

ReadWriteWeb

Phonebooth Launches Free Google Voice Alternative for Startups and Small Businesses

Frederick Lardinois

March 9 2010



Phonebooth.com, a VOIP service for individuals and small businesses, just launched a free version of its service. Phonebooth, just like [Google Voice](#) and [Ribbit Mobile](#), provides its users with a free local phone number that can be [forwarded](#) to any cell phone and landline. Phonebooth also offers voicemail transcriptions. What makes it stand out from its competitors, however, is that it offers an [auto attendant](#) feature that allows you to route callers to different employees.

It's worth noting that [Bandwidth.com](#), the company behind Phonebooth, has been providing [infrastructure services](#) to other VOIP services, including Voxeo and Yext, for more than three years. The company's VOIP network delivered almost 4 billion minutes in 2009. Bandwidth began a beta test of the paid version of Phonebooth.com last year and now has over 1,000 customers.

A Free VOIP Service that Will Grow With You

Starting today, Phonebooth will offer a free service geared towards individuals. The company also announced the general availability of its \$20/month/user option, which offers a fully featured phone system in the cloud. One of the advantages of using Phonebooth over similar services like Google Voice or [Grasshopper](#) is that the company allows users to upgrade their phone system over time. Once your company outgrows Phonebooth's basic plan, you can easily switch to a higher-end phone system (Phonebooth on Demand) with hardware IP-based phones.



Features in Phonebooth's free version:

- Free local phone number for your business
- Includes an auto attendant (Press 1 for Sales, Press 2 for Support...etc.)
- Unlimited extensions for your employees or partners
- Read your voicemail, with VM-to-email & text transcription
- 200 free minutes of inbound calling (6¢ additional)
- Includes new Contact Us Plus feature

Phonebooth's users will be able to choose local numbers from virtually everywhere in the U.S. (the service is U.S.). Sadly, though, there is no way to make your Phonebooth number appear on the caller ID for outgoing calls from your landline or cell phone.

Phonebooth doesn't currently offer any mobile apps, though the company told us earlier today that mobile apps are definitely on Phonebooth's roadmap.

Contact Plus Widget

In addition to the free VOIP service, Phonebooth is also launching a new widget for small businesses - Contact Us Plus - that allows potential customers to use Phonebooth's VOIP service to initiate a call right from the website. In addition to initiating phone calls, the Phonebooth widget can also feature additional contact info (Twitter account, email etc.), as well as your address and a map. Phonebooth's users can also opt to show phone numbers for different departments in their company in the widget.

Phonebooth Free

(logout) | home | help | e-mail us

Users Groups Auto Attendants Voicemail

« Auto Attendants / Contact Us Plus

Contact Us Plus

1. Edit Your Company Contact Information

Edit your company's contact information below. If you need to make additional edits to individual users, please go to the Users section of Phonebooth. Once you are satisfied with the widget on the right, copy and paste the JavaScript in step 2 into your website.

Company Website: <http://bandwidth.com/help>
Company Email: support@bwstest.com
Company Twitter Name: [bandwidth](#)
Company Address: [4001 Weston Parkway](#)
[Cary, NC 27513](#)

2. Copy and Paste Into Your Site

Copy and paste into this your website.

```
<script type="text/javascript" src="http://localho
```

Click to call... **Contact Us Plus**

800-234-5678

Press (or click to call)...

- 1 John
- 2 Paul
- 3 George
- 4 Ringo

<http://www.company.com>
<http://twitter.com/company>
info@company.com
123 Main ST
Anytown, FL 32601
[Hide Map](#)

Map Sat Ter

Powered by Google
Map data ©2010 Google - [Terms of Use](#) | [Report a problem](#)

Posted in [Cloud Computing](#), [News](#), [Voice](#) and tagged with [google voice](#), [grasshopper](#), [phonebooth](#), [voice](#), [voip](#)