

VOIP (Voice over internet protocol) Phones

A discussion is on-going on Facebook this morning between myself and a friend and her friends.

It's about something which I have a little bit of experience with. I've used VOIP phones for nearly six years now. Basically since the beginning of the technology. I've spent most of my time with Vonage. But, have experience with MagicJack and NetTalk Duo.

Currently, I am using the NetTalk Duo at home. I let Vonage go when I discovered NetTalk while looking for a way to keep costs down at home. (Oh yes, this economy has hit us PC gurus, too) Vonage, in my opinion, while a great service have priced themselves right out of the ball game for a technological guru like me. I like to experiment with new technology but I also like to spend my money on things I want not on things I need. ha!

Vonage is far superior in services rendered. It's just that the other two are much cheaper. NetTalk is a young company that will no doubt expand their services as they grow. So, my money is banking on NetTalk. I'll take my money and run, thank you!

The following is a copy & paste from the conversation and include highlights, and comparisons between MagicJack & NetTalk Duo:

"...the magic jack does NOT support 911!! And they are now charging yearly fees of around 40 dollars per year. We have something called NetTalk Duo. It has an initial cost of \$70. You get a phone number, voice mail, and all that plus it supports 911. With kids, I'd think you'd want that. They have also now instituted a yearly fee of \$29. Free calls w/in US & Canada." (In this household there is one child, and two middle-aged parents both with heart health issues. We MUST have 911 here).

When using VOIP devices, "...most the time when calls are messed up it's over issues that can be corrected-- the device itself needs reset, or devices (wireless, etc) are physically too close to one another and need to be spaced out better. MagicJack requires a PC to work, period. NetTalk requires a router (which you probably have). I do suggest that you have at minimum DSL, and cable internet works best with these devices. Having said that, it's worth it. We have NO monthly phone bill. We also cancelled our cable TV, we bought a Roku box and get TV via that. We have opted for Netflix, \$7 a mo. option. Our savings justifies keeping cable internet turned on."

"...DSL & cable internet are always on. In general the router is always turned on. It's the PC that would be turned on/off. So, if you go with MagicJack then you'd have to leave your PC on 100% of the time to have a phone always available. There are other devices out there besides these two. These two are just the ones I am familiar with. We know someone who swears by another brand all together. I didn't choose it because (at the time the decision was made) it also didn't support 911. NetTalk & the other device are available via Internet & Walmart."

My 2 cents worth. ~Peggy, Goddess of Geek, or GOG for short! :) <http://www.nettalk.com>