proceeding.
2. Navigate to `User/.Skype/SkypeName/`.
3. Open `config.xml` in a text editor.
4. Add the following lines between the `tags`:
 1. 480
 2. 640
5. Save and close the file. Skype should now transmit in 640 x 480 resolution. It may take a minute or two for it to "warm up" to this resolution.

You finished reading the article "**How to Install Skype in Ubuntu**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.