

Motorola Ojo Personal Video Phone

Reviewed by Jared Svendsen

Product Features:

Motorola describes its new video telephone product as a VoIP device. The Ojo phone connects to an existing phone line or to the Internet. The phone allows you to make free IP calls, so there is no need to sign up with a VoIP service provider.

You can visually communicate with other Ojo phone users on the Internet or you can use it as standard 2.4GHz cordless phone with people that do not have the Ojo phone. The phone stands 14 inches above table level, thus providing for a natural conversation experience. The Ojo phone is complimented by a photo-based caller ID and phone book. The phone is enhanced by a 16.9 inch, high resolution, LCD display. A slide-cover camera allows you to control when you will be seen in any conversation. The phone comes with a cordless headset which provides a great of mobility, as well as a built-in speakerphone. Finally, the phone will eventually allow you to receive and create video messages.

This phone will require a broadband connection in order for the video component to work, and monthly service fees will apply.

Technologies Involved:

The Ojo video phone utilizes the H.264 compression standard. This standard allows for high quality video at very low bit rates. Motorola boasts bit rates as low as 110 kbps. The phone receives the video at 30 frames per second so the viewing experience does not suffer from jumpiness or jitter. However, the review at CNET states that the actual rate is lower and the video does appear to be a little choppy. The error concealment of H.264 enhances the overall experience by keeping the audio and video synchronized.

This telephony system is designed for broadband (DSL or cable). The system uses the following network standards: SIP (session initiation protocol), TCP/IP, UDP and RTP. The primary compression standard used is H.264, but it supports H.263. The resolution is 176X144 qcif.

The Future of Video Telephony

I believe that this technology is here to stay. Imagine seeing relatives who live far away as you speak to them. This is a very attractive prospect. Consequently, demand for this type of product should continue to increase. As other products are created using similar technology, the supply will increase thus enabling prices to decline. Eventually, this type of phone will be more affordable and more widespread.

Research is currently being conducted to improve the H.264 standard with respect to video telephony. The objective is to improve picture quality at even lower bit rates. To achieve this, strides are also being made to reduce encoding time at the sender end so that the applications will, in fact, be in real time.

References:

www.cnet.com/4520-10602_1-5619378-1.html