# Voice over Internet Protocol: an overview on its uses. by Samantha Kirk

Article published on June 12th 2012 | Communication

Phones have revolutionized communication vastly. Earlier when phones were invented, they were used mainly for military purposes. Later it became a common household commodity and everybody started using it for communicating and keeping in touch with friends and family. Earlier, you have to be within the reach of the phone so that you donâ€™t miss any of the calls. You cannot put the call on hold, cannot forward a call and various other restrictions. Basically you can make a call or attend a call and the features of the phone stops there. Now with a touch of technology what used be impossible has become a probability. The latest being Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) for landline phones. This has revolutionized the concept of long distance calling. The basic working of Voice over Internet Protocol is to convert the analog audio signals in to digital data.

The main advantage with having Voice over Internet Protocol is that is can convert the standard internet connection to place free phone calls. By using some of the software that is available with VoIP, you can bypass your phone company! One could call VoIP a revolutionary technology as it has the potential to completely revise the working of worldâ€™s phone system. There are many providers who are offering many plans for VoIP and it is steadily getting popular all over the country. An interesting feature about VoIP is that it is does not just have one way to place a call. Some of the common services that are used today are:

There is a device available called ATA which is a short form for Analog Telephone Adaptor. This is the common and simplest service available. This device enables you to connect a standard phone to your computer or any internet connection that you have at home to use with VoIP. It helps in converting the analog signal of your phone in to digital. In short, Analog Telephone Adaptor helps in converting analog signals in to digital. Connecting this device to your phone is very simple and easy. All you have to do is plug the cable to the socket that usually goes to the wall to the ATA and you can start making VoIP calls. There are ATA available in the market with additional software included in it.

There is another device called IP phone. This phone is just like any other normal phone with a handset and button. But the difference is that an IP Phone would have an Ethernet connector which has an RJ-45 against the RJ-11 standard connectors in phones. It connects directly to the router has all the necessary hardware and software to handle an IP enabled call. This allows the callers to make calls through VoIP from any spot that has Wi-Fi connection.

Using a VoIP from one computer to another is the easiest way to use a VoIP. You would be able to find quite a lot of companies in the market offering software to support VoIP at a very economical price. All that is required to enable this is a pair of speakers, microphone, sound card and a good internet connection service which would be available with many phone providers like Centurylink phone service. Except for the monthly payment that you make for an internet connection, the calls that you make from one computer to the other is usually free. If you want to try VoIP, then check on some of the software that is available online. It is especially useful for long distance calling. The setting up of this software would take only a few minutes and you can do it without any professional help.

Article Source:
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Article Keywords:
Centurylink Phone Service, Phones, VoIP

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