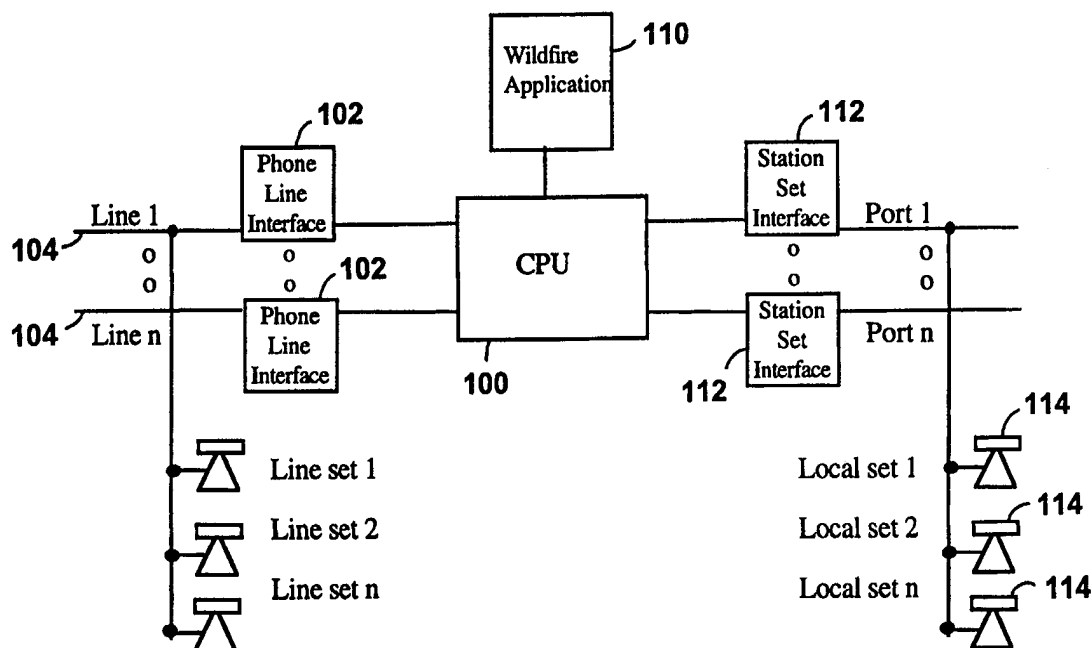




## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/US98/03481 <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 23 February 1998 (23.02.98)  <b>(30) Priority Data:</b> 08/804,548      24 February 1997 (24.02.97)      US  <b>(71) Applicant:</b> WILDFIRE COMMUNICATIONS, INC. [US/US]; 81 Hartwell Avenue, Lexington, MA 02173 (US).  <b>(72) Inventors:</b> MINER, Richard, A.; 129 Franklin Street, Cambridge, MA 02139 (US). PELLAND, David, M.; 400 Long Hill Road, Boston, MA (US). WARNER, William, J.; 35 Fresh Pond Lane, Cambridge, MA 02138 (US). GILBY, Nancy, Benovich; 338 College Road, Concord, MA 01743 (US).  <b>(74) Agent:</b> WALPERT, Gary, A.; Fish & Richardson P.C., 225 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110-2804 (US).		<b>(81) Designated States:</b> CA, JP, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).  <b>Published</b> <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>  <b>(88) Date of publication of the international search report:</b> 29 October 1998 (29.10.98)

**(54) Title:** AN ELECTRONIC VOICE MAIL MESSAGE HANDLING SYSTEM

**(57) Abstract**

A virtual intercom method implemented by a computer-based electronic assistant (110) and including the steps of receiving a voice command from a first party (200), wherein the voice command identifies a user selectable one of a plurality of subscriber parties; responding to the voice command by generating a greeting to the first party, wherein the greeting is an audio recording in the voice of the identified subscriber (216); receiving a message generated by the first party for the identified subscriber (218); and storing the received message for later playback to the identified subscriber.

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC(6) : H04M 3/50

US CL : 379/67, 89, 88; 704/275

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. : 379/67, 89, 88, 167; 704/275, 270

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)

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5528670 A (Elliot et al.) 18 June 1996, figures 4 and 6, particularly 6C.	1-5
Y	US 4827500 A (BINKERD et al.) 02 May 1989, abstract, figures 3 and 4	1-5
Y	US 5506890 A (GUPTA et al.) 09 April 1996, figures 7 and 8	1-5
A	US 5260986 (PERSHAN) 09 November 1993	1-5
A	US 5357596 (TAKEBAYASHI et al.) 18 October 1994	1-6
A, P	US 5761637 A (CHINO) 02 June 1998	1-6
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