

Skype launches video messaging app

NEW YORK, USA: Microsoft-owned Skype unveiled a new app enabling users to send short video messages to stay connected between calls.



Microsoft's Dan Chastney believes that the new Skype Qik application will prove extremely popular for people wanting to send video messages. Image: Flickr

The smartphone app called Skype Qik allows users to create and send videos up to 42 seconds long.

The new service seeks to help Skype and its owner Microsoft to catch up to rivals in the fast-growing mobile messaging arena.

It takes some features from Twitter's Vine - which allows six-second videos - and the ephemeral messaging service Snapchat. With Qik, the messages disappear in two weeks, while with Snapchat, they are supposed to disappear immediately they have been viewed.

"Skype Qik makes video conversations more spontaneous and fun so you don't have to wait until your next call to connect with your favorite people," said a blog post from Microsoft's Dan Chastney and Piero Sierra.

The Qik app is available for phones using Apple's iOS, the Google Android platform and Microsoft's own Windows Phone.

Qik brings Microsoft into the red-hot segment of mobile messaging, following Facebook's multibillion-dollar purchase of WhatsApp.

Other popular messaging services include Asia-based Line and Viber - which was bought this year by Japan's Rakuten for

\$900m.

Source: AFP via I-Net Bridge

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