

Choosing your device

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The type of device you choose is dependant on your usage and your home network setup. Soft phones are a better choice when you have infrequent use and need portability, hardware phones are better if you want a replacement for a standard phone (you can always use both). Consider this when choosing a soft phone.

- » Generally speaking hardware phones will give better speech quality than software.
- » Free soft phones do not have full codec support ([see which codec](#)).
- » Soft phones will be powered off/standby with your computer so will not always be available for incoming calls.
- » Generally speaking soft phones will have more advanced user interface

When choosing a hardware phone more consideration needs to be given to how your broadband connection is setup.

- » If your broadband is supplied as a single ethernet port connection and this is used for your computer you will need an additional ethernet port for your phone/adaptor.
- » If your computer is in use at the same time as your phone you will need support for QOS (quality of service) on your router. This can be built into a telephone adapter.
- » If you have an existing phone line already you might like keep a single phone for your traditional calls and broadband calls, for this you need an adaptor with PSTN passthrough.
- » Consider how many phone lines you require, some hardware supports this feature.

To see some typical network configurations take a look at setting up your home network.