METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING INSTANT MESSAGING WITH A WIRELESS DEVICE IN A WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

An apparatus (20) and methods are provided for providing Instant Messaging (IM) in a wireless communication system. The apparatus (20) comprises an IM data storage device (22) configured to store first IM contact data associated with an IM client and an IM server (24) configured to access the IM data storage device (22) and retrieve the first IM contact data associated with the IM client. The apparatus (20) is further comprised of an IM access portal (26) in operable communication with the IM server (24) and configured to access second IM contact data associated with the IM client and transmitted to a wireless device (29) of the IM client during a prior wireless connection. The IM access portal (26) is further configured to perform a comparison of the first IM contact data and the second IM contact data and transmit difference IM contact data (54) to the wireless device (29) of the IM client that is produced with the comparison of the first IM contact data and the second IM contact data.
For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : H04Q 7/20; H04M 3/42
US CL : 455/466, 414

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. : 455/466, 414, 412, 517, 422; 709/219, 313, 329

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 practicable, search terms used)

Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Y,P</td>
<td>US 2002/0026520 A1 (MENDIOLA et al) 28 February 2002 (28.02.2002), figure 3 and the abstract.</td>
<td>1, 7-12, 18-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y,E</td>
<td>US 2002/0061003 A1 (SUMMER et al) 23 May 2002 (23.05.2002), figures 2 and 4.</td>
<td>1, 7-12, 18-21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

* Special categories of cited documents:

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Date of the actual completion of the international search: 23 August 2002 (23.08.2002)

Date of mailing of the international search report: 16 JAN 2003

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Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1998)
Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

EAST:

search terms: IM, IMS, Instant Messaging or Messenger, SMS; contact data or information, profile, buddy list.