



Obsessively mobile

Margaret van Steenderen
margsvs@ananzi.co.za

WAP aside, mobile services are adding more and more convenience to information access. This column focuses on the interplay between your cell phone and e-mail. A useful service is being able to send e-mail from your cell phone (no, it does not have to be WAP enabled) as an SMS. With Vodacom you can also e-mail a SMS to a cell phone. With certain Internet Service Providers you can even now dial in and listen to your e-mails. There are also some great sites that will keep you updated with the latest services the various cellular providers are offering.

Sending e-mail from you cell phone

Not at your computer and you suddenly remember an e-mail you just have to send? Well, you can send e-mails via your cell phone's SMS service. Here is how:

Vodacom

The phone number that the message goes to is 4004 (rather than the usual cell phone number you enter). In the message enter the recipients e-mail address, for example, test@ananzi.co.za followed by a space and then enter the message that you wish to send.

The receiver of the e-mail can reply to the e-mail, which will send an SMS back to your phone.

MTN

The phone number that the messages goes to is 0831236245. In the message, enter the recipient's e-mail address followed by a space and then just enter the message. Again, the recipient can reply, which will send an SMS back to your phone.

Cell C

According to their customer service department, this service is not yet available.

Sending SMS via e-mail

If you know that someone is not at his or her desk and you want to get a message to them, you can send an SMS via e-mail. Here is how:

Vodacom

In the 'To' field enter [cellphonenumber]@voda.co.za (for example, 0821000234@voda.co.za). Don't enter anything in the 'Subject' field and write the message

in the body. You can send 140 characters. If you have a signature file you might want to remove it out of the e-mail.

Picking up your e-mail via voice

If you are waiting for an urgent e-mail, you can dial in and retrieve it via any phone or cell phone. I tested World Online's speech mail – for further information go to <http://speechmail.worldon-line.co.za/>. Speechmail is available to World Online, Yebo, Icon and GIA subscribers. However, corporate users can contact speechmail@worldon-line.co.za with their company name, contact person and type of e-mail server for further information.

You can sign up for speech mail at http://speechmail.worldon-line.co.za/terms_choose.html – an e-mail is sent with your account number, pin number and the phone number to call to pick up your e-mail. Once you have phoned in, the voice on the other side does take a little getting used to, but full details are provided, such as who the message came from, the time sent and so on. You can even reply to a mail message. You can leave a 60 second message, which is sent as a sound file (.wav) to that e-mail address.

SMS services

There are many SMS services available to turn your cell phone into a handy information tool or just to use for fun. Just a few examples:

- Send a talking SMS to a landline (for further details go to http://www.smartcom.co.za/standard_products/talking_sms.asp)
- Send pictures via SMS (as long as the recipients phone can display the pictures)
- Subscribe to various services that will SMS information to your cell phone.

Useful sites

Vodacom's home page: <http://www.vodacom.co.za>

MTN's home page: <http://www.mtn.co.za/>

Cell C's home page: <http://www.cellc.co.za>

MTN Nice: <http://www.mtnice.co.za/> (MTN's Web site providing a newsletter, services and games for your MTN cell phone.)

Vodacom4me: <http://www.vodacom4me.co.za/> (Vodacom's Web site offering a host of services, advice and the latest news for your Vodacom cell phone).

VodaWorld: <http://www.vodaworld.co.za/> (Vodacom's on-line magazine which will keep you up to date on the latest developments).

SmartCom: <http://www.smartcom.co.za/> (a cellular provider, with useful information on the latest cellular services available).

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ISSN 1560-683X

Published by [InterWord Communications](#) for the Centre for Research in Web-based Applications,
Rand Afrikaans University