

Star Tech



Chelsea McGlaughlin  
Staff Writer

phones are available, and they run the gamut from computer plug-in models to cordless options to the newest WiFi phones.

The Netgear WiFi phone allows for free unlimited calling to and from fellow Skype users (whether on their computers or their own Netgear WiFi phones). This service is dubbed SkypeIn, and Skype software comes pre-loaded on the phone. In addition to SkypeIn, the phone also can make cheap calls to land lines and cell phones, including long-distance and international service (this service is SkypeOut). The phone works anywhere within range of a WiFi hotspot. Users may opt to purchase a phone number for their WiFi phones so non-Skype users can still call them, just like a traditional cell phone. Voice mail is included with the purchase of a phone number or may be added separately. Also included with the phone is WiFi radio.

Users of the phone

love the SkypeIn quality, but complain about iffy connectivity (since the phone depends on the availability of WiFi networks). Also on the "needs-upgrading" list is battery life. Perhaps an improved version of the phone will make its service even better.

Netgear SPH200W Wi-Fi Skype Phone ranked third on Time Magazine's Top 10 Gadgets of 2007. I suspect the phone's innovative use of WiFi hotspots secured it among the coolest tech toys of the year.

Visit <http://www.skype.com/> to learn more about Skype's offerings, download the free software, buy Skype phones and other products or purchase service plans. Visit [http://accessories.skype.com/servlet/ControllerServlet?Action=DisplayPage&Env=BASE&Locale=en\\_US&SiteID=skype&id=ProductDetailsPage&productID=80816800](http://accessories.skype.com/servlet/ControllerServlet?Action=DisplayPage&Env=BASE&Locale=en_US&SiteID=skype&id=ProductDetailsPage&productID=80816800) to view more information about the Netgear WiFi phone or to purchase it for \$149.99.



Netgear SPH200W Wi-Fi Skype Phone: Cheap Internet Calling

Photo courtesy [http://www.time.com/time/specials/2007/top10/article/0,30583,1686204\\_1686305\\_1690756,00.html](http://www.time.com/time/specials/2007/top10/article/0,30583,1686204_1686305_1690756,00.html)

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The *Meredith Herald* is published by the College throughout the academic year. The paper is funded by the college and through independent advertising. All advertisements should be sent to [herald@meredith.edu](mailto:herald@meredith.edu)

The opinions expressed in the editorial columns do not necessarily reflect those of the college administration, faculty, or student body.

Published by Hinton Press

The policy of this paper requires that submissions be made forty-eight hours before publication, allowing time for consultation between staff and contributors; that articles not exceed 1050-1100 words; that letters to the editor not exceed 200 words; and that contributors sign all submissions and provide necessary contact information. The editor and staff welcome submissions meeting the above guidelines.