Instant messaging platforms like WhatsApp, Skype, and Google Hangouts (now Google Chat) have revolutionized the way people communicate in real time. These tools allow users to send text messages, voice notes, images, videos, and documents instantly over the internet.

**WhatsApp** is one of the most widely used messaging apps globally. It offers end-to-end encryption for security, voice and video calling, group chats, and multimedia sharing. It's user-friendly and works on both mobile and desktop devices, making it ideal for personal and business communication.

**Skype**, developed by Microsoft, is known for its voice and video calling features. It is often used for professional meetings and interviews. Skype also allows for screen sharing, instant messaging, and file transfers, making it suitable for remote collaboration.

**Google Hangouts** (now transitioned to **Google Chat**) is integrated with Google Workspace. It's useful for text chats, group conversations, and video calls. It works well in professional environments, especially when used alongside Gmail, Google Drive, and Calendar.

These platforms have significantly improved communication speed and convenience. Whether used for casual conversations or professional meetings, they provide real-time interaction, bridging the gap between people across different locations and time zones.