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# Ultimate **Mobility**

THE TECHNOLOGY GUIDE FOR PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

**SUMMER 2007**

# VoIP Phones

Snap up one of these handsets and slash your phone bill in half—if not more.

by Jamie Lendino



Even the most dedicated landline lubbers find it hard to ignore computer-based VoIP. One good reason: Any two people on the same service can talk for free, even if they're on opposite sides of the world.

PC VoIP clients like Skype and Yahoo offer many of the same features you'd expect from a regular phone, either for free or for pennies per call. This includes voicemail, call waiting, and caller ID—all things you have to pay an arm and a leg for with traditional landlines—not to mention low rates to regular land and cell numbers.

Still, not everyone likes making calls with their computers. Even those who enjoy PC VoIP usually like to have landlines around, if for no other reason than to keep their old phone numbers. Plus, a landline stays up even when the power goes out, something you can't say about VoIP-based solutions. The best handset choice for these consumers is a phone that supports both VoIP and landline calls—commonly called a dual-mode phone. Here are our top VoIP handset picks.

## Philips VoIP 8411B

VoIP phones don't come any slicker or more versatile than the Philips VoIP8411. The glossy black base station plugs right into your router's Ethernet port for Skype calls as well as into your landline for traditional phone calls. The matching handset itself is also stylish, and it includes a 65,000-color display that displays your Skype contacts and has an enhanced speakerphone.

Because the VoIP 8411B uses DECT (Digital Enhanced Cordless Telecommunications) 6.0 technology, it won't interfere with your Wi-Fi network. Our test SkypeOut calls sounded clear (if a little brittle), and we also liked that you can take your pick from several polyphonic ringtones. If you're on a Skype call when a landline call comes in, you can put the Skype call on hold and then pick up where you left off when you hang up. Add in 12 hours of talk time and you have a superb dual-mode VoIP phone.

\$149; [www.philips.com](http://www.philips.com)

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## Auvi PHIP65

The handset has a basic monochrome LCD with an orange backlight, and the included base station requires a PC connection, but we like the sleek Auvi PHIP65 because of its affordable

price and its ability to make regular landline and Skype calls. Auvi builds in DECT technology to improve sound quality while reducing interference. You also get different ringtones for Skype and landline calls as well as an integrated speakerphone. Auvi sells additional handsets for \$75.99 each, meaning that you can outfit your entire home or office with one setup. For clear Skype and landline calls of a reasonable price, the PHIP65 is a solid choice.

**\$129; [www.auviworld.com](http://www.auviworld.com)**

### PROS

Sleek design  
Excellent sound quality

### CONS

Base station must be plugged into PC



## Logitech Cordless Internet Handset

Have you abandoned the copper wire entirely but still want a comfortable Skype phone? The Logitech Cordless Internet Handset offers a built-in speakerphone, a lightweight design, and a separate dock and cradle. The device has a range of up to 164 feet, and like many other Skype handsets, it displays your contacts, Skype Voicemail notifications, and call history on the backlit color display. The Logitech Cordless Internet Handset is rated for up to 120 hours of standby time and 10 hours of talk time.

**\$99; [www.logitech.com](http://www.logitech.com)**

### PROS

Slim design  
Phone can dock separately from USB cradle

### CONS

No landline capability



## Linksys CIT400 iPhone Dual-Mode Internet Telephony Kit for Skype

Although it looks more mundane than the Philips VoIP 547B, the Linksys CIT400 is very similar otherwise, right down to the display-and-setup procedure. There's a Skype client built into the device; simply connect the base station to your current router with an Ethernet cable, plug in your landline, and log into Skype directly from the handset. On our test unit, we experienced some drop-outs that we don't usually hear when using Skype on the PC, but they were infrequent enough that we can still recommend this model for anyone who wants to get on the Skype bandwagon without being tethered to a computer.

**\$149; [www.linksys.com](http://www.linksys.com)**

### PROS

Doesn't require PC for Skype  
Good sound quality

### CONS

Intermittent drop-outs with Skype  
Not as sleek as Philips phone



## Netgear Dual-Mode Cordless Phone with Skype (SPH200D)



Like the Linksys CIT400, the Netgear Dual-Mode Cordless Phone with Skype doesn't require a computer. The Netgear model also uses the CIT400 with its glossy white design, mimicking the look of the Apple iPod and MacBook. The SPH200D supports

many of Skype's premium services, including SkypeIn, SkypeOut, and Skype Voicemail, not to mention the option to add up to three additional SPH200D handsets. Netgear packs in the usual router-shaped base station, and incorporates DECT technology for less interference during calls.

**\$189; [www.netgear.com](http://www.netgear.com)**

### PROS

Doesn't require computer  
Sleek styling

### CONS

More expensive than the Philips and Linksys models

# USB Memory Drives

Smart tools for safe and speedy storage.

by Joanna Stern

Shopping for a USB memory drive these days is a lot like looking for a pair of sneakers. You have to consider everything from style to size to support. Some USB drives emphasize security for data protection while others are touted as being a portable desktops in your pocket. The best drives should be tough, attractive, fast, and give you enough space to hold the applications and data you need. With these factors in mind, we narrowed down the field to five of our favorites.

## Corsair Flash Voyager GT (2GB)

The Corsair Flash Voyager's adventurous name accurately reflects its rugged design. The durable rubber casing isn't only water-resistant; it's also easily grippable to help you grab it out of your laptop's USB drive on the go. Windows Vista-compatible, this drive speeds up your notebook's performance with its ReadyBoost compliancy.

Using the included True Crypt security application, you can encrypt your data by creating any number of protected drives. The most impressive features are the Flash Voyager's read/write speeds. It boasts a write speed of up to 28MB per second; we dragged a 347MB file onto the drive in 21 seconds.

**\$25.99; www.corsair.com**



## Kingston DataTraveler Mini USB (1GB)

The saying "size doesn't matter" could have been written about the Kingston DataTraveler Mini. About the size of a piece of gum, this drive's sliding retractable capless design eliminates the possibility of losing the cover during transport.

It comes preloaded with the Migo synchronization program, which allows you to easily and safely sync your data and take it with you wherever you need to go. With its read speed of 5 Mbps and a 1.5-Mbps write speed, we had to wait about 90 seconds to transfer a 347MB video file to the little guy.

**\$15; www.kingston.com**



## Lexar JumpDrive Mercury (1GB)

You might initially be drawn to Lexar's unique exterior capacity meter that shows you how much memory is left on the drive (even when it's not connected to your PC), but the real reason to eye this device is for its internal organs. Lexar preloads PowerToGo software, which allows you to launch software directly from the device. With file encryption, vault-encryption creation, and a file shredder, it will feel like your files have been placed in a padlocked safe. It took 31 seconds to transfer our video file. You can't go wrong with the sleek-looking JumpDrive Mercury, and you surely won't be kept up at night worrying about the safety of your files.

**\$39.99; www.lexar.com**



## SanDisk Cruzer Titanium (2GB)

For the second year in a row, the choice was clear. None of the other options we considered matched SanDisk's mix of style, durability, preloaded software choices, and performance for the price. Looking and driving like a brand new car, the SanDisk Cruzer Titanium's sleek metal design with a retractable connector is something you won't be afraid to wear around your neck (a necklace is included). Preloaded with the U3 resident operating system, the Cruzer Titanium also comes with plenty of software, including Avast Antivirus U3 Edition, SingUpShield password manager, HP Photosmart, Skype, and others. A desktop icon is placed on the system that the drive is plugged into, letting you easily drop in or open files. It took the Cruzer a bit longer to read our 347MB video file (43 seconds), but overall the Cruzer Titanium is a slick but tough drive.

**\$39.99; www.sandisk.com**



## Verbatim Store 'n' Go PRO USB Drive (1GB)

With a great combination of speed and design, the Store 'n' Go PRO lives up to its name. Externally, you'll be attracted to the royal-blue design that sports a mirror on its edges and feels soft to the touch. Loaded with two safety applications, the drive makes sure your data stays locked at all times.

V-Safe Security allows you to easily encrypt a privacy zone on your USB key, while the V-Key software makes it simple to synchronize your latest files. What's most impressive to us is the write speed—we had to wait only 26 seconds for a 347MB video file to transfer to the smooth device. And you'll never have to click on the properties button to find out how much space is left on the drive, an automatic space-meter widget shows up on your screen.

**\$39.99 www.verbatim.com**

