



Article published on May 21st 2012 | [Mobile Phones](#)

We are living in the age of the internet and unsurprisingly Internet phone services are steadily gaining in popularity. The day may not be far off when Internet phone service will become the standard for business communication services and the traditional phone system will completely disappear.

The benefit of internet phone service is you can make calls with the help of a broadband internet connection. There are a number of providers for this service and the competition is indeed fierce. Each provider will be offering different plans and at different rates. Thus the scenario is quite confusing and an average business owner is at a loss which provider to tie up with.

Business communication is crucial and you cannot afford to run risks and therefore it is of utmost importance that you tie up with a reputed and reliable service provider that has an excellent track record. You should thereafter take into consideration the rates and the nature of package deals. It is necessary to compare what they offer and read the fine print.

One of the ways to ascertain the reliability of the service provider is to read the online reviews about them. You may even seek the opinion of the service provider's existing customers. While finding the perfect provider may not always be easy, you can at least select a provider that will deliver quality service consistently. You should find out the level of customer support and tech services the provider extends in emergency situations.

The features offered by the internet phone providers can play a key role when choosing the appropriate service provider. Most of the providers offer phone based features such as voice mail, 3-way conferencing, caller ID, call waiting, call blocking, call transferring, speed dialing etc. The internet phone system is capable of several standard as well as optional features.

You can opt for the features you want and not needlessly buy features you may never use. The package costs may differ according to the features you choose and it is therefore wise not to overbuy the features. But, please know some providers may offer more standard features than others.

While choosing the internet phone provider, you can also find out the way the long distance calls will be treated by the provider - more so, if your business requires you make heavy long distance or overseas calls.

Make sure to calculate how much plans for each service provider will cost for a full year because the lowest start up costs often leads to higher yearly running/recurring costs. Also, check to see if you have to purchase any special equipment or can use the equipment you already have.

Many service provider offer a free 30-day trial period. A free trial period allows you to see how easy the system is to use, how well your connections really are, and how fast technical support is forthcoming. Therefore, it is advisable you seize the free service offer.

If you need portable Internet access for a mobile device such as a phone, tablet or laptop, you will need an ISP that offers a service such as 3G, 4G, Wi-Fi or Wi-Max. This need not be your primary method of connecting to the Internet. So, you should also have a Dial-up, DSL, Cable, or Satellite connection.

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Article Keywords:

VoIP Phone Service, Voice mail Service, Call forwarding, Toll Free Numbers, Internet Phone, pbx system

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