

Public Switched Telephone Networks (PSTN)

Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) also known as POTS (Plain old telephone system) is an agglomeration of an interconnected network of telephone lines owned by both governments as well as commercial organizations.

The history of PSTN goes back to the invention of telephone by Alexander Graham Bell. The main objective of a PSTN is to transmit human voice in a recognizable form. It is mostly an aggregation of circuit-switched networks of the world. Originally it was an entirely analog network laid with copper cables and switches. Nowadays, most part of PSTN networks is digitized and comprises of a wide variety of communicating devices.

The Present PSTN comprises of copper telephone lines, fiber optic cables, communication satellites, microwave transmission links and undersea telephone lines. It is also linked to the cellular networks.