

Google Voice?

I checked back in old emails but didn't see much on Google Voice really. Does anybody use it, either for primary or secondary calls?

If so, are there pitfalls?

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I use it to call clients when I'm not in the office so they don't have my actual cell number. Their voicemail is readable so I use it for voicemail

Lesley Hoenig, Michigan

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Same here

Amy Breyer, California

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Same. My office number forwards to it, too.

Jason Komninos, New Jersey

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Been using it exclusively for 15 years!

Incorporated Ooma with it which works amazingly well.

I don't know if the biz (Ooma) has improved but I just signed up for regular Ooma and it's worked great.

Expands some options to have "regular" phones at the office if you so desire and also has a dedicated app which serves as a second line that you can have other people answer if you're out.

Juan Renteria, Texas

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Love it.

Clayton T. Robertson, California

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Nice to see I'm in such great company!

Robert Thomas Hayes Link, California

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It's my office number so I didn't have to change my cellphone number to a "local" number. You can set it to DND outside of business hours. You get visual voice mails. Only thing I can't do is conference calls. But that comes up so really it doesn't matter to me.

Elizabeth Pugliese, Maryland

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I've used it since 2009. My Google Voice number is my work number; I can forward it to any other phone I want, usually my cell. The Google Voice app for iPhone has now gotten to the point where it's easy to both send and receive calls using that instead of the forwarding mechanism.

Kevin Grierson, Virginia

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The office number for my second office, in a different county with a different area code, is a Google Voice number (affiliated with this email address, actually.) Most of the time, I just have it forward to my primary office and my receptionist there picks up. But I have an ObiHai connected to a physical phone there, too, for when I or my

receptionist are in that office. (I have to figure out a way to reconfigure this, as I will no longer have access to the physical router in my new space.) I also like the voice to text conversion for late-night calls, which I get on email.

I also use a separate Google Voice number when I am traveling and working remotely. I call clients from my cell using the Google Voice app on my cell phone, without actually giving them my cell number. I also receive texts on it.

Cynthia V. Hall, Florida

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For those who are unfamiliar with Google Voice, it is a telephone equivalent service available with all Gmail accounts. One telephone number is free with a Gmail account. You apparently can choose the area code.

Also provided is voice mail - and you can record a greeting. One can obtain a phone number by opening your Gmail account page and then on a different tab entering, [www.voice.google.com](http://www.voice.google.com). I know you can open up drive, photos, docs from the 9 dot symbol in the upper left hand corner but 'voice' is no longer listed.

The service is wonderful as so far the phone number once obtained appears to last with no expiration date, yet. Each of your family members can obtain a separate number which can be used decades from now, assuming that Google does not change its policies. Voice mail and customizable greeting is included.

Voice can be configured to not show your actual phone number to the other party. I have used a google voice number forwarded to my Verizon account cell phone number for years with no problem. International calls are not free.

Google offers a free alternative to Zoom called Meet, [www.meet.google.com](http://www.meet.google.com) As many as 100 participants, but each call may be limited to 60 minutes. The calls can also have captioning. I am anxiously awaiting real time translation captioning.

Google translation of text is not perfect, but it works well enough to give a good sense of what a document is about, and the translation time is close to an eye blink.

Has anyone conversed with a person sitting across a table using google translation on an android or Apple phone? (This question ignores the Covid-19 restrictions)

Richard P. Schmitt, Maryland

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Not yet, but I routinely use google translate to learn phrases for my food bank volunteerism. An amazing tool!

Robert Thomas Hayes Link

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Although international calling is not free, it is dirt cheap. See <https://voice.google.com/rates>. For example, it costs me 1 cent per minute to call a landline in Australia; 2 cents for a cell.

Kevin Grierson

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I, too, use google voice, 1 number to which all of my old phone numbers are forwarded by numbergarage.com. The voicemail comes to me as an email, it's fairly serviceable, only as good as the caller speaks, but it's a good record to have. I use an ObiHai box and connect Panasonic phones to it, with extensions in every room. I've been told that there are some lags and the voice quality is not quite POTS, but I can live with that. I haven't figured out hiding the google number assigned to me, but I don't care about that so much. It's saved bundles of \$\$\$. I do see caller ID so I see who is calling, but not to which of my legacy numbers they called. Again, at this point, I don't really care.

Miriam N. Jacobson, Pennsylvania

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I also use it to text with clients from my laptop. Very effective/easy way to maintain effective level of communications. I have a section in my legal services agreement notifying them that communications include text messaging and they ensure that no other persons have access to their phone (or password), etc.

Clayton T. Robertson

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I've also been using Google Voice for many years and am another satisfied user. It's easy to use, intuitive, and provides a nice record of calls, voicemails, and text messages. I also like that I can silence just those calls (using Google Voice's "Do Not Disturb" setting - which is an easy toggle) and still receive personal calls on my mobile. I highly recommend it!

Kristin Haugen

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I've been using google voice as my business line for years and it works like a charm. Easy to set out of office voicemails and get messages wherever you are.

Highly recommend.

Tammy A. Heffernan, Vermont

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I understood about half of what you said, Miriam! ;)

Bobby Lott, Jr., Alabama

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I've used Google Voice exclusively as my office line for years, through my cell phone. The only thing I don't like is that when calls come in there's no distinction between calls to my personal line and calls to my work number, so if it's an unknown number I don't know if it's spam or a potential client.

But other than that it's great, and free!

Betsy Ehlen, Illinois

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I used to have that same issue, but the Google Voice app for the iPhone (not sure about Android) can, if authorized, actually receive calls directly in the app. So now I can tell when a call comes in to my GV number because the GV app pops up rather than the regular phone app.

Kevin Grierso

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When a call comes in through Google Voice to my android phone, I get a prompt "you have a call from George, do you want to accept?" So, I know it is a Google Voice call. Then I press 1 to accept. My straight cell phone calls don't do that.

No, I don't really know how to configure what it is doing.

Jim Pardue, North Carolina

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