



US006167426C1

(12) **EX PARTE REEXAMINATION CERTIFICATE** (9700th)

**United States Patent**

**Payne et al.**

(10) **Number:** **US 6,167,426 C1**

(45) **Certificate Issued:** **Jun. 7, 2013**

(54) **CONTACT ALERTS FOR UNCONNECTED USERS**

(75) Inventors: **John M. Payne**, Corona del Mar, CA (US); **Tim Von Kaenel**, Coto De Caza, CA (US)

(73) Assignee: **Simpleair, Inc.**, Plano, TX (US)

**Reexamination Request:**

No. 90/009,905, May 3, 2011

**Reexamination Certificate for:**

Patent No.: **6,167,426**  
Issued: **Dec. 26, 2000**  
Appl. No.: **08/970,655**  
Filed: **Nov. 14, 1997**

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(60) Provisional application No. 60/030,839, filed on Nov. 15, 1996.

(51) **Int. Cl.**

**H04L 29/12** (2006.01)  
**H04L 12/58** (2006.01)  
**H04L 29/06** (2006.01)  
**H04L 29/08** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

USPC ..... **709/200**; 340/7.29; 709/203; 709/204; 709/232

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

None  
See application file for complete search history.

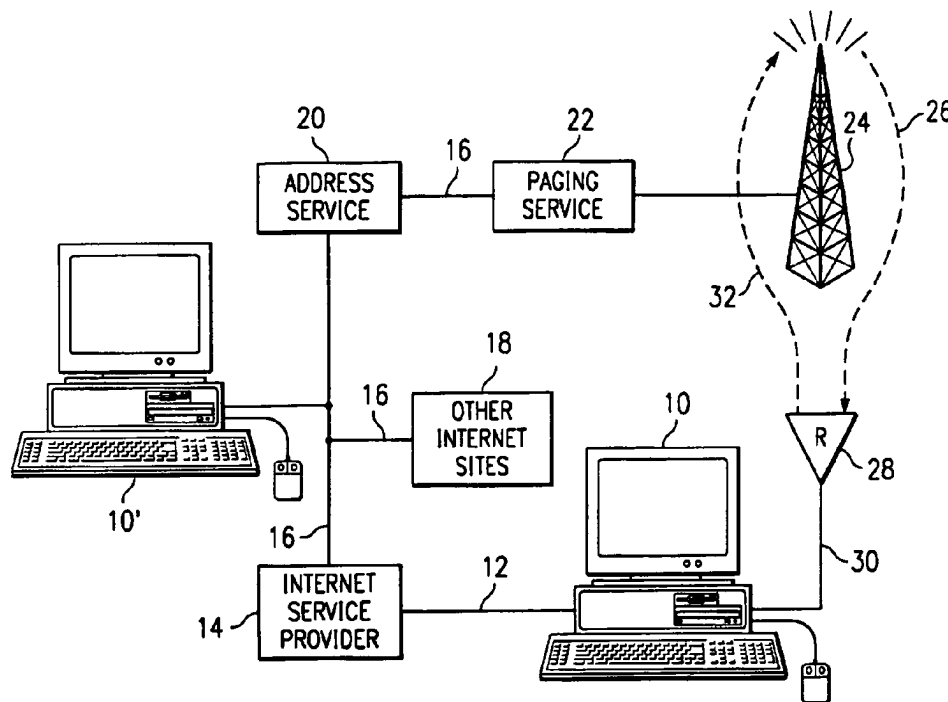
(56) **References Cited**

To view the complete listing of prior art documents cited during the proceeding for Reexamination Control Number 90/009,905, please refer to the USPTO's public Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system under the Display References tab.

*Primary Examiner* — Matthew Heneghan

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Users access an on-line address service to register their name (which may be a pseudonym or other fictitious or imaginary identity) and a unique contact address that may be used directly or indirectly to address a message over another communication network to an associated listening device. Once a potential user has registered his on-line identity and contact information, other users accessing the address service can then designate one of the listed names, either by selecting the name from a display list of registered names (if all registered names are displayed) or by entering the designated name onto an appropriate form, whereupon the computer hosting the address service will broadcast a message addressed to the identified person's associated listening device. Once the message is received, the listening device notifies the associated user by causing the user's computer to initiate an appropriate visual and/or audio alert display concerning the contact attempt. The user is then given an opportunity to connect to the on-line network and access a designated site to obtain further information about the attempted contact and/or to establish a direct connection with the interactive on-line activity from which the contact attempt originated, at the same time automatically launching any required browser or application software.



1

**EX PARTE  
REEXAMINATION CERTIFICATE  
ISSUED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 307**

THE PATENT IS HEREBY AMENDED AS  
INDICATED BELOW.

**Matter enclosed in heavy brackets [ ] appeared in the patent, but has been deleted and is no longer a part of the patent; matter printed in italics indicates additions made to the patent.**

AS A RESULT OF REEXAMINATION, IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT:

Claims 1, 2 and 8-10 are cancelled.

New claims 13-37 are added and determined to be patentable.

Claims 3-7, 11 and 12 were not reexamined.

13. *A method for connecting users to a first communication network, comprising:*

*providing an address service connected to the first communication network on which a user may register a name and an associated address on a second communication network;*

*using the first communication network to access the address service;*

*designating a name registered on the address service; in response to the designation of said registered name, automatically broadcasting a message over the second communication network to the registered address associated with the designated name, said message identifying an online interactive activity to be conducted over the first communication network;*

*using a receiving device not connected to the first communication network to receive said message;*

*in response to the reception of said message by said receiving device, automatically generating a user prompt to commence the identified online interactive activity; and in response to a positive acknowledgment of said user prompt, automatically connecting an interactive device to the first communication network and commencing the identified online interactive activity.*

*wherein the registered name is used to identify the user in the online interactive activity;*

*wherein the interactive device comprises a remote computing device that is in communication with the receiving device.*

14. *The method of claim 13, wherein the first communication network is the Internet and the second communication network is a wireless network.*

15. *The method of claim 13, wherein each user registers a screen name and an associated contact address of an associated listening device.*

16. *The method of claim 15, wherein said screen name is a pseudonym or other factitious or imaginary identity.*

2

17. *The method of claim 15, wherein the contact address is a serial number programmed into the associated listening device.*

18. *The method of claim 13, wherein a screen name is registered for each user.*

19. *The method of claim 13, wherein the associated address is not known to a party that designates the registered name.*

20. *The method of claim 13, wherein the broadcast message includes an invitation to commence or join an online game, online chat, or online video conference.*

21. *The method of claim 13, wherein the interactive device includes application software designed for carrying out the interactive activity.*

22. *The method of claim 13, wherein the online interactive activity comprises one or more of an online game involving at least one user, online chat between two or more users, an online video conference between two or more users, or participation in an online forum or discussion.*

23. *The method of claim 22, wherein the interactive device includes application software designed for carrying out the online interactive activity.*

24. *The method of claim 13, wherein the second communication network comprises wireless links.*

25. *The method of claim 24, wherein the wireless links comprise two-way cellular telephone circuits.*

26. *The method of claim 24, wherein the wireless links comprise two-way line of sight communications links.*

27. *The method of claim 24, wherein the wireless links comprise links with communications satellites.*

28. *The method of claim 13, wherein the second communication network comprises a two-way wireless system.*

29. *The method of claim 13, wherein the second communication network comprises a wired connection.*

30. *The method of claim 13, wherein the user prompt comprises a hyperlink to a site on the Internet.*

31. *The method of claim 30, wherein the Internet site includes a display of further information about the attempted contact.*

32. *The method of claim 31, wherein the further information includes information identifying a person from whom the contact attempt originated.*

33. *The method of claim 31, wherein the further information includes a message from a person from whom the contact attempt originated.*

34. *The method of claim 31, wherein the further information includes information identifying a particular interactive Internet activity.*

35. *The method of claim 13, wherein each user registers a screen name and an associated contact address of an associated listening device.*

36. *The method of claim 35, wherein the screen name is a pseudonym or other fictitious or imaginary identity.*

37. *The method of claim 35, wherein the contact address is a serial number programmed into the associated listening device.*

\* \* \* \* \*