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Press Release

Source: AT&T

Staples to Offer AT&T CallVantage Service

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New Retail Agreement Greatly Expands AT&T's Distribution Base

BEDMINSTER, N.J., Jan. 6 /PRNewswire/ -- AT&T (NYSE: [T](#) - [News](#)) today announced that Staples, Inc. (Nasdaq: [SPLS](#) - [News](#)) is offering AT&T CallVantage(SM) Service, the company's residential Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) broadband phone service in its 1,200 stores nationwide.

Staples is selling an AT&T CallVantage Service Starter Kit that includes a Linksys wireless router with an integrated analog telephone adapter, which will enable phones to work over high-speed Internet connections instead of traditional circuit-switched phone networks. Customers then sign up for service with AT&T directly over the Internet with instructions found inside the Starter Kit box.

"Small office and home office workers depend on Staples to offer them innovative solutions to make their work life easier. VoIP is rapidly changing the way people communicate and do business," said Bruce Bresser, Staples vice president of technology. "AT&T CallVantage Service is clearly a service that will offer our customers exciting new communication capabilities and savings."

AT&T CallVantage Service is a nationwide service generally available to consumers wanting local area codes and numbers in 39 states and Washington, D.C.

AT&T CallVantage Service is different than traditional phone services because, through the use of IP-based networks, it can offer customers typical features such as call waiting, three-way calling, and call forwarding, as well as innovative features providing unprecedented convenience, cost savings and control such as:

- "Call Logs," to track incoming and outgoing calls;
- "Do Not Disturb," to receive calls only when wanted;
- "Locate Me," which rings up to five phones, all at once, or sequentially;
- "Voicemail with eFeatures," to listen to messages from any phone or PC and forward them to anyone on the Web;
- "Simple Reach(SM) Number," which enables AT&T CallVantage Service customers to add up to nine telephone numbers with area codes anywhere in the country where AT&T offers residential VoIP service for \$4.99 each; and
- "Conference Calling," to set up meetings with up to nine additional callers.

"Two decades ago, Staples founded the office supplies superstore concept and hatched a new industry," said Cathy Martine, AT&T senior vice president for Internet Telephony. "Today, we're looking to Staples to help expand the distribution channel for AT&T CallVantage Service. Our strategy is to make the service available to as many consumers as possible."

AT&T also offers a "Home Wiring Do-It-Yourself Guide" that provides customers step-by-step instructions for connecting the service to multiple home phones to replicate the traditional home calling environment and make the most efficient use of their existing telephone equipment.

To learn more about AT&T CallVantage Service, consumers can visit a Staples store or online at <http://www.staples.com>, visit AT&T at <http://www.CallVantage.com/Staples>, or call 1-866-816-3815, extension 70339.

About Staples

Staples, Inc. invented the office superstore concept in 1986 and today is the world's largest office products retailer. With 60,000 talented associates, the company is committed to making it easy to buy a wide range of office products, including supplies, technology, furniture, and business services. With 2003 sales of \$13 billion, Staples serves consumers and businesses ranging from home-based businesses to Fortune 500 companies in 19 countries throughout North America, Europe and Asia. Headquartered outside of Boston, Staples operates approximately 1,600 office superstores and also serves its customers through mail order catalog, e-commerce and contract businesses. More information about the company is available at <http://www.staples.com>.

About AT&T

For more than 125 years, AT&T (NYSE: [T](#) - [News](#)) has been known for unparalleled quality and reliability in communications. Backed by the research and development capabilities of AT&T Labs, the company is a global leader in local, long distance, Internet and transaction-based voice and data services.

AT&T 'Safe Harbor'

The foregoing contain 'forward-looking statements' which are based on management's beliefs as well as on a number of assumptions concerning future events made by and information currently available to management. Readers are cautioned not to put undue reliance on such forward-looking statements, which are not a guarantee of performance and are subject to a number of uncertainties and other factors, many of which are outside AT&T's control, that could cause actual results to differ materially from such statements. For a more detailed description of the factors that could cause such a difference, please see AT&T's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. AT&T disclaims any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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