

POTS/PSTN vs. Cellular Service

- **Landline Costs:** Landlines are a fixed recurring cost usually billed monthly. It is the cost to rent the copper wireline infrastructure for making phone calls on the traditional POTS network. **There are no such costs associated with a cellular network.**
- **POTS calls:** Traditional POTS local and long distance calls are charged by the minute. These charges are in addition to the landline costs.
- **Cellular Service Costs:** Cellular service is billed based on the amount of voice traffic or data transferred. For most IoT applications, cellular service costs are significantly lower than leased landline service costs.
- **Availability of Landlines:** Carriers are becoming increasingly unwilling and/or unable to support copper landlines. The use of landlines is decreasing at a staggering rate.
- **Availability of Cellular Service:** Cellular service continues to expand rapidly in the US and around the world.
- **Maintenance of Landlines:** Copper landline maintenance and repair costs are skyrocketing due to the aging POTS infrastructure.
- **Maintenance of Cellular Hardware:** Cellular hardware technology is generally very stable and increasingly rugged and robust.
- **Landlines are fixed locations:** A landline is permanently associated with the location where the service is delivered.
- **Cellular Fixed and Mobile Locations:** Cellular devices and services can be fixed or mobile. Devices can be moved as required.

Plain old telephone service (POTS) infrastructure, copper wires connected to a standard telephone that provides the power and connectivity to the telephone service provider's central switching system, in the U.S. is nearing end of life. While the transition to all wireless, IP-switched communications won't happen overnight, there's deteriorating incentive for companies to maintain copper wire technologies. The expanding footprint of 4G LTE in particular means that there is finally a viable alternative to POTS, for both consumers and enterprises. New cellular voice technologies like VoLTE (HD Voice over LTE) now offer telephone services at a much lower cost than POTS.