~~accessing~~ reaching the second user, wherein a piece of information regarding the second user blocking the first user from ~~accessing~~ reaching the second user is stored in a storage medium if the second user has blocked the first user from ~~accessing~~ reaching the second user, with the piece of information being based on at least an input previously submitted by the second user,

wherein the method comprises determining availability of the second user ~~to receive the message,~~

wherein the method requires contact information associated with the second user to allow the second user to receive messages via the network-based portal,

wherein even when the message is received by the second user through the electronic device associated with the second user based on the one identifier associated with the second user, the contact information associated with the second user is not provided via the network-based portal to the first user through the electronic device associated with the first user, and

wherein the one identifier associated with the second user is distinct from the contact information associated with the second user.

2.   (Previously presented)   A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 1, wherein the plurality of communication options include multimedia messaging using the one identifier associated with the second user for the second user to receive messages, at least in view of the network-based portal being based on the Internet protocol.

3.   (Currently amended)   A computer-implemented method as recited in ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein the plurality of communication options include group messaging using the one identifier associated with the second user for the second user to receive messages, at least in view of the network-based portal being based on the Internet protocol.

4.   (Previously presented)   A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 3, wherein the one identifier associated with the second user includes a digital identity of the second user.

5.   (Currently amended)   A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 4, wherein the contact information associated with the second user includes <u>at least one of</u> a phone number <u>or an email address</u> of the second user.

6.   (Previously presented)   A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 4, wherein the enabling the message to be received by the second user depends on a time.

7.   (Previously presented)   A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 6, wherein the enabling the message to be received by the second user depends on a period of time.

8.   (Previously presented)   A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 7, wherein the method comprises not presenting the message to the second user depending on the period of time.

9.   (Previously presented)   A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 4, wherein the enabling the message to be received by the second user enables leaving a voice mail.

10.   (Cancelled)

11.   (Cancelled)

12.   (Currently amended)   A computing apparatus for managing electronic communications using at least a network-based portal at least based on Internet protocol, the computing apparatus comprising:

     at least one computing device; and

one or more storage devices coupled to the at least one computing device, with the one or more storage devices storing instructions that, when executed, cause the computing apparatus to:

providing a plurality of communication options to a first user to be selected as a selected option of communication for a message from the first user to a second user via an electronic device associated with the second user, with the first user being identified by the computing apparatus at least depending on a prior registration process by the first user regarding the use of the network-based portal, and with the plurality of communication options provided to the first user to send messages to the electronic device associated with the second user,

wherein the plurality of communication options include text messaging and voice communication, <u>and</u>

wherein all of the communication options use one identifier associated with the second user for the second user to receive messages, at least in view of the network-based portal being based on the Internet protocol;

receiving an indication regarding one of the plurality of communication options, via the network-based portal, from an electronic device associated with the first user, the indication indicating the selected option of communication for the message from the plurality of communication options provided;

permitting the second user to block the first user from ~~accessing~~ <u>reaching</u> the second user <u>via the network-based portal</u>; and

enabling, via the network-based portal, the message to be received by the second user through the electronic device associated with the second user, using the selected option of communication, based on the one identifier associated with the second user, in view of the second user not blocking the first user from ~~accessing~~ <u>reaching</u> the second user, wherein a piece of information regarding the second user blocking the first user from ~~accessing~~ <u>reaching</u> the second user is stored in a storage medium if the second user has blocked the first user from ~~accessing~~ <u>reaching</u> the second user, with the piece of information being based on at least an input previously submitted by the second user,

wherein the instructions, when executed, cause the computing apparatus to determine availability of the second user ~~to receive the message~~, and to require contact information associated with the second user to allow the second user to receive messages via the network-based portal,

wherein even when the message is received by the second user through the electronic device associated with the second user based on the one identifier associated with the second user, the contact information associated with the second user is not provided <u>via the network-based portal</u> to the first user through the electronic device associated with the first user, and

wherein the one identifier associated with the second user is distinct from the contact information associated with the second user.

13. (Previously presented) A computing apparatus as recited in claim 12, wherein the plurality of communication options include multimedia messaging using the one identifier associated with the second user for the second user to receive messages, at least in view of the network-based portal being based on the Internet protocol.

14. (Currently amended) A computing apparatus as recited in <u>claim 12</u> ~~claim 13~~, wherein the plurality of communication options include group messaging using the one identifier associated with the second user for the second user to receive messages, at least in view of the network-based portal being based on the Internet protocol.

15. (Previously presented) A computing apparatus as recited in claim 14, wherein the one identifier associated with the second user includes a digital identity of the second user.

16. (Currently amended) A computing apparatus as recited in claim 15, wherein the contact information associated with the second user includes <u>at least one of</u> a phone number <u>or an email address</u> of the second user.

17.   (Previously presented)   A computing apparatus as recited in claim 15, wherein the enabling the message to be received enables leaving a voice mail.

18.   (Cancelled)

19.   (Previously presented)   A computing apparatus as recited in claim 16, wherein the enabling the message to be received by the second user includes not presenting the message to the second user depending on a period of time.

20.   (Currently amended)   A non-transitory computer readable medium including at least executable computer program code stored therein for managing electronic communications using at least a network-based portal at least based on Internet protocol, said computer readable medium comprising:

computer program code for providing a plurality of communication options to a first user to be selected as a selected option of communication for a message from the first user to a second user via an electronic device associated with the second user, with the first user being identified at least depending on a prior registration process by the first user regarding the use of the network-based portal, and with the plurality of communication options provided to the first user to send messages to the electronic device associated with the second user,

wherein the plurality of communication options include text messaging and voice communication, and

wherein all of the communication options use one identifier associated with the second user for the second user to receive messages, at least in view of the network-based portal being based on the Internet protocol;

computer program code for receiving an indication regarding one of the plurality of communication options, via the network-based portal, from the electronic device associated with the first user, the indication indicating the selected option of communication for the message from the plurality of communication options provided;

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