Internet Telephone Service for Business

Next to email, the telephone is one of the most important tools for business communications. The transition to digital computer technology has revolutionized nearly all aspects of business. Now the digital age has come to telephone communications as well. Businesses of all sizes can benefit from switching to an Internet Telephone service, known in technical jargon as VoIP service.

What Is VoIP?

VoIP is an acronym for *Voice over Internet Protocol*; a technology used for making telephone calls over high speed broadband Internet connections instead of traditional telephone lines.

To the telephone user, it's business as usual. VoIP does not tie up your computer. Your computer doesn't even have to be turned on. You can call anyone who has a telephone number; they do not need to have VoIP or a computer. You just pick up the phone and dial; the difference is in what goes on behind the scenes.

Essentially what occurs is that the analog voice signal is digitized, then encoded and turned into data packets for transmission over an Internet connection. At the receiving end, the data packets are decoded and converted back into an analog voice signal. This process is completed in milliseconds using broadband high speed Internet.

Why Should I Switch to VoIP?

Internet telephone service has several advantages over traditional telephone service.

- Competition among VoIP providers keeps rates low.
- VoIP offers cheaper rates on long distance and international calls. For example, Sling Broadband's Business Voice plans offer unlimited local and long distance calling for one low per-line rate.
- VoIP has lower overall costs than traditional phone service. VoIP service providers can charge less than other telephone companies because they don't have the enormous network of telephone wires and switching stations to maintain.
- If you are already paying for broadband Internet, you can dramatically reduce expenses by switching to Internet telephone service and eliminating or reducing your traditional telephone service.
- VoIP service plans include many advanced features that often cost extra from the telephone company.
- VoIP services allow businesses to have a feature-rich advanced PBX (call-routing) system without a large investment in equipment and maintenance. Sling Broadband's Hosted PBX offers you the features of a top-of-the-line business phone system with minimal up-front cost and no long-term financial contract.

Virtual Hosted PBX

You can move your business into the future with a hosted PBX system and eliminate that complex and expensive monster in the closet that takes an IP professional to program. Using a VoIP telephone and PBX system for your business allows you to have more advanced features at a lower cost.

For example, you can not only have recorded voice mail, you can also have voice mail emailed to users as an audio file where they can check voice messages right in their email interface. Installation is generally faster, and there are no concerns about software compatibility. You can even keep your existing telephone numbers.

An Internet Telephone system is scalable and requires almost no maintenance. Adding new lines is simple and you can't outgrow a virtual PBX system like with a traditional system. Programming is easy. It only takes a few minutes to set up a virtual receptionist (auto attendant) for greeting callers and routing calls.

With VoIP telephone service, you can either use IP phones or use existing analog phones and an analog telephone adapter (ATA) to convert voice to data signals. VoIP service providers will recommend particular models of IP phones that have been tested with their network to provide the best possible sound quality.

VoIP telephone service plans allow small-to-medium size companies to enjoy features that previously only big businesses could afford, such as extension dialing and call forwarding, or even having remote offices seamlessly sharing the same phone system. Compare Sling Broadband's Managed PBX to our competitors to make an informed decision regarding your business telephone system.

Things to Consider When Choosing a VoIP System

1. First of all, you need a high-speed broadband connection via cable, DSL or wireless Internet. Determine the bandwidth of your Internet connection to be sure it can handle both data and voice simultaneously without affecting performance. Many Internet service providers have an online Internet speed test available.
2. If your business has an internal local-area-network (LAN), have your network administrator determine whether your network has the capacity to handle the additional voice-data traffic.
3. Analyze your calling history. VoIP is most cost-effective if you make a lot of long-distance and/or international calls. Sling Broadband offers unlimited local and long-distance calling plans.
4. Consider the number of users and features wanted for your business broadband phone system. Smaller businesses may find a hosted PBX to be more cost-effective than purchasing and maintaining their own system.
5. Determine what equipment, if any, you will need to purchase.
6. Compare the cost of a VoIP telephone service plan versus what you are currently paying for standard telephone service. Most providers offer a range of plans to fit any size of business.
7. You may want to keep one conventional landline in case of power outages or emergencies. Internet telephones require electricity to function and some systems are not interfaced with 9-1-1 emergency services.

Sling Broadband offers cost-effective, full-featured telephone service exclusively tailored for businesses. As one of the largest and fastest growing telecommunications providers in South Florida and the U.S., we believe in unlimited, no-nonsense simplified business communication solutions. All Sling Broadband calls are on our network, allowing us to control quality and price, and pass the cost savings on to you.

Gather your facts; then speak with a Sling Broadband representative to learn how you can get a better, simpler, more affordable business telephone system.