

## Move Over Wireless, VoIP is Coming to Town (Whether You Like It or Not)

Voip News Blog

Skype is branching out into wireless with a new and now available thin client for iPhone and an upcoming one for BlackBerry. But the VoIP provider has been meeting with much opposition from wireless carriers who don't want their user's by-passing traditional cellular channels with the voice application that can carry calls over the mobile internet.

The wireless carriers are threatening to revoke wireless data access from anyone who tries to use the software. Can you smell the fear?

The wireless carriers say that it will tie up valuable network traffic, and that is certainly possible. But the bigger issue at play here is the ability to bypass the system. Skype is both an internet phone service and an instant messaging service. When people can bypass the system, that means less extra minutes used on wireless phones, less additional revenue, less potential for late fees, less text messaging, less fees for text messaging and so on. It's really no wonder that the wireless companies are balking at the prospect of making less money off their cash-cow iPhones.

So, are the wireless carriers right in their blockage? I don't think so. People are paying for a service - this internet service on the phones - they are making money. If the Skype thin client is that much of a stress on the system, charge people a higher access fee to pay for upgrades. It's really pretty simple.

And ultimately, wireless carriers need to accept the fact that like it or not, they can't block change. It's going to happen one way or another. And VoIP on mobile phones is next up to bat.