

FCC sets rules for VoIP 911

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By Oct. 3, most U.S. voice over Internet Protocol telephones must feature a sticker warning that anyone using the phone to call 911 may not get through to a live operator, the Federal Communications Commission has ruled.

It's likely going to take a lot more than a sticker to fix VoIP's 911 problems, which some claim have had serious consequences. But the FCC has stepped in to try, with a 91-page set of rules released June 3.

An in-depth reading of the document reveals other market-changing dynamics for VoIP software, which turns a broadband Internet connection into an inexpensive home phone and, some believe, could fundamentally change the telecommunications industry.

The broadly worded FCC edict could lead to new 911 fees for consumers, while it cracks the whip on VoIP service providers, a largely unregulated industry.

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