



Web Worker Daily

Phonebooth: A Free Phone System for Web Workers

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Finding a good, professional phone system can be tough for web workers — landlines are rarely a practical option, and most of us don't want our clients or colleagues hearing the same phone message that we use for friends and family on our cell phones. [Phonebooth](#) is looking to fill in that gap with a free phone system designed for freelancers, small businesses and independent professionals.



The free version of Phonebooth offers up a good variety of features: you get a local phone number for your business, an automated attendant to direct calls, voicemail-to-email transcriptions and other functionality that generally makes phone calls easier to manage. The free version does only offer 200 minutes a month, but if you're primarily web-based, you may not need much more than that. Phonebooth does offer a premium version for \$20 per month per user — that version offers unlimited local and long distance calling. Either choice will work for a small team: you can create extensions for different people on your team, and make yourself more efficient by routing phone calls into different departments.

YOURLOGOHERE

Contact **+** Us Plus

Click to call...

800-234-5678

Press (or click to call)...

| | | | | |
|------------------|--|--|--|--|
| 1 Chendra | | | | |
| 2 Joe | | | | |
| 3 Bob | | | | |
| 4 Brette | | | | |

You can also easily integrate Phonebooth with an existing web site. The “Contact Us Plus” system offered in both versions of Phonebooth allows you to add a button to your web site that directs anyone trying to contact you to the best number. That can include displaying extensions for different members of your team, or showing extensions just for sales or other departments, which allows any callers to skip phone trees.

Managing phone calls as you travel is easy with Phonebooth as well. You do get a local number for your business, but you can forward your phone calls by selecting options online. You can control call routing so that you don’t miss any calls, as well as route phone calls to team mates as needed. You can also use your computer to accept calls with the premium version of Phonebooth — it’s just a matter of plugging an IP phone into your laptop. It also allows for simplified conference calls with temporary numbers, as well as providing separate passcodes for both moderators and participants.

Technically, the free version of Phonebooth is still in beta. You can sign up to be notified when more people are able to sign up. However, invites do seem to be rolling out fairly quickly. The free version does seem reliable; however, if phone communication is crucial to your work, it may be worth upgrading, just for the improved reliability offered in the premium version, as it is hosted through redundant geographically-dispersed data centers.

Which virtual phone system do you use, and why?