

# How to export chat / files history in Skype (2020)

In this short tutorial, I'll be showing you how you can export chat or conversation / files history in Skype. Before, this option was available through the skype desktop app however it was updated to a more secure process which requires web-based request of files and chat history compared to app-based requests.

Skype Export Link:

<https://secure.skype.com/en/data-export>

## Video Tutorial

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPDRHTF-TPU> Video can't be loaded because JavaScript is disabled: [How to export chat / files history in Skype 2019](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPDRHTF-TPU) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPDRHTF-TPU>)

## How to read the .json files?

To extract the .tar file on Windows 10:

1. Press the **Windows + r** keys on your keyboard to open the Run window.
2. In the Open: field, type **cmd** and then click **OK**.
3. Use the "change directory" (CD) command to navigate to your file:
  - **Files saved to your Downloads folder:** Type **CD Downloads** and then press **Enter**.
  - **Files saved to a location other than your downloads folder:** Type **CD DIRECTORY**, replacing **DIRECTORY** with the folder name where your exported file was saved. (IE: **CD Desktop**), and then press **Enter**.

4. Type `tar -xvfYOURFILENAME_export.tar`, replacing YOURFILENAME with the name of your exported file which usually follows the pattern `8_skypename_export.tar` or `8_live_skypename_export.tar` and then press **Enter**.
5. After the command completes, you will see your extracted messages file named `messages.json` file in the directory. We recommend downloading the file [viewer](#) to make it easier to read your conversation history.
6. After downloading the [viewer](#), open it by selecting the `index.html` file from the skype-parser folder.
7. Browse to the `messages.json` file and then click the **Load** button.

#### **To extract the .tar file on Mac**

Browse to the .tar file you downloaded and open the file. Mac has built-in .tar support.

Instructions source: Official Skype [Support Articles](#)