

Take advantage of internet phone calls (VOIP)



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Take advantage of internet phone calls (VOIP)

By Colin Brin

Voice Over IP (VOIP) is a relatively new technology. Voice Over IP allows people to leave behind

the old and very traditional analogue phone networks and now adapt in favor of the very new and very progressive Internet-based calling system infrastructure. Using this technology for your communications actually works out cheaper for you in the long run as it means you won't need to pay for calls if the people you are calling and speaking to are also using the same VOIP system.

Voice Over IP runs on several different types of infrastructure. This is the main reason why you should take the time to do your homework and find out how it works and what is involved, before you even consider setting up a Voice Over IP network at your home or place of business. When you do your homework you will see that invariably VOIP offers lots of advantages over and above the standard traditional telephone based analogue service that most people are currently using. Let's take a moment to examine some of the advantages of using Voice Over IP.

The main advantage of Voice Over IP is to be honest – the cost – the cost benefit goes directly back into your pocket. And because Voice Over IP uses the infrastructure of the Internet to make outgoing calls, you will never need to pay your traditional phone provider to maintain a telephone line or for phone and line rental. In addition, many Voice Over IP service providers allow customers to make long distance calls that attract minimal or no long distance charges at all. Many service providers even offer customer VOIP packages that allow you to opt for discounted internet call rates so you can save even more.

But what about this for a benefit? If you have Voice Over IP software installed on your PC and you want to speak to someone who is also uses Voice Over IP, then you are able to talk for as long as you want without having to pay a single cent. This is because your voice is actually transformed into digital

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data packets rather than audio, and the data is transferred in a similar fashion to that of email. Voice Over IP also makes it very easy and cheap to conduct conference calls and video calls.

There are, of course, some minor disadvantages to using Voice Over IP and you should consider these before you embark on setting up Voice Over IP. Since Voice Over IP is a relatively recent and largely untapped technology, Voice Over IP is prone to experience more errors than using a normal phone would. In addition, if you experience a power failure, then you would be unable to make a call, like you could with a traditional analogue phone. In any event, Voice Over IP is something that you should investigate for your own home and business needs and you should consider it soon while the rates are cheap and the deals are good.

Colin Brin is the owner of AB

Voip

which is a premier source of information about Voip. For more

information, go to: <http://abvoip.com>

How Important Is Voice Over Internet Protocol?

By Robert Michael

VOIP is a technology that allows us to place telephone calls without a telephone. Instead, with VOIP, you can call anyone anywhere in the world with simply your broadband internet connection.

Essentially, with VOIP, analog signals like those of the voice are converted into digital signals that are then sent over the internet and converted back.

Not all VOIP services are built alike. Some allow you to call anyone with a phone, while others restrict your calls to only other clients using the same VOIP service. You can choose between three different ways to set up a VOIP system on your computer.

You can use an ATA (analog voice adaptor) which performs the analog-to-digital conversion, and is plugged in to your computer at one end and your telephone at the other.

You can use an IP phone, a phone specifically made for use with VOIP. While the IP phone looks exactly like a normal phone, it's got special Ethernet connectors that allow it to be plugged into your router. They're even working on WIFI phones for VOIP that you can take with you to the various internet hotspots popping up all over the world.

Finally, you can make VOIP contact with your computer alone. Simply install the VOIP software, make sure you've got a microphone, speakers, an internet connection (high-speed is best, of course), and a sound card, and chat away.

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One thing many VOIP–users love about it is the cost, or more accurately, the savings. By using VOIP you save yourself one unnecessary bill per month – your phone bill. VOIP charges, much cheaper usually than most people's phone bills, appear on your regular broadband bill.

Just like cell–phones, VOIP service is portable, at least as portable as your laptop. You no longer have to worry about shoddy cell phone coverage when you go away. As long as you can get internet access, you'll be able to use your VOIP.

A few disadvantages of VOIP to consider, however: VOIP may not respond well during power outages and problems with your server. If your internet connection for any reason goes out, so does your ability to place VOIP–facilitated phone calls.

When researching possible VOIP providers, keep in mind that not all of them let you make 9–1–1 or directory assistance calls. If you depend on services like these for simple peace of mind, make sure you find a VOIP provider that can accommodate.

It's a little known fact that many of the major telephone companies use VOIP technology already to be more efficient. So, unbeknownst to you, you may very well have already been making VOIP–enabled phone calls.

VOIP providers now compete to offer subscribers many of the same services we're used to getting from our telephone companies, such as call waiting, repeat dialing, return dialing, and three–way

calling. You can also find VOIP providers that offer to filter your calls, giving you a range of options of what to do with calls sent from numbers you select.

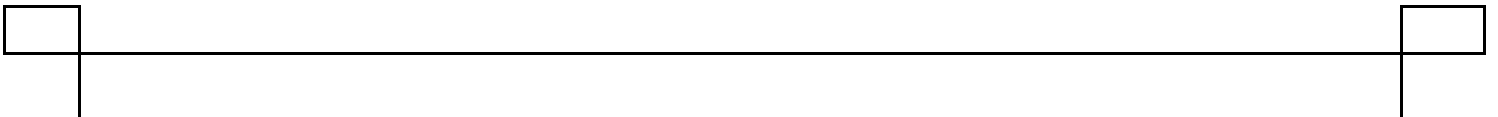
Maybe you send the call to your voice mail, maybe the caller hears a message informing them that your phone number is no longer in service. You can even use VOIP to check your voicemail and send voice message as attachments to emails.

VOIP is only just revving up it's engines. It may not be long before every household in your neighborhood is VOIP–enabled.

Robert Michael is a writer for Mico Voip which is an excellent place to find Voip links, resources and articles. For more information go to:

<http://www.micovoip.com>

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