



SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR SMALL BUSINESS PHONE SYSTEMS

Small businesses have special needs, especially in comparison to larger, more established companies. The term "small business" often really refers to "new business", in that many small businesses that have been around for a while are as large as they are likely to ever become simply because of the type of business they are. Some small businesses, however, are destined to become large businesses. These companies in particular need to weigh the considerations of their unique situation when purchasing a business phone system. Knowing one's options when it comes to business phones can save a substantial amount of money and time.

If a company is in a physical location that will be able to meet it's needs for many years to come and their number of employees is well into the double digit range, they may wish to go with a Private Branch Exchange (PBX) system. PBX systems offer increased expansion capabilities and can come with more available features for the end user. Installation expenses for PBX systems can be extremely high, however, and should be factored in any organization's business phone system budget.

The alternative would be to use a Key System. Key Systems are cheaper and require less in the way of installation expense. Still, they are only expandable to provide service to thirty or forty terminals. For businesses that will eventually require more handsets than Key Systems are capable of supporting, replacement with a PBX system would be inevitable.

The worst case scenario would be for a business to buy a phone system that barely meets it's current needs only to find that it will have to be replaced soon after. Properly planning for growth will help any business end up with a phone system that can expand with it's expansion and allow the most value for the overall investment. Like any business investment, phone systems do not last forever, so it is often unnecessary to purchase the very best (and most expensive) system on the market. Still, it does pay to purchase a business phone system that is certain to meet your company's needs, both now and well into the future.

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