

# **What is Voip and VoipDiscount Rate Technology - Is It Worth Your Time to Consider? Home Phone vs IP Phone..**



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## **Table Of Contents**

### **Introduction**

Chapter 1: What Is VoIP Technology?

Chapter 2: What You Need To Use VoIP

Chapter 3: Making Calls Using VoIP

Chapter 4: The Advantages And Disadvantages

Chapter 5: The Business Side Of VoIP

Chapter 6: Finding A VoIP Provider

Chapter 7: The Installation Of VoIP Technology

Chapter 8: Using VoIP For Everything

Conclusion

### **Introduction**

The one definitive thing that should be said about VoIP technology is that it will transform your life. There are many ways in which it can do this, too. You've heard commercials and seen a million different advertisements for

VoIP. Now, it's time to learn all that you can about this technology so that you can add it to your life.

VoIP is one type of technology that offers mostly benefits and it is definitely not hard to use. You'll be ready to go quickly and you'll be able to start saving money right away, one of the largest reasons to switch your long distance service to VoIP.

Throughout this e-book, we'll explore what VoIP is and how it will transform your life. You'll be able to explore the options that are available to you, learn how to use VoIP in your home and in your business and you'll quickly see how you'll save a small fortune on it.

Being fair, there are a few disadvantages to this technology, but we'll show you how to completely take advantage of all that VoIP can offer even around these consideration. If you are on the edge trying to decide if you want to switch to VoIP, we'll help you to make that decision.

The largest benefit that VoIP promises is that it will provide you with high quality long distance services without the cost that usually goes along with it. What the long distance companies don't want you to know is that it is completely simple to use and it will allow you to call locations around the world, easily.

Instead of going with just what the VoIP sales people are offering or counting on what the long distance carriers are saying, take the time to fully learn what the options are that you have. Learning about VoIP for yourself will allow you to make the best decision, regardless of the sales talk that you will find everywhere.

Here is a view of VoIP that is honest and fair and that will provide you with the information you need to make a decision about this service.

Read through *The Definitive Guide To VoIP* and make your own decision about its worthiness in your home and your business.

## **Chapter 1: What Is VoIP Technology?**

What have you heard about VoIP? Now, forget about it. What you should learn about it you'll learn here. Remember, sales marketing has really done a job on VoIP to this degree.

## **What Does VoIP Do?**

When you install VoIP technology into your home, you'll have the ability to talk to others using Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP.) All that means is that you'll be able to use the phone that's connected to the internet to make calls.

Instead of phone lines that traditionally run over the electrical or phone lines in your home already, VoIP uses your internet connection instead. Your standard phone will plug into the VoIP adapter to be used.

In most cases, you won't be able to tell the difference in using VoIP over other phone technology. It gives you the same basic results. It sounds easy, right? It really is that simple.

## **VoIP Technology**

With the help of VoIP technology, you can communicate over your internet lines, which will also happen to be a no costing way to do so.

To do this, several key things will be necessary.

1. You will need to connect your standard telephone to an adapter unit that is VoIP qualified. Or, you may instead use a microphone equipped computer to make your calls instead of a phone.

2. When you pick up the phone to dial your friend across the ocean, the VoIP adapter realizes what you are doing and turns the voice signals you are sending into your phone into digital based signals. These are then sent across the ocean through the Internet, instead of traveling through any phone line.

3. Your friend receives your call in the same way. He or she will pick up the phone when you call and then VoIP goes to work again. This time it translates the digital like signals back into a standard voice transmission. When your friend uses their phone, they hear your voice, nothing more.

As you can see, it really doesn't make much of a difference in the experience that you have using the telephone. You'll be doing the same thing that you are already doing.

**Here's how it works:**

### **Phone Call –To- Adapter- Internet - Adapter –To- Phone**

Although it may seem like this process takes time, it really does not. It will take little to no time to convert your voice into a digital signal to go over the internet service that you have and back into your voice so your friend will hear you. In fact, the process happens so fast you may not even realize what is happening at all and not realize you are using it!

### **Computer Communication**

Another option that you may have comes in the form of using the computer in your home to make your long distance calls. For example, if you would like to call your friend, instead of using your telephone to make the call, you could use your computer.

In order to do this, you will need to have a computer that has a microphone located in it. This microphone will serve as your communication tool.

When you move to make a call, you will simply use the software that is installed on your computer to call your friend. When they answer, you can

talk to them without any type of handset. Instead, you'll use the microphone to talk into.

The process is still the same. The computer will take your voice and translate it into a digital signal which is then sent over the internet to your friend's computer. They can either use the phone or their own computer to talk to you. The voice once again changes from a digital signal into an actual voice and you hear your friend, just as you would if you had dialed their phone number into your phone.

You can also do this by using a computer that is equipped with a headset that allows you to speak into it for more privacy.

As you can see, VoIP technology is quite easy to use. You'll be able to install it into your computer and phone system quickly and easily. You'll be able to get it in and using it quickly. 9

In a business environment, VoIP works about the same way. In most cases, though, it is even better because it call allow any size of business to stay connected to their clients, suppliers and business associates around the world.

If you are considering VoIP technology for your business, you'll find additional information about that in later chapters. What you should know now is that it is an ideal tool for communication in any field and in any use. It will help you to stay in connection as well as let you to save on costly long distance.

The benefits of using VoIP are easy to spot. It is easy and it saves you money! But, beyond this, there are additional benefits in having the ability to connect to others around the world. If you are ready to pick up your phone and order it, don't do it just yet. You need to understand a bit more about how it works and why it works. You also need to understand what you need to make it work in your personal home or in your business environment.

## **Chapter 2: What You Need To Use VoIP**

In order for you to take advantage of VoIP, you will need to have some equipment. The good news is that it is not complex, difficult to install and its not generally that expensive.

The one requirement that you simply can not go without is broadband or high speed internet connections.

## **What Is Broadband?**

Understanding what broadband internet service is happens to be important. If you don't have this type of connection yet to the internet, you may want to use it. If you don't have it, you are probably using dial up access to connect to the web.

While there isn't anything wrong with dial up, the way that broadband works makes connecting to the internet faster and even simpler. When you use this method of connection, you'll be able to get online faster and even surf through the pages you want to go to quicker. That allows many benefits in and of itself.

Broadband is quite fast and it is the way of the future in technology for internet access. It may be a bit confusing to understand how broadband technology actually works, as it is somewhat complex, it is easy to understand just how beneficial it can be!

Broadband works by allowing for a larger amount of data to move faster all at one time. A good way to understand it is to consider your water pipes. If you replace your old pipe (dial up internet) with a larger, wider pipe (broadband) you are now allowing much more information to get through and therefore allowing the water to move through it easier.

The larger that the pipe is, the more water can go through it. The same is true with broadband. With the higher bandwidth that it uses, broadband can get you around the internet faster and even gets you off the telephone line you are currently using with dial up access.

The benefits of broadband include the ability to download information faster, the ability to connect to websites, to view movies and yes, even to



talk to other people using your internet connection. That's where VoIP comes in.

VoIP technology simply could not work well over dial up access to the internet because it is not fast enough and it can not carry the signals fast enough.

In order for you to use VoIP, you need to have broadband internet access. You can use this type of internet access through your current cable modem, through your DSL or even through a local high speed cable network offer.

No matter which of these you have, VoIP technology is likely to be able to be used with it.

### **Your Adaptation**

Before you can get the VoIP technology, you'll also have to have the right tools to communicate over the internet. As we mentioned earlier, you can use your computer with a microphone or a headset with a microphone as well as an adapter for your telephone. They also make specialized phones for VoIP too.

The style of these services that you need or can use will depend on the type of VoIP that you select. Since VoIP is not a brand name, so to speak, there are actually several services that you can purchase it from. That means that there are differences in each of the carriers that you use VoIP through.

Some VoIP technologies work through the computer only. For this type of application, you'll need to be able to use a microphone or a headset to communication. You may be able to use this service with the help of a specialized phone as well.

Many other services allow you to use a standard phone but with the help of an adapter. Here, you'll need to purchase the adapter that will plug into your phone and into your modem.

If you are using a computer to use VoIP services, you will need the right software installed into your computer. Generally, this comes to you when

you purchase VoIP services. The microphone that you need can be quite inexpensive, generally under \$20.

If you go with the specialized phone to connect to VoIP services, you'll be able to purchase a phone that will plug right into the broadband connection that you have. It doesn't need to plug into the phone jack or your computer in any way. The specialized phones work just like a traditional phone in that you'll pick up the receiver, dial the number and instantly get the person on the other line to talk to.

Finally, if you use VoIP through a standard telephone with an adapter, you will be able to dial the same as you do right now.

The only difference is that your phone may not have a dial tone (in most cases.) Your service provider generally provides this type of service to its clients and home users easily.

You should know a bit more about the adapter that you may be using. It is called an ATA or Analog Telephone Adapter. In order to provide service to you, this device connects to your broadband internet service connection using a router, the third component in using VoIP.

To do this, it will use an Ethernet (RJ45) cable and it will connect to your phone using a telephone cable (RJ11) to complete the circuit.

The ATA is necessary for transferring your analog information into the usable digital media that can be carried over the internet so that you can chat with others. The adapter must then send this digital signal to the router of your computer which then will determine the right route to take to get to the right network and finally to the person that you were planning on calling. This happens instantly, though

## **Your Router**

Many people that have broadband internet service already have a router in place. That's because it is necessary for you to if you have more than one computer that you wish to connect to the internet. If not, you'll need to purchase one. They do not usually come with your VoIP package, but can for an additional charge.

The router's job is to connect multiple networks together. Its job is to connect your home's network system with the internet, which technically is the world's largest networking system.

If you only have one computer that's connected to your service to the internet or any type of device connected to the internet, then you may not need a router at all. You could simply attach your VoIP service right to the broadband service that you have. Yet, this is simply uncommon today.

Those that do have more than one device that will connect to the internet, then a router is a must. A router will help you to connect to the internet at each point that you have the need. Routers enable you to share one connection to the internet with several devices at the same time. This allows you to log into your internet connection from more than one location.

In order to do this, your router will use Network Address Translation, which is also called NAT. This technology allows you to share one IP address which is assigned to your computer by your internet service provider as a distinction of who you are.

One benefit that a router can provide to you is the ability to provide a firewall to your network. A firewall can protect your computer users from all sorts of things like spyware, malware and viruses from getting in. A firewall can help to keep problems like this from infecting your computer and ultimately bringing down your computer network.

Even if you do only have one computer, or one device that requires internet connectivity, you still need a firewall to protect your internet access.

Those that have the need for a router will also find it to provide many other useful features in regards to internet usage. For example, you can block specific websites from being traveled to, which is wonderful advantage for a home with children.

Or, you can determine a time to cut off usage of the internet in the home. This is helpful to those that want to turn off their connection (even their VoIP service) at any time.

Even better, routers are excellent tools for the wireless technology you have. You can use routers to help you to connect your PDA, your MP3

player, or your laptop (any device that wants and can get online for that matter) to the internet. It can do this without have to deal with wires because of the wireless technology which it provides to your home.

## **Sum Up**

In other words, you will need:

- **Broadband internet access**
- **Either: A standard phone with a VoIP adapter**  
**Or, a computer that features a microphone.**  
**Or, a specialized VoIP phone**
- **Router**

That's it! There are no costly wiring projects to worry about and you won't need to do crazy configurations with your internet service either (or your computer for that manner.)

In the way of tools for VoIP, there is nothing else you need. Later, you'll learn some tools that you may want to consider adding to your service as well.

Once you have subscribed to the VoIP service, they will help you to decide the right type of technology for their service and for your needs.

It is also important to point out that much of what you will need to get VoIP up and running in your home will come to you with the help of your VoIP provider. Most providers will present you with the VoIP adapters that you need for your phone. You'll also be able to get the necessary software for your computer.

There are some tools that you need to get or have on your own, though. For example, your headset or microphone for using VoIP over the computer is up to you to purchase. That goes for your router too. These things are not all that expensive, though. A router may cost you under \$50

depending on where you live and your needs for it.

Your broadband service is something you also need to subscribe to which does offer an additional cost per month to use. But, depending on the type of service that you have right now, you may actually save money by switching from dial up internet to broadband internet access. Look into companies that offer internet access to compare prices and speed.

### **Chapter 3: Making Calls Using VoIP**

As we have mentioned, using VoIP is easy to do. When you are looking to make a call to someone next door or someone on the other side of the planet, the process is basically the same thing.

There are some differences that range widely from one carrier of VoIP types of service and the type of product that you have to make calls. Nevertheless, it is an easy to understand process.

#### **Local And Long Distance**

The most common question that is asked of individuals that are considering switching to VoIP is that of how it works for local calls as well as long distance calls.

This changes somewhat from one vendor to the next, but in most cases, VoIP doesn't charge a per rate call on customers that use their VoIP service to contact other individuals that have VoIP. In most cases, the provider of the VoIP service will allow you to use this service to call others that have it.

Some providers of VoIP will allow you to make calls to individuals that live in another area code other than where you live.

In addition, you should realize that although you may be not charged for making long distance calls, those that call you that do not have VoIP will still incur the charges of a long distance call, based on what their long distance provider requires.

Some VoIP services are different. For example, some providers may charge you much like your current long distance plan charges, just at a large discount. This may be that you are charged a long distance call when you call individuals that live outside of your calling area. This would be set up quite like the standard, wire line telephone service currently is.

Additionally, VoIP providers are sometimes offering their calling services at a flat rate, again, like wire line telephone services. You may have a selected number of minutes to use per month, too.

Before you sign up with any type of VoIP service provider, you should find out what they have to offer as well as the costs for each option they offer so that you can compare.

### **Who Can You Call With VoIP?**

Another aspect of using VoIP is who you can call. Each provider offers a different definition of this and for that reason you should look into this more thoroughly to allow you to compare the options that you have.

Here is a look at some of the options out there.

**Limited:** Some VoIP providers only allow you to call other people using VoIP that already have VoIP themselves. In this case, if you were to call someone that doesn't have VoIP, you would have to use a standard long distance plan or you wouldn't be able to connect to them. If you call someone that has VoIP, you would connect to them through that service.

**Unlimited:** Some VoIP providers will allow you to call anyone that has a phone number. This may not be limited to home phones, either. You may

be able to call anyone that has a phone number even those that have mobile phone/cell phone numbers, long distance numbers and even international phone numbers.

With unlimited use, you'll be able to call others that do not have VoIP. Here, they would not need to have any specialized equipment to talk to you. They could use their standard home phone.

Providers also range in the services that they provide with VoIP calling. For example, some may allow you to talk to several people with VoIP service at one time, while others do not offer this service.

The features and benefits of each provider of VoIP is something you'll learn more about later. We'll teach you how to choose the right provider of your service!

Here are a few other questions that are often asked about VoIP:

**Does my computer need to be turned on to use it?**

No! There is no need to worry about if your computer is on or off. It will work for both needs. If you need to make a call using your computer, then it will need to be on. If your VoIP runs through your computer, it needs to be on.

**Can I use my computer and be on the phone at the same time?**

Yes, in most cases, you can be on both the computer and your VoIP service.

**Can I take VoIP with me when I travel?**

Believe it or not, many of the best providers of VoIP service are offering these services. It depends greatly on your provider.

**How do I know if there's a phone call coming in?**

If you have a traditional phone that uses an adapter for VoIP, your phone will ring just as it would if you were using a standard, analog phone. If you are using your computer, your computer will alert you when there is a call coming in using VoIP through the software that's installed.

### **Does it sound good?**

While many worry that it will sound choppy or it will be too quiet to hear, that's not the case. VoIP works well for those that use it and you won't be able to tell the difference.

### **What about wireless computers and hot spots?**

If you travel with your laptop by your side, and you have VoIP service through that laptop, chances are good that you'll be able to use your VoIP service at hot spots located in coffee houses, in diners and even in airports. Your provider must offer this service, though.

Now, let's move on to more topics about VoIP.

## **Chapter 4: The Advantages And Disadvantages Of VoIP**

There are both good and bad things about VoIP. Most of the time, it is an excellent tool for accomplishing the tasks that you want and need to do. In fact, it may just be the phone of the future in the next decade, but for that to happen, the need for high speed internet access must be met by all that desire it.

As you are considering VoIP, you must pay attention to the needs that you have in it. There is much to consider both with advantages and disadvantages.



## The Advantages

It is always good to start with the positives, and VoIP technology does offer many of them. This is especially true if you already have your service set up in the way of already having a broadband connection and having the necessary equipment (microphone, headset, and/or router.) If you have this, then you are already set to be benefited by all that can be offered to you.

**No Land Line:** One of the first benefits that you get by having VoIP is the need to remove your land line telephone service. Don't worry, there's no need to dig up the yard here. Simply disconnecting from expensive long distance is one of the best benefits that VoIP will offer to you. Without the need for a traditional landline, you are able to stop paying for it, too!

**Unlimited Communication:** Some of the better VoIP service providers allow you to communicate with people around the world for as long as you want, with little cost. For example, if you were to purchase a flat rate service for VoIP, you would be able to connect to your friend in Japan that has it and talk to them over the internet for literally hours on end without the fear of cost.

This is a benefit that people have been seeking simply because of how devastating it can be to not pick up the phone and call a loved one because it is too expensive to do so. Now, you can easily do so without the worry of cost with a flat rate service.

**Multiple Connections:** Most VoIP service providers allow you to communicate to others as you see fit. But, what if you want to talk to several people all at one time? This is called 3way calling on traditional land lines and it can be a costly investment which is why most people don't even bother to get it added to their phone lines.

With VoIP, you can connect and talk to many people, as many as you want, without having to pay this additional fee. That can leave you with just the benefits that you are looking for in VoIP.

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