

5 Things You Should Know About VoIP Solutions





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So you're ready to enjoy unlimited long distance calling and lower monthly phone bills. Well, before you make the switch, here are five steps that will help you get the VoIP plan that is best for you.

Do Online Research or ask an expert to Learn about VoIP

If you're new to VoIP, then internet is the first place to stop and learn about this technology. Or you can ask any VoIP expert to know this technology. VoIP technology is on the rise and many high profile computer companies have already switched to VoIP and are becoming service providers. AOL, Sprint and Verizon are offering VoIP as well as Internet Messaging (IP) services such as Yahoo, MSN, and AOL IM. First you must arrive at the decision that VoIP is best for you, your family, or your business needs. Do research on the web. Talk to people that you know have already made the switch. Once you have made your decision to switch to VoIP, you are ready for the next step.

Select the right VoIP plan for your business

A good idea is to make a written list of your needs, wants, and features in a phone. This will help you compare different plans and choose the service provider that best fits your needs. If you are looking for residential or business service, make sure that you get the message across. Business plans could include amenities such as multiple phones, bigger talk-times, unlimited calling plans, custom business features, facsimile and extras such as yellow page listings. Check with the service provider to find the plan that meets your requirements.

Setting up the system

Some service providers will send you the equipment to let you begin using VoIP. You will first need to make sure that your computer system is compatible with the VoIP service. You will also need to have high speed internet already installed with your computer. If you are using VoIP for a business or a call center, it is best to leave the installation to a professional. Installing VoIP for a residence or home office is simple enough for the users to do themselves.





Choose the phone number you wish to have

One of the best features that VoIP has to offer is the freedom to select your own telephone number. If you just want to transfer your old number to your new VoIP system, check with your service provider before the final decision. Many VoIP providers will allow you to transfer your phone number. If you want to select a different area code, this option has many advantages. This strategy is also very beneficial for those whose businesses are targeting specific areas. Say there is a California-based company, wanting to increase business in Tampa, Florida. By selecting the Tampa, FL area code, they can increase sales and productivity with a local number for customers to call. This also reduces the need for a toll-free number.

Ask Your Vendor to Install & Explain the features

VoIP comes with many features included in your service plan. For residential customers these include Voicemail, Caller ID, Call Forwarding, Call Block, and Do Not Disturb. Always check with your service provider for a detailed listing of the features included in your plan. For small businesses, amenities such as multi-phone use, free fax lines and integration of your VoIP and web features are all available. A VoIP business package also contains many of the features in basic plans as well. When you are choosing a provider, compare their business plans and select the one that best fits your business needs.

As VoIP technology continues to advance, a new array of accessories have surfaced in the market. Today you can choose from VoIP phones, headsets and even VoIP videophones that work as a web camera ushering in video into the communication system.

