

Ooma, Vonage, or Theirs?

THE 60-SECOND VERSION

- 1 Ooma: buy the adapter once, then pay mostly just taxes and fees each month.
- 2 Vonage: a monthly subscription, especially handy for international calling.
- 3 Provider phone: one company, one bill, they handle setup.
- 4 magicJack: a bare-bones budget option worth knowing about.
- 5 All of them let you keep your number — and all need power and internet to work.

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Ooma vs. Vonage vs. Your Internet Provider's Phone — Which Home Phone Service Fits

Three ways to get a home phone over the internet — compared plainly.

————— **An Extended Guide · No. 1718** —————

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

Bill Davis — Bill's Home Tech

(330) 200-8042 · bill@billshometech.com · Atwater, Ohio

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What's Inside

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SUMMARY

The 60-Second Version

In a hurry? Here's the whole thing on one page. If you want a home phone that runs over your internet, you've got three main choices, and each suits a different household. Ooma is a little box you buy once, after which basic U.S. calling is essentially free. Vonage is a monthly plan that shines if you call other countries. Your internet or cable company's own phone is the simplest if you already have their internet — it just goes on your existing bill.

- Ooma: buy the adapter once, then pay mostly just taxes and fees each month.
- Vonage: a monthly subscription, especially handy for international calling.
- Provider phone: one company, one bill, they handle setup.
- magicJack: a bare-bones budget option worth knowing about.
- All of them let you keep your number — and all need power and internet to work.

GOOD TO KNOW

Because all three run on your internet, they go quiet in a power or internet outage unless you add a battery or choose a model with a cellular backup built in. Always keep a charged cell phone for 911.

1. Why Compare These Three?

They solve the same problem in different ways.

If the copper line is going away and you've got decent internet, one sensible path is a phone that runs over that internet. Three names come up again and again: Ooma, Vonage, and your own internet or cable company's home phone. They all do the same basic job — give you a dial tone over the internet — but they charge for it and handle it in different ways.

I want to be upfront: I don't sell any of these and I don't earn a thing from any of them. My only goal is to help you understand the trade-offs so you can pick the one that fits your home and your habits. There genuinely isn't a single best one — the right answer depends on you.

So in this guide we'll walk through each option in plain English, line them up on the things that actually matter, and finish with a few simple questions that usually point you to your answer. No jargon, no sales pitch.

TIP

If you'd rather skip to the end, the compare chart and the decision questions near the back give you the short version. The middle chapters are there when you want the details.

2. What They All Have in Common

Start with the shared ground.

Before the differences, let's cover what's the same across all three, because it clears away a lot of worry. Each one carries your call over the internet instead of the old copper pair — that's what “VoIP” means, and your grandkids' calls have worked this way for years. It's not complicated or worse; it just needs an internet connection and power.

- You can keep your existing phone number with any of them.
- Your current cordless or corded handset plugs right in and works unchanged.
- You get the familiar features: caller ID, call waiting, voicemail.
- Each needs electricity and a working internet connection to make calls.
- Each can reach 911, as long as your correct address is registered.

So the handset on your counter and the number your friends dial don't change no matter which you pick. The differences are about cost, contracts, extras, and how outages are handled — which is exactly what the rest of the guide sorts out.

GOOD TO KNOW

“VoIP” and “digital voice” mean the same thing: your call travels as internet data. All three options here are VoIP, so they share the same strengths and the same outage caveat.

3. Meet Ooma

The buy-it-once internet phone.

Ooma is the one a lot of my customers end up with, so let's start there. The idea is simple: you buy a small adapter — the Ooma Telo — once, plug it into your internet router, and plug your regular phone into the adapter. After that one-time hardware purchase, basic calling within the United States is essentially free. You just pay the taxes and fees, which come to a few dollars a month.

That buy-once, pay-almost-nothing model is Ooma's whole appeal. Over a few years, it often works out to be one of the cheaper ways to have a home phone, because you're not

paying a monthly service charge for the calling itself — only the unavoidable taxes and fees that apply to any phone line.

GOOD TO KNOW

“Basic calling is free” means regular calls within the U.S. after you've bought the box. International calls and some extras cost more. Confirm current rates with Ooma, since they do change.

4. Ooma's Paid Tier and the LTE Model

Two upgrades worth knowing about.

Ooma has a couple of upgrades beyond the basic box. The first is a paid monthly tier, usually called Premier, that adds niceties like better voicemail, advanced call blocking for junk calls, free calling to Canada and Mexico, and a second number. Most of my customers are perfectly happy on the free basic service, but the extras are there if you want them.

The second is the Ooma Telo LTE, which matters a lot for the power-outage question. It has a cellular connection and a built-in battery, so if your home internet or power goes down, the phone can keep working for a while over the cell network on battery. If riding through outages is important to you, that's the Ooma model to look at.

TIP

If outage coverage is your priority, say so before you buy. The plain Telo needs your internet and power; the LTE model is the one built to keep going when they're out. Confirm current details with Ooma.

5. Meet Vonage

The monthly plan that travels the world.

Vonage is the longtime name in home internet phone, and it works a little differently from Ooma. Instead of buying a box and paying almost nothing after, you pay a monthly subscription for the service. You still get an adapter that your regular phone plugs into, and you still keep your number — it's the billing model that's different.

Where Vonage tends to shine is international calling. If you have family overseas or call other countries regularly, Vonage's plans are built with that in mind and can include a generous amount of international calling. For a household that mostly calls within the U.S.,

that strength may not matter — but for one that calls abroad often, it can be the deciding factor.

GOOD TO KNOW

Vonage is a monthly plan, so look at the ongoing cost rather than an upfront one. Check whether there's any contract term and what international calling is included, since plans change — confirm current details with Vonage.

6. Meet Your Internet Provider's Phone

The simplest path if you already have their internet.

The third option isn't a separate gadget at all — it's the home phone your internet or cable company already offers. If you have Spectrum, AT&T, Kinetic, or another provider for internet, you can usually add their phone service so it rides over the internet you already pay for. Your existing handset plugs into their modem or a little phone box.

The big appeal here is simplicity. One company, one bill, one phone number to call if something goes wrong, and they handle the setup. You don't buy a separate adapter or manage a second account. For a lot of folks, especially those who'd rather not juggle companies, that simplicity is worth a great deal.

TIP

The thing to watch with provider phone is the price after any promotion ends, and whether the phone is truly bundled in or quietly added on top. Ask what the regular monthly price becomes after the first year.

7. A Word on magicJack

The bare-bones budget option.

There's a fourth name worth a quick mention: magicJack. It's the budget pick — a small, inexpensive device that plugs into your internet and gives you a phone line for a low yearly cost. For someone who mainly wants a cheap, simple dial tone and isn't fussy about extras, it can do the job.

The trade-off is that it's generally more bare-bones than Ooma, Vonage, or a provider's service — fewer frills, and support that's more do-it-yourself. I mention it so you know it exists and can weigh it, not to steer you toward or away from it. For some households the

low cost is exactly right; for others the extra polish of the other options is worth more.

GOOD TO KNOW

Like the others, magicJack runs over your internet and needs power, so the same outage caveat applies. Confirm its current pricing, features, and 911 handling before you commit.

8. Comparing the Cost Style

Buy-once, subscribe, or add to your bill.

Let's line up the money, in plain terms and without printing figures that would be stale by next season. The three options charge you in genuinely different shapes, and which shape suits you is personal.

- Ooma — a one-time cost for the box, then mostly just taxes and fees monthly. Cheapest over the long haul for basic U.S. calling.
- Vonage — a steady monthly subscription. You pay more per month, but get strong international calling and no hardware to buy outright.
- Provider phone — folded into your internet or cable bill, often at a promotional rate that rises later.
- magicJack — a low yearly fee, the least expensive but most basic.

The honest way to compare is to add up what each costs over two or three years, including the box, the monthly fees, and any price jump after a promotion. Sometimes the buy-once option wins; sometimes the simplicity of the bundle is worth paying a bit more for.

GOOD TO KNOW

Write down your real current phone cost, taxes included, then compare each option's all-in total against it. That one sheet of paper makes the decision far clearer than any sales page.

9. Comparing Contracts and Commitment

How easy is it to walk away?

Nobody likes feeling locked in, so it's worth knowing how much each option ties you down. This is one area where the differences are real and worth asking about directly.

- Ooma — you own the box, so there's no service contract to speak of for basic calling. You can stop the paid tier any time.

- Vonage — a monthly plan; check whether there's a term commitment or an early-cancellation fee before you sign up.
- Provider phone — often bundled with internet or TV, which can tie the phone's price to the rest of the package. Ask what happens if you drop TV.
- magicJack — typically a prepaid yearly term with little lock-in.

The pattern, loosely: the buy-once options commit you the least, and the bundled provider phone ties into whatever else is on that bill. Neither is wrong — just know which you're choosing so there are no surprises down the road.

WATCH OUT

With a bundled provider phone, dropping cable TV later can sometimes change the phone's price or terms. Ask up front how the phone is priced on its own, apart from the bundle.

10. Comparing Power-Outage Backup

The one real weakness of internet phones.

Here's the trade-off every internet phone shares: when the power or internet goes out, the phone goes quiet — unless you've planned for it. This is the single biggest practical difference from the old copper line, which powered itself. The good news is it's solvable for all three options.

- Ooma — the plain Telo needs power and internet; the Telo LTE has a cellular link and battery to ride through outages.
- Vonage — add a small battery backup (a UPS) on your modem, router, and the adapter to keep it alive for a while.
- Provider phone — many cable and fiber services offer a battery backup module for the phone box; ask whether it's included or extra.
- All of them — always keep a charged cell phone as the final way to reach 911.

If outage coverage is a high priority for you — say for medical reasons — that should weigh heavily in your choice. Either pick a model built for it, like the Ooma LTE, or budget for a battery backup on whatever you choose.

TIP

A small battery backup for your internet gear is one of the most worthwhile little purchases a home can make — it keeps your phone and internet alive through the short outages we get around here. I'm glad to set one up for you.

11. Comparing International Calling

If you call other countries, this matters.

For households that call overseas, international rates can be the whole ballgame. Here's how the three tend to stack up, keeping in mind that rates change and you should confirm the current ones.

- Vonage — generally the standout for international, with plans built around calling abroad. If this is your main need, start here.
- Ooma — U.S. calling is the free part; international is a paid add-on, and the Premier tier includes Canada and Mexico.
- Provider phone — international varies a lot by company and plan; ask for the specific rates to the countries you call.

If you rarely or never call outside the country, this whole chapter doesn't apply to you, and you can weight cost and simplicity instead. But if you've got family in another country you call weekly, it may matter more than anything else on the list.

GOOD TO KNOW

International rates change often and differ by country. Before you decide on the basis of overseas calling, get the current per-minute or plan rate to the specific countries you call.

12. Comparing the Setup

Who does the plugging-in.

How much setup each one takes is worth a thought, especially if fiddling with gadgets isn't your idea of a good afternoon.

- Ooma and Vonage — you plug the adapter into your router and your phone into the adapter, then activate it online. Not hard, but there are a few steps and a bit of waiting while it registers.
- Provider phone — the company handles most of it; sometimes a technician comes out, sometimes they ship a box that plugs in.
- magicJack — the most do-it-yourself of the bunch.

The buy-once boxes save you money but ask a little more of you at setup. The provider phone costs a bit more but takes the setup off your plate. If the setup is the part that worries you, that's genuinely the easiest piece for me to handle — it's a few minutes on a

visit.

WATCH OUT

The phone on your counter works the same no matter which you pick. Only the initial setup differs, and that's a one-time thing. Don't let setup worry steer the whole decision.

13. Keeping Your Number With Any of Them

The rule that matters most.

People worry about losing the number they've had for decades. Good news: all three options let you keep it. Moving a number from one company to another is called “porting,” and the new provider does the work. You give them a recent bill and your account details so everything matches up.

There's one rule that matters more than any other, and it's the same for Ooma, Vonage, or a provider: do not cancel your old service first. The number has to stay active for the port to finish. Let the new service confirm the move is complete, and only then is the old line closed. A home phone port often takes a week or two, not an afternoon.

WATCH OUT

Never cancel your old line before the number has moved. Cancel too early and the number can be lost for good. Your old phone keeps working the whole time the port is in progress.

14. 911 on All Three

The safety setup you shouldn't skip.

This is the safety section, and it applies equally to Ooma, Vonage, and a provider phone, because they all travel over the internet. An internet phone doesn't have a fixed copper address the way the old line did, so your provider keeps a “registered location” — the street address they send to 911 when you call.

When you set up any of these, make sure that address is correct, and update it if you ever move the box to another home. Some providers let you dial 933 to hear your registered address read back as a test, without placing a real 911 call. It's worth doing once so you know it's right.

WATCH OUT

An internet phone can't reach 911 during a power or internet outage unless it has a battery or cellular backup. Always keep a charged cell phone as your final way to call for help.

15. Don't Forget Your Medical Alert and Alarm

These can quietly stop working after a switch.

No matter which internet phone you choose, there's one check that catches people and really matters. A lot of older medical alert pendants and home security or fire alarm panels were built to dial out over a copper landline. Over an internet phone they can quietly fail — the button gets pushed and the signal never reaches the monitoring center.

So before you switch to Ooma, Vonage, or a provider phone, call your medical alert company and your alarm company and tell them what you're doing. They'll tell you whether your equipment is compatible or whether you need a cellular version that doesn't rely on a phone line at all. After the switch, test the system so you know it truly reaches help.

WATCH OUT

Do not assume your medical alert or alarm “just works” on a new internet phone. Call those companies first and test afterward. This is exactly the kind of check I do on a visit, because it's too important to guess.

16. Who Ooma Fits Best

The household that gets the most out of it.

Let me paint a picture of who tends to be happiest with each, starting with Ooma. Ooma fits the household that has reliable internet, mostly calls within the U.S., and wants the lowest ongoing cost. If you'd rather pay once for the box and then barely see a phone charge again, Ooma is built for exactly that.

It also fits folks who want outage coverage without a separate battery project, because the Telo LTE model bakes in a cellular link and battery. The one thing Ooma asks of you is a bit of setup up front and reliable internet to run on. If you've got those, it's a strong, low-cost everyday phone.

GOOD TO KNOW

Ooma is genuinely senior-friendly once it's set up — the phone on the counter doesn't change at all. The setup is the only fiddly part, and that's a quick job on a visit.

17. Who Vonage Fits Best

The household that calls the world.

Vonage fits the household that calls other countries, plain and simple. If you have family or friends overseas and you're on the phone with them often, Vonage's international strength can save you real money and headache compared to paying per-minute international rates on another service.

It also suits someone who'd rather pay a predictable monthly amount with nothing to buy upfront, and who values a long-established name with full customer support. If your calling is mostly within the U.S., though, you may be paying for international muscle you don't use — in which case one of the others could fit better.

TIP

If overseas calling is the reason you're leaning Vonage, confirm the current international plan and the rates to your specific countries before you commit. That's where its value lives or doesn't.

18. Who the Provider Phone Fits Best

The household that wants it simple.

Your internet provider's phone fits the household that values simplicity above saving a few dollars. If you already have internet from Spectrum, AT&T, Kinetic, or another company, adding their phone means one company, one bill, and they handle the setup. For a lot of people, especially those who'd rather not manage a separate gadget or account, that's the whole appeal — and it's a very fair thing to want.

It also fits someone who wants a single point of contact when something goes wrong, instead of figuring out whether a problem is the internet or the phone. The trade-off is cost: bundled phone often starts with a promotional price that climbs, so you'll want to know the long-term number before you sign.

WATCH OUT

Ask what the phone costs after any promotion and whether a battery backup for outages is included or extra. Those two answers decide whether the simplicity is worth the price for you.

19. A Note on Call Quality

They all depend on your internet.

One thing worth understanding across all three: the quality of an internet phone depends on the quality of your internet. A good, steady connection gives clear calls. A weak or overloaded connection can cause choppy sound, echo, or dropped calls — not because the phone is bad, but because the internet underneath it is struggling.

For most homes with normal broadband, this is a non-issue; a phone call uses very little internet. But if your internet is slow or unreliable, that's worth sorting out first, and it may even tip you toward a cellular home phone base instead, which runs on the cell network rather than your internet. That's a different guide, but worth knowing the option exists.

GOOD TO KNOW

If your internet is spotty, an internet phone of any brand will struggle. A quick check of your connection is a smart first step — and a thing I can test on a visit before you buy anything.

20. Features for Hearing and Vision

The extras that help seniors most.

The service you pick matters less than the handset you plug into it when it comes to senior-friendly features. All three options work with any modern cordless or corded phone, so you're free to choose a handset with the features that help you most, independent of the service.

- Big, high-contrast buttons that are easy to see and press.
- A loud or boosted earpiece and ringer you can hear from another room.
- Talking caller ID that announces who's calling out loud.
- A one-touch block button for junk calls.

Some services add helpful touches too, like emailing you a voicemail or even typing out the message so you can read it. If you've got hearing trouble, that reading feature is a small

blessing. Ask each provider what voicemail options they include.

GOOD TO KNOW

If hearing is a real challenge, there are also captioned phones that show live text of what the caller says, free to qualified users. That's worth its own look — ask me about it.

21. Junk Calls on Each Option

How they help with robocalls.

Robocalls are a plague on every kind of phone, and no single tool stops them all — you stack defenses. The internet phones differ a bit in what they build in to help.

- Ooma's paid Premier tier includes advanced call blocking that screens likely junk calls before they ring you.
- Vonage and provider phones offer their own spam-labeling or blocking features; ask what's included.
- Any handset with a block button lets you reject specific numbers locally.
- The free registry at [donotcall.gov](https://www.donotcall.gov) stops legitimate telemarketers, though not outright scammers.

The simplest free defense works on all of them: let unknown callers go to voicemail. Real people leave a message; most junk callers don't. Between that habit and whatever blocking your service includes, you can cut the nuisance way down.

GOOD TO KNOW

If call-blocking is a big priority, ask each provider exactly what's included at each price tier. It's one of the features that varies most from one to the next.

22. Switching Day — How It Goes

The order that keeps nothing going dark.

Whichever you choose, the switch follows the same sensible order so nobody loses a number and the phone never goes dead. It's not complicated when you take it one step at a time.

- 1 Pick your option based on cost, international needs, and outage coverage.
- 2 Sign up and tell them to PORT your existing number; give them a recent bill.
- 3 Leave your old line active — do not cancel it yet.

- 4 Set up the new box or service, plug in your phone, and register your 911 address.
- 5 Call your medical alert and alarm companies; confirm compatibility and test.
- 6 Only after the number has moved and everything's tested, let the old line close.

GOOD TO KNOW

The number move happens on a scheduled day near the end. Your old phone keeps working the whole time, so there's no stretch where you're without a line.

23. Common Mistakes I See

The slip-ups that cause headaches.

After helping a lot of people switch to internet phones, the same few mistakes come up. None are your fault — the companies don't make it clear — but knowing them ahead saves grief.

- Canceling the old line before the number moves — it can be lost for good.
- Buying the plain Ooma Telo and then being surprised it dies in an outage.
- Choosing on the headline price and ignoring the after-promo cost on a bundle.
- Assuming the medical alert or alarm still works — it may not. Test it.
- Picking Vonage for international without checking the rates to your countries.

Every one of these is easy to avoid once you know to watch for it. Slow down, ask the questions in this guide, and you'll sidestep the lot of them.

WATCH OUT

If anyone pressures you to decide right now, that pressure itself is the warning sign. A switch like this can always wait a day while you think it over.

24. What About Fax and Other Devices?

The things also plugged into the phone jack.

Your phone may not be the only thing using that jack. A fax machine, an answering machine, a medical alert base, or an alarm panel might all be quietly relying on the old line. When you move to an internet phone, each of those needs a thought.

Most will simply plug into the new adapter or box and keep working — an answering machine usually carries right on, though the free voicemail included with these services is often easier. The two that need real attention are the medical alert and the alarm, which we

covered, and a fax machine, which often does better moving to an internet fax service. Make a quick list of everything plugged into a phone jack before you switch.

GOOD TO KNOW

Fax machines can be finicky over internet phone. If you only fax occasionally, an online fax service that works from your computer or email may be simpler than keeping the old machine running.

25. Reading the Fine Print

The questions to ask before you buy.

Before you commit to any of the three, a short list of questions clears up almost every surprise. Ask these of whichever company you're leaning toward, and write down the answers.

- What's the true all-in monthly cost, taxes and fees included?
- Is there a contract or early-cancellation fee?
- What happens to the phone in a power or internet outage, and what's the backup?
- What's included for voicemail, caller ID, and call blocking?
- How do you handle 911 and the registered address?
- How does porting my number work, and how long will it take?

A company that answers these clearly is one you can trust to deal with. If you get vague answers or a hard push to sign now, that's reason to slow down, not speed up.

TIP

Keep the answers on one sheet with this guide. Comparing two or three options side by side on paper makes the right choice jump out far better than flipping between websites.

26. If You're Not Sure, That's Fine

You don't have to decide today.

If after all this you're still not sure which fits, that's completely normal — these are genuinely close calls, and the “right” answer really does depend on your particular home and habits. You do not have to decide today, especially if your copper line is still working.

What helps most is narrowing it down with the simple questions: do you mainly want the lowest cost, do you call overseas a lot, or do you most want one simple bill? Answer those

honestly and usually one option steps forward. If two stay tied, either is likely a fine choice — you won't go wrong.

GOOD TO KNOW

There's rarely a wrong answer between these three for a typical home. They all give you a reliable phone over the internet. The differences are about fit and cost, not quality.

27. Telling Your Family What You Chose

So the people who help you are in the loop.

A lot of the calls I get about this come from adult kids helping a parent from out of town. If that's your situation, on either end, it's worth writing down a few things so everyone knows how the phone works now.

- Which service provides the phone now, and the account details.
- Whether there's a power-outage backup, and roughly how long it lasts.
- That the medical alert and alarm were checked and tested on the new line.
- The best backup way to reach the person if the home phone is down — usually a cell number.

It feels fussy, but when a storm knocks the power out, the family member two states away will be awfully glad they know whether the home phone still works and how else to reach their parent.

TIP

Tape a little card by the phone with the service name and the backup cell number. In an emergency, a visitor or helper can see at a glance how to reach for help.

28. Questions I Get All the Time

Quick, plain answers.

Which one is cheapest? Over a few years, Ooma usually, because you buy the box once and then pay mostly taxes and fees. But confirm current pricing — things change.

Can I keep my number? Yes, with all three. Just never cancel the old line before the number finishes moving over.

Will the phone on my counter change? No. Your handset plugs into the new box or modem and works exactly as before.

What happens in a power outage? All three go quiet unless you add a battery or pick a cellular-backup model. Always keep a charged cell phone for 911.

GOOD TO KNOW

If your question isn't here, it's probably one I've answered many times. There's no charge to ask a question over the phone — just call.

29. A Few Plain Words to Know

The jargon, translated.

These companies toss around terms that don't mean much to regular people. Here's the short translation so nothing trips you up.

- VoIP / digital voice — your call carried over the internet.
- Adapter (ATA) — the little box your phone plugs into to reach the internet.
- Porting — moving your phone number to a new provider.
- Registered location — the address your provider sends to 911.
- UPS / battery backup — a battery that keeps gear alive in an outage.
- LTE — a cellular connection, like a cell phone uses.

TIP

Keep this list with your guide. When a website or salesperson uses one of these words, you'll know exactly what they're talking about.

30. When to Just Call Me

You don't have to do any of this alone.

I wrote this so you'd understand the choices and feel calm picking one. But understanding a thing and wanting to set it up yourself are two different matters, and there's no shame in handing it off. Choosing a service, setting up the box, moving your number, registering 911, adding a battery, and testing your alarm is exactly the kind of visit I do every week.

I come to you, here in Portage County and the nearby towns. The first in-home visit is a flat ninety-nine dollars, and if a problem can be handled without a trip, I offer remote help too. If you're not completely happy with a visit, I'll make it right or refund it. That's the whole deal

— no fine print.

TIP

When you call, my assistant Sophie may answer and take down the details so I can call you back — she's there so you always reach a friendly voice, not a dead end.

31. What I'd Tell My Own Neighbor

The short, honest version.

After 30+ years of professional experience helping folks with exactly this kind of choice, here's the plain advice I'd give over the fence. If you want the lowest long-term cost and have steady internet, look hard at Ooma. If you call other countries a lot, look at Vonage. If you most want one simple bill and don't mind paying a bit more, take your provider's phone. Any of the three will give you a dependable home phone.

Whichever you pick, keep your number by porting, don't cancel the old line first, plan a power-outage backup, and test your medical alert and alarm. Do those four things and you'll barely notice the switch at the kitchen phone — same number, same handset, same ring you can hear across the house.

GOOD TO KNOW

If any of this feels like a lot, that's normal. You can hand the whole thing to me — the comparison, the setup, the number move, the backup, and the testing — and I'll handle it in one visit.

CHEAT SHEET**Everyday Cheat Sheet**

Keep this by the phone. I want to... Do this. Spend the least over time — look at Ooma; buy the Telo box once, then pay mostly taxes and fees. Call other countries a lot — look at Vonage; confirm the rates to your countries. Keep it simplest, one bill — take your internet provider's phone; ask the after-promo price. Ride through outages — pick the Ooma Telo LTE or add a battery backup, and always keep a charged cell phone for 911. Keep my number — have the NEW provider port it; never cancel the old line first. Protect my medical alert / alarm — call those companies before switching and test after. Protect 911 — make sure your address is registered; dial 933 to test if your provider allows it. Get help — call Bill: (330) 200-8042.

AT A GLANCE

A Picture to Follow Along

The Three Options at a Glance

No single “best” — the right fit for your home

	Ooma	Vonage	Provider
Cost style	Buy once	Monthly	On your bill
Contract	No	Check terms	Often bundled
Outage backup	LTE model	Add battery	Battery add-on
International	Add-on	Strong	Varies

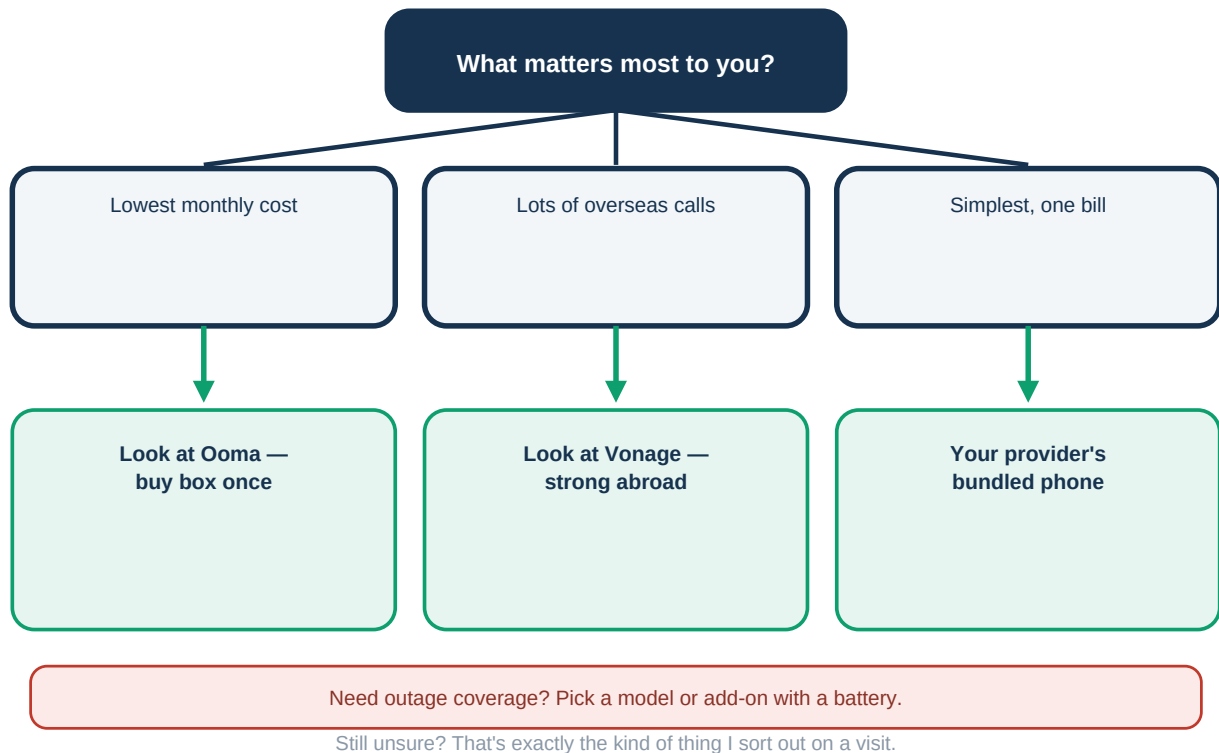
Confirm current pricing and terms with each provider before you choose.

AT A GLANCE

A Second Look

Which One Fits You?

Answer a couple of plain questions



BEFORE YOU GO

A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill. I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results.



HOW I CAN HELP

Your Visit — and My Promise

In-home visit — \$99 flat for your first visit. No contracts and no surprise charges, and a 30-day follow-up is included.

Remote Support — \$49 for a screen-share session. I only connect with your permission, you watch the whole time, and you can end anytime. If I can't fix it over the screen-share, I refund the \$49 — and if it turns out you need me in person, that \$49 goes toward your visit. It's included free for Support Plan members (\$39/mo).

GOOD TO KNOW

My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full \$99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated.

Call or text **(330) 200-8042** · Book a visit: **billshometech.com/book** · **bill@billshometech.com**

This free guide is for general information only — not professional advice, and no substitute for your device's own manual. Any prices or outside products mentioned can change; please confirm current details before you buy. Please use your own good judgment and follow it at your own risk — for anything involving electricity, gas, water, or heights, stop and call a licensed professional. Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results. © 2026 Bill's Home Tech, LLC.