

FCC Forbearance Order 19-72A1 Regarding Analog POTS Lines



The Sunset of Copper POTS (“Plain Old Telephone Service”) Lines

FCC order 19-72A1 (issued August 2, 2019) has officially granted telecommunications carriers permission to abandon outdated, degrading copper POTS lines.

Per the order, carriers are not only released from maintaining this critical part of the communications infrastructure - they also are no longer required to make this important element of telecommunications service available to consumers.

Impact of the Order

The change has already begun. As a result of the Order, carriers are increasing pricing for existing POTS lines by 75% - 150% in a concerted effort to force customer migration off of the outdated, and literally, crumbling, POTS line infrastructure.

Some customers are receiving communication from their carriers informing them that their current POTS line services will no longer be available after “X” date.

In any case, the FCC Order mandates that customers and resellers of POTS line services must transition to an alternative service on or before August 2, 2022.

The Solution: Alternatives to Traditional POTS Line Services

Solutions such as VoIP can somewhat approximate POTS line functionality. However, for specialty services – *historically supported by POTS lines* – such as burglar and fire alarm lines, elevator lines, analog modem data, and (reliable) faxing, VoIP has historically been a “best effort”, and is often challenging to implement due to the unique codecs and transmission modes needed to effectively support such services.

A fully viable and highly effective alternative to POTS line service delivery is DataRemote’s POTS-In-A-Box® (PIAB) solution. In partnership with MIX Networks Unified Communications platform, the PIAB devices not only replicate POTS line functionality for Voice and Specialty Lines – they further enhance it by providing additional benefits such as:

- Use Customer Ethernet or Dual SIM Card slots for LTE coverage on ATT/Verizon networks
- Built-In Router Functionality
- Specialty codecs/signaling for Burglar and Fire Alarm Transmission
- Analog Modem Data Support
- Highly Reliable Fax-Over-IP delivery
- Extended Battery Life
- Fully Functioning Hosted PBX

For more information on POTS-In-A-Box® solutions, please contact us by filling out the form below.