

**Outdoor VoIP**  
**Originated by David O’Gorman (OSU)**

**On Nov 20, 2012, David O'Gorman (OSU) wrote:**

I haven't gotten a whole lot of writebacks on this, so just in case, does anyone have any tips for outdoor voip telephone solutions? I'm looking for something handsfree preferably.

Dave

David O'Gorman  
Marine Instrumentation Engineer - COAS

From: David O'Gorman (OSU) on: Wednesday, October 31, 2012

A while back there were a few rvtec emails about outdoor voip solutions and I thought I'd fire the chain back up to see if anyone had any new suggestions for outdoor voip stations, preferably with some sort of hands free option.

Dave

David O'Gorman  
Marine Instrumentation Engineer - COAS

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**On Nov 20, 2012, Bernard McKiernan (LDEO) wrote:**

Dave,  
Bernard McKiernan here. I am a tech over on the Marcus G Langseth. I did a quick look once before for an outdoor handsfree unit. I came across this unit

<http://www.talkaphone.com/product/emergency-phone>

I used campus emergency phone as a google search. There maybe other units that use VOIP

Hope that helps

Bern

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**Reply from: Webb Pinner (IFE) on Thu, 22 Nov 2012**

have you considered bridging the ship's VoIP system with vessel's existing wireless system (motorola)?

Maybe something as simple as a JK Audio THAT-2 would work?

<http://www.jkaudio.com/that-2.htm>

I did something similar to this aboard the Okeanos Explorer. On that vessel the intercom, wireless belt packs and phone systems have been integrated into one system. It has it's +/- but overall works very well, especially for telepresence operations where people on shore need to listen to the deck department during ROV/CTD operations.

- Webb

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Webb Pinner  
Capable Solutions

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### **Reply from: Andrew Girard (WHOI) on 22 Nov 2012**

Fwd: InReach Two-Way Satellite Communicator for Smartphones, Black, DeLorme, AG-008449-201

This could be a cheap back up solution for the ships...

This might be a nice offshore cruising add on.

<http://www.cyberguys.com/product-details/?productid=72378>

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### **Reply from: John Haverlack (UAF) on 24 Nov 2012**

I have a similar system:

[http://www.findmespot.com/en/index.php?cid=116&referrer=Homepage\\_BannerMainConnect](http://www.findmespot.com/en/index.php?cid=116&referrer=Homepage_BannerMainConnect)

It may be a good idea to have a couple of similar systems on board for emergency purposes. The SPOT is slow and expensive to use frequently, but does work. It only allows for 1 way communication though. It looks like the InReach allows for bi-directional communications.

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John Haverlack  
IT Manager, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences

**Reply from: David O'Gorman (OSU) on 28 Nov 2012**

Thanks for the writeback Bernard, and to everyone else who wrote back. Basically it looks like some folks went with the 'police call box' single button style faceplate speakerphones, which is what we were leaning toward, but they get pretty expensive once you get into the range of ones that are really truly outdoor grade. Not exactly prohibitively expensive, but enough that getting one for primary use and one for a backup when we were unsure about how it was going to sound was a little more than we wanted to be into it for.

Our voip system has analog adaptors, so we can use analog (regular telephone) handsets too. We're planning to try out some cordless phones with headphone/boom microphones and give that a shot for a while. We figure if it doesn't work out we can use them elsewhere on the vessel and not be out much (and still be able to pursue other options). We considered sticking with/adding on to the existing PBX system on the Oceanus, but we have all of the equipment for the system already from the wecoma, and this allows us to dynamically add and move extensions, and the web interface on the server is \*really\* easy to work with. This isn't a large ship, but that can be a nice feature to have between visiting vans and ChSci's wanting to have a phone exactly wherever they decide to want it.

One offline response suggested finding a softphone client for the android, I just did a search and got a few hopeful looking hits.

For anyone else who is interested, the voip pbx system is coming together as an inexpensive and pretty straightforward to implement solution for adding a pbx to the ship, for calling within the vessel and for interfacing with all of our satellite communications equipment.

Dave

David O'Gorman  
Marine Instrumentation Engineer - COAS

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