

Comparison: Astribank vs. Channel Banks

Category/Feature	Astribank	Channel Bank	Comments
<i>General</i>			
Specifically designed for Asterisk®	✓	✗	
Direct connection to Asterisk server	✓	✗	Astribank does not require PRI card
Support for all telephony modules: FXS FXO BRI PRI R2	✓	✗	
Non-intrusive installation	✓	✗	Astribank uses the USB port
Automatic one-step configuration	✓	✗	Astribank is a single device
Easy maintenance	✓	✗	2 devices, PCI installation vs. hot pluggable USB
Drivers are included in standard Asterisk	✓	✗	Astribank is a native Asterisk appliance
Support for up to 32 analog ports	✓	✗	
<i>Physical Dimensions</i>			
Supplied in small form factor	✓	✗	Astribank chassis is 19" 1U
Density per unit height	32	12	Typical channel bank supports 24 in 2U
Weight	3 Lbs	12 Lbs	
<i>Unique Features</i>			
Input ports	✓	✗	Astribank supports inputs from auxiliary systems, such as alarms
Output ports	✓	✗	Astribank supports activation of

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			auxiliary devices, like gates
<i>High Volume</i>			
Call density per PC connection	USB 2.0 ultra high bandwidth	24 ports for each PRI	Astribank's single USB 2.0 port supports over 3,000 calls
Cabinet space for 1,000 ports	32 U (1.44 meters)	84 U (3.78 meters)	Typical channel bank solution requires 42 PRI ports (i.e., 42 PCI busses)!
<i>Maintainability and High Availability</i>			
Independent hot-pluggable unit	✓	✗	Astribank is USB plug-and-play
No need to shut down and/or disassemble Asterisk server for maintenance	✓	✗	No PRI card required for Astribank
Front panel maintenance and tapping ports	✓	✗	Astribank provides clear status LED for each channel
<i>Price Performance</i>			
Price per FXS port	\$60	\$73	Typical channel bank requires PRI card
Price per FXO port	\$65	\$94	Typical channel bank requires PRI card

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