



## ARE YOU PAYING HIGH PHONE BILLS ?

You Probably don't know how to use your Phone with an ADSL internet service



### What is VoIP Digital Phone System?

Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) technology has been helping people make big savings on their phone bills. Yet many users are still unsure on how exactly it works and how to use existing phone with ADSL internet services to reduce their call charges.

These Phones allow a broadband Internet connection to be used to send and receive phone calls over the Internet rather than copper wire networks. Therefore service providers can offer rates way below those of traditional phones. In some cases calls can even be free.

To achieve this feat, VoIP Digital Phone technology converts sound waves or voice into data packets and then streams them over the Internet like emails or web pages.

### Digital Phone strengths

By far the biggest attraction for Digital telephone services are the big cost savings, especially if you make a lot of interstate or international calls.

Digital Phone services also offer the prospect of free calls, with many service providers offering them between people using the same service. So for example, if you and a relative in the UK are both with the same Digital Phone service provider, you can talk for as long as you like for no cost at all. The providers can offer this because the calls only use the Internet for their entire journey.

The cost of calls to regular phones is also much cheaper, with digital service providers offering unlimited calls anywhere in Australia for as little as 10 cents. International rates vary, but most countries can be called for less than 3 cents per minute. Calls to mobile phones are also cheaper than using a normal phone service. In these types of calls,

the data stream travels over the Internet until it gets as close as possible to the called party. There it is handed over to the traditional phone network to complete its journey.

Some digital phone service providers have their back end carrier networks connected through a combination of PSTN (conventional) and VPN (Virtual Private Networks) which are extremely fast and provide good quality services.

If you're willing to ditch your landline phone altogether, and don't need the line for an ADSL service (that is, if you're using cable or wireless broadband), you can also save by no longer having to pay for a fixed line rental.

Many Digital Phone services also offer a range of free extra services such as voicemail and caller ID to call forwarding and conference calls as part of their package.

As long as you have access to a broadband connection, you can effectively take your phone number with you wherever you go. So, if you're in a hotel in the US, calls to your Australian Digital Phone number will come straight to you. You will also be able to make outgoing calls for the same rate as you can at home.

Most of the traditional service providers, calling card operators route their calls over the internet too. Therefore even if you make calls from your traditional phone, it may travel over the internet. In the industry traditional service providers also have bilateral agreements with VoIP carriers and use their networks for cheaper calls.

### What you'll need?

You will need a broadband connection not slower than a 512 kbps download/128kbps upload link. Anything below this can have an adverse effect on call quality. Current ADSL and cable internet services have achieved this feat.

There are a number of ways to set yourself up with a Digital Phone service. The most convenient is to use a Digital Phone Box (DPB) with your existing cordless phones. This can be done such that you can receive and make calls through your digital service provider or your traditional service provider.

Within the hardware category there are a range of choices, depending on the type of equipment you already have and the way in which you want to make and receive calls. There are DPBs, dedicated digital phone handsets, and broadband modems that have VoIP capabilities built in.

DPBs allow you to use an existing phone handset to make Digital Phone calls. They are small boxes that connect to your broadband modem/router with another socket into which an existing handset is plugged. They work with both wired and cordless phones and are an easy way to incorporate Digital Phone calling into a household at minimal cost. One example is the Linksys 3102 DPB unit from the Digital Phone provider VocalTone. Housed in a curvy green box, the unit comes with a power supply and Ethernet cable for easy broadband connection.

Dedicated Digital Phone handsets, on the other hand,

look like a regular desk phone, but plug directly into a broadband router rather than the traditional phone socket on the wall. It does the data conversion of voice and sends it out over the broadband connection. An example of such a phone is the Cisco 7960 or AAstra desk phone which has handy features such as speakerphone, speed dialing and an inbuilt phone directory.

If you're in the market for a new broadband modem/router, another option is to select one that incorporates Digital Phone capabilities. This allows you to plug an existing phone handset directly into the unit, and removes the need for an extra box and associated cables.

### Selecting a service provider

Unlike most of the traditional POT (Plain Old Telephone) service providers, Digital Phone Service providers can offer more choices for subscribers to select the provider. Most of the subscribers go by the call charges. This may not be the best way to select a provider. Some providers have extremely good network connections for many countries whereas others may not. Therefore researching the quality for your destinations is a wise move.

## Call Overseas For Free From Your Home Phone

### List Of Features (No Extra Cost)

- Voicemail (message bank)
- Automatic redialing
- Caller ID
- Date/Time Display
- Find me/Follow me services
- Calling back the last caller
- Do not disturb service
- Blocking the last caller
- Call forwarding
- Alternative Call Park
- Call On Hold
- Speed dialing
- Call Waiting

Plans	Plan 9.99	Plan 14.99	Plan 19.99
Monthly service charge	9.99 \$	14.99 \$	19.99 \$
Calls to:			
- fixed phones in Australia	10¢ (Unlimited anytime)	Unlimited local and national calls	
- Australian Mobiles	20.5¢ (Per minute)	22¢ (Per minute)	
- VocalTone users	FREE	FREE	FREE
- 13/1300	30¢ untimed unlimited anytime		
- 1800	FREE		
- 000	FREE		
- 1223	60¢ per call		
- 1225	1.7¢ per call		
International Calls	From 2¢/min	From 2¢/min	Free to 8 countries & 20¢ untimed anytime to 14 countries

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