

VOIP FOR CABLE BROADBAND USERS

A large number of residential & business Internet users in the UK have their services provided by cable Internet providers such as NTL or Telewest who use their own network infrastructure instead of ADSL over BT telephone lines. An increasing number of users want to be able to take on Voice-over-IP (VoIP) to gain access to the extra services it offers & in some cases to save money on International call charges.

There are a number of integrated access devices (IADs) available which allow multiple computers to be connected up to broadband Internet whilst also allowing the connection of wireless devices & analogue telephones. The majority of these IADs also include a built in ADSL modem rendering them useless for services provided by companies such as NTL or Telewest. This is where the Intertex IX67 device comes in. The WAN port (or Internet port) is a normal CAT5 connector which can be plugged into a cable modem or a set-top box using normal network cables.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

As you would expect the IX67 comes with a business class stateful packet inspection firewall & high throughput router with wireless (802.11b & g) & the ability to connect analogue phones & analogue phone lines. VoIP calls can be made using wireless VoIP phones, wired-IP phones & also from an analogue phone connected to the IX67. Calls can be routed out over the Internet or via the analogue phone line if one is available (which is usually provided by your cable Internet company). See the diagram below for an example of how the range of devices interconnect.

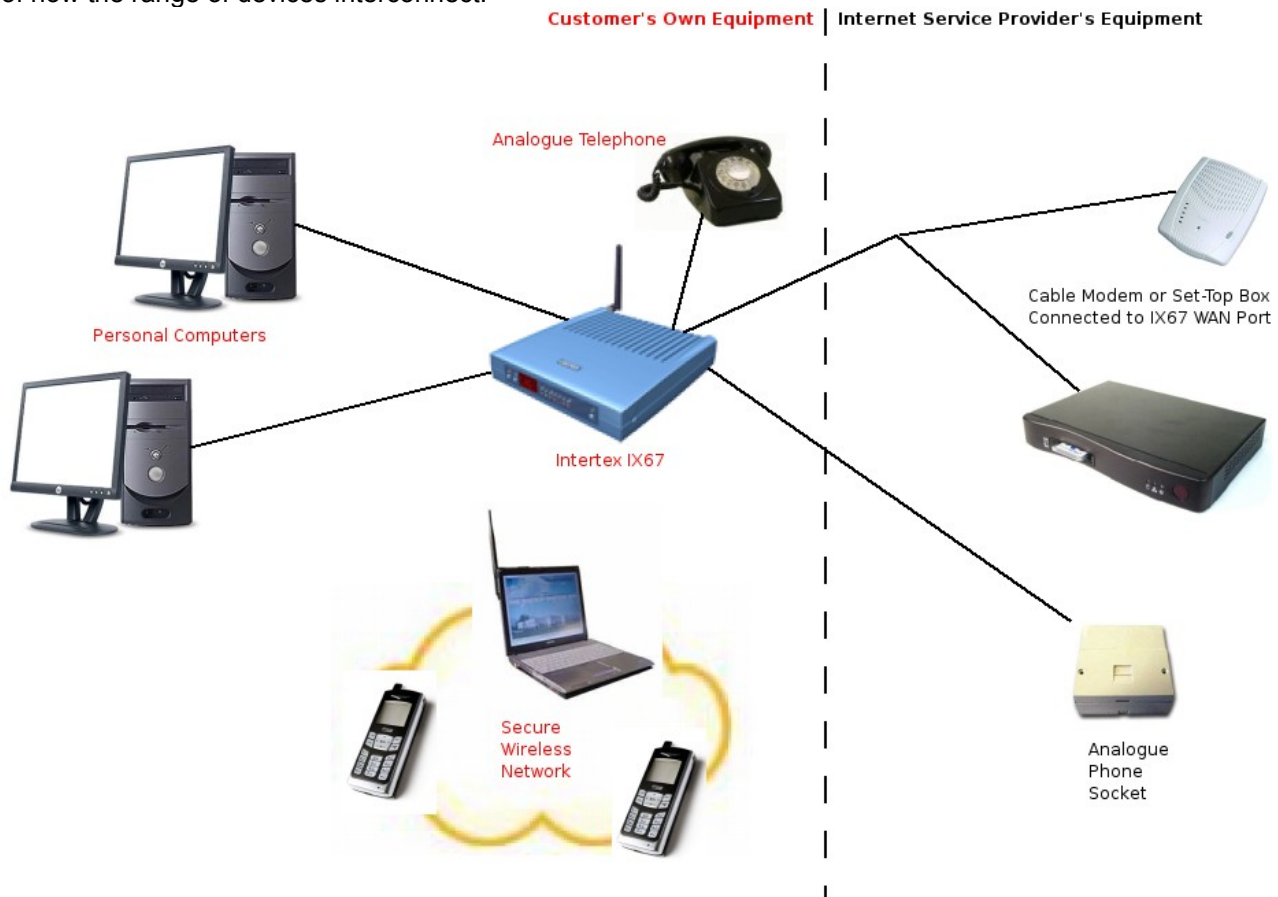


Diagram 1: The Home or Small Office Cable Internet Network

QUALITY OF SERVICE

For a VoIP call to be successful, there must always be enough Internet bandwidth available in both the upstream & the downstream. If one or more of the computers on the network is downloading or uploading a large file at the time then voice quality will suffer. The limiting factor in most UK broadband Internet connections is the upstream speed, this is more of a problem than ever with cable Internet connections as the speed is often as low as 100kbps. The IX67 has automatic quality of service (QoS) functionality which will prioritise any voice traffic over less bandwidth critical traffic such as web browsing meaning that you get the absolute best performance out of your Internet connection as possible.