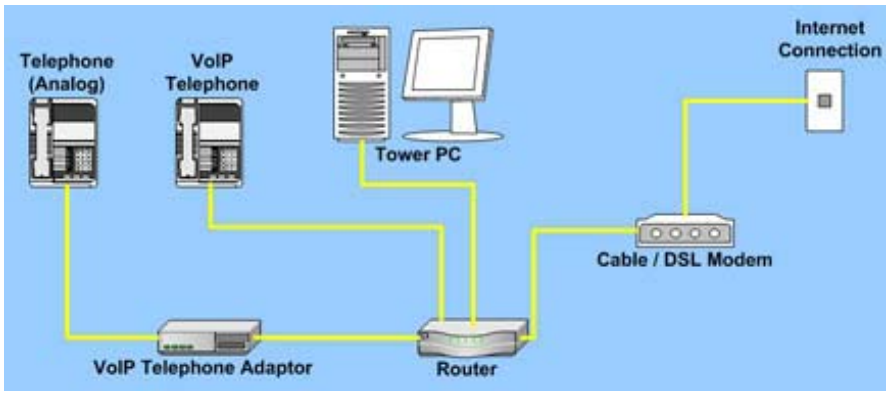
Voice Over IP Technology

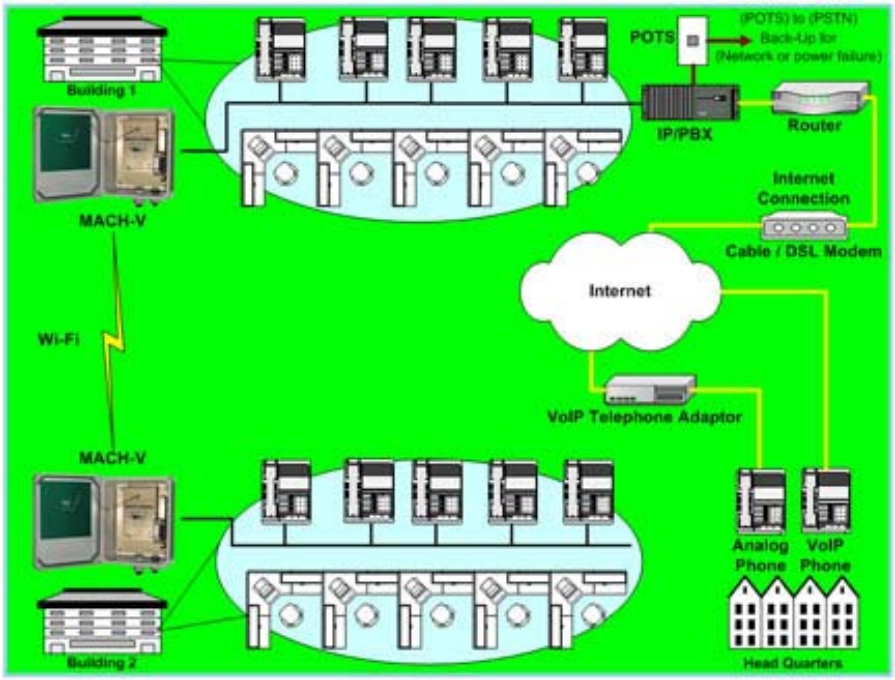
VoIP

Many products that were traditionally based on standard analog and digital technology have advanced rapidly. This advancement is largely due to the implementation of internet protocol (IP) technology in their design. Here in the video industry "video" cameras, transmission, management, recording and archiving have made gigantic leaps in functionality and flexibility due to IP technology. Within the video industry alone, there are many examples of the impact made by IP technology but, today I want to touch on a Telecommunication industry innovation VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol).

In 1995 the first commercial IP phone software was released by VocalTec. Its success created a foreseeable future where the internet and local area networks (LANs) could be used as an alternative to the traditional public switched telephone network (PSTN). This positive outlook jump-started the VoIP industry and is the reason we have IP phone services like Skype and Vonage today. Statistics show that over 22 Million U.S. households are connected by VoIP and that number is projected to reach 30 Million by 2011 and generate over $11 Billion in revenue for Telecom companies.

VoIP works by converting voice in to a digital signal and then transmitting it over the internet, or LAN, to another VoIP device. The targeted VoIP device will authenticate and receive the signal while converting it back to voice. This communication works in the same manner in which an IP networked PCs communicate to a printer on the same network. Essentially, all network devices communicate to each other through the Internet Protocol Suite (TCP/IP) model or Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) model. The OSI and TCP/IP models provide the communication standards to which all network devices exchange through. Hence, a VoIP phones find each other the same way an IP camera finds a NVR or how this blog reached your computer screen. The diagrams below show two typical VoIP setups:





VoIP will continue to improve and prosper because of the following: low cost of its infrastructure, flexibility, extend functionality at a minimum cost, interoperability with traditional PBX, allows for the convergence of voice, data, cell phones, Wi-Fi phones and VoIP can be used over any broadband source: Fiber, Cable, DSL, Wi-Max and Wi-Fi. VoIP is an innovation that "endows resources with a new capacity to create wealth,"-Peter F. Druker and also "Offers promise of so much to so many in so short a time." -*Bill Gates*.

http://www.vocaltec.com/site/content/t1.asp?Sid=5&Pid=2
http://about.skype.com/
http://www.vonage.com/help_vonage.php?refer_id=WEBFT0706010001W1

~ Eric Myers, Director of Wireless Products

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