

STORIES



Where to find the best phone deals

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Reg Robertson runs independent website PhoneChoice and says many people are too lazy to shop around.

"We find that about 40 percent of people simply renew their phone contract with their service provider because they can't be bothered and don't realise the amount of money they're really throwing away," he says.

For those who don't spend their life on the phone, Reg says the best three providers offering \$25 dollar plans are Think Mobile, Virgin and Simplus.

The average mobile user spends between \$50-100 per month. In that price bracket, GOtalk, B Digital and Vodafone are the most competitive and reliable.

For capped mobile plans, he recommends B Digital, Dodo, and 3. On average the cap was around \$49 dollars, providing up to 200 minutes of free calls.

When it comes to home phones, VOIP, which stands for voice over Internet protocol, could save you \$50-\$60 on your monthly bill.

Dan Warne from *Australian Personal Computer* magazine says three million Australians with broadband connections could be saving up to 70 percent off their phone bills by making the switch.

"I think people are mad not to be looking into getting VOIP at home. It's a huge cost saver," he says.

To get connected, you need a good Internet connection and a special set of headphones with a microphone. And you still have to pay for monthly line rental. But Dan says the call costs will make all the difference.

"Your call costs are what really drop through the floor because your calls are being connected over the Internet, not through long-distance lines," he says.

For home use, Phone Choice recommends Freshtel, Engin or GOtalk. For businesses, Broadband Phone and Speak.

web links

www.phonechoice.com.au