CompareBusinessProducts



Business VoIP Comparison Guide—The Best of the Best

What you need to know before you buy your new business phone system

By: Alex Riccomini

If you're in the business for Business VoIP, then it's important you find the right provider for your unique needs. We've laid out the top five VoIP Phone System providers for your small-to-medium-sized business to facilitate your search. Take your pick according to what *you* need!

And, the winners are...

- 1. Most Reliable—Allworx Corporation
- 2. Most Adaptable—NEC Sphere
- 3. Easiest to Use—TalkSwitch
- 4. Most Established—Nortel
- 5. Best in Show—Avaya



1. Alloworx Corporation—Most Reliable



Basic Info:

Established in 1998, Allworx has a long-running standard of reliability, and the awards to back it up—here are just a few: *Internet Telephony* magazine's 2005, *The CRN Emerging Vendors Award*, 2007 Communications Solutions Product of The Year, 2008 *VON* Innovator Award, and 2009 Best-of-Show award at the Internet Telephony Conference & EXPO East.

Website: http://www.allworx.com/
Email: contact@allworx.com

Phone: 585.421.3850 Fax: 585.421.3853

System Information:

Product Name: Allworx 6x

Best for a Business Size of: Up to 60 users (though, available for up to 100)

Protocols Supported: IMAP4, POP3, SMTP, and VPIM

Installation: Requires Professional Installation

Service Support: National

Support Supplier: Direct and local dealers Average Price per User: \$100 - \$297

2. NEC Sphere—Most Adaptable



<u>Basic Info:</u> One of the early business phone system providers, NEC Sphere was established in 1994—a time frame which has allowed them to perfect the adaptability of their business VoIP consoles, and touts 99.999% reliability. If you have a slightly larger business, or one you see expanding rapidly, NEC Sphere would be a great solution for you, as it is most capable of adapting to your changing needs.

Website: http://www.necsphere.com

Email: <u>info@necsphere.com</u> Phone: (888) 774-3732 Fax: (847) 793-9690

System Information:

Product Name: Sphericall IP PBX

Best for a Business Size of: Flexible—Up to 30,000 users

Protocols Supported: IMAP4, POP3, SMTP, VPIM, and numerous others

Installation: Professional installation is recommended, but if the system needs to be

moved, changed, or added to, it may be done easily in the office.

Service Support: International Support Supplier: Local Dealer Average Price per User: N/A, Varies

3. TalkSwitch—Easiest to Use



<u>Basic Info:</u> Around since 1990, Talkswitch has a reputation for clarity and efficiency. Its first business phone system, Concero Switchboard, was developed in 1998, with iterations, and entirely new systems stemming off of this first development, Talkswitch is

the right choice for truly small businesses—no IT departments necessary for tech support, here.

Website: http://www.talkswitch.com Email: general@talkswitch.com

Phone: 1-888-332-9322 Fax: 613-725-2898

System Information:

Product Name: 848vs

Best for a Business Size of: Up to 16 users (combined analog & VoIP)

Protocols Supported:

Installation: Requires Professional Installation

Service Support: National

Support Supplier: Direct and local dealers Average Price per User: \$100 - \$300

4. Most Established—Nortel



<u>Basic Info:</u> As a global leader in technical communications, business VoIP phone systems are just one sector of this corporate giant. They offer a wide range of products, and if you are looking for supplementary communications devices, Nortel would be a smart choice, as purchasing within one brand eliminates any compliance issues you may otherwise have.

Website: http://www.nortel.com

Email: N/A

Phone: 1-800-4NORTEL (1-800-466-7835)

Fax: N/A

System Information:

Product Name: Nortel: Software Communication System 500

Best for a Business Size of: 30 to 500 users

Protocols Supported: IMAP4, POP3, SMTP, and numerous others

Installation: Requires professional installation

Service Support: International Support Supplier: Local Dealer Average Price per User: N/A, varies

5. Best in Show—Avaya



<u>Basic Info:</u> The flexibility, reliability, and accountability that Avaya brings to VoIP, makes it the Best in Show—an all-around workhorse, with consistent delivery, Avaya has established themselves at the top of the heap. You cannot go wrong with Avaya.

Website: http://www.avaya.com

Email: N/A

Phone: 1866 GO-AVAYA

Fax: N/A

System Information:

Product Name: IP Office

Best for a Business Size of: Generally 32 to 270 users (but, Avaya does offer models

that support up to hundreds of thousands of users.)

Protocols Supported: IMAP4, POP3, SMTP, and VPIM

Installation: Requires professional installation

Service Support: National

Support Supplier: Direct and Local Dealer Average Price per User: \$100 - \$298

What's the gist?

These are the top performers in the business VoIP industry, and each has its own strengths—now, it's up to you to figure out which one suits your needs best. For more information contact us for a FREE, *no obligation* quote, so we can set you up with the right vendor for you.