

Maximize your conference room with Max Wireless

Date Published: 29 Jan 2004

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Over the last several weeks, I have had the pleasure of using ClearOne's Max Wireless conference phone in my home office. As a regular business user of conference phones in Frost & Sullivan's San Antonio office, bringing the experience home with me offered a golden opportunity for me to truly "get my hands" around the latest in conference phone technology – without having to book a conference room.

My initial thoughts of Max Wireless revolved around the amazing aesthetic qualities the phone possesses. While Max Wireless is no smaller than the typical conference phone, in terms of total space taken up on the conference room table, its wireless nature adds a sleek and mobile element not found in traditional conference room offerings.

Since the base unit of Max Wireless houses all of the necessary wires and phone connections, the battery-powered phone is completely portable up to 150-feet from the base unit. Within the confines of the Alexander home, the base unit is housed approximately 30 feet from the actual phone on a regular basis. However, in numerous tests and "real life" situations the phone's signal range has been tested up to approximately 100 feet. In all instances, I am happy to say, the phone performed wonderfully, in terms of voice and signal clarity.

The battery time for Max Wireless is up to 8 hours before needing a recharge. While this works great in a home office environment (only needing to be recharged approximately once a week) in a day-to-day business situation the phone will likely need to be recharged a minimum of once every two to three days, depending on the frequency of use. While 8 hours may not seem like an extensive level of talk time, Max Wireless can be utilized to the fullest while recharging. Thus, the likelihood of call loss using Max Wireless is minimal, should the user be close to an electrical outlet.

Some of the more notable features of Max Wireless are its:

- 10 number storage for speed dial
- Phone paging to assist in finding a "lost" phone
- One touch access to conferencing service provider
- Easy to use key pad and LCD display

While there are a number of additional features that the phone boasts, the true value of this offering is clearly in its mobile nature. Not only being able to talk while carrying the phone to a new location, but the sheer aesthetic beauty of no wires! In addition, in the home office environment, there is no need to install an additional 2nd or 3rd phone outlet in your office, should you already have a desktop phone and/or DSL connection. Simply plug in the base unit in an outlet in your home that is unused, say, the guest bedroom and you are ready to start conferencing.

Max Wireless truly is an easy to use conference phone, for both the experienced and first time user. As a consumer who instinctively never reads the instruction manual, I must admit that mine remained sealed until after the installation was complete.

The only drawback to the system that I have found is that it tends to get some feedback and clipping when the phone is close to a wall or larger structure, such as a computer monitor. This issue can easily be solved by moving the phone unit to the center of the room or away from other objects – thus simulating a conference room table.

In summary, I would like to thank ClearOne for allowing me to test its newest offering - Max Wireless. It is truly a valuable addition to my home office, and is a recommended addition to any conference room table.