

## Configuring Polycom Phones

Configuring Polycom phones from the web interface can be painful. When you move from one menu to another, you have to submit your changes or they won't be saved. Every time you submit a major change, the phone needs to reboot which can take several minutes. Then the web server in the phone needs a few minutes before the configuration page is available to make the next changes.

Fortunately there is an easier way once you understand it.

Go to the Polycom support site and download the appropriate software for your phone. It is in zip format so you will need to unzip it to the folder that your ftp or tftp server uses for serving files.

There are a few .cfg files in the download that are in xml format so you might want to use an xml editor although vim and notepad can be used.

The first file, 000000000000.cfg just sets some paths to where additional .cfg files are located.

The sip\_XXX.cfg file sets up settings which can be common to all phones such as your voip server, ntp settings, etc.

The phone1\_XXX.cfg file is basically a template for configuring your phone. You could make copies of this file and name them <MACADDRESS>.cfg and fill in most of the parameters for your phones. They do leave a few settings out but you can add them if you know the proper syntax.

When you point your Polycom phone to your ftp or tftp server and it boots, it reads the 000000000000.cfg file first, then the sip\_XXX.cfg file, then the phone1\_XXX.cfg file and finally the <MACADDRESS>.cfg file in that order. The last file read will take precedence if a setting is different in one or more of the previous files.

OK, here's a tip. If you configure your first phone from the web interface, it will save a <MACADDRESS>.cfg file to your server with all of the over rides that were not set by the previous .cfg files. Just rename that file to the MAC address of additional phones and modify only the settings like extension, password, etc.

When those phones boot and connect to your file server, they will read the file with their MAC address last and apply those configuration options to themselves.

Shown below is a snapshot of what a <MACADDRESS>.cfg file might look like in an xml editor. All of the important settings are automatically applied when the phone boots and if you

already have your sip.conf and extensions.conf set up in Asterisk, they should register and be ready to use.

If you are using dhcp for the phones, all you need to set from the phone menu is the address of the ftp or tftp server and a password if using ftp.

If you are using static ip's, you will have to manually configure the network information on the phone but that is a two minute task at best.

