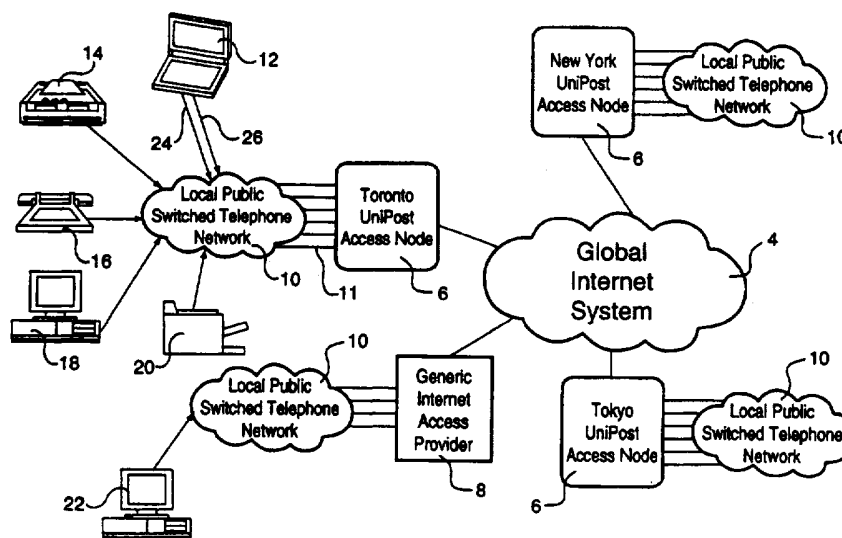




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : H04M 3/50, H04Q 3/00, H04L 12/58	A3	(11) International Publication Number: WO 96/20553 (43) International Publication Date: 4 July 1996 (04.07.96)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/CA95/00723 (22) International Filing Date: 22 December 1995 (22.12.95) (30) Priority Data: 2,139,081 23 December 1994 (23.12.94) CA (71) Applicant: ALPHANET TELECOM INC. [CA/CA]; Suite 260, 55 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto, Ontario M4V 2Y7 (CA). (72) Inventor: GORDON, Alastair, T.; 61 Dalewood Road, Toronto, Ontario M4P 2N4 (CA). (74) Agents: HALL, S., Warren et al.; Suite 301, 133 Richmond Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5H 2L7 (CA).		(81) Designated States: AM, AT, AU, BB, BG, BR, BY, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG), ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i> (88) Date of publication of the international search report: 12 September 1996 (12.09.96)

(54) Title: UNIFIED MESSAGING AND LONG DISTANCE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM



(57) Abstract

The present invention relates to a unified messaging and communication system which is more convenient and cost effective. This system advantageously combines or makes use of existing communication channels or networks. Part of the system and method relies on an intermediate leg of the distribution network being an INTERNET segment. Telephone communication is typically used for initial or final legs. Voice mail, E-mail, facsimiles and real time voice telephone communications are completed by the system. Mail communications may be centralized and retrieval of messages can be accomplished using one of a number of separate and distinct approaches. Thus, INTERNET can be used to form global voice mail and facsimile mail systems.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PC1/CA 95/00723

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 6 H04M3/50 H04Q3/00 H04L12/58

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)

IPC 6 H04M H04Q H04L

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

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

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	IEEE 13TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL PHOENIX CONFERENCE ON COMPUTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS -1994, 12 - 15 April 1994, PHOENIX(US), pages 485-490, XP000462600 JAY TAO ET AL: "INTERNET ACCESS VIA BASEBAND AND BROADBAND ISDN GATEWAYS" see abstract ---	1,9,11, 13,15, 19,21
A	CONNEXIONS, vol. 8, no. 10, October 1994, US, pages 20-24, XP000568610 THIERRY TURLETTI: "THE INRIA VIDEOCONFERENCING SYSTEM (IVS)" see page 20, line 1 - line 17 --- -/--	1,9,11, 13,15, 19,21

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☐ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

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- *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

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

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

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.

& document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

23 April 1996

Date of mailing of the international search report

25.07.96

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PC1/CA 95/00723

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	COMPUTER RESELLER NEWS, 28 November 1994, US, page 12 XP000560768 CHARLOTTE DUNLAP: "AT&T : INTERNET CAN TALK TOO" ---	
A	IEEE INFOCOM 94- THE CONFERENCE ON COMPUTER COMMUNICATIONS, 12 - 16 June 1994, TORONTO(CA), pages 680-688, XP000496524 RAMACHANDRAN RAMJEE ET AL: "ADAPTIVE PLAYOUT MECHANISM FOR PACKETIZED AUDIO.." ---	
A	PROC. OF THE IFIP WG 6.5 INTERNAT. SYMPOSIUM, 3 - 5 October 1990, ZURICH(CH), pages 113-123, XP000560986 ALNOOR M. SHIVJI ET AL: "VOICE MAIL INTERNETWORKING USING X.400" -----	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/CA95/00723

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims 1-21: Method and arrangement for forming a long distance communication channel between two telephone devices each of which are connected to a PSTN.
2. Claims 22-42: Method for receiving voice, E-mail and facsimile messages addressed to a subscriber.

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-21

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.