

Check e-mail on your home phone

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Times News Network**

FORGET your WAP-enabled cell phone. Technology now makes it possible for one to use an ordinary home phone to access the Net.

Bangalore based Enigma Digital Concepts has partnered with US based Internet Speech, a company that provides next generation voice recognition technology. They will shortly introduce 'Net Echo' in Bangalore. This product enables internet access through any ordinary phone. "Unlike WAP enabled mobiles that need XML or ivoice software to access the Net, Net Echo needs no extra software. If you have access to a phone, you have the Net," says Sunil Subramaniam, head, Creative Design unit, Enigma Digital Concepts.

This product is a major step to bridge the digital divide here. Ravi Kumar R, CEO, Enigma says, "End users end up wasting time trying to log on to a site. With a phone, they can immediately get the information they want." While farmers can fill in applications or surf for information,

students will also be able to check their online results through phone.

The process works like this. Server companies need to install the product in their systems. When trying to access the Net, one would have to dial up the server number to be able to access email or surf. A voice enabled service would ask you which site you'd like to go to and what options you would like to see on the site. "So if you want to surf for some information like tourist spots or cloning, you have to say the words, and a voice system would read out the text on the site to you," adds Subramaniam.

Talks with farmers and other rural communities should begin shortly. While they are making a start in Andhra Pradesh and with Coorg's coffee planters, getting through to the city is something they are working steadily towards. "The server numbers will be given to the panchayat and they will have to spread the word to the villagers. The agency that decides to use Net Echo would of course have to bear the cost of the product. But that would increase their popularity too," adds Subramaniam.