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(71) Applicant and

(72) Inventor: VÄÄNÄNEN, Mikko, Kalervo [FI/FI];
Laivanvarustajankatu 7B 13, FIN-00140 Helsinki (FI).

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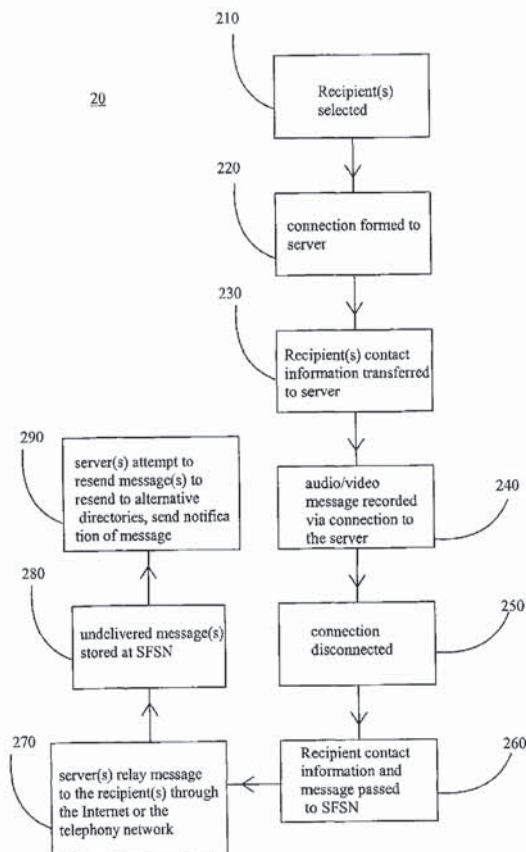
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(54) Title: INSTANT VIDEO- AND VOICEMAIL MESSAGING METHOD AND MEANS



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(57) Abstract: The invention relates to the field of instant messaging. More specifically the invention relates to a server centric method and means for instant voice and video mail messaging. Even more particularly the invention relates to voicemail messaging with mobile terminals. The invention has been explained above with reference to the aforementioned embodiments and several commercial and industrial advantages have been demonstrated. The inventive methods and means under study allow faster voice messaging and enable similar, but not identical audio/video message "ping ball". The sending of voicemail in accordance with the invention is instantaneous and involves no different telephone numbers for the sender to remember. The reception of messages is always instantaneous, provided the recipient is available, and only if not available, may the delivery of the messages be delayed.

Instant video- and voicemail messaging method and means**PRIORITY REQUEST DATA**

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A previous patent application describes an invention with same goals and essence in patent application FI20001838 with server independent embodiments, where servers are used only as a backup, which is here taken as reference and priority of which is requested.

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FIELD OF INVENTION

The invention relates to the field of instant messaging. More specifically the invention relates to a server centric method and means for instant voice and video mail messaging. Even more particularly the invention relates voicemail messaging with mobile terminals.

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BACKGROUND

20 For further prior art to this invention, we wish to submit WO 01/54387 A1, Nguyen. This document discloses a method where: "A unique telephone number and extension are associated with each (1) one of a plurality of subscribers (105). The telephone number is also associated with a remote access point of presence (RAPP) (120). Messages are left for subscribers by establishing a phone call to the phone number associated therewith. The phone call is received at a RAPP (120). The RAPP (120) receives the voice message, digitises and pocketsize the voice message, and transmits the message over a packet network (130) to a store and forward messaging system (125). The store and forward messaging system stores the message for retrieval. The message can be retrieved by either telephone, a client computer, or a private branch exchange terminal (110)." This document is cited here as reference.

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In addition prior art methods in delivering messages include Cellular voicemail and SMS (Short Message Service) messages. SMS messages are text-based messages, which are delivered to the terminal directly as a first priority, and stored on the

network if delivery is unavailable. With Cellular Voicemail it is possible to call the voicemail box of the recipient, and the recipient of the voicemail may later listen the message.

5 This prior art has several disadvantages in contrast with the invention in the priority document and this inventive method under study based on the priority document. SMS messages are restricted to text, which is harder to input than voice by speech. SMS messages are therefore tedious to the sender. Cellular voicemail is both tedious to send and receive. In order to send voicemail, the sender has to know the telephone
10 number of the voicemail box of the recipient, which is typically different from the phone number, or wait for the voicemail box to connect to the original telephone number when the recipient is not available. In order to receive voicemail, the recipient needs to retrieve the message from the network, because the message is not delivered instantly to him.

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SUMMARY

The method under study is far faster and enables similar, but not identical audio/video
20 message “ping ball” as described in the priority document. The sending of voicemail in accordance with the invention is instantaneous and involves no different telephone numbers for the sender to remember. The reception of messages is always instantaneous, provided the recipient is available, and only if not available, may the delivery of the messages be delayed.

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The aforementioned advantages are best realised with an exemplary embodiment of the invention, in which the user has a software application running on his subscriber terminal. The user chooses a recipient for a voice- or video mail from the contacts
book of the terminal by pressing a button. The terminal forms a data connection to a
30 server or dials a telephone connection to a server, which typically has a low latency i.e. the connection to the server is formed fast. The subscriber terminal sends the contact information of the recipient to the server. The subscriber terminal, the server

or both indicate to the user that the recording of the message is begun or may be started. The recording is displayed and/or dictated down the phone line to the server or through a packet switched connection to the server. The server stores the recording typically in MP3-, WAV- or RealSystem Secure, u-law, A-law, PCM or ADPCM or the like format to a database. There is typically a DSP circuit that digitises the
5 recording to a data file. Alternatively tape recording may be used. The server inspects the phone number, IP address or other contact directory of the recipient, and routes the message file, or a copy of it, to a server in close proximity in the SFSN (Store and Forward Server Network). This server, or alternatively the original server, then
10 establishes a communication connection to the recipient(s). The connection is typically established by a phone call to the recipient, and when the recipient answers the message is played to the recipient. Prefixes and postfixes may be attached to the message such as: "Message of Ms. Vilma Väänänen" MESSAGE " The message of Vilma Väänänen was brought to you by OPERATOR."

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A video- and/or voicemail messaging method, comprising at least one subscriber terminal and at least one server, in accordance with the invention is characterised by the steps of,

- choosing at least one message recipient or a group,
- 20 - forming a communications connection to at least one server,
- recording at least one voice/video message to at least one server via at least one established communications connection,
- transferring at least one contact directory of at least one recipient to at least one server,
- 25 - disconnecting the connection to at least one server,
- at least one server relays the message to at least one recipient terminal via telephony network or the Internet.

A video- and/or voicemail messaging method, comprising at least one subscriber
30 terminal and at least one server, in accordance with the invention is characterised by the steps of,

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- forming a communications connection to at least one server,
- recording at least one voice/video message to at least one server via at least one established communications connection,
- transferring at least one contact directory of at least one recipient to at least one server,
- 5 - disconnecting the connection to at least one server,
- transferring at least one said message and at least one said contact directory to a Store and Forward Server Network (SFSN),
- at least one server in the SFSN or the original server relays at least one message to
- 10 at least one recipient terminal device through the Internet or the telephony network,

A video- and/or voicemail messaging server, comprising at least one media player and/or a DSP and at least one data storage means and communications connections in and out of the telephony network, SFSN and/or the Internet in accordance with the invention is characterised in that,

- a recording is arranged to be made to the media player and/or DSP through an established communications connection from a subscriber terminal,
- a capture of recipient contact information and/or other message attributes from the subscriber terminal is arranged on the server, and the contact information is
- 20 arranged to be stored to the storage means,
- at least one media player and/or DSP is arranged to store the recording to a data file,
- at least one data file is arranged to be stored on the data storage means,
- 25 - at least one data file, or at least one copy of the data file is arranged to be sent to another server in the SFSN and/or a connection is arranged to be formed to at least one recipient.

A video- and/or voicemail messaging subscriber terminal in accordance with the invention is characterised in that,

- the user is arranged with the possibility to select at least one recipient,

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