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(71) Applicant: VOYANT TECHNOLOGIES, INC. [US/US]; 1765 West 121st Avenue, Westminster, CO 80234 (US).

(72) Inventors: ERNSTROM, William, Paul; 17550 West 54th Place, Golden, CO 80403 (US). YACKEY, Thomas, Edward; 210 Redwood Circle, Broomfield, CO 80020 (US). BAXLEY, Warren, Edward; 144 W. 124th Court, Westminster, CO 80234 (US). ADAMS, Jeffrey, C.; 377 Driftwood Circle, Lafayette, CO 80026 (US). GELLATLY, Anna, Lea; 8409 W. 75th Way, Arvada, CO 80005 (US).

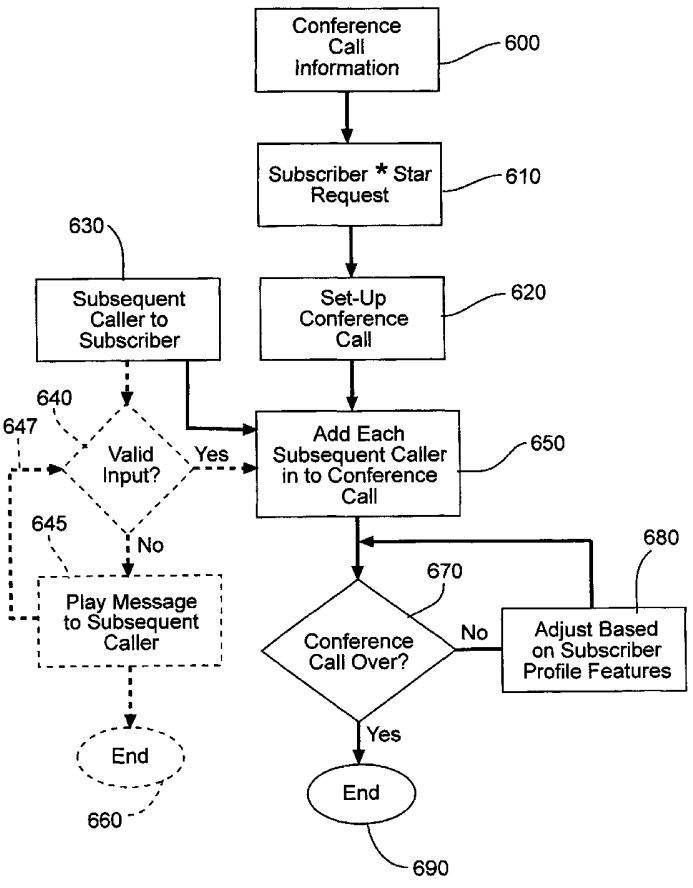
(74) Agents: CARSON, Scott, W. et al.; Dorr, Carson, Sloan & Birney, P.C., 3010 E. 6th Avenue, Denver, CO 80206 (US).

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: OCAL EXCHANGE SUBSCRIBER LINE CONFERENCING METHOD



(57) Abstract: A local conferencing exchange subscriber line conferencing method using a series of input signals from the phone (22) of a subscriber (20), such as a dual-tone multifrequency (DTMF) sequence of key inputs starting with a star key input, to initiate the conference by enabling a termination attempt trigger (T A T). The conference is set up in a bridge (80) and the phone (22) of the subscriber (20) is connected to the bridge (80). All subsequent callers (40) to the subscriber's phone number at the local exchange carrier (100) are routed and connected to the conference at the bridge (80). When the conference call ends, the subscriber's phone (22) is returned to normal service.

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European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US02/24126

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) :H04M 3/56, 7/00

US CL :Please See Extra Sheet.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 379/201.01, 202.01, 203.01, 204.01, 205.01, 207.01, 207.02, 207.03, 207.1, 230

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

None

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EAST: conferenc$3, three-way calling, tat, dnt, trigger, press *, volume control, whisper, gain control

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,995,608 A (DESTAMPEL, JR. et al.) 30 November 1999, the entire document.	1-53
Y	US 5,974,133 A (FLEISCHER, III et al.) 26 October 1999, the entire document (triggers Col. 20).	1-53
Y	US 6,269,159 B1 (CANNON et al.) 31 July 2001, the entire document	1-53
Y	US 6,178,237 B1 (HORN) 23 January 2001, the entire document	1-53
Y,P	US 6,304,652 B1 (WALLENIUS) 16 October 2001, the entire document.	1-53

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

*	Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E"	earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

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