# 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-TPUVideo 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)

## 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 presh **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 is 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