

Briefs: Cisco, Microsoft team on IP office phones

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Cisco Systems and Microsoft announced a new project Monday to streamline office telecommunications through Internet Protocol systems.

A major goal of the proposed system will be the ability of users to use their desktop computers to see which of their colleagues are available, thereby reducing "phone tag" and routing more calls through Internet Protocol systems.

The software was expected to indicate to the caller whether the person they are looking for is in the office or can be reached, for example, by wireless phone. Calls will be routed and managed through the Microsoft Office system.

The San Jose Mercury News Monday noted that the alliance will allow Cisco and Microsoft to use their established resources to compete against other major companies that are getting into the low-cost Internet office telecom field.

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