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## ●マイクロソフト、会話をリアルタイム翻訳できるスカイプを発表

【Wall Street Journal, 2014/05/28】

マイクロソフトのサティヤ・ナデラ CEO は 27 日の「コード・カンファレンス」で、会話をリアルタイムに翻訳できるスカイプを公開した。

デモでは英語と独語の翻訳が行われたが、翻訳サービスは現時点で 40 か国語に対応しているとのことで、年内にウィンドウズ 8 のベータ・アプリとしてスカイプ・ユーザーに無料提供される予定だという。

ナデラ氏によると、サービスに使われている技術は 15 年前から開発が進められているもの。マイクロソフトは、「スカイプ・トランスレーターはまだ開発初期段階にあるが、スター・トレックに出てくるユニバーサル・トランスレーターが現実のものになるのは、そう遠い未来のことではない」としている。

(参考) 本件報道記事

### **Microsoft Shows a Version of Skype That Translates Languages in Real Time** By Douglas MacMillan

Microsoft is working on a version of Skype that can translate in real time conversations between people speaking different languages.

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella showed a version of Skype that translates conversations in real time.

Microsoft Blog / Code Conference

Chief Executive Satya Nadella showed off the version of Skype while speaking Tuesday night at the Code Conference in Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif.

Nadella made a case that a key force driving future innovation is all the data being generated as people use mobile devices, websites and computers. Speech recognition, for example, gets better as more data is gathered about how people speak.

The technology based on Skype, the free voice and video calling service purchased by Microsoft, translated a live call between a company employee on stage speaking English and another Microsoft employee who spoke German. Nadella said the Skype translate service can currently handle 40 languages. It

will be available free to Skype users by the end of this year as Windows 8 beta app. Nadella, touting Microsoft's research chops, said the technology for the service has been in the works in some form for 15 years. Borrowing a word used often by Apple founder Steve Jobs while demoing new products, Nadella called the translator service "magical."

Microsoft said in a blog post Tuesday that Skype has more than 300 million connected users monthly, and that it processes more than 2 billion minutes of conversations a day.

Microsoft said Skype Translator is in its early days, but that the "Star Trek vision for a Universal Translator isn't a galaxy away." It highlighted the potential areas for use — education, diplomacy, multilingual families and business.

Source: Wall Street Journal, 2014/05/28

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