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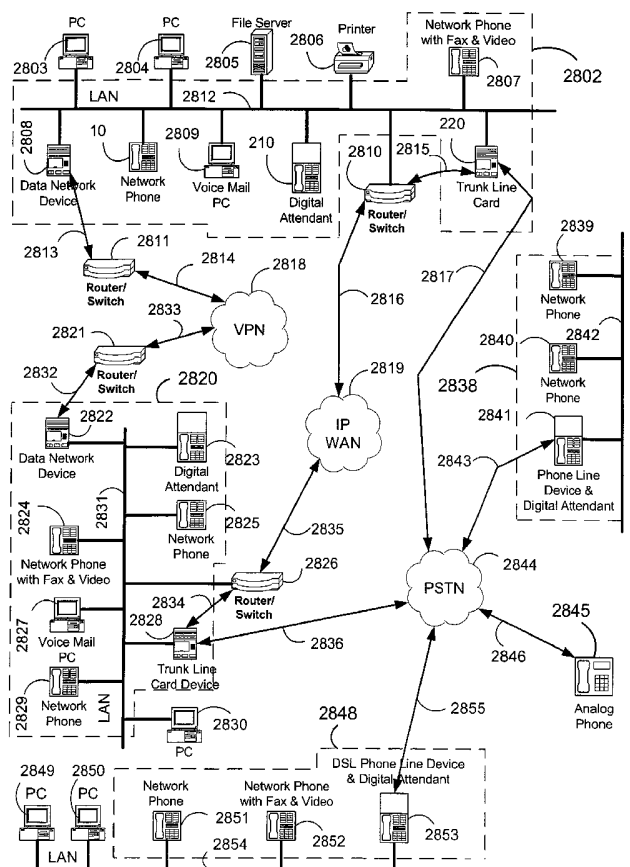
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**Declaration under Rule 4.17:**

— as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: NETWORK TELEPHONE SYSTEM AND METHODS THEREFOR



(57) Abstract: A self-configuring telephone device (2851) interconnected to other network telephone devices by a network, such as a local area network (2831), without the need for a central controller or secondary wiring. A network telephone (2851) sends a broadcast over the network with a predetermined number. If there is another telephone with the predetermined number, the phone (2851) receives a message so indicating and a directory of numbers from which to choose a non-conflicting telephone number. Voice mail (2827) and calls between outside lines and a network phone are supported. A telephony interface provides connectivity between one or more netphones and an external telephone network such as a PSTN telephone system (2844). The network interface provides connectivity between one or more computers and an external computer network such as the Internet (2819). The local area network (2831) provides interconnectivity between the network(s), the computer(s), the telephony interface and the network interface.

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**Published:**

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

*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.*

**(88) Date of publication of the international search report:**

22 April 2004

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/27676

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC(7) : H04L 12/66, 12/28, 12/56; H04M 7/00  
 US CL : 370/356, 389; 379/221.14

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. : 370/356, 389; 379/221.14

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**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 2002/0061100 A1 (DICAMILLO et al) 23 May 2002 (23.05.2002), paras. 49-50.	1-15 and 21-22
A, P	US 2003/0156579 A1 (CHO) 21 August 2003 (21.08.2003), para. 43.	1-15 and 21-22
X, E	US 2003/0179743 A1 (BOSIK et al) 25 September 2003 (25.09.2003), Figure 1.	16-19
X	US 6,421,425 B1 (BOSSI et al) 16 July 2002 (16.07.2002), Figures 1-2.	20 and 23-36
X	US 6,181,736 B1 (MCLAUGHLIN et al) 30 January 2001 (30.01.2001), abstract and Figure 1.	20 and 23-36



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"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
"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)	"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
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

13 February 2004 (13.02.2004)

Date of mailing of the international search report

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/27676

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

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

1. ☐ Claim Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claim 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. ☐ Claim 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:  
Please See Continuation Sheet

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.:

Remark on Protest ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.  
☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

**BOX II. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING**

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I, claim(s) 1-15 and 21-22, drawn to configuring a telephone network device by requesting a telephone number directory.

Group II, claim(s) 16-19, drawn to operating a voice mail system.

Group III, claim(s) 20, drawn to sending a text message between two telephones.

Group IV, claim(s) 23-24, drawn to completing a phone call between a two telephones.

Group V, claim(s) 25-36, drawn to an apparatus for interconnecting a netphone and a computer.

The inventions listed as Groups I-V do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: configuring a device using a telephone directory, connecting a call to a voice mail system, transmitting a text message between two phones, allowing a phone to transmit to a phone outside of a network, and interconnecting a netphone with a computer, address separate and different special technical features relating to the prior art.

**Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:**

EAST

search terms: dynamic telephone number, virtual telephone number, temporary telephone number, tty, voip, netphone, lan phone,