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APPLICATION NUMBER: *11/452,115*
FILING DATE: *June 12, 2006*
PATENT NUMBER: *7729688*
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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No.	IPVMCP02
First Inventor	
Title	SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES TO MANAGE
Express Mail Label No.	ED 843 799 412 US

APPLICATION ELEMENTS
See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

ADDRESS TO: Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

1. ☐ **Fee Transmittal Form** (e.g., PTO/SB/17)
   (Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. ☑ **Applicant claims small entity status.**
   See 37 CFR 1.27.
3. ☑ **Specification** [*Total Pages____17____*]
   Both the claims and abstract must start on a new page
   (For information on the preferred arrangement, see MPEP 608.01(a))
4. ☑ **Drawing(s)** (35 U.S.C. 113) [*Total Sheets ____2____*]
5. **Oath or Declaration** [*Total Sheets _____*]
   a. ☐ Newly executed (original or copy)
   b. ☐ A copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d))
      (for continuation/divisional with Box 18 completed)
      i. ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)
         Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s)
         name in the prior application, see 37 CFR
         1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
6. ☐ **Application Data Sheet.** See 37 CFR 1.76
7. ☐ **CD-ROM or CD-R** in duplicate, large table or
   Computer Program *(Appendix)*
   ☐ Landscape Table on CD
8. **Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission**
   (if applicable, items a. – c. are required)
   a. ☐ Computer Readable Form (CRF)
   b. Specification Sequence Listing on:
      i. ☐ CD-ROM or CD-R (2 copies); or
      ii. ☐ Paper
   c. ☐ Statements verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

9. ☐ **Assignment Papers** (cover sheet & document(s))
   Name of Assignee_____
   _____
10. ☐ **37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement**   ☑ **Power of**
    (when there is an assignee)   **Attorney**
11. ☐ **English Translation Document** *(if applicable)*
12. ☐ **Information Disclosure Statement** (PTO/SB/08 or PTO-1449)
    ☐ Copies of citations attached
13. ☐ **Preliminary Amendment**
14. ☑ **Return Receipt Postcard** (MPEP 503)
    (Should be specifically itemized)
15. ☐ **Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)**
    (if foreign priority is claimed)
16. ☐ **Nonpublication Request** under 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)(B)(i).
    Applicant must attach form PTO/SB/35 or equivalent.
17. ☐ Other: PTO Form 2038-Credit Card Payment Form
    _____

18. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, *check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in the first sentence of the specification following the title, or in an Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76:*

☐ Continuation   ☐ Divisional   ☑ Continuation-in-part (CIP)   of prior application No.: 11/006,343

Prior application information: Examiner AFSHAR, KAMRAN   Art Unit: 2617

19. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

☑ The address associated with Customer Number: [34071]   **OR** ☐ Correspondence address below

Name	
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City		State		Zip Code	
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Signature		Date	6/12/2006
Name (Print/Type)	C. Douglass Thomas	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	32,947

Systems and Processes to Manage Multiple Modes of Communication

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[0001]   This application is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application 11/006,343, filed December 7, 2004, and entitled "ADAPTABLE COMMUNICATION TECHNIQUES FOR ELECTRONIC DEVICES," which is hereby incorporated herein by reference, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/527,565, filed December 8, 2003, entitled "ADAPTABLE COMMUNICATION TECHNIQUES FOR ELECTRONIC DEVICES," and which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

[0002]   This application also claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/689,686, filed June 10, 2005, entitled "SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES TO MANAGE MULTIPLE MODES OF COMMUNICATION," and which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003]   For many years, other than mails from post offices, we typically only received information from afar through telephones. However, in the past few years, ways that others can send us information have increased significantly. Just to list a few different modes of communication, we can be reached from standard desk phones, fax, cell phones, electronic mails, and instant messages. In addition, we can have more than one phone number and multiple electronic mail addresses. There are people we like to communicate with, and there are those we prefer to avoid. Managing information from all such different modes can be quite time consuming.

[0004]   It should be apparent from the foregoing that there is still a need to help manage the numerous modes of communication.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005]   Different embodiments of a computer-implemented system and method to manage the communication of a user are disclosed. A person tries to electronically convey a message to the user. In one embodiment, the status of the user is identified; the identity of the person is identified; the urgency of the message is identified; the access priority of the person is determined based on the person's identity; and a process is set to manage the message using one or more rules, and in view of the status of the user, the access priority of the person and the urgency of the message.

[0006]   Based on different embodiments, the status of the user depends on the current activity or location of the user, or the current time. The status of the user can also be defined by the user. Similarly, the access priority of the person can be defined by the user, or is set depending on the user's reaction towards a prior message from the person. Also, the urgency of the message is set by the person.

[0007]   The process can depend on the mode of communication of the message. For example, the mode of communication can include a mobile phone, an office phone, a home phone, a mobile SMS, a pager from a mobile phone or PDA, a home/office SMS, mobile online chat, home online chat, a voice mail with/without instant notification, an office fax, a home fax, a mobile email, and an email.

[0008]   In one embodiment, the user receives the message through a handheld device, such as a cellular phone. In another embodiment, the message is electronically conveyed based on Internet protocol through a website.

[0009]   In one embodiment, though the process allows the user to receive the message, the person is not aware of the contact information of the user. For example, the person is not aware of the phone number of the cellular phone that the user used to talk to the person. This prevents the person from directly accessing the user without going through an intermediate control, such as a website. Similarly, the user does not have to be aware of the contact information of the person.

[00010]   In another embodiment, the defined access priority of the person is stored at a website, allowing the website to access such information without asking for the user's permission. In one embodiment, the defined access priority is stored in a private database under the user's control.

[00011]   Other aspects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following detailed description, which, when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, illustrates by way of example the principles of the invention.

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