

# Skype Changes Make It Easier for Law Enforcement to Watch Your Online Activities

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Law enforcement officials increasingly seek Skype chats as evidence in criminal investigations, particularly of white-collar crimes. [Arizona criminal defense attorneys](#) are concerned because the company appears to value cooperating with police more than the privacy of its users.

Skype previously concealed important user information with protections that made it = difficult for user information to be shared with law enforcement. However, the company was recently bought by Microsoft, which has a long history of siding with law enforcement and against user privacy.

Since the ownership change, Skype has altered its method of encryption and other features, which will make it easier to track suspected criminal activity, according to a [Washington Post report](#). The changes will reportedly allow law enforcement to access addresses and credit card numbers, along with other user data.

“The issue is, to what extent are our communications being purpose-built to make surveillance easy?” said Lauren Weinstein, co-founder of People for Internet Responsibility, a digital privacy group. “When you make it easy to do, law enforcement is going to want to use it more and more. If you build it, they will come.”

Of course, while Skype may have increased its cooperation with the government, there are still some legal protections in place. Most importantly, law enforcement officers still have to seek a warrant before accessing the content of user chat messages.

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