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(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication****Buti et al.**(10) **Pub. No.: US 2007/0207839 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Sep. 6, 2007**(54) **NETWORK SUPPORT FOR MOBILE
SPECIAL ALERTING****Publication Classification**(51) **Int. Cl.****H04M 11/04** (2006.01)**H04B 1/38** (2006.01)(52) **U.S. Cl.** **455/567; 455/404.1**(76) Inventors: **Ajay K. Buti**, Naperville, IL (US);
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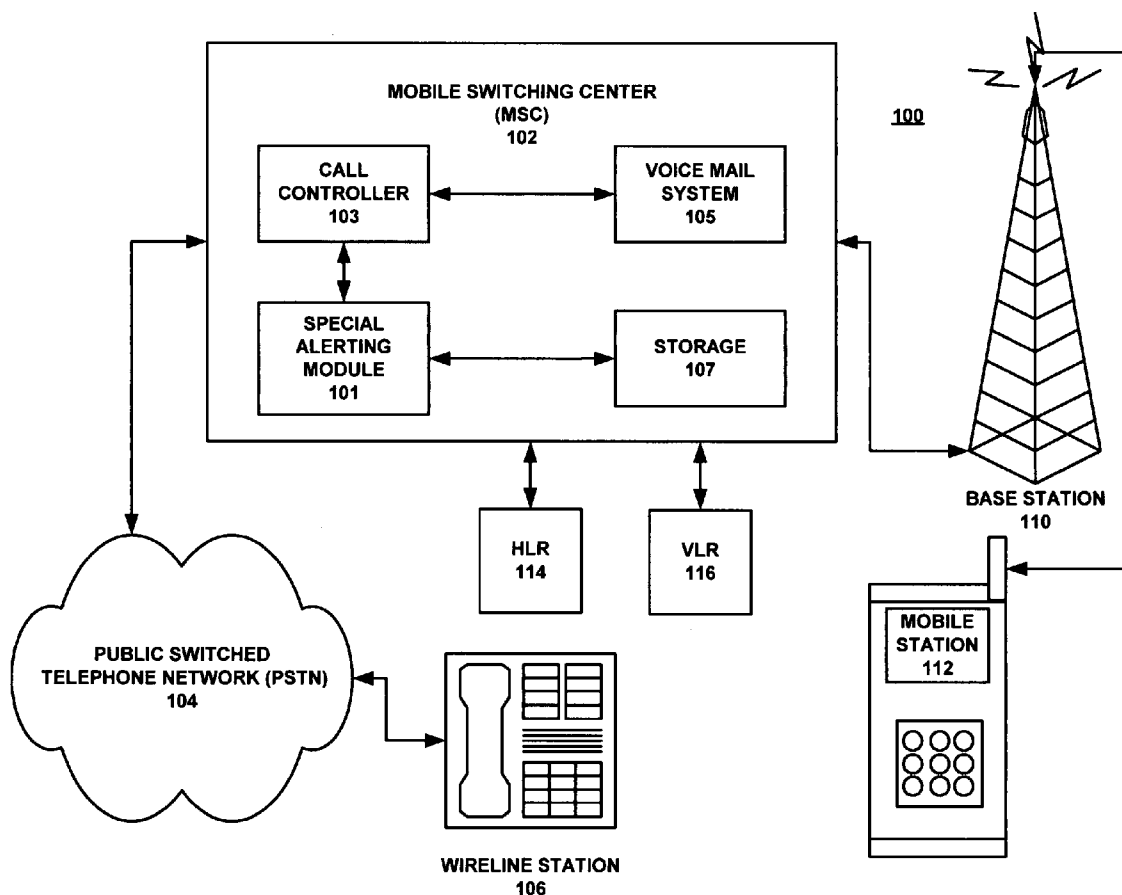
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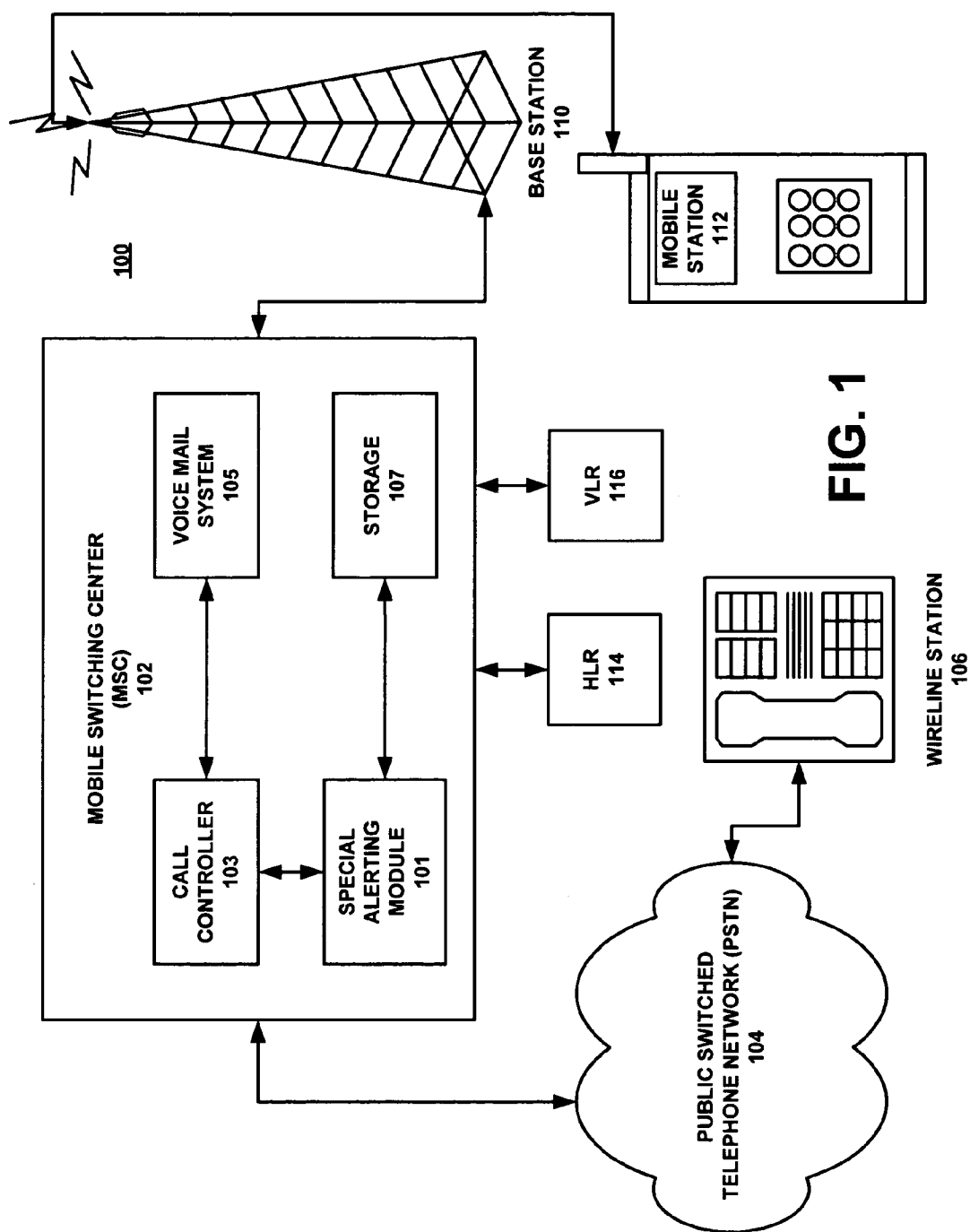
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ABSTRACT

An apparatus in one example has: a mobile terminal having at least first and second modes of operation; and a special alerting code; wherein, in response to the calling party entering the special alerting code, the mobile terminal changes from the first mode of operation to the second mode of operation. The system allows a mobile terminal in a silent/meeting mode to go into a vibrate and/or ring mode when a calling party enters a special alerting code.

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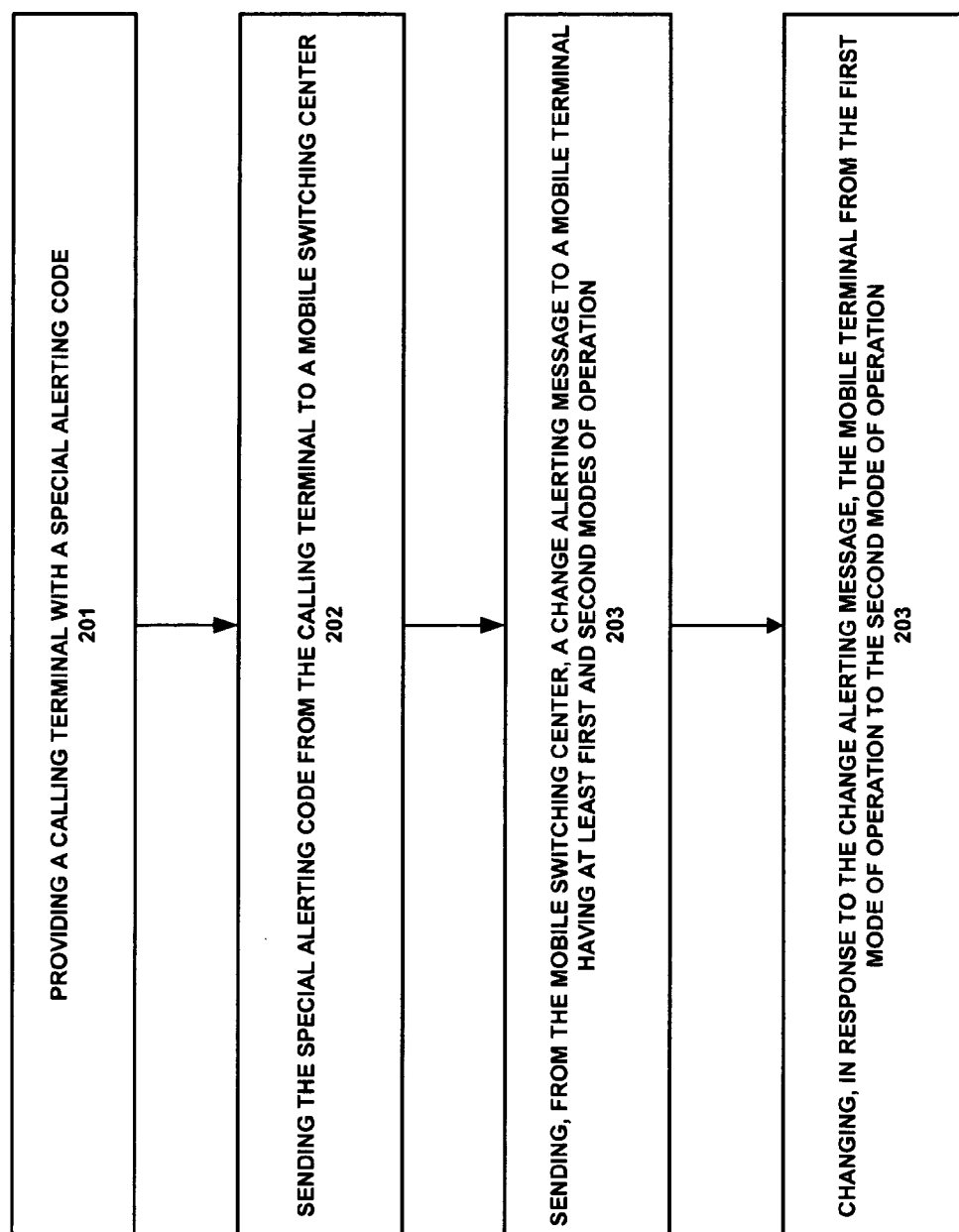


FIG. 2

NETWORK SUPPORT FOR MOBILE SPECIAL ALERTING

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The invention relates generally to telecommunication systems and, more specifically, to a system that allows a mobile terminal in a silent/meeting mode to go into a vibrate and/or ring mode when a calling party enters a special alerting code.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Wireless communication systems are constantly evolving. System designers are continually developing greater numbers of features for both service providers as well as for the end users. In the area of wireless phone systems, cellular based phone systems have advanced tremendously in recent years. Wireless phone systems are available based on a variety of modulation techniques and are capable of using a number of allocated frequency bands. Available modulation schemes include analog FM and digital modulation schemes using Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) or Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA). Each scheme has inherent advantages and disadvantages relating to system architecture, frequency reuse, and communications quality. However, the features the manufacturer offers to the service provider and which the service provider offers to the consumer are similar between the different wireless systems.

[0003] Typically, a mobile terminal such as a cell phone may have a plurality of different alerting modes such as silent/meeting mode (i.e. a mode in which the phone does not ring or vibrate), vibrate mode, and ring mode. The ring mode may also be a vibrate and ring mode.

[0004] There are times when a mobile terminal user will put a mobile terminal in a silence/meeting mode and then forget to change the silent/meeting mode back to the ring mode and/or vibrate mode. In the mean time a caller keeps trying to get in touch with the mobile terminal user (perhaps for an emergency). However, because the mobile terminal is still in the silent/meeting mode, the mobile terminal user does not know to answer the call.

[0005] Thus, there is a need in the art for a system in which a mobile terminal in a silent/meeting mode may be placed into a vibrate and/or ring mode when a calling party needs to contact the mobile terminal.

SUMMARY

[0006] One implementation of the present method and apparatus encompasses an apparatus. The apparatus comprises: a mobile terminal having at least first and second modes of operation; and a special alerting code; wherein, in response to receiving the special alerting code, the network alerts the mobile terminal to change from the first mode of operation to the second mode of operation.

[0007] Another implementation of the present method and apparatus encompasses a method. The method comprises: sending a special alerting code to the network; the network sending a "Change-Alerting" message to the mobile upon receipt of special alerting code; a mobile terminal having at least first and second modes of operation; and changing, in

response to the "Change-Alerting" message, the mobile terminal from the first mode of operation to the second mode of operation.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0008] Features of exemplary implementations of the invention will become apparent from the description, the claims, and the accompanying drawings in which:

[0009] FIG. 1 is a representation of one implementation of an apparatus that provides network support for changing a mobile terminal from a silent/meeting mode to a vibrate and/or ring mode when a calling party needs to contact the mobile terminal; and

[0010] FIG. 2 is a representation of one exemplary flow diagram according to the present method.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0011] One methodology according to the present method and apparatus is for the mobile terminal to go from a silent or meeting mode into a vibrate and/or ring mode, or alternatively from a vibrate mode to a ring mode or a vibrate and ring mode, if a predetermined code has been entered by a calling party. Another methodology is for the mobile terminal to go from a silent or meeting mode into a vibrate mode for a brief moment, which may be user defined, after a certain interval, which may also be user defined. Thus, the mobile terminal user may be reminded that the mobile terminal is still in a silent or meeting mode.

[0012] FIG. 1 is a representation of one implementation of an apparatus that provides network support for changing a mobile terminal **112** from a silent/meeting mode to a vibrate and/or ring mode when a calling party needs to contact the mobile terminal. The mobile terminal **112**, such as a cell phone, may have a plurality of different modes of operation, such as a silent/meeting mode (i.e. a mode in which the phone does not ring or vibrate), a vibrate mode, a ringing mode, and a vibrate/ringing mode.

[0013] Referring to FIG. 1, a network **100** is depicted for at least one mobile terminal **112** of a plurality of mobile terminals operatively connected to a communication network. Although the present system and method may be used with any type of network (wired and wireless, for example), the subscriber may typically be a mobile subscriber who uses a mobile terminal **112** (also referred to as mobile phone, a cell phone, mobile handset, or car phone). The network (or telecommunication network) **100** may have a mobile switching center (MSC) **102**, which may have a voice mail system **105** that may be contained in the MSC **102** or be separate and operatively coupled to the MSC **112**. The network **100** may be, or may be part of, one or more of a telephone network, a local area network ("LAN"), the Internet, and a wireless network. In the depicted embodiment, a public switched telephone network (PSTN) **104** is operatively coupled to the MSC **102**. The PSTN **104** routes calls to and from mobile users through the MSC **102**. The PSTN **104** also routes calls from and to wireline stations **106**. The MSC **102** may also be connected to one or more base stations (BS) **110**. Each of the base stations **110** communicates with mobile terminal(s) **112** in its service area. The PSTN **104** generally can be implemented as the worldwide voice telephone network accessible to all those with telephones and access privileges (e.g., AT&T long distance network).

[0014] Each of the mobile terminals **112** may have a home location register (HLR) **114** where data about each of the mobile terminals **112** resides. Some of the mobile terminals **112** may be remotely located from their home location, and in that case, a visiting location register (VLR) **116** is set up locally for each mobile terminal **112** that is visiting in its service area. HLR **114** can be implemented as a permanent SS7 database utilized in cellular networks, such as, but not limited to, for example, AMPS (Advanced Mobile Phone System), and GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications).

[0015] HLR **114** may be utilized generally to identify/verify a subscriber, and also contains subscriber data related to features and services. HLR **114** is generally utilized not only when a call is being made within a coverage area supported by a cellular provider of record, but also to verify the legitimacy and to support subscriber features when a subscriber is away from his or her home area. VLR **116**, on the other hand, may be implemented as a local database maintained by the cellular provider whose territory is being roamed. Mobile terminal **112** may be implemented as a cellular device, personal communication device, short message service device or wireless communications device (e.g., a wireless personal digital assistant).

[0016] The MCS **102** may have, or be operatively connected to, components of a system for special alerting of mobile terminals by a telecommunication network. Such components in some embodiments may include: special alerting module **101**, and a call controller **103** and storage **107** in the MCS **102**.

[0017] The mobile terminal **112** may have at least first and second modes of operation. A "Change-Alerting" message may be sent to the mobile terminal **112** by the MSC **102** upon receipt of the special alerting code. In response to receiving the "Change-Alerting" message, the mobile terminal changes from the first mode of operation to the second mode of operation.

[0018] In one embodiment a calling terminal, such as wireline station **106**, may enter the special alerting code, the special alerting code having been provided to the calling terminal **106** party by the mobile terminal **112** owner, for example. The calling terminal may be the wireline station **106**, but it may also be any other type of terminal, such as a mobile terminal, a cell phone, a PDA, or in general any type of wired or wireless device. The calling terminal **106** may then send the special alerting code to the MSC **102**. The special alerting code may be entered at the calling terminal **106** during receiving a ring back tone at the calling terminal **106**, or during receiving a voice mail prompt at the calling terminal **106**. The MSC **102** may then send the "Change-Alerting" message to the mobile terminal **112**. In an embodiment of the present method and apparatus the mobile terminal **112** may have a silent mode, a vibrate mood mode, a ring mode, and a vibrate and ring mode.

[0019] A storage **107** may be operatively coupled to the special alerting module **101**. The storage **107** may store data or the equivalent thereof for use in the present method as described below. The data may be, for example, special alerting code the alerting change interval and vibrate interval.

[0020] The "special alerting code" may be defined in the network.

[0021] The "alerting change interval". This interval specifies the period after which the silent mobile will revert back to the "vibrate mode" and vibrate to remind the subscriber that the mobile terminal is in silent mode. This may be a parameter defined on the terminal. Alternatively, "alerting change interval" may be defined in the network, but then additional messaging is required between the mobile terminal and the network every time the terminal is put into silence mode. The terminal may inform the network that it is now in the silent mode by using a new message "silent alert". The network may then send the terminal a new "change alerting" message to request it to change to vibrate mode after the "alerting change interval".

[0022] The "vibrate period" specifies how long the mobile terminal will stay in vibrate mode before reverting back to silence mode. This may be a parameter defined on the terminal. Alternatively, the "vibrate period" may be defined in the network. In this case the network will provide the "vibrate period" in the "change alerting" message.

[0023] FIG. 2 is a representation of one exemplary flow diagram according to the present method. In this embodiment of the present method, a calling terminal may be provided with the special alerting code (**201**). The calling terminal sends the special alerting code to the MSC **102** (**202**). The MSC **102** sends a "Change Alerting" message to a mobile terminal having at least first and second modes of operation (**203**). In response to the "Change Alerting" message, the mobile terminal changes from the first mode of operation to the second mode of operation (**204**), thus alerting the user to the incoming call.

[0024] The special alerting code may be entered at the calling terminal during receiving a ring back tone at the calling terminal. Alternatively, the special alerting code may be entered at the calling terminal during receiving a voice mail prompt at the calling terminal.

[0025] In another embodiment a mobile terminal may be in a silent mode and the user of the mobile terminal may define an interval after which the mobile terminal will automatically go into vibrate mode for a brief moment and then back to the silent mode. The mobile owner may set the "alerting change interval" and set the "vibrate period" in the mobile terminal or in the network.

[0026] If the "alerting change interval" and the "vibrate period" are set in the terminal, then after the "alerting change interval" the mobile terminal will vibrate for the "vibrate period" and then go back into silent mode. During the "vibrate period" the display on the mobile terminal may show that the terminal is in silent mode. Alternatively, if the "alerting change interval" and "vibrate period" are set in the network the network will send a "change alerting" message to the mobile terminal after expiration of the "alerting change interval". This message may also include the "vibrate period". This will cause the mobile terminal to vibrate for the "vibrate period" and then go back into silent mode. During the "vibrate period" the display will show that the terminal is in silent mode.

[0027] The present apparatus in one example may comprise a plurality of components such as one or more of electronic components, hardware components, and computer software components. A number of such components may be combined or divided in the apparatus.

[0028] The present apparatus in one example may employ one or more computer-readable signal-bearing media. The computer-readable signal-bearing media may store software, firmware and/or assembly language for performing one or more portions of one or more embodiments. The computer-readable signal-bearing medium in one example may comprise one or more of a magnetic, electrical, optical, biological, and atomic data storage medium. For example, the computer-readable signal-bearing medium may comprise floppy disks, magnetic tapes, CD-ROMs, DVD-ROMs, hard disk drives, and electronic memory. In another example, the computer-readable signal-bearing medium may comprise a modulated carrier signal transmitted over a network comprising or coupled with the apparatus, for instance, one or more of a telephone network, a local area network ("LAN"), a wide area network ("WAN"), the Internet, and a wireless network.

[0029] The steps or operations described herein are just exemplary. There may be many variations to these steps or operations without departing from the spirit of the invention. For instance, the steps may be performed in a differing order, or steps may be added, deleted, or modified.

[0030] Although exemplary implementations of the invention have been depicted and described in detail herein, it will be apparent to those skilled in the relevant art that various modifications, additions, substitutions, and the like can be made without departing from the spirit of the invention and these are therefore considered to be within the scope of the invention as defined in the following claims.

We claim:

1. A method, comprising:

sending a special alerting code to a mobile terminal having at least first and second modes of operation; and

changing, in response to the special alerting code, the mobile terminal from the first mode of operation to the second mode of operation.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the method further comprises providing a calling terminal with the special alerting code, the calling terminal sending a special alerting code to the mobile terminal.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the special alerting code is entered at the calling terminal during receiving a ring back tone at the calling terminal.

4. The method according to claim 2, wherein the special alerting code is entered at the calling terminal during receiving a voice mail prompt at the calling terminal.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the mobile terminal has a plurality of operational modes.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the plurality of operational modes has a silent mode, a vibrate mood, a ring mode, and a vibrate and ring mode.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein, when the mobile terminal is in the silent mood and in response to receiving the special alerting code, changing the mode of operation of the mobile terminal from the silent mode to one of the vibrate mode, the ring mode and the vibrate and ring mode.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the mode of operation of the mobile terminal is changed from the silent mode to one of the vibrate mode, the ring mode and the vibrate and ring mode for a predetermined period of time.

9. The method according to claim 7, wherein the mobile terminal is operatively coupled to a network, wherein the mobile terminal sends a silent alert message to the network when the mobile terminal is changed to the silent mode, wherein the network sends an alerting change interval to the mobile terminal, and in response the mode of operation of the mobile terminal is changed from the silent mode to one of the vibrate mode, the ring mode and the vibrate and ring mode for the alerting change interval, and wherein the network sends a change alert message to the mobile terminal to return the mode of operation to the vibrate mode.

10. The method according to claim 6, wherein, when the mobile terminal is in the vibrate mood and in response to receiving the special alerting code, changing the mode of operation of the mobile terminal from the vibrate mode to one of the ring mode and the vibrate and ring mode.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein the mode of operation of the mobile terminal is changed from the vibrate mode to one of the ring mode and the vibrate and ring mode for a predetermined period of time.

12. The method according to claim 10, wherein the mobile terminal is operatively coupled to a network, wherein the mobile terminal sends a silent alert message to the network when the mobile terminal is changed to the silent mode, wherein the network sends an alerting change interval to the mobile terminal, and in response the mode of operation of the mobile terminal is changed from the vibrate mode to one of the ring mode and the vibrate and ring mode for the alerting change interval, and wherein the network sends a change alert message to the mobile terminal to return the mode of operation to the vibrate mode.

13. An apparatus, comprising:

a mobile terminal having at least first and second modes of operation; and

a special alerting code;

wherein, in response to receiving the special alerting code, the mobile terminal changes from the first mode of operation to the second mode of operation.

14. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein a calling terminal has the special alerting code, and wherein the calling terminal sends the special alerting code to the mobile terminal.

15. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the special alerting code is entered at the calling terminal during receiving a ring back tone at the calling terminal.

16. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the special alerting code is entered at the calling terminal during receiving a voice mail prompt at the calling terminal.

17. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the mobile terminal has a plurality of operational modes.

18. The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the plurality of operational modes has a silent mode, a vibrate mood, a ring mode, and a vibrate and ring mode.

19. The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein, when the mobile terminal is in the silent mood and in response to receiving the special alerting code, the mode of operation of the mobile terminal is changed from the silent mode to one of the vibrate mode, the ring mode and the vibrate and ring mode.

20. The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the mode of operation of the mobile terminal is changed from the silent mode to one of the vibrate mode, the ring mode and the vibrate and ring mode for a predetermined period of time.

21. The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the mobile terminal is operatively coupled to a network, wherein the mobile terminal sends a silent alert message to the network when the mobile terminal is changed to the silent mode, wherein the network sends an alerting change interval to the mobile terminal, and in response the mode of operation of the mobile terminal is changed from the silent mode to one of the vibrate mode, the ring mode and the vibrate and ring mode for the alerting change interval, and wherein the network sends a change alert message to the mobile terminal to return the mode of operation to the vibrate mode.

22. The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein, when the mobile terminal is in the vibrate mood and in response to receiving the special alerting code, the mode of operation

of the mobile terminal is changed from the vibrate mode to one of the ring mode and the vibrate and ring mode.

23. The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the mode of operation of the mobile terminal is changed from the vibrate mode to one of the ring mode and the vibrate and ring mode for a predetermined period of time.

24. The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the mobile terminal is operatively coupled to a network, wherein the mobile terminal sends a silent alert message to the network when the mobile terminal is changed to the silent mode, wherein the network sends an alerting change interval to the mobile terminal, and in response the mode of operation of the mobile terminal is changed from the vibrate mode to one of the ring mode and the vibrate and ring mode for the alerting change interval, and wherein the network sends a change alert message to the mobile terminal to return the mode of operation to the vibrate mode.

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