

The Skype for SIP service permits SIP connections from corporate phone systems into the Skype network. A SIP based VoIP system with a Skype for SIP connection can receive free calls from any Skype user and can benefit from low-cost PSTN access in over 25 countries. The benefits of this service are clear, but not all VoIP system can meet Skype's connection requirements. The UM Labs SIP Security controller has been tested with Skype for SIP and can enable *any* PBX supporting Skype for SIP to connect simply and securely to this service.

Skype for SIP

Skype's new Skype for SIP service enables SIP based PBXs to connect to the Skype network. Skype for SIP provides two key benefits:

- An organisation with a SIP capable VoIP system can link a Skype user name to their corporate phone system enabling any Skype user to make free calls directly into the corporate phone network. Companies can add a *Skype me* link to their web site enabling free inbound calls from current and new customers.
- The same connection provides low cost SIP trunk connections via the Skype network. These connections offer local PSTN connections for both inbound and outbound calls in over 25 countries. For example a European company is able to get a New York City phone number for only €25.00 for a full year's subscription.

Connectivity and Security Challenges

The benefits of Skype for SIP are clear, but to realise those benefits, a SIP (Session Initiation Protocol) connection must be set up between the corporate PBX and the Skype for SIP service. While most modern business phone systems are capable of supporting SIP, only a minority of vendor's products have been certified for use with Skype for SIP. The connection requirements are such that it may be difficult or impossible to configure many PBX products for this connection.

A Skype for SIP connection is delivered over the Internet; this means that to connect to the service the corporate PBX must be linked to the Internet. Connecting any system to the Internet exposes that system to a range of security threats. The threats faced by SIP based systems include flooding attacks, call disruption attacks and penetration attacks. Many of these attacks will not be blocked by a standard firewall because the attacks rely only on the ability to send valid SIP requests to the target system.

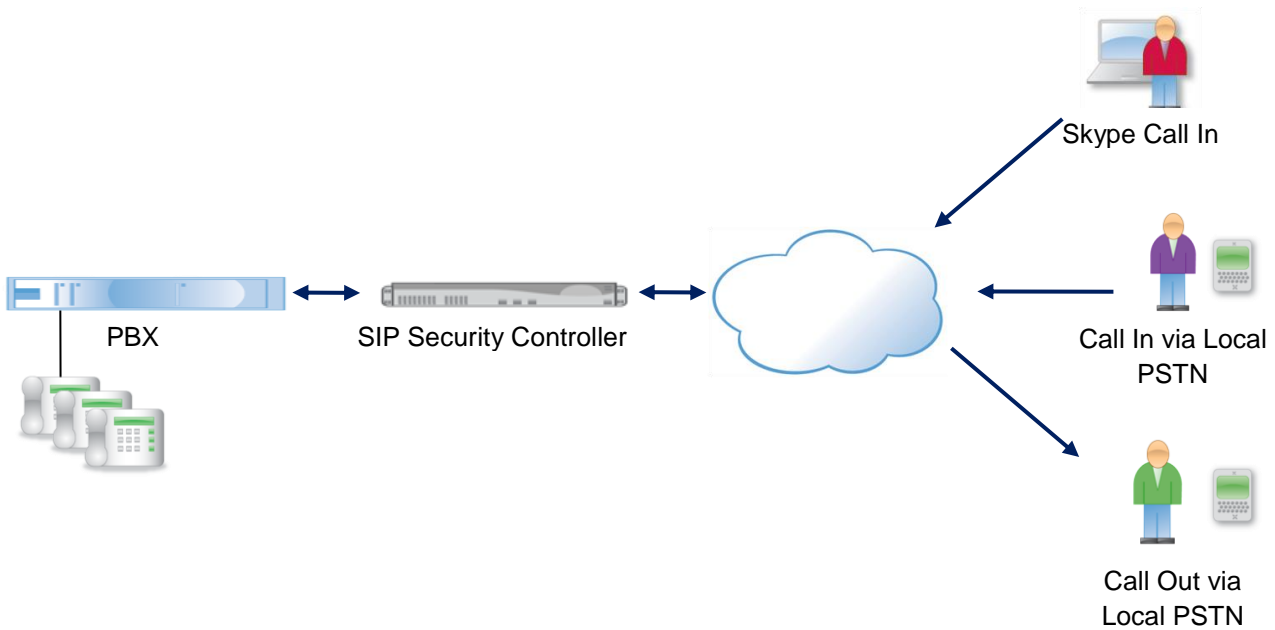
Solving the Challenges

The UM Labs SIP Security Controller is designed to secure SIP connections and to simplify the task of interconnecting SIP systems. The SIP Security Controller has been fully tested with Skype for SIP and supports the full range of services.

The SIP Security controller includes a unique scripting capability which can modify SIP requests as they are sent to or received from Skype for SIP so that outbound requests meet Skype's requirements and inbound requests can be understood by the PBX. This includes ensuring that the SIP request URI and From URI in each request can be understood by Skype and provide the information needed to for Skype to identify the source of the call. This ability plus the fact the Security Controller has been validated for use with Skype for SIP means that it enables *any* SIP capable PBX to connect to the Skype for SIP Service.

In addition to solving the connectivity problem, the SIP Security Controller protects the PBX from the complete range of security threats, including those threats that cannot be blocked by a standard Firewall.

Completing the Connection



A UM Labs SIP Security Controller connected between the Corporate PBX and the Internet, secures the PBX and ensures interoperability with Skype for SIP.

Two models of SIP Security Controller are available, the RC-2100 which is capable of handling up to 20 concurrent active calls and the EC-4200 which will handle from 50 to over 1,000 concurrent calls. Both models include the features needed to complete a Skype for SIP connection.

For more information on VoIP security threats or for details of connecting your PBX to Skype for SIP please contact UM Labs.

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