



**Answering machine:
What was the ancestor of
the voice mail?**

One of the services that Telefónica offered to its subscribers was the answering machine, a magnetic device that was used alongside the regular telephone set to leave a message in the event that nobody answered the call. The subscriber could record a personalised voice note to invite the caller to leave a message. It was very common to hear recordings made by the whole family, or even jokes pretending to be live on the other end of the handset.

