

Wireless Plans

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My mobile gear

- iPhone SE (pay as you go)
- iPhone 6 (500/500/500 per month)
- 2 mobile hotspots (900MB each per month)
- Total cost per month??



~\$18.25 per month

- iPhone SE (~\$2.00 per month)
- iPhone 6 (\$8.25 per month)
- 2 mobile hotspots (\$3.99 each per month)



MVNOs

- Mobile Virtual Network Operator
 - Prepaid
- Partner with one or more of the “big” carriers to provide service
 - Buy large chunks of service wholesale and resell
- Address markets and price points the “big” carriers do not

MVNO examples

- Straight Talk Wireless
- Consumer Cellular
- Flash Wireless
- Cricket Wireless
 - Owned by AT&T
- Virgin Mobile
 - Owned by Sprint

Low Cost / High Value MVNOs

- MVNO wireless plan types
 - Pay as you Go
 - Monthly

Pay as you Go Plans

- Purchase a certain \$ amount worth of service
- Money is deducted from your balance as you use your phone
 - Different services deduct different amounts as you use them (voice vs text vs data)
- No regular monthly fees
 - Reload when balance runs low
- EZ-Pass model
- Ideal for people who don't use their phones much
 - “Glovebox” / Emergency phone
 - Heavy Wi-Fi usage

TruPhone

- <https://www.truphone.com/us/consumer/sim>
- Service for my iPhone SE
- Uses AT&T network in US
- 9¢ per outgoing minute, text and MB of data
 - Within the US
- Incoming calls and texts are FREE
 - Within the US
- Global SIM
 - International rates vary
- Not recommended for heavy data use (\$90 per GB in US 😭)

Tello

- <https://tello.com/>
- Similar pay as you go plan to TruPhone
- Uses Sprint network
 - No coverage outside US
- 3¢ per minute, 1¢ per text, 2¢ per MB of data
 - Charges for both incoming and outgoing calls and texts
- Also offers monthly plans
 - Build your own plan on website

FreedomPop

- <https://www.freedompop.com/>
- Uses Sprint and AT&T networks
- ACAMUG service provider
- “Freemium” business plan (ie Dropbox)
 - 500MB free per month (200MB for AT&T)
 - Free users throttled to 1mbps on Sprint
 - 5mbps for paid plans
 - \$4.99 / month to remove throttle
 - Other paid data plans and options available
- Works best for tablets, gateways and mobile hotspots
 - Phone service available but calls and SMS are over data network and only through FreedomPop app

Red Pocket

- <https://goredpocket.com/>
- Uses Verizon (CDMA), AT&T (GSMA), Sprint (CDMS) and T-Mobile (GSMT) networks
- Monthly plans range from \$10 per month (500/500/500MB) to \$80 per month (UL/UL/8GB)
- Network limitations
 - MMS not supported if AT&T network is chosen
 - Verizon speeds throttled to 5mbps/2mbps
- Yearly and 90 day plans available on eBay for a discount
 - ex. 500/500/500MB per month yearly plan for \$90

Xfinity Mobile

- <https://www.xfinity.com/mobile/>
- Uses Verizon network
- Unlimited talk and text for all plans
- Two data plans
 - By the GB: \$12 per GB / line (charges round up to next GB)
 - Unlimited: \$45/line (plus taxes and fees)
 - Throttled after 20GB (to 1.5mbps LTE speeds)
- Phones try to use Xfinity Wi-Fi hotspots when possible
- Can add up to 5 lines per account without a line fee
- Requirements
 - Must be an Xfinity home internet customer
 - Must purchase a phone from Xfinity (no BYOD)

Calyx Institute

- <https://www.calyxinstitute.org>
- Uses Sprint network
- Non-profit organization dedicated to online privacy
- Mobile hotspot with “30GB” of monthly offered for “Contributor” or higher members
 - \$500/year (\$42/month) Contributor - LTE only hotspot
 - \$600/year (\$50/month) Contributor Plus - LTE/3G hotspot
- Beyond 30GB hotspot is NOT throttled and there are no overage fees
 - Essentially unlimited
- Contributions may be tax deductible

Tethering?

- TruPhone: Yes (\$90 per GB 😭)
- Tello: Yes
- FreedomPop: Yes (except on free plan)
- Red Pocket: T-Mobile (GSMT) only
- Xfinity Mobile: Yes

T-Mobile and Sprint merger could happen as early as this month

NEWS  by Brian Reigh · 8 hours ago



Uh oh....

Merger could result in higher wholesale prices for MVNOs





Questions?

- Considering an MVNO?
- <https://www.androidcentral.com/8-important-considerations-when-switching-mvno>