



SkypeWeb

Developer Notes



The whole world can talk for free. Skype.com

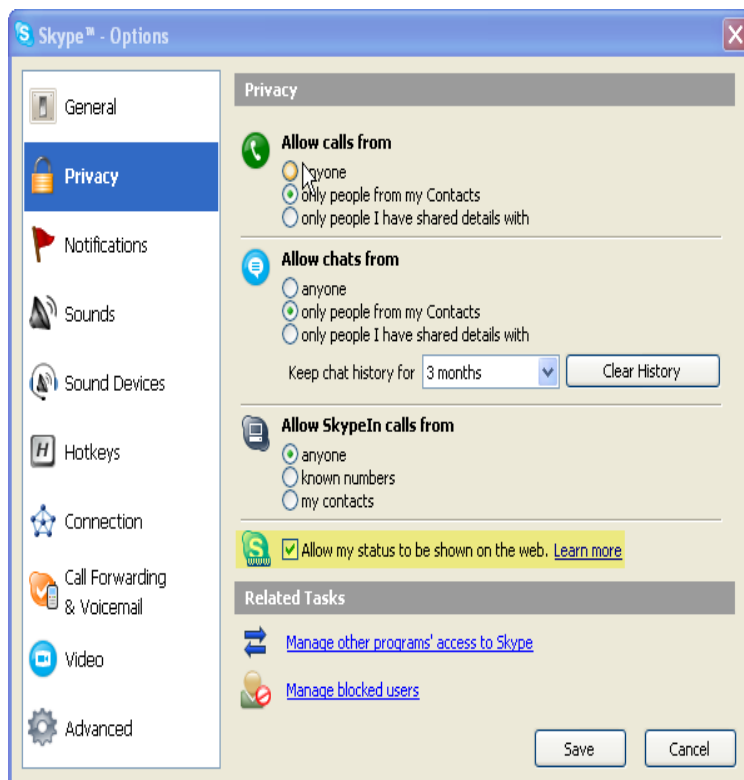
Skype API web presence overview

SkypeWeb provides the framework for the web presence feature which enables users to:

- Display Skype status on the web
- Query the status of other Skype users

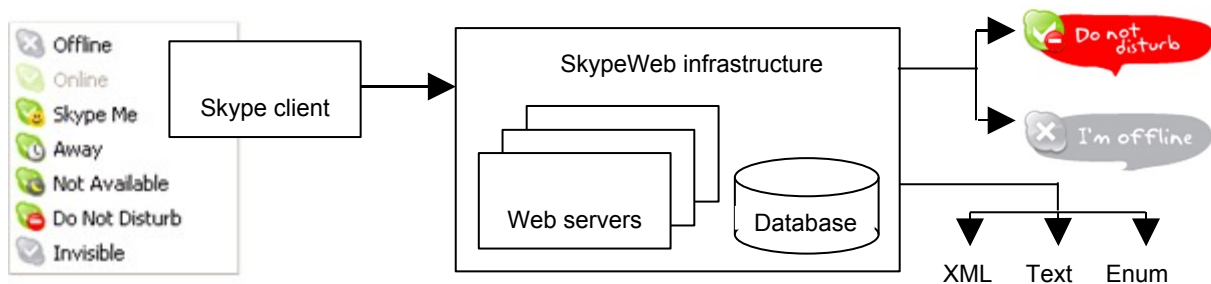
SkypeWeb operates in the following manner:

1. To enable the service, the user:
 - Selects Tools menu > Options > Privacy
 - Checks: the “Allow my status to be shown on the web” checkbox.



2. The Skype client sends dynamic presence information via secure, encrypted SkypeWeb servers to the SkypeWeb database.
3. External applications can use HTTP or DNS queries to query the SkypeWeb database for any of the following response types:
 - Image
 - XML
 - Text or HTML
 - Numeric (Enum)

Skypeweb architecture



HTTP requests

Retrieve data from the SkypeWeb database with simple HTTP request/response queries. Skype provides a base query URI as well as a number of URIs to query specific resource types.

Base URI for queries

The base URI to query SkypeWeb is:

<http://mystatus.skype.com/SkypeUserName>

Response formats

SkypeWeb responds in one of the following formats, depending on the request URI:

- XML output URI: <http://mystatus.skype.com/skypename.xml>
- NUM output URI: <http://mystatus.skype.com/skypename.num>
- TXT output URI: <http://mystatus.skype.com/skypename.txt>
- Image output URI: <http://mystatus.skype.com/skypename>

Note: The image output URI returns the default image, the balloon. See the Image Localisation section for more information.

HTTP request syntax






Skype user names have the following characteristics:

- case sensitive
- ASCII
- 7bit safe
- can contain the characters A-Z, a-z, 0-9 and the special characters ‘.’ (period), ‘@’ (at), ‘-’ (dash), ‘,’ (comma) and ‘_’ (underscore).

Note: Use of the ‘.’ (period, hexadecimal code 0x2E in ASCII) can conflict with language and charset negotiation. For example, with the Skype user name ‘bjorn.se’, it is not clear if the ‘.se’ denotes a language or is part of the username. To avoid ambiguity, Skype recommends you escape the ‘.’ and specify ‘bjorn%2Ese’

Image responses

This section shows the various presence buttons Skype provides and lists the URIs to access them.

| Button | URI |
|--|---|
| Balloon  | http://mystatus.skype.com/balloon/skypename |
| Big Classic  | http://mystatus.skype.com/bigclassic/skypename |
| Small Classic  | http://mystatus.skype.com/smallclassic/skypename |
| Small Icon (transparent background)  | http://mystatus.skype.com/smallicon/skypename |
| Medium Icon  | http://mystatus.skype.com/mediumicon/skypename |

DNS Queries

You can query SkypeWeb using DNS queries which require less bandwidth. DNS queries are useful for platforms with high bandwidth costs, such as mobile devices.

The fully qualified domain name of the format:

`skypeName.mystatus.skype.com`

resolves (through a CNAME) to a number of resource records. The TXT record is formatted according to the DNS-SD TXT format specified in Section 3.3.14 of RFC 1035.

More information: For a description of the DNS TXT record format, see <http://www.zeroconf.org/Rendezvous/txtrecords.html>

Skype returns a string which is a concatenation of field value pairs prefixed by the length of each element, for example the string:

```
\008status=5\012version=1.00\018str=DO NOT DISTURB
```

This example has three elements and each element has three sections.

| Length | FieldName | FieldValue |
|--------|-----------|----------------|
| 008 | status | 5 |
| 012 | version | 1.00 |
| 018 | str | DO NOT DISTURB |

The first field is always 'status=' followed by an ASCII number which allows very limited devices to look at just byte 9.

DNS request syntax

Skype user names have the following characteristics:

- case sensitive
- ASCII
- 7bit safe
- can contain the characters A-Z, a-z, 0-9 and the special characters ‘.’ (period), ‘@’ (at), ‘-’ (dash), ‘,’ (comma) and ‘_’ (underscore).

The domain name system allows only the following characters: A-Z, 0-9, and the ‘-’ (minus) within a hostname; and is case-insensitive.

It is necessary to escape all special characters. The escape character is the ‘-’ (minus) symbol followed by a case insensitive hexadecimal code.

The following substitutions are mandatory:

| Special character | Substitute with . . . |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| . (period) | -2E |
| _ (underscore) | -5F |
| , (comma) | -2C |
| @ (at) | -40 |
| ‘-’ (minus) | -2D |

For example, SkypeName ‘test_user’ is not a valid DNS host name due to the ‘_’ underscore, and becomes ‘test-5Fuser’.

Status codes

The status codes returned by XML and NUM queries are described in the following table:

| Status Code | Status Text | Explanation |
|-------------|----------------|--|
| 0 | UNKNOWN | Not opted in or no data available. |
| 1 | OFFLINE | The user is Offline |
| 2 | ONLINE | The user is Online |
| 3 | AWAY | The user is Away |
| 4 | NOT AVAILABLE | The user is Not Available |
| 5 | DO NOT DISTURB | The user is Do Not Disturb (DND) |
| 6 | INVISIBLE | The user is Invisible or appears Offline |
| 7 | SKYPE ME | The user is in Skype Me mode |

Localisation

SkypeWeb uses a combination of methods to manage localisation.

To declare a language, add the language suffix to an HTTP request, for example:

http://mystatus.skype.com/test_user.txt.fr

requests the status in French of a test user. The same behaviour occurs for text and image requests.

If you declare a language in the HTTP request you send to the SkypeWeb server:

- SkypeWeb responds in the selected language if it is one of our supported languages.
- If SkypeWeb does not support this language, the server responds with an “Unknown” message.
- SkypeWeb attempts to deliver the “Unknown” message in the language set by the browser in the header information of the HTTP request. In the following example, the request is for an unsupported language and the language of the browser is set to Spanish.

http://mystatus.skype.com/test_user.txt.sw :

Desconocido

http://mystatus.skype.com/test_user.png.sw :



- If SkypeWeb does not support the browser defined language, the server returns the “Unknown” message in the default language, which is English.

http://mystatus.skype.com/test_user.txt.sw :

Unknown

http://mystatus.skype.com/test_user.png.sw :



If you do not declare a language in the HTTP request you send to the SkypeWeb server:

- SkypeWeb attempts to match the language set by the browser in the header information of the HTTP request.
- If SkypeWeb does not support this language, the server returns the default language, which is English.

The following languages are available:

| Available languages | | Available character sets | |
|---------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|
| ISO Code | Extension | ISO Code | Extension |
| en | .en | UTF-8 | .utf8 |
| de | .de | ISO-8859-1 | .latin1 |
| fr | .fr | | |
| it | .it | | |
| pl | .pl | | |
| ja | .ja | | |
| pt | .pt | | |
| pt-br | .pt-br | | |
| se | .se | | |
| zh | .zh-cn | | |
| cn | .zh-cn | | |
| zh-cn | .zh-cn | | |
| hk | .zh-tw | | |
| tw | .zh-tw | | |
| zh-tw | .zh-tw | | |

Character Sets

Character sets apply to text queries only. All available languages are available in UTF-8 responses. The following supported languages are not available as ISO-8859-1 (.latin1) responses:

- ja
- pl
- zh-cn
- zh-tw

Image localisation

Image buttons are currently available in twelve languages only. The number of supported languages will increase in due course. Perform an XML query to check which languages are supported.

More information: See the XML localisation section for an example of the response to an XML query.

Localised versions of three images are currently available:

- **Balloon**
Default: http://mystatus.skype.com/test_user (or test_user.png)
Explicit: http://mystatus.skype.com/balloon/test_user (or test_user.png)
- **Big Classic**
Explicit: http://mystatus.skype.com/bigclassic/test_user (or test_user.png)
- **Small Classic**
Explicit: http://mystatus.skype.com/smallclassic/test_user (or test_user.png)

Certain rules apply to image displays.

Default image

The balloon image is the default image format. If no response format (xml, txt, num, png) or language is specified in the request, Skype uses the balloon image by default and matches the language to the language settings of the browser.

For example, if test_user is online, the following URI's all result in the same image response:

- http://mystatus.skype.com/test_user
- http://mystatus.skype.com/test_user.png
- http://mystatus.skype.com/balloon/test_user
- http://mystatus.skype.com/balloon/test_user.png

If the language of the requesting browser is set to English (en) and test_user is online, the response is:



If the language of the requesting browser is set to Polish (pl), the request produces the following response:



If a specific language response is required, Skype recommends you state it explicitly in the request, for example.

http://mystatus.skype.com/balloon/test_user.png.fr

This request produces the following response :



Big Classic

You must request the big classic image explicitly in the request. As with the balloon image, if a language is specified in the request, Skype matches the language to the language settings of the browser. If you require a specific language, Skype recommends you state it explicitly in the request, for example.

http://mystatus.skype.com/bigclassic/test_user.png.es

This request produces the following response:



Small Classic

You must request the small classic image explicitly in the request. As with the balloon image, if a language is specified in the request, Skype matches the language to the language settings of the browser. If you require a specific language, Skype recommends you state it explicitly in the request, for example.

http://mystatus.skype.com/smallclassic/test_user.png.ja

This request produces the following response:



XML localisation

The XML response contains all available languages in an easy to parse format as shown in the following example:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<rdf:RDF
  xmlns:rdf="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#"
  xmlns:dcq="http://purl.org/dc/terms/"
  xmlns="http://www.skype.com/go/skypeweb"
>
  <Status rdf:about="urn:skype:skype.com:skypeweb/1.1">
    <statusCode
      rdf:datatype="http://www.skype.com/go/skypeweb"
      >1</statusCode>
    <presence xml:lang="NUM">1</presence>
    <presence xml:lang="en">Offline</presence>
    <presence xml:lang="fr">Déconnecté</presence>
    <presence xml:lang="de">Offline</presence>
    <presence xml:lang="ja">オフライン</presence>
    <presence xml:lang="zh-cn">離線</presence>
    <presence xml:lang="zh-tw">脱机</presence>
    <presence xml:lang="pt">Offline</presence>
    <presence xml:lang="pt-br">Offline</presence>
    <presence xml:lang="it">Non in linea</presence>
    <presence xml:lang="es">Desconectado</presence>
    <presence xml:lang="pl">Niepodłączony</presence>
    <presence xml:lang="se">Offline</presence>
  </Status>
</rdf:RDF>
```

Example HTTP and DNS queries

HTTP query examples

Default query

http://mystatus.skype.com/michael_bartlett



The server is returning the default image (balloon style) for the user “michael_bartlett”, who is currently “Away”. It is recommended that you explicitly set which style image to receive, as in the following Big Classic query example.

Big Classic style query

http://mystatus.skype.com/bigclassic/michael_bartlett



The server returns the big classic image for the user “michael_bartlett”, who is currently “Away”.

Status number query

http://mystatus.skype.com/michael_bartlett.num

3

The server returns status code 3, which reflects status “Away”.

Text query

http://mystatus.skype.com/michael_bartlett.txt

Away

The server returns a text message “Away” to reflect the status of the user.

Internationalized Text Query

http://mystatus.skype.com/michael_bartlett.txt.fr

Absent

The server returns the French version of “Away”.

Unknown user

<http://mystatus.skype.com/auserthatdoesnotexist.txt>

Unknown

The server has no data for this user either because the user does not exist or the user’s privacy setting does not allow for SkypeWeb queries.

XML Query

http://mystatus.skype.com/michael_bartlett.xml

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<rdf:RDF
  xmlns:rdf="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#"
  xmlns:dcq="http://purl.org/dc/terms/"
  xmlns="http://www.skype.com/go/skypeweb"
>
  <Status rdf:about="urn:skype:skype.com:skypeweb/1.1">
    <statusCode
      rdf:datatype="http://www.skype.com/go/skypeweb"
    >3</statusCode>
    <presence xml:lang="NUM">3</presence>
    <presence xml:lang="en">Away</presence>
    <presence xml:lang="fr">Absent</presence>
    <presence xml:lang="de">Abwesend</presence>
    <presence xml:lang="ja">一時退席中</presence>
    <presence xml:lang="zh-cn">暫時離開</presence>
    <presence xml:lang="zh-tw">离开</presence>
    <presence xml:lang="pt">Ausente</presence>
    <presence xml:lang="pt-br">Ausente</presence>
    <presence xml:lang="it">Torno subito</presence>
    <presence xml:lang="es">Ausente</presence>
    <presence xml:lang="pl">Zaraz wracam</presence>
    <presence xml:lang="se">Tillfälligt borta</presence>
  </Status>
</rdf:RDF>
```

The XML response contains the status code `<statusCode>` and a set of language text responses.

DNS query examples

Perform DNS queries with any standard DNS API or DNS utility. The output can vary slightly, depending on the query tool used. A number of open source and proprietary tools can be found on <http://www.dns.net/dnsrd/tools.html>.

Example query with HOST utility

- Using the HOST utility provided on most systems, enter the following query:

```
$ host -t TXT test-5Fuser.mystatus.skype.com.
```

- The query returns the following information (the relevant line is emphasised in large, bold font):

```
test-5F user.mystatus.skype.com is an alias for
      test-5F user.onda.mystatus.skype.com.
test-5F user.onda.mystatus.skype.com descriptive text
"\008status=5\012version=1.00\013str=INVISIBLE\017skypeid=test_user"
```

Note: A 'CNAME' step exists between the name and the final result to allow for failover, load-balancing and scalability. Do not make assumptions about the presence, absence or length of these CNAME referral chains; rather rely on normal DNS resolution procedure.

Example query with DIG utility

- Using the DIG tool provided on most UNIX and Apple systems, enter the following query:

```
$ dig TXT test-5Fuser.mystatus.skype.com.
```

- The query returns the following information (the relevant line is emphasised in large, bold font):

```
; <<>> DiG 9.2.4 <<>> TXT test-5Fuser.mystatus.skype.com
;; global options: printcmd
;; Got answer:
;; ->>HEADER<<- opcode: QUERY, status: NOERROR, id: 39990
;; flags: qr rd ra; QUERY: 1, ANSWER: 2, AUTHORITY: 2, ADDITIONAL:
2

;; QUESTION SECTION:
test-5Fuser.mystatus.skype.com.      IN      TXT

;; ANSWER SECTION:
test-5Fuser.mystatus.skype.com. 361683 IN CNAME test-
5fuser.onda.mystatus.skype.com.
test-5fuser.onda.mystatus.skype.com. 600 IN TXT
"\008status=0\012version=1.00\011str=UNKNOWN\017skypeid=test_user"

;; AUTHORITY SECTION:
onda.mystatus.skype.com. 3600 IN NS ns-
presence1.skype.net.
onda.mystatus.skype.com. 3600 IN NS ns-
presence2.skype.net.

;; ADDITIONAL SECTION:
ns-presence1.skype.net. 3600 IN A 80.92.66.238
ns-presence2.skype.net. 3600 IN A 80.92.66.238
```