

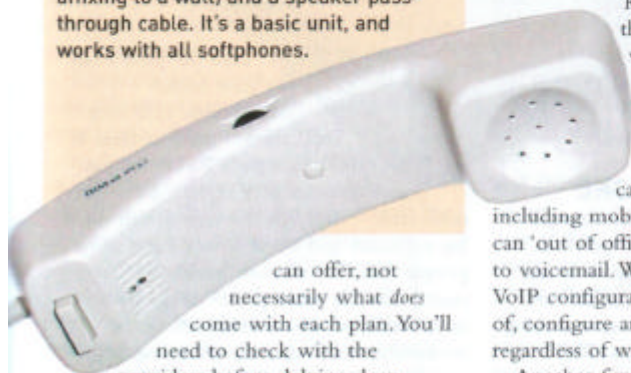
LET'S CHAT IP PHONE

Type: Handset

Supplier: OzVoIP (02) 9016 3844

Price: \$41

A simple handset that plugs directly into your speaker and microphone 3.5mm ports, the Let's Chat phone features a volume control on the side, handset cradle with adhesive sticking pad (for affixing to a wall) and a speaker pass-through cable. It's a basic unit, and works with all softphones.



can offer, not necessarily what *does* come with each plan. You'll need to check with the providers before delving deep.

The Telstra Messages 101 service has been getting a lot of advertising time, so much so that it's hard to turn on the TV and not see Bert schilling the product. But Messages 101 is just voicemail, and now that VoIP's here, voicemail's now ho-hum.

VoIP can take everything that we like about phone services and explode it to the nth degree.

Voicemail now becomes a service that

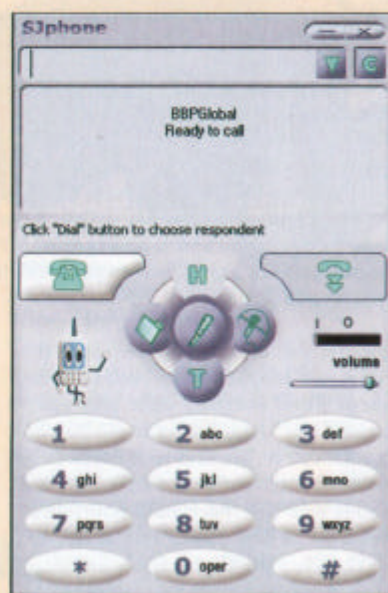
records your messages, and can either store them on the internet for you to access anywhere (via the web, POTS phone or VoIP phone) or can email these as low-bitrate WAV files to any email addresses you care to setup. Combine this with the 2GB of storage offered with web-based email services such as Google's free Gmail and you've got an access-anywhere voicemail (and one that lets you keep, delete and forward the voicemails as you see fit.)

Keeping with the email theme, you can also create white- and blacklists for phone numbers much as you can block or always allow emails in your email client. You can effectively divert calls to other numbers including mobiles and landlines, and you can 'out of office' the line so it always goes to voicemail. With the web-based nature of VoIP configurations it's easy to keep track of, configure and update these settings regardless of where you are.

Another function with ATA integrated handsets is that you can travel globally with the device, plug it into a network and still receive and make phone calls with your standard Aussie phone number.

With softphone services all you need is your user login and a headset to do the same. Many internet cafes globally already have the headsets anyway for LAN gaming.

Anyone who has ever tried to port a home phone number from one address



BBP GLOBAL

Type: Softphone service

Web: www.broadbandphone.com.au

This service uses the SJphone which has no bells and whistles – just a telephone keypad. Delay is again an issue but the voice quality was quite good. Call rates are cheap, but there is no direct in dial (DID) number, you need to call an access number and input the extension to place an ingoing call.

Company Name	Simtex	VelSe	People Telecom	TalkScope
URL	www.simtex.com.au	nella.net.au	www.peopletelcom.com.au	www.talkscope.com.au
Metro coverage	Nationwide	Melbourne	Nationwide	Nationwide
Plan A	Casual Users	SmartVoice Line Basic	people iPhone	Lite
Installation/hardware costs	None	From \$22	Part of ADSL connection costs	\$25/-\$30 for DID number
Prerequisites	Broadband	ADSL	People Telecom broadband	Broadband
Local call costs	16c	29c	15c	16.8c
Intercapital city	13c per minute	20c per 30 minutes, then 4c per minute	12c per minute	9.9c per minute
National call costs	13c per minute	20c per 30 minutes, then 4c per minute	12c per minute	9.9c per minute
International call costs	From 5c per minute	From 4c per minute	From 9c per minute	From 4.9c per minute
Call to mobiles	37c per minute	30c per minute	30c per minute	29.9c per minute
Flag fall	None	None	None	None
Monthly fee	None	\$4.95	\$5.50	\$9.95
Direct In Dial number	Optional - \$1.95 per month	Yes	Not specified	Optional - \$7 per month
Call waiting	No	Yes, depending on the equipment option	No	Not specified
Caller ID	Yes	Yes	No	Not specified
Voicemail	Yes	Yes, depending on the equipment option	No	Not specified
1300 & 000 number support	Yes (000 unavailable)	Yes	No	No
Contract options	No contract	No contract	12 months	No contract
Plan B (if available)	Loyalty Plan 15	SmartVoice Line Advanced	N/A	Home
Installation/hardware costs	None	From \$22	N/A	\$25/-\$30 for DID number
Prerequisites	Broadband	Broadband	N/A	Broadband
Local call costs	13.6c (200 free)	10c	N/A	16.8c
Intercapital city	11.05c per minute	10c for 30 minutes, then 4c per minute	N/A	9.9c per minute
National call costs	11.05c per minute	10c for 30 minutes, then 4c per minute	N/A	9.9c per minute
International call costs	From 4.5c per minute	From 4c per minute	N/A	From 4.9c per minute
Call to mobiles	31.49c per minute	29c per minute	N/A	29.9c per minute
Flag fall	None	None	N/A	None
Monthly fee	\$25.95	\$14.95	N/A	\$29.95
Direct In Dial number	Yes	Yes	N/A	Optional - \$7 per month
Call waiting	No	Yes, depending on the equipment option	N/A	Not specified
Caller ID	Yes	Yes	N/A	Not specified
Voicemail	Yes	Yes, depending on the equipment option	N/A	Not specified
1300 & 000 number support	Yes (000 unavailable)	Yes	N/A	Not specified
Contract options	No contract	No contract	N/A	No contract

NOTE: All call costs are flat rate, unless specified.