

Re: mobile phone for internet, what is right choice?

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*Source:* <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/questions/2006-06/msg02080.html>

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  - *Date:* Wed, 28 Jun 2006 14:26:25 -0400
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On Wednesday 28 June 2006 10:44, [freebsd-questions-request@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:freebsd-questions-request@xxxxxxxxxxx) wrote:

Hello list.  
What mobile phone would you recommend for connecting freebsd to internet?  
What about Ubiquam U200?

I'm using a BenQ-Siemens S68 which connects through a normal 9pin serial cable to my laptop, has build-in modem for GPRS. The ppp daemon from the ports works out-of-the-box with it, you just plug it in, say 'pppd call gprs' (having some config files in /etc/ppp for 'gprs') and you are on air.

matthias

I can't tell you what the 'right' choice is... but I'll relate my experience for you. I'm using an unlocked motorola e680i worldphone, it can be used as a modem (via usb or bluetooth). Mostly I connect w/ rfcomm\_pppd and a 3COM bluetooth adapter (3CREB96); it works reasonably well. But beware!!! I have experienced random system crashes/reboots after 'heavy' usage in this config on my 6.1-stable system (btw, if anyone can help me fix/trace this I'd appreciate it).

Otherwise, setup is relatively typical and painless. IIRC, I needed to 'bond' the device and add/edit the rfcomm-dialup profile in /etc/ppp/ppp.conf. The profile resembles:

```
< rfcomm-dialup:
< # This is IMPORTANT option
< enable force-scripts
<
< # You might want to change these
< set authname
< set authkey
< set phone "*99***1#"
<
```

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```
< # You might want to adjust dial string as well
< set dial "ABORT BUSY ABORT NO\\sCARRIER TIMEOUT 5 \
< \\" AT OK-AT-OK ATE1Q0 OK \\dATDT\\T TIMEOUT 40 CONNECT"
< set login
< set timeout 30
< enable dns
< resolv rewrite
<
< set ifaddr 10.0.0.1/0 10.0.0.2/0 255.255.255.0 0.0.0.0
< add default HISADDR
```

If you want to try this profile remove the 'leading less than signs' (this was diff output). Also, the 'phone' number might vary by provider (I'm using T-Mobile in USA). Make sure to read the bluetooth section from the handbook (esp. section 27.4.8). Then when you want to connect you tell the phone to go into discoverable 'modem' mode and run the following commands on your FreeBSD box (as root?):

```
$ /etc/rc.bluetooth start ubt0
$ rfcomm_pppd -d -a xx:xx:xx:xx:xx:xx -c -C DUN -l rfcomm-dialup
```

Replace the 'xx:xx:xx:xx:xx:xx' w/ the bluetooth address of your phone, replace the 'ubt0' with your computer's bluetooth device name. When you want to disconnect, hit ctrl-c in the terminal which is running rfcomm\_ppd and stop bluetooth: \$ /etc/rc.bluetooth stop ubt0

If you don't have a bluetooth adapter I assume that using the phone's usb cable would work too – and likely not crash the system either, lol. However, I'm not familiar w/ that process (using it as a usb modem) so I won't try to describe it... but I imagine it's quite similar to using any usb phone modem.

So you know, the phone can act as a mass storage device or modem when connected via usb (this is controlled by a setting in the phone). You may be able to tell, I'm pretty happy w/ this linux based phone from motorola. IMHO it's a good value (tough to find in the USA though, had mine imported from china). I mean, the phone provides a wireless connection to the internet AND a wireless connection to my computer (using bluetooth) simultaneously, poof computer on internet... how cool is that? It's tri-band gsm, uses regular SD flash memory up to 2gb (not mini ones, but full-size), plays mp3s, mp4 (video and audio). About the only thing is that it's kind of a 'special' phone so it takes some time to get used to using (e.g. touchscreen, no keypad).

Anyway, data rates are comparable to a 33.6 phone modem but AFAIK this will vary /some/ according to how busy the local cell-site is. Oh, you should probably have some kind of data plan w/ your service provider too ;-) Well, that goes without saying.

REMEMBER, this setup (i.e. using rfcomm\_pppd) seems to be a \*bit\* unstable.... the random crashes/reboots occur after say ~30–45 minutes of continual/heavy use (could just be my particular setup though). However, for the occasional login it works well... just make sure everything is saved, and you're not

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doing anything \*too\* important on the machine ;-)

YMMV,  
Dino

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Art is Nature speeded up and God slowed down.

— Chazal

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freebsd-questions@xxxxxxxxxxx mailing list

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