

Switching Cell Phones

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I had this conversation about how technology makes us stupid. Before cell phones I had a bunch of phone numbers in my head. Fast forward to 2006 and I might remember three of the 100 or so numbers in my cell phone. How many phone numbers do you remember? If I lose or break my phone, I don't know what I'd do. How about when it's time to get a new phone? How do you transfer all those numbers? You can always buy software and a cable to connect to your computer. You'll need two cables, one for your old phone and another one for your new. FutureDial and DataPilot offer compatible packages for a variety of phones. My only reservation is buying a cable for a phone I'm not going to use anymore.

There's a free option too. If you haven't switched service providers, you can always ask somebody in the store to transfer the numbers for you. They usually have all the connectors and software for the phones they offer. There are limitations like exceptionally old phones where they might not have the right software. At the very least, you can ask them to print out your entire address book, so you have a paper copy of all your numbers. It's a good idea to get a print out anyway just in case you lose or break your phone.

For Cingular and T-Mobile customers, the phones use a tiny memory card called a SIM chip to store your account information. They also provide storage for around 250 numbers, so you can transfer your address book to the chip and move it over to your new phone. It's that simple.