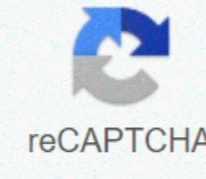




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Scary phone numbers to call in america

Last night I got one of those phone calls that everyone d fears getting in the middle of the night : an emergency happened to a family member - (It turns out that my uncle - who has been in and out of hospital for years with heart problems - was finally on his last legs and was expected to pass at any time of the night. My mom had called the kids to shoot her one last time and say goodbye, so we quickly did and it was one of the weirdest/hardest calls I've probably had to make. What do you say to someone who is about to move on to the next world? I've never had a chance to say goodbye before someone left (my grandparents spent while they slept), so needless to say, it was quite surreal. All I tried to do was get her to laugh one last time and let her know how much we love her and that we'll see her again one day soon (even though she says she'll be down while we're over, haha. He was quite the trouble maker on day :) The next day my parents flew out there hoping to catch him one last time before the inevitable, and not only did they get to do that and say their goodbyes in person, but they found out something even more amazing: he wasn't dying!!!! Apparently they had a new doctor on duty at the scene who mistakenly read their signs wrong and thus set off panic and sadness. So while it's still, in fact, deteriorating because of their bad heart unfortunately, they're now saying they'll actually have a full year or so left until it's time to worry again. Incredible! The reason I'm telling you all this? MAKE SURE YOU'RE LIVING YOUR LIFE! I know we all want to shake and be wildly rich beyond our dreams, but at the end of the day money is the last thing we probably care about when it's time to go. Yes, it's important to pay attention too, and yes you do want to have stuff in place in case of an emergency success (just ask my poor friend Ashley who recently lost her father and had to deal with messy finances at the top of it all), but it's really about feeling like I've lived a happy and rewarding life. At least what I collect ... If that changes, and there are blogs in life after life, I'll be sure to confirm :) All I know is that right now my uncle appreciates life more than anyone else. To tell you that you're dying within hours, and then getting a 1-year extension is beyond comprehension for me. What would you do with an extra year of your life???? What can you do NOW as long as you (hopefully) have many more left than that?? Are you happy? Personally, I will take the day off from obsessing over money like me, and about some of these questions instead. I don't really want to wake up one day (my last day) and I feel like I haven't lived any! It may be time to update this ol' bucket list while I'm on it as well. What a turn of events... _____ (Photo by Le4nd) Jay Jay Talk about money, collect coins, fly hip-hop, and go out with your three cute guys. You can check out all their projects online at jmoney.biz. Thanks for reading the blog! Ah, the holidays. A time to relax, enjoy large meals and make semi-annual calls to relatives you really don't like. Hey, I'm not here to judge. I just thought our upcoming Thanksgiving weekend and soon follow festus season seemed like a perfect time to talk about an easily overlooked option that is waiting to be embraced (in a totally platonic and consensual way, of course): the ability to turn any old phone into an active call device connected to its current number courtesy of Google.Why bother? Good question, Gilbert. I think the real question, though, is: Why not? If you have an old phone sitting and growing crisp, this will give you a genuinely practical new purpose. You could keep it on your desk at work, in case you ever forget your regular phone; keep it in your travel bag as a backup, in case your battery dies during a ladder; throw it in the glove box and have it as an emergency phone ready to roll; or take it with you to the gym and avoid the risk of hitting weights against your purty new primary phone while buff and shine this wonderful torso. Capisce? Capisce. So here's the deal: Google's Hangouts service (which, against all odds, is mostly still something from now on) has a hidden option to assume the identity of your current mobile number. Once configured, you'll be allowed to make calls to and from countries that support your own number using any available data connection. This means it will work with almost any old Android device - phone or tablet - as long as there is an actively available Wi-Fi connection. If you're using Project Fi, you can go a step further and order a free data-only SIM that lets you make on-the-go calls over mobile networks, too, at minimal additional cost. (You'll only pay for the amount of the data used, at the same usual price associated with your account.) All you have to do is follow these steps, which should take you a total of two or four minutes at most: Step 1: Download the Google Hangouts Dialer app to your old Android phone Is a separate app from the normal Hangouts app, though you'll also need it, so go ahead and grab it if you don't already have it. (All of this should work through the only Hangouts app for iOS, too, by the way, so feel free to give it a whirlwind if you have an old iPhone or iPad sitting around and just drowning in your magical fairy dust.) Step 2: Verify your number phone with GoogleOpen that just installed the Hangouts Dialer app on your mobile device and go to settings (in the main menu on the left side of the screen). Tap the Google Account you want to use, then find the option to verify your phone number. Tap it and and the steps that appear. Google will send a PIN to the number you provide, so it must be a real work mobile number (or at least a virtual one that can receive SMS messages). Once placed on your PIN, the number will be verified and you'll almost be ready to mark the day. Step 3: Report Hangouts to use your outgoing call numberEn this same app settings menu, you should now see an option labeled outgoing caller ID. Tap it and you'll be able to tell Google to use your actual phone number every time you make a call through Hangouts. Once this is done, for all practical purposes, making a call through Hangouts will be like making a call from your current phone. And that's all there is to it! Now you can open the Hangouts Dialer app and mark it on your heart's content. So happy Thanksgiving – and happy call. Send my comments to your great Aunt Gladys, wouldja? More holiday productivity fun: 20 great uses for an old Android Copyright © 2017 IDG Communications, Inc. Do you use headphones to talk on the phone? Until recently, only telemarketers, reporters and bond traders enjoyed this liberating experience. But more and more entrepreneurs are putting their phones in favor of headphones: taking notes, checking email and generally being more productive while on the phone. FreeHand, a new market-leading Plantronics headset, targets company professionals. The small unit of the ear appears to have to be attached to a Walkman instead of a phone. His noise-cancelling microphone makes the sound clear even in open environments. Its six-foot-long cord allows users to tour their offices while working their Rolodexes.Michael Hedrick, the Bank of Montreal's global distribution director, has been using headphones for years, but they always found it uncomfortable. Not anymore. You just pick up FreeHand, stick it in your ear, and answer the phone, he says. Very good value FreeHand sells for about \$200. Call Plantronics (800-544-4660) or visit the Web. Talk UpWalk to any office and you'll see people hug around speakers holding conference calls with distant colleagues. The problem with long-distance teleconferences is that they sound like that, well, distant - unless you spend \$800 or more for high-performance, full duplex audio equipment. That's changing. SoundPoint, a new desktop conference system, offers high-performance sound at an affordable price. Peter Rusch, a consultant based outside San Francisco, uses SoundPoint to interact with his East Coast clients. conference, you simply can't get the full impact of the meeting, he complains. But with SoundPoint, I can listen to all the conversations. I can even listen to side conversations when people think they are whispering. SoundPoint comes in two versions: the it connects to any business phone, and SoundPoint PC, which works with a sound card, which makes it great for Internet phones and desktop video conferencing systems. Both versions sell for \$299. Call Polycom, Inc. (800-765-9266) or visit the . The drag-and-drop interface of the WebPhone makes it surprisingly easy to use. And the system offers some remarkable features – not least the ability to reach anyone (with an email address) anywhere in the world by the price of a local internet connection. WebPhone allows users to create messages for specific calls (Sorry, I had to leave early, Chris; meet me in the office at 10 .m.) or block calls from specific people and route them directly to voice mail. Making a call is as easy as entering an email address or double-clicking an entry in an email address book. WebPhone 2.0 sells for \$49.95. A limited features version can be downloaded for free. Call NetSpeak Corporation (561-998-8700) or visit the Http://www.netspeak.com. We can't hide behind the email. What? Real business relationships are formed in two ways, says entrepreneur-turned-investor Mark Suster: in person and over the phone. The guy knows how to keep a phone concise and effective, so let's heed his call to make better calls. 1) Get ready You don't have to be a politician to have talking points in your pocket—or, perhaps more accessoryly, written before you make the call. Based on Suster's description, it's a preparation like how reporters do phone interviews: outline the points you'd like to cover, the ask you're doing, and how long you have. This gives you call an anchor. The best interviews are conversations, but as Miles Davis might say, it takes a lot of preparation to improvise properly.2) Opening with banterLeaping in your hard sales pitch is awkward, Suster observes, so start soft: while you might consider yourself too cool to talk about the weather, wondering what the other person is experiencing is an easy way to build empathy and co-investment. But if the relationship isn't increasing, you get to business time.3) Be explicitOnce the banter buffer has been built, transition to the issue at hand - and let the other person know what it is (they can't read their mind, especially over the phone). Suster says that you have to say something like listening, the reason I'm calling is... – it's as direct as it is useful and helps each of you align your interests. And if you don't have a specific question, you can say something a simple one like I just expected to get 10 your time to tell you what we are doing because the next opportunity we get to know the line you have more than one understanding. Yes, you're excited about your business, but a phone call is a dialogue, not a monologue. That's bad enough in person, but I promise if over the phone the recipient will start tuning in, says Suster. If you listen closely you'll probably even hear the touch of a keyboard. To avoid this, you can stop your tone by asking if they are with you and maybe pick up some feedback-that will make you smarter on your next call.5) Know your question Don't Ask For Four Things or You'll Get None, Suster Quips, and Your only question should be obvious, easily achievable.6) Knowing the relationship Don't Ask a Big Favor so you don't have a close relationship, says suster. Your network is not only the number of nodes, we have learned; it's the quality of relationships.7) Know the timelineAssume this won't be the only time in your life that you'll talk to them. Suster says, so you don't need to fit everything into a unique conversation. If you cultivate a good long-term relationship through patience, persistence and reciprocity there will be many more occasions, Suster says, echoing the principles of the slag-free network.8) Keeping it shortThe idea is the sum of the interactions people have with you. Phones are part of this process, Suster says: When you think of your relationship with the individual as a relationship you will build over time and about many calls, discussions, talks at conferences or what you will realize you need to be known for being time-friendly to others. If you're known as the person who's always been on the wind for a long time, you're less likely to have upcoming calendar calls. Less is better, I promise. Hat tip: Both sides of the table[Phone call: Everett Collection via Shutterstock] Shutterstock]

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