

What are the Two Types of Home Phone Lines?

Why it is important to have a home phone. First of all, it is very important to have a home phone (also known as a landline) to call 911 in an emergency. Home phones are usually kept in the same place in a home, so likely you can find it when you need it. You can use a cell phone to call 911, but it is not as seamless since the operator does not know exactly where you are, and cell phones are small and easily misplaced. If you call 911 from a home phone, even if you do not talk, help will be sent to your address registered to the phone. To test this, call 933#.

What is the difference between a landline (also known as a POTS (Plain Old Telephone System) line and a VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) line? Landline phones and VoIP phones look and function the same; it is how they are powered that is different. A landline is connected directly to and is powered directly by AT&T. A VoIP phone is connected to a box (usually a modem) in your home that is plugged into a wall power outlet. If your power is cut in an emergency, your VoIP phone stops working unless you have a UPS (Uninterruptable Power System) in your home which is a battery backup.

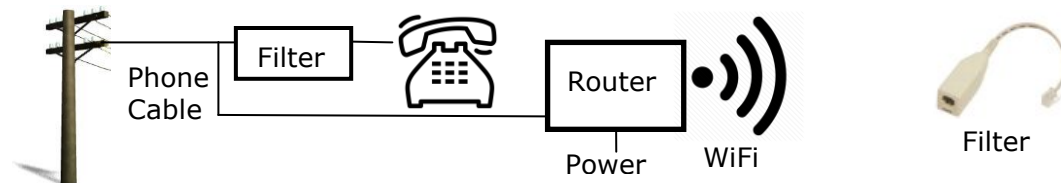
What are the advantages of a landline? A landline should work even if PG&E power is lost, for about 24 hours. So, using a phone that requires power (like all cordless phones) defeats the advantage of having a landline. An example of a good phone for use with a landline is a Trimline phone available for \$10-\$20.



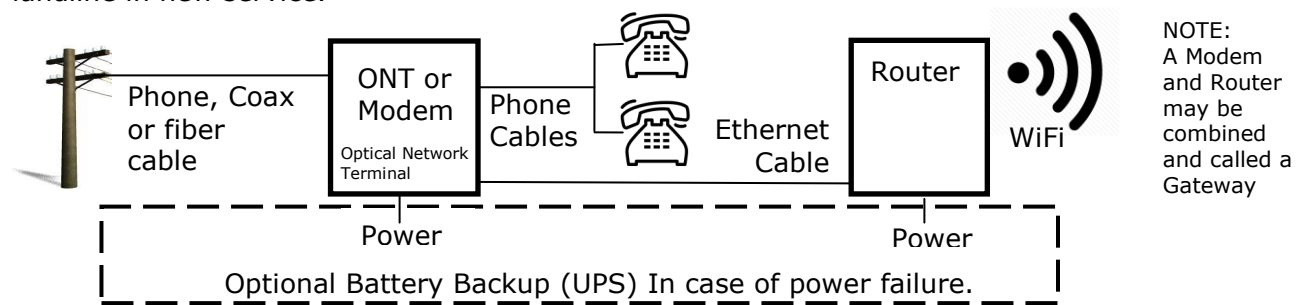
A Trimline Phone

What are the advantages of VoIP phone line? It is less expensive, it comes over the same lines as internet, you can move it to a different location, it has more calling features, and it is likely that landlines will disappear in the future, so you will not have a choice.

How do you know if you have a landline? All home phones used landlines before AT&T was broken up in 1984. If you have a landline, internet is provided as a DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) system. DSL is available from AT&T and Sonic (also LMI). Sonic calls their DSL service Fusion and uses the AT&T lines. For those who still have it, they have raised the price to about \$50/month to discourage you from keeping a landline. This is because maintaining the old service has become increasingly expensive and they want users to change to VoIP service.



How do you know if you have a VoIP phone line? You have a VoIP phone line if you have AT&T U-verse, Fiber (Sonic or LMI) or Comcast. AT&T discourages or may not install a true landline in new service.



Do you have difficulty using a phone? Go to <http://www.californiaphones.org/service-center-berkeley> and fill out an application here: <http://www.californiaphones.org/application> and have it signed by your current doctor, audiologist, or other specialist.

Features of Free Google Voice



Place and Receive Calls on Regular Phones

Once Google Voice is configured on the OBi (web access from browser required for initial set-up), you can start calling from your regular 'house' phone.



Free Calling

Free Calls to US and Canada – Calling the U.S. is free from the U.S. & Canada and 1¢ per minute from everywhere else.

Rate per minute
3¢
1¢
5¢
☆ free from the U.S. & Canada 1.2¢ from everywhere else

Call Internationally at an Incredible Low Rate

Call Internationally at Amazingly Low Rates to Over 150 Destinations - International calling rates are out of this world with per minute rates starting at 1¢ to China, Mexico, Brazil and 150 other destinations – with no connection charge.



One number for all of your phones

Now you never have to miss another important phone call. When someone calls your number, it will ring all of your other phones connected to OBi devices and even Hangouts on your mobile phone and computer!



Define which phones ring

You can define which phone will ring based on who's calling. Google Voice use smart technology to route your calls. So, if you're already on a Google Voice call, Google Voice will recognize it and use call waiting to reach you on the phone you're on.



Block Unwanted Calls

Send calls and text identified as spam to spam folder with Google Voice Global Spam Filtering



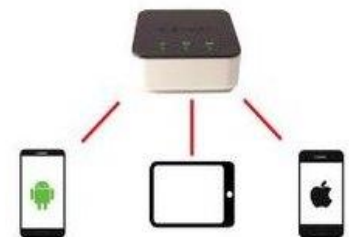
Custom voicemail greetings

You also have the freedom to set up custom voicemail greetings based on who is calling you e.g. your friends, family, and colleagues.



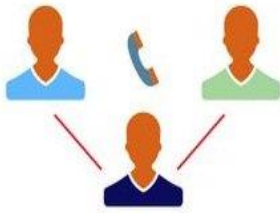
Voicemail that acts like email

You can have your voice messages transcribed and sent directly to your inbox or sent to your phone as a text message.



Flexible Bridging

Receive calls to your Google Voice number then use the OBi device to bridge to your iPhone, iPad, iPod touch and Android devices using Wi-Fi, 3G or 4G (without using your cell minutes).



3-way Calling

Lets you talk to two person at the same time even if it's international calls.



Call Screening

Call screening lets you know who's calling your Google number before you accept the call. It also allows you options on how to handle your calls so that you can choose to accept it, send the caller to voicemail and ListenIn™, or record the call.



Call waiting

Answer an incoming call when you are already engaged in an active call.



Call Recording

Once Call Recording feature is activated under Google Voice settings, you will be able to record your current calls by pressing #4.

Amazingly Simple

You only need:

1. OBi Device
2. Google Voice Account
3. Telephone

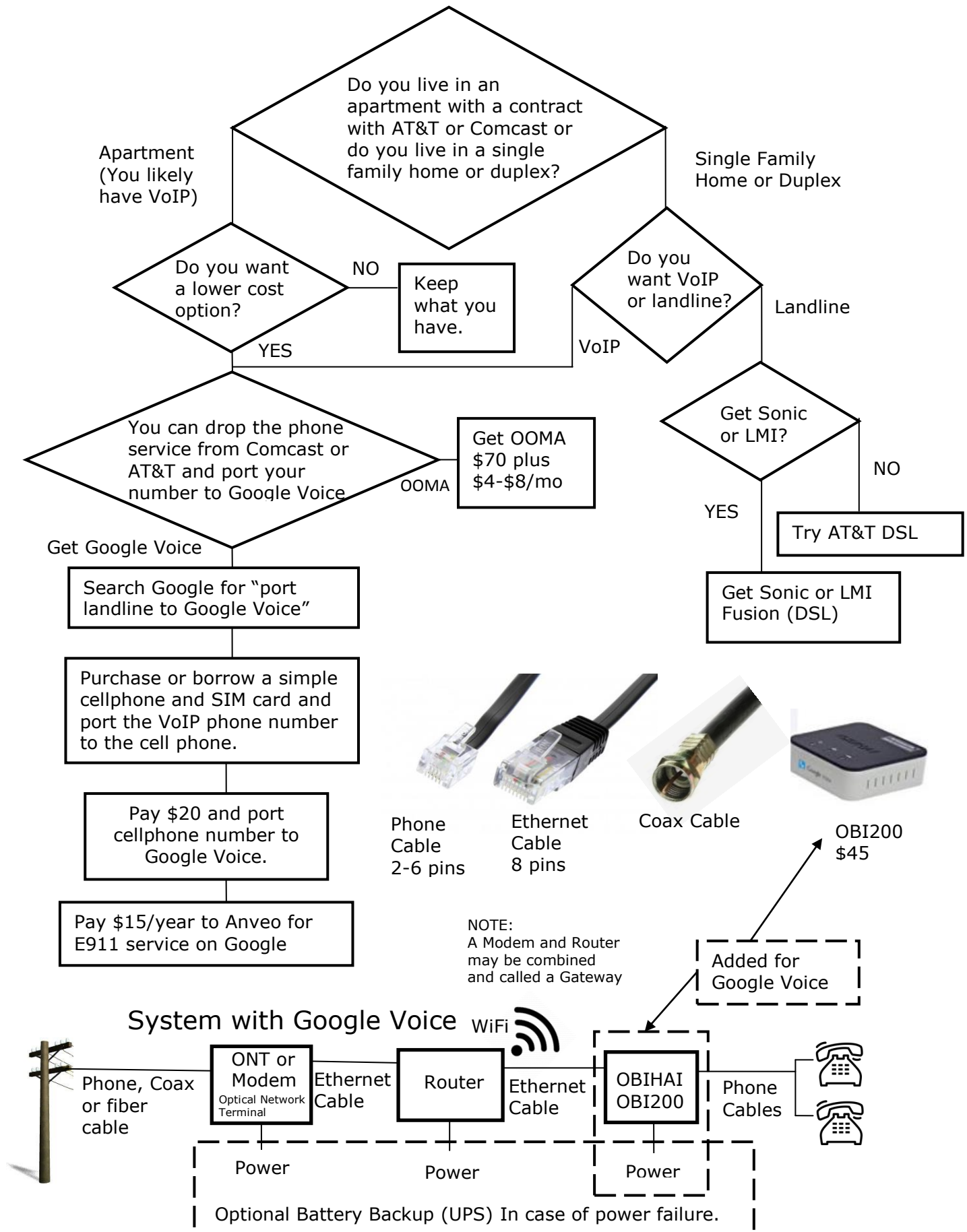


How it works

Setup:

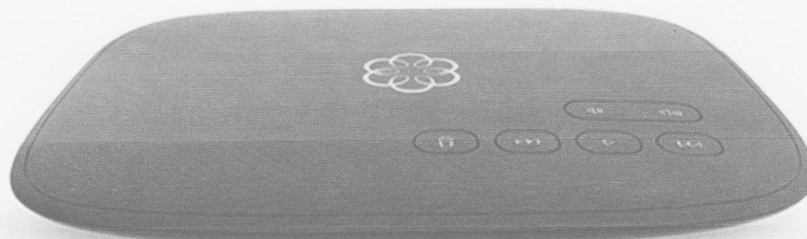
1. Sign-in to your Gmail account
2. Get a Google Voice number
3. Get an OBiTALK account
4. Add your OBi device to OBiTALK
5. Start calling

Decision Flow Chart to Choose Between Landline and VoIP



Your Shopping Cart

Ooma.com



Ooma
Telo®

\$99.99

Walmart.com

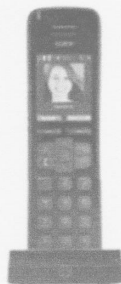
76.25

(free shipping)

Best Buy
79.99

Plus \$4.81 per month.

Recommended Accessories



HD3 Handset - Black

\$49.99

Enjoy high-quality HD Voice on Ooma's one-of-a-kind handset.

ADD

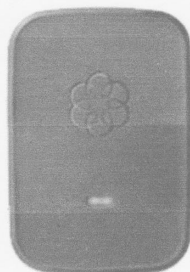


Ooma Desk Phone 1

\$89.99

Power up your home office with the Ooma DP1 Wireless Desk Phone.

ADD



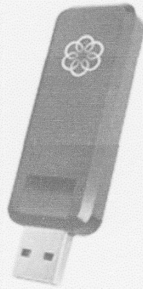
Ooma Linx

\$49.99

Extend the power of Ooma to a second line or fax machine.

ADD

Over, please



Wireless + Bluetooth Adapter

Add Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity to your Ooma Telo with a single adapter.

ADD-- \$84.97

What is Voice over IP? (from 3cx.com- a supplier of telecom systems)

Voice over IP is short for Voice over Internet Protocol, and is better known as VoIP.

Voice over IP refers to the transmission of voice traffic over internet-based networks instead of the traditional PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network) telephone networks. The Internet Protocol (IP) was originally designed for data networking and following its success, the protocol has been adapted to voice networking by packetizing the information and transmitting it as IP data packets. VoIP is now available on many smartphones, personal computers and on internet access devices such as tablets.

VoIP can facilitate tasks and deliver services that might be cumbersome or costly to implement when using traditional PSTN:

- More than one phone call can be transmitted on the same broadband phone line. This way, voice over IP can facilitate the addition of telephone lines to businesses without the need for additional physical lines.
- Features that are usually charged extra by telecommunication companies, such as call forwarding, caller ID or automatic redialing, are simple with voice over IP technology.
- Unified Communications are secured with voice over IP technology, as it allows integration with other services available on the internet such as video conversation, messaging, etc.

These and many other advantages of VoIP are making businesses adopt VoIP Phone Systems at a staggering pace.

For the more curious, here is the link to an excellent 10 page article on the basics of VoIP technology written for non-engineers:

<https://computer.howstuffworks.com/ip-telephony.htm> (by Robert Valdes and Dave Roos for howstuffworks.com)