

Setting up Trixbox/Asterisk to use Skype

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Whenever I discuss Asterisk or Trixbox with someone the questions always comes up... "Does it work with Skype ?". I was forced to answer no until recently when I came across a new product called ChanSkype . The developers at ChanSkype have developed a conduit between Asterisk and Skype that enables inbound and outbound calls via the Skype client on your Trixbox. You can receive Skype calls from other Skype users, make unlimited outbound calls via SkypeOut for \$30 a year and receive unlimited inbound calls via SkypeIn calls for \$30 a year. That is only \$5 a month for unlimited inbound and ourbound calls! The ChanSkype software we are using in the HOWTO isn't free but a single channel license (one call at a time) is only \$20.

Once you have coompleted this HOW-TO add to your Chanskype with these additional HOW-TOs:

Using Trixbox and SkypeOut for making outbound calls to regular phones.

Using Trixbox to receive calls from Skype users and/or your Skype In #

Before we get started with the prerequisites I want to acknowledge that the contents of some of scripts in this HOWTO were gathered from users on the Trixbox.org forums. Modifications were made to simplify the installation and make them more Trixbox friendly.

I recommend that you setup your Skype account before your start the tutorial but you can also due via your Trixbox during the HOWTO. I also recommend opening or forwarding the following ports on your firewall/router:

443/tcp (For Skype)
 5091/tcp (For VNC. Only needed if your connect to your server through the firewall.)
 8099/tcp (Outbound and only for the registration of ChanSkype)

1) Login to your Trixbox server as root via SSH. I recommend using Putty .

2) Cut and paste follow commands to the prompt. This downloads the Geek-Pages.com chanskype scripts, installs them, updates asterisk and installs the development RPMs for Asterisk and the linux kernel.

```
cd /usr/src/
wget http://www.geek-pages.com/articlepages/downloads/trix-skype.tar.gz
tar zxvf trix-skype.tar.gz
cd trix-skype
./install.sh
```

3) Cut and paste follow commands to the prompt. This downloads and installs the chanskype software.

```
./installcs.sh
```

4) If you have already purchased chanskype you should have a registration code. Run the following command with your registration code. If you haven't registered you will be able to test 15 second calls before being disconnected.

```
ivregister putyourregistrationcodehere
```

5) Cut and paste follow command to the prompt. This creates the necessary account to support the Skype client and vncserver. You will be prompted to enter a password. Remember this password - you will need it for step 8.

```
./makeaccounts.sh 1
```

6) Cut and paste follow commands to the prompt. This enables the vncserver.

```
/etc/init.d/vncserver start
chkconfig --level 35 vncserver on
mv /etc/rc3.d/S91vncserver /etc/rc3.d/S99vncserver
mv /etc/rc5.d/S91vncserver /etc/rc5.d/S99vncserver
```

- 7) Type reboot at the prompt and hit enter. This will restart your server.
- 8) Once the server is has restarted you need to connect to the X session via VNC. Use you favorite VNC client. On Windows I recommend using .NET vncviewer . You need to connect to your Trixbox via DNS or IP on port 5901. The connect string should look like hostname::5901 The password is the one you entered in step 5.
- 9) You will need to have your Skype username and password for this this step. Now that you are connected to your Trixbox via VNC you should see the Skype client running. You need to enter your Skype username and password. Check the button for "Sign me in when Skype starts." Now click next. (If you have not created your Skype account yet,you can click the Create a new Skype Account tab and follow the instructions.)
- 10) Go to the Tools->Options menu in Skype. There, modify the following configuration options:
 - General: Disable "Show emoticons". Enable "Do not show main window at startup". Set the inactive times for both "Away" and "Not Available" to zero.
 - Privacy: Select "only people from my Contacts can call" (or "anyone" if you're going to accept incoming Skype calls). Select "only people from my Contacts can start chat". Disable "Automatically pop up requests for my contact details".
 - Notifications: Disable everything.
 - Sounds: Disable everything.
 - Sound Devices: select "OSS" and "/dev/dsp". If the OSS option is not available, log in as root, run "makedsp.sh", and try again.
 - Advanced: Disable "Check for updates automatically". Enable "Close call tab after a complete call". Disable "Pop up chat window".
 - Click "Save" at the bottom of the window.
- 11) Connect to the web interface on your Trixbox server with /admin after the url. eg. http://server.com/admin
- 12) You cannot dial Skype accounts directly using your phone so you have to define an extension for each person you want to call. As an example we will setup an extension for dialing a Skype account. Click on the link and then click the Extensions link on the left hand side.
- 13) In the device box select Other (Custom) Device and click Submit
- 14) Enter an extension number in the User Extension field. For the example we will user extension 421
- 15) Enter a name for the extension in the Display Name field. For the example we will enter echotest.
- 16) To dial a Skype user you need put Skype/any/username in the dial field. For the example we will put Skype/any/echo123 in the dial field.
- 17) Click the Submit button at the bottom of the page.
- 18) Click Apply Configuration Changes at the top of page.

19) Dial extension 421 and you should be connected with Skype's echo testing service. You may want to watch the Skype client in the VNC window to watch the calls progress.

Once you have completed this HOW-TO add to your Chanskye with these additional HOW-TOs:

Now that you are done configuring your Trixbox with ChanSkype try the following HOWTOs for more Skype / Trixbox functionality.

Using Trixbox and SkypeOut for making outbound calls to regular phones.

Using Trixbox to receive calls from Skype users and/or your Skype In #