

Popular Threads on Solosez

Does a Law Firm Need a Static IP Address?

I am shopping for phone & internet service and Embarq asked if I need a static IP address. It will cost \$10.00/month extra. Why would I need a static IP?

With a static IP, you can set up a server accessible from anywhere. You could log on to your desktop computer from your laptop from anywhere, or you could set up a little FTP site for clients to retrieve documents, or you could have your very own Web/mail server instead of going through a third party provider.

Michael A. Koenecke, Texas

You do not need a static IP in almost all situations where you only work from the office.

You do need a static IP if you use remote VPNs, or certain other types of remote access, or if you host your own website on your servers.

My own rule of thumb (sorry if it sounds flip) is simple: If you don't know why you would need a static IP, and if your techs aren't telling you that you need a static IP, then you don't need a static IP.

Erik Hammarlund, Massachusetts

I'll mimic Erik's "flip" remarks. It depends upon whether you want your practice to enter the 21st century or not. I have Microsoft Exchange on my server, emails are sent to a blackberry, I have full remote access from home, etc. Comcast gives me 5 static IP addresses, full internet access and basic cable for \$64. Phone lines are \$24.95 per line w/unlimited nationwide calling. Is my network overbuilt for a 2 attorney firm, probably, but I enjoy playing with electronic toys.

Peter Clark, Massachusetts

For the basic functions, I believe Dynamic DNS (Free) from dyndns.com would work. For the more advanced functions, well leave that for the advanced folks to worry about

Joseph Dang, California

I know, but you have to have an updater running on your machine at all times for that, or have a compatible router and set up the account. Some older routers don't support the newer services (like mine, a fairly old Linksys WRT54G - it does running the Tomato 3rd party firmware, but not the stock).

With a fixed IP address, you can set up your *own* host with its own, unique URL, using your own domain name if you like (which you cannot do with DynDNS).

Michael A. Koenecke, Texas

You cannot use your own domain name for FREE with DynDNS, but you surely can with paid service.

Brendon Carr, Korea