



04786633.0 - 2416 / 1668824

18.04.12

Client Database System (CDS) - clean up.

Application Nr.: 04786633.0

Following clean up action in CDS the entries concerning the **Applicant (01)** have been amended and are now as follows:

AT-BE-BG-CH-CY-CZ-DE-DK-EE-ES-FI-FR-GB-GR-HU-IE-IT-LI-LU-MC-NL-PL-PT-RO-SE-S
I-SK-TR
Research In Motion Limited
295 Phillip Street
Waterloo, ON N2L 3W8/CA

Where appropriate, the Register of European Patents will be updated to show the amended details.

For questions please contact the Client Data Registration department of the European Patent Office in Munich, telephone +49 (0)89 2399 2780.



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 this communication:**
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Date	31.08.11
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Reference P40430EP-K/JJH	Application No./Patent No. 04786633.0 - 2416 / 1668824
Applicant/Proprietor RESEARCH IN MOTION LIMITED	

Communication regarding the expiry of the time limit within which notice of opposition may be filed

You are hereby informed that on expiry of the nine-month time limit from the publication of the mention of the grant of European patent No. 1668824 no notice of opposition had reached the files.

The entry in the Register of European Patents will be automatically generated by the electronic data processing system.

For the Examining Division





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Date	30.09.10
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Reference P40430EP-K/JJH	Application No./Patent No. 04786633.0 - 2416 / 1668824
Applicant/Proprietor RESEARCH IN MOTION LIMITED	

Decision to grant a European patent pursuant to Article 97(1) EPC

Following examination of European patent application No. 04786633.0 a European patent with the title and the supporting documents indicated in the communication pursuant to Rule 71(3) EPC dated 14.04.10 is hereby granted in respect of the designated Contracting States.

Patent No. : 1668824
Date of filing : 20.09.04
Priority claimed : 19.09.03/USP 504379

Designated Contracting States
and Proprietor(s) : AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HU IE IT LI LU MC
NL PL PT RO SE SI SK TR
RESEARCH IN MOTION LIMITED
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This decision will take effect on the date on which the European Patent Bulletin mentions the grant (Art. 97(3) EPC).

The mention of the grant will be published in European Patent Bulletin 10/43 of 27.10.10.

Examining Division

Lastoria G

Avilés Martinez M

Lefebvre L



ANMERKUNG ZUR ENTSCHEIDUNG ÜBER DIE ERTEILUNG
EINES EUROPÄISCHEN PATENTS (EPA Form 2006)

- 1. EPA Informationsbroschüre "Nationales Recht zum EPÜ"**
Diese Broschüre enthält nützliche Informationen zu den formalen Erfordernissen und den Handlungen, die vor den Patentbehörden der Vertragsstaaten vorzunehmen sind, um Rechte in diesen Staaten zu erlangen. Da diese Handlungen einem ständigen Wandel unterworfen sind, sollte immer nur die neueste Ausgabe der Broschüre benutzt werden. Nachträgliche Informationen werden im Amtsblatt veröffentlicht.
- 2. Übersetzung der europäischen Patentschrift nach Artikel 65 (1) des Europäischen Patentübereinkommens**
Sie werden erneut darauf hingewiesen, dass bestimmte Vertragsstaaten nach Artikel 65 (1) EPÜ eine Übersetzung der europäischen Patentschrift verlangen; hierauf wird in der Mitteilung gemäß Regel 71 (5) EPÜ verwiesen. Die Nichteinreichung dieser Übersetzung kann zur Folge haben, dass das Patent in dem betreffenden Staat/in den betreffenden Staaten als von Anfang an nicht eingetreten gilt. Weitere Einzelheiten entnehmen Sie bitte der oben genannten Broschüre.
- 3. Zahlung von Jahresgebühren für europäische Patente**
Nach Artikel 141 EPU können "nationale" Jahresgebühren für das europäische Patent für die Jahre erhoben werden, die an das Jahr anschließen, in dem der Hinweis auf die Erteilung des europäischen Patents im "Europäischen Patentblatt" bekanntgemacht wird. Weitere Einzelheiten entnehmen Sie bitte der oben genannten Broschüre.

NOTE RELATING TO THE DECISION TO GRANT A
EUROPEAN PATENT (EPO Form 2006)

- 1. EPO Information Brochure "National law relating to the EPC"**
This brochure provides useful information regarding formal requirements and the steps to be taken before the patent authorities of the Contracting States in order to acquire rights in those states. Since the necessary steps are subject to change the latest edition of the brochure should always be used. Subsequent information is published in the Official Journal.
- 2. Translation of the European patent application under Article 65(1) of the European Patent Convention**
Your attention is again drawn to the requirements regarding translation of the European patent specification laid down by a number of Contracting States under Article 65(1) EPC, to which reference is made in the communication under Rule 71(5) EPC. Failure to supply such translation(s) may result in the patent being deemed to be void "ab initio" in the State(s) in question. For further details you are recommended to consult the above-mentioned brochure.
- 3. Payment of renewal fees for European patents**
Under Article 141 EPC "national" renewal fees in respect of a European patent may be imposed for the years which follow that in which the grant of the European patent is published in the "European Patent Bulletin". For further details you are recommended to consult the above-mentioned brochure.

REMARQUE RELATIVE A LA DECISION DE DELIVRANCE
D'UN BREVET EUROPEEN (OEB Form 2006)

- 1. Brochure d'information de l'OEB "Droit national relatif à la CBE"**
Cette brochure fournit d'utiles renseignements sur les conditions de forme requises et sur les actes à accomplir auprès des offices de brevet des Etats contractants aux fins d'obtenir des droits dans les Etats contractants. Etant donné que les actes indispensables sont susceptibles de modifications, il serait bon de toujours consulter la dernière édition de la brochure. Toute information ultérieure est publiée au Journal Officiel.
- 2. Traduction du fascicule du brevet européen en vertu de l'article 65(1) de la Convention sur le brevet européen**
Votre attention est de nouveau attirée sur l'obligation faite par certains Etats contractants, en vertu de l'article 65(1) CBE, de fournir une traduction du fascicule du brevet européen, à laquelle il est fait référence dans la notification établie conformément à la règle 71(5) CBE. Si la(les) traduction(s) n'est(ne sont) pas fournie(s), le brevet européen peut, dès l'origine, être réputé sans effet dans cet(ces) Etat(s). Pour plus de détails, nous vous renvoyons à la brochure susmentionnée.
- 3. Paiement des taxes annuelles pour le brevet européen**
Conformément à l'article 141 CBE des taxes annuelles "nationales" dues au titre du brevet européen peuvent être perçues pour les années suivant celle au cours de laquelle la mention de la délivrance du brevet européen est publiée au "Bulletin européen des brevets". Pour plus de détails, nous vous renvoyons à la brochure susmentionnée.

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EPO - Munich
58
05. Aug. 2010

BY DHL COURIER

Our Ref: AB/P40430EP-K
Your Ref:

3 August 2010

Dear Sirs,

Re: European Patent Application No. 04786633.0
Applicant: Research In Motion Limited

We thank you for your recent letter (EPO Form 2004).

Please find enclosed a copy of the Claims which have been translated into the **French** and **German** languages.

We confirm that the Grant and Printing fees will be paid shortly. In the event of non-payment or underpayment please debit the necessary sum from our deposit account number 28050204.

We now look forward to receiving the Form 2006.

Yours faithfully,



G.C. Fennell
Authorised Representative
For and on behalf of Kilburn & Strode LLP

Enc.

REVENDICATIONS

1. Procédé fournissant une sortie sur au moins l'un d'un premier dispositif électronique (4) et d'un second dispositif électronique (104), le premier dispositif électronique étant apte à être en communication électronique avec le second dispositif électronique, le procédé consistant à :

déterminer qu'une première communication de messagerie (68) s'est produite à un premier instant entre le premier dispositif et le second dispositif ; et

fournir en sortie une première indication qui est représentative d'au moins une partie de la première communication de messagerie ;

le procédé étant caractérisé en ce qu'il consiste en outre à :

déterminer qu'une période de temps prédéterminée s'est écoulée depuis le premier instant sans autre communication entre le premier dispositif et le second dispositif ; et

fournir en sortie, après que ladite première période de temps prédéterminée s'est écoulée, si aucune communication supplémentaire ne s'est produite pendant cette période de temps, un premier marqueur temporel (84) représentatif du premier instant.

2. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le premier marqueur temporel (84) est disposé de façon adjacente à la première indication.

3. Procédé selon la revendication 1, consistant en outre à :

déterminer qu'une seconde communication de messagerie s'est produite à un second instant entre le premier dispositif et le second dispositif ;

fournir en sortie une seconde indication qui est représentative d'au moins une partie de la seconde communication de messagerie ; et

fournir en sortie un second marqueur temporel représentatif du second instant.

4. Procédé selon la revendication 3, dans lequel :

5 le premier marqueur temporel (84) est disposé de façon adjacente à la première indication, et le second marqueur temporel est disposé de façon adjacente à la seconde indication ;

10 l'un du premier marqueur temporel et du second marqueur temporel est disposé sensiblement entre la première indication et la seconde indication ; et

l'une de la première indication et de la seconde indication est disposée sensiblement entre le premier marqueur temporel et le second marqueur temporel.

5. Procédé selon la revendication 3, dans lequel :

15 le premier marqueur temporel (84) est disposé de façon adjacente à la première indication, et le second marqueur temporel est disposé de façon adjacente à la seconde indication ; et

20 le premier marqueur temporel et le second marqueur temporel sont disposés sensiblement entre la première indication et la seconde indication.

6. Procédé selon la revendication 3, dans lequel :

25 la première indication est une première sortie linguistique et la seconde indication est une seconde sortie linguistique ;

le premier marqueur temporel (84) est disposé de façon adjacente à l'un du début et de la fin de la première sortie linguistique ; et

30 le second marqueur temporel est disposé de façon adjacente à l'un du début et de la fin de la seconde sortie linguistique.

7. Procédé selon la revendication 3, dans lequel :

35 la première indication est une première sortie linguistique et la seconde indication est une seconde sortie linguistique ;

le premier marqueur temporel (84) est disposé de façon adjacente à l'un du début et de la fin de la première sortie linguistique ; et

le second marqueur temporel est disposé de façon adjacente à l'autre du début et de la fin de la seconde sortie linguistique.

8. Procédé selon la revendication 3, dans lequel le premier marqueur temporel est une heure représentative du premier instant et dans lequel le premier procédé consiste en outre à :

détecter un changement de date ; et
en réponse à ladite détection d'un changement de date, fournir en sortie en tant que premier marqueur temporel une heure et une date représentatives du premier instant.

9. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le premier marqueur temporel est un marqueur temporel relatif représentatif d'un temps écoulé.

10. Dispositif électronique portatif (4) apte à être en communication électronique avec un autre dispositif électronique (104), le dispositif électronique portatif (4) comprenant :

un appareil à processeur (20) comportant un processeur (52) et une mémoire (56) ;

un appareil d'entrée ; et
un appareil de sortie ;

l'appareil à processeur étant apte à recevoir une entrée de l'appareil d'entrée et à fournir une sortie à l'appareil de sortie ;

l'appareil à processeur étant apte à déterminer qu'une première communication de messagerie s'est produite à un premier instant entre le dispositif électronique portatif et l'autre dispositif électronique ; et

l'appareil de sortie étant apte à fournir en sortie une première indication qui est représentative d'au moins une partie de la première communication de messagerie ;

le dispositif électronique portatif étant caractérisé en ce que :

l'appareil à processeur est apte à déterminer qu'une première période de temps prédéterminée s'est écoulée
5 depuis le premier instant sans autre communication entre le dispositif électronique portatif et l'autre dispositif électronique ; et

l'appareil de sortie fournit en sortie, après que ladite période de temps prédéterminée s'est écoulée, si
10 aucune communication supplémentaire ne s'est produite pendant cette période de temps, un premier marqueur temporel (84) représentatif du premier instant.

ANSPRÜCHE

- 5 1. Verfahren zum Liefern einer Ausgabe auf zumindest einer aus einer ersten elektronischen Vorrichtung (4) und einer zweiten elektronischen Vorrichtung (104), wobei die erste elektronische Vorrichtung ausgebildet ist, in einer elektronischen Kommunikation mit der zweiten elektronischen Vorrichtung zu sein, wobei das Verfahren aufweist:
- 10 Bestimmen, dass eine erste Messaging-Kommunikation (68) an einem ersten Zeitpunkt zwischen der ersten Vorrichtung und der zweiten Vorrichtung stattgefunden hat; und
Ausgeben einer ersten Anzeige, die für zumindest einen Teil der ersten Messaging-Kommunikation repräsentativ ist;
- 15 wobei das Verfahren dadurch gekennzeichnet ist, dass es weiter aufweist:
Bestimmen, dass eine vorgegebene Zeitdauer seit dem ersten Zeitpunkt ohne weitere Kommunikation zwischen der ersten Vorrichtung und der zweiten Vorrichtung vergangen ist; und
Ausgeben, nach dem Ablauf der vorgegebenen Zeitdauer, wenn keine
- 20 zusätzliche Kommunikation während dieser Zeitdauer stattgefunden hat, eines ersten Zeitstempels (84), der für den ersten Zeitpunkt repräsentativ ist.
2. Verfahren gemäß Anspruch 1, wobei der erste Zeitstempel (84) angrenzend an die erste Anzeige angeordnet ist.
- 25
3. Verfahren gemäß Anspruch 1, das weiter aufweist:
Bestimmen, dass eine zweite Messaging-Kommunikation an einem zweiten Zeitpunkt zwischen der ersten Vorrichtung und der zweiten Vorrichtung
- 30 stattgefunden hat;

Ausgeben einer zweiten Anzeige, die für zumindest einen Teil der zweiten Messaging-Kommunikation repräsentativ ist; und
Ausgeben eines zweiten Zeitstempels, der repräsentativ ist für den zweiten Zeitpunkt.

5

4. Verfahren gemäß Anspruch 3, wobei:
der erste Zeitstempel (84) angrenzend an die erste Anzeige angeordnet ist
und der zweite Zeitstempel angrenzend an die zweite Anzeige angeordnet
ist;
10 einer des ersten Zeitstempels und des zweiten Zeitstempels im
Wesentlichen zwischen der ersten Anzeige und der zweiten Anzeige
angeordnet ist; und
eine der ersten Anzeige und der zweiten Anzeige im Wesentlichen zwischen
dem ersten Zeitstempel und dem zweiten Zeitstempel angeordnet ist.

15

5. Verfahren gemäß Anspruch 3, wobei:
der erste Zeitstempel (84) angrenzend an die erste Anzeige angeordnet ist
und der zweite Zeitstempel angrenzend an die zweite Anzeige angeordnet
ist; und
20 der erste Zeitstempel und der zweite Zeitstempel im Wesentlichen
zwischen der ersten Anzeige und der zweiten Anzeige angeordnet sind.

20

6. Verfahren gemäß Anspruch 3, wobei:
die erste Anzeige eine erste linguistische Ausgabe ist und die zweite
25 Anzeige eine zweite linguistische Ausgabe ist;
der erste Zeitstempel (84) angrenzend an einen aus dem Anfang und dem
Ende der ersten linguistischen Ausgabe angeordnet ist; und
der zweite Zeitstempel angrenzend an einen aus dem Anfang und dem
Ende der zweiten linguistischen Ausgabe angeordnet ist.

30

7. Verfahren gemäß Anspruch 3, wobei:

- die erste Anzeige eine erste linguistische Ausgabe ist und die zweite Anzeige eine zweite linguistische Ausgabe ist;
der erste Zeitstempel (84) angrenzend an einen aus dem Anfang und dem Ende der ersten linguistischen Ausgabe angeordnet ist; und
5 der zweite Zeitstempel angrenzend an den anderen aus dem Anfang und dem Ende der zweiten linguistischen Ausgabe angeordnet ist.
8. Verfahren gemäß Anspruch 3, wobei der erste Zeitstempel eine Uhrzeit ist, die für den ersten Zeitpunkt repräsentativ ist, und wobei das Verfahren
10 weiter aufweist:
Erfassen einer Datumsänderung; und
in Reaktion auf das Erfassen einer Datumsänderung, Ausgeben, als den ersten Zeitstempel, einer Uhrzeit und eines Datums, die für den ersten Zeitpunkt repräsentativ sind.
- 15 9. Verfahren gemäß Anspruch 1, wobei der erste Zeitstempel ein relativer Zeitstempel ist, der für eine vergangene Zeitdauer repräsentativ ist.
- 20 10. Handgehaltene elektronische Vorrichtung (4), die ausgebildet ist, in einer elektronischen Kommunikation mit einer anderen elektronischen Vorrichtung (104) zu sein, wobei die handgehaltene elektronische Vorrichtung (4) aufweist:
eine Prozessorvorrichtung (20) mit einem Prozessor (52) und einem Speicher (56);
25 eine Eingabevorrichtung; und
eine Ausgabevorrichtung;
wobei die Prozessorvorrichtung ausgebildet ist, eine Eingabe von der Eingabevorrichtung zu empfangen und eine Ausgabe an die Ausgabevorrichtung zu liefern;
30 wobei die Prozessorvorrichtung ausgebildet ist, zu bestimmen, dass eine erste Messaging-Kommunikation an einem ersten Zeitpunkt zwischen der

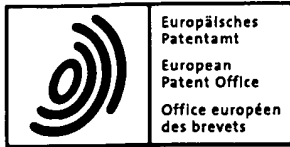
handgehaltenen elektronischen Vorrichtung und der anderen elektronischen Vorrichtung stattgefunden hat; und wobei die Ausgabevorrichtung ausgebildet ist, eine erste Anzeige auszugeben, die für zumindest einen Teil der ersten Messaging-Kommunikation repräsentativ ist;

5 wobei die handgehaltene elektronische Vorrichtung dadurch gekennzeichnet ist, dass:

die Prozessorvorrichtung ausgebildet ist, zu bestimmen, dass eine vorgegebene Zeitdauer seit dem ersten Zeitpunkt ohne weitere

10 Kommunikation zwischen der handgehaltenen elektronischen Vorrichtung und der anderen elektronischen Vorrichtung vergangen ist; und die Ausgabevorrichtung, nach dem Ablauf der vorgegebenen Zeitdauer, wenn keine zusätzliche Kommunikation während dieser Zeitdauer stattgefunden hat, einen ersten Zeitstempel (84) ausgibt, der für den

15 ersten Zeitpunkt repräsentativ ist.



Einsender / Sender / Expéditeur (bitte ausfüllen / please complete / veuillez compléter) :

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1. 04786633.0	P40430EP-K	FR & DE CLAIMS
2.		
3.		
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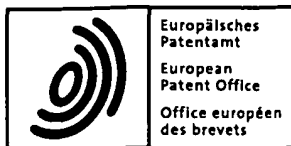
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Anmeldenummer/Patentnummer Application Number/Patent Number Numéro de la demande/numéro du brevet	Ihr Zeichen Your reference Votre référence	ggfs. Art und Datum der Unterlagen ³ Nature and date of items (optional) ³ Nature et date des pièces (facultatif) ³
1. 04786633.0	P40430EP-K	FR & DE CLAIMS
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Kilburn & Strode

European Patent Attorneys
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FAX TRANSMISSION Page 1 of 1

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Subject: **PAYMENT OF FEES**

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Number of pages including this page: 1

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Re: European Patent Application No. 04786633.0
Applicant: Research In Motion Limited
Our Ref: P40430EP-K

Please debit our deposit account number **28050204** with the following fees totalling **Eight Hundred and Thirty Euros, 830.00 Euros** in respect of the above application.

Description	Code	Currency	Amount
Fee for grant including fee for printing (up to 35 pages)	007	EURO	830.00
Additional fee for printing (more than 35 pages)	008	EURO	
Claims fee(s) (Rule 71(6) EPC)	016	EURO	
Further Processing fee	121	EURO	
		EURO	
TOTAL		EURO	830.00

Signature 
For and on behalf of Kilburn & Strode LLP

Annex to EPO Form 2004, Communication pursuant to Rule 71(3) EPC

Bibliographical data of European patent application No. 04 786 633.0

For the intended grant of the European patent, the bibliographical data are set out below, for information:

Title of invention:

- IN DER HAND GEHALTENE ELEKTRONISCHE EINRICHTUNG UND ASSOZIIERTES VERFAHREN ZUR BEREITSTELLUNG VON ZEITDATEN IN EINER NACHRICHTENÜBERMITTLUNGSUMGEBUNG
- HANDHELD ELECTRONIC DEVICE AND ASSOCIATED METHOD PROVIDING TIME DATA IN A MESSAGING ENVIRONMENT
- DISPOSITIF ELECTRONIQUE PORTATIF ET PROCEDE ASSOCIE FOURNISSANT DES DONNEES TEMPORELLES DANS UN ENVIRONNEMENT DE MESSAGERIE

Classification: INV. H04L12/58

Date of filing: 20.09.2004

Priority claimed: US / 19.09.2003 / USP504379

Contracting States*
for which fees have been paid:

AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HU IE IT LI LU MC NL PL PT RO SE SI SK TR

Extension States*
for which fees have been paid:

AL HR LT LV MK

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- *) If the time limit for the payment of designation fees according to Rule 39(1) EPC has not yet expired and the applicant has not withdrawn any designation, **all Contracting States/Extension States** are currently still deemed to be designated. See also Rule 71(8) EPC and, if applicable, the above Note to users of the automatic debiting procedure.
- ***) If two or more applicants have designated different Contracting States, this is indicated here.



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Application No. 04 786 633.0 - 2416	Ref. P40430EP-K/JJH	Date 14.04.2010
Applicant Research In Motion Limited		

Communication under Rule 71(3) EPC

You are informed that the Examining Division intends to grant a European patent on the basis of the above application with the text and drawings as indicated below:

In the text for the Contracting States:

AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HU IE IT LI LU MC NL PL PT RO SE SI SK TR

Description, Pages

1, 5-12	as published			
3-4	received on	06-02-2008	with letter of	05.02.2008
2	filed with telefax on			11-12-2008

Claims, Numbers

1-10	filed with telefax on	14-09-2009
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Drawings, Sheets

1/7-7/7	as published
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A copy of the relevant documents is enclosed

The title of the invention in the three official languages of the European Patent Office, the international patent classification, the designated Contracting States, the registered name of the applicant and the bibliographic data are shown on the attached EPO Form 2056.

You are requested within a non-extendable period of **four months** of notification of this communication

1.	to file 1 set of translations of the claim(s) in the two other EPO official languages;		EUR
2a.	to pay the fee for grant including the fee for printing up to and including 35 pages; Reference 007		830.00
2b.	to pay the printing fee for the 36th and each subsequent page; number of pages: 0	Reference 008	0.00
3.	to pay the additional claim fee(s) (R. 71(6) EPC); number of claims fees payable:	Reference 016	0.00
		Total amount	830.00

The mention of the grant of the patent shall be published in the European Patent Bulletin as soon as possible after the requirements concerning the translation of the claims and the payment of the fees for grant and printing, claims fees, designation fees and renewal fees as laid down in Rule 71(3), (4), (6) and (8) and (9) EPC are fulfilled.

Any divisional applications relating to this European patent application must be filed directly at the European Patent Office in Munich, The Hague or Berlin in accordance with Article 76(1) and Rule 36 EPC **before** the date on which the European Patent Bulletin mentions the grant of the patent (see Guidelines for Examination in the EPO, A-IV, 1.1.1).

If you do not approve the text intended for grant but wish to request amendments or corrections, the procedure described in Rule 71(4) EPC is to be followed.

If this communication is based upon an auxiliary request, and you reply within the time limit set that you maintain the main or a higher ranking request which is not allowable, the application will be refused (Art. 97(2) EPC).

If the enclosed claims contain amendments proposed by the Examining Division, and you reply within the time limit set that you cannot accept these amendments, refusal of the application under Article 97(2) EPC will result if agreement cannot be reached on the text for grant.

In all cases except those of the previous two paragraphs, if the fees for grant and printing or claims fees are not paid, or the translations are not filed, in due time, the European patent application will be deemed to be withdrawn (R. 71(7) EPC).

For all payments you are requested to use EPO Form 1010 or EPO Form 1010E or to refer to the relevant reference number.

After publication, the European patent specification can be downloaded free of charge from the EPO publication server <https://publications.european-patent-office.org> or ordered from the Vienna sub-office upon payment of a fee (OJ EPO 2005, 126).

Upon request in writing each proprietor will receive the certificate for the European patent **together with one copy** of the patent specification provided that the request is filed within the time limit of Rule 71(3) EPC. If such request has been previously filed, it has to be confirmed within the time limit of Rule 71(3) EPC. The requested copy is free of charge. If the request is filed after expiry of the Rule 71(3) EPC time limit, the certificate will be delivered without a copy of the patent specification (R.74 EPC, Decision of the President of the EPO, Special edition No.3, OJ EPO 2007, D.2).

Note on payment of renewal fees

If a renewal fee falls due between notification of the present communication and the proposed date of publication of the mention of the grant of the European patent, publication will be effected only after the renewal fee and any additional fee have been paid (R. 71(9) EPC).

Under Article 86(2) EPC, the obligation to pay renewal fees to the European Patent Office terminates with the payment of the renewal fee due in respect of the year in which the mention of the grant of the European patent is published.

Filing of translations in the Contracting States

As regards translation requirements prescribed by the Contracting States under Article 65(1) EPC, please consult the website of the European Patent Office

www.epo.org → Patents → Law → Legal texts → National law relating to the EPC

www.epo.org → Patents → Law → Legal texts → London Agreement

In case of a valid extension

As regards translation requirements prescribed by the Extension States, please consult the website of the European Patent Office

www.epo.org → Patents → Law → Legal texts → National law relating to the EPC

Failure to supply a prescribed translation in a Contracting State or an Extension State may result in the patent being deemed to be void *ab initio* in the State concerned (Article 65(3) EPC).

Important note to users of the automatic debiting procedure

The fees for grant and printing and also any additional claims fees due under Rule 71(6) EPC will be debited automatically on the date of filing of the translation of the (relevant) claims, or on the last day of the period of this communication. However, if the designation fees become due as set out in Rule 71(8) EPC and/or a renewal fee becomes due as set out in Rule 71(9) EPC, these should be paid separately by another permitted means of payment in order not to delay the publication of the mention of grant. The same applies in these circumstances to the payment of extension fees. For further details see the Arrangements for the automatic debiting procedure (AAD) and accompanying Information from the EPO concerning the automatic debiting procedure (Annexes A.1 and A.2 to the Arrangements for deposit accounts (ADA) in Supplement to OJ EPO 3/2009).

Examining Division:

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2nd Examiner: Avilés Martínez, M
1st Examiner: Lastoria, Gianluca



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Enclosure(s): Form 2056
22 Copies of the relevant documents

Application No.:

04 786 633.0

IV.2. Patent classification

The classification has been changed. It now is as follows:

INV. H04L12/58

IV.3. Title of the invention

The title indicated on the published patent application remains unchanged. It reads as follows:

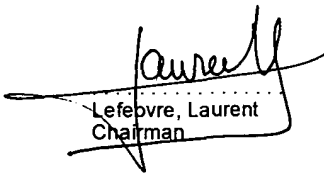
IN DER HAND GEHALTENE ELEKTRONISCHE EINRICHTUNG UND
ASSOZIIERTES VERFAHREN ZUR BEREITSTELLUNG VON ZEITDATEN IN
EINER NACHRICHTENÜBERMITTLUNGSUMGEBUNG

HANDHELD ELECTRONIC DEVICE AND ASSOCIATED METHOD PROVIDING
TIME DATA IN A MESSAGING ENVIRONMENT

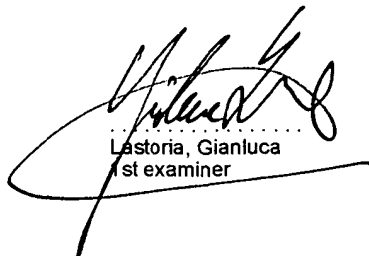
DISPOSITIF ELECTRONIQUE PORTATIF ET PROCEDE ASSOCIE
FOURNISSANT DES DONNEES TEMPORELLES DANS UN ENVIRONNEMENT
DE MESSAGERIE

IV.4. Documentation

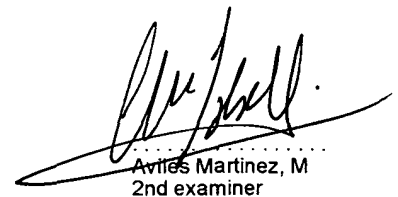
250310.....
Date



Lefevre, Laurent
Chairman



Latoria, Gianluca
1st examiner



Aviles Martinez, M
2nd examiner

~~HANDHELD ELECTRONIC DEVICE AND ASSOCIATED METHOD
PROVIDING TIME DATA IN A MESSAGING ENVIRONMENT~~

TECHNICAL FIELD

The invention relates generally to handheld electronic devices and, more particularly, to a handheld electronic device and a method for providing information representative of the times of certain communications in a messaging environment.

BACKGROUND ART

Numerous types of handheld electronic devices are known. Examples of such handheld electronic devices include, for instance, personal data assistants (PDAs), handheld computers, two-way pagers, cellular telephones, and the like. Such handheld electronic devices are generally intended to be portable, and thus are relatively small. Many handheld electronic devices also features wireless communication capability, although many such handheld electronic devices are stand-alone devices that are functional without communication with other devices. With advances in technology, handheld electronic devices are being configured to include greater numbers of features while having relatively smaller form factors.

Electronic devices, including handheld electronic devices, are capable of numerous types of communication. One type of communication is "messaging", and one type of messaging is "instant messaging" which enables a first device to send a message on a more or less instantaneous basis to a second device. With most all instant messaging, a given electronic device is provided with an interface that outputs the various communications that have occurred between the electronic device and another electronic device during a messaging "conversation". A sample output on an electronic device that is representative of the various communications that have occurred during a conversation may be as follows:

➤ Hi Honey, how was your day?
< Brutal! Larry embarrassed me in front of everybody.
➤ What a Jerk!
< Yeah, but I got him back later with a karate chop! ☺
➤ good for you.

11-12-2008

5 In this example, incoming messages are indicated by a greater than" > "mathematical symbol, and outgoing messages are indicated by a less than" < "mathematical symbol. If the conversation continues quickly, i.e., substantially without interruption, the messages do not need a time stamp on them. In the environment of a handheld electronic device, it would be desirable to avoid unnecessary time stamps and other unnecessary output since it occupies too much valuable space on the limited display of the handheld electronic device.

10 In some messaging circumstances, however, it may be desirable for information regarding certain timing aspects of conversation to be available to a user. Nevertheless, the limited space available on a display of a handheld electronic device has made a solution difficult. It thus would be desirable to provide an improved handheld electronic device and an associated method that provide time data in a messaging environment.

US 2003/060240 (Graham) relates to wireless mobile image messaging. A received image message to convey current information may be aged via time and/or colour displays.

15 WO 01/30091 (Motorola) discloses a two-way selective call device for determining if a response was received at a message transmitter to a message transmitted to a designation device.

20 GB 2 350 746 A (NEC) discloses an e-mail reception indication device that includes: an e-mail-reception-confirming section for confirming whether an e-mail is received by a mail server; a reply-judging section for judging whether a received e-mail includes content requiring a reply; a designated reply time/period calculating section for calculating a reply deadline by which a reply e-mail has to be sent; and a reply-status indicating section for informing the receiver of the e-mail of the calculated reply deadline.

25 Main aspects of the present invention are as set out in the independent claims. Principal subsidiary features are as set out in the dependent claims.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

30 An improved handheld electronic device and an associated method are provided in which time data regarding certain aspects of a messaging conversation on a handheld electronic device are made available to a user. Such time data is provided, for instance, in situations where an interruption has occurred during a messaging conversation. Time data can also be provided to a user on demand in certain circumstances.

Accordingly, an aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device and a method in which data regarding the times at which certain communications have occurred in a messaging environment are made available to a user.

35 Another aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device and a method that enable a user to be made aware of certain timing aspects of a conversation in a messaging environment.

40 Another aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device and a method in which data regarding the times at which certain communications have occurred are made available to a user while limiting the amount of display area that is occupied by such data.

Another aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device and a method in which data can be provided regarding the elapsed time since a communication.

5 Accordingly, one aspect of the invention is to provide an improved method of providing an output on at least one of a first electronic device and a second electronic device, the first electronic device being adapted to be in electronic communication with the second electronic device. The method includes the steps of: determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device; outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication; determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device; and, outputting after the elapse of the predetermined period of time, if substantially no additional communication has occurred during that period of time, a first time stamp representative of the first time.

10
15 The first time stamp may be disposed adjacent the first indication.

The method may further include the steps of: determining that a second messaging communication has occurred at a second time between the first device and the second device; outputting a second indication that is representative of at least a portion of the second messaging communication; and, outputting a second time stamp representative of the second time.

20
25
30 Another aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device of a type that is adapted to be in electronic communication with another electronic device. The handheld electronic device includes: a processor apparatus including a processor and a memory; and input apparatus; and, an output apparatus. The processor apparatus is adapted to receive input from the input apparatus, and to provide output to the output apparatus, and to determine that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the handheld electronic device and the another electronic device. The output apparatus is adapted to output a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication. The processor apparatus is adapted to determine that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without additional communication between the handheld electronic device and the another electronic device. The output apparatus outputs after the elapse of the predetermined period of time, if substantially no additional communication has occurred during that period of time, a first time stamp representative of the first time.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A full understanding of the invention can be gained from the following Description of the Preferred Embodiments when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

5 **Fig. 1 is an exemplary top plan view of a handheld electronic device in accordance with the invention which can be used in conjunction with an improved method in accordance with the invention;**

Fig. 2 is a schematic view of the handheld electronic device of Fig. 1;

10 **Fig. 3 is a schematic view of the handheld electronic device of Fig. 1 and another device in a messaging environment;**

Fig. 4 is an exemplary view of an output provided in accordance an aspect of the method of the invention;

Fig. 5 is another exemplary view of an output provided in accordance an aspect of the method of the invention;

15 **Fig. 6a is another exemplary view of an output provided in accordance an aspect of the method of the invention;**

Fig. 6b is another exemplary view of an output provided in accordance an aspect of the method of the invention;

20 **Fig. 7 is another exemplary view of an output provided in accordance an aspect of the method of the invention;**

Fig. 8a is another exemplary view of an output provided in accordance an aspect of the method of the invention;

Fig. 8b is another exemplary view of an output provided in accordance an aspect of the method of the invention;

5 Fig. 9 is another exemplary view of an output provided in accordance an aspect of the method of the invention; and

Fig. 10 is another exemplary view of an output provided in accordance an aspect of the method of the invention.

Similar numerals refer to similar parts to the specification.

10

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

An improved handheld electronic device 4 in accordance with the invention is indicated generally in Fig. 1 and is depicted schematically in Fig. 2. The exemplary handheld electronic device 4 includes a housing 8 upon which are disposed an input apparatus 12, an output apparatus 16 and a processor apparatus 20. The input apparatus 12 includes a keypad 24 that can be said to include a plurality of keys 28.

The output apparatus 16 includes a display 50. The output apparatus 16 can additionally include, for instance, additional indicators such as lights, and the like, and can additionally include an audible output such as a speaker as well as other output devices.

The processor apparatus 20 includes a processor 52 that can be, for instance, and without limitation, a microprocessor (μ P), and it is responsive to inputs from the input apparatus 12 and provides output signals to the output apparatus 16. The processor apparatus 20 further includes a memory 56 that includes a routine 60 stored therein. The exemplary routine 60 is a messaging routine that can provide a messaging capability on the device 4. It is understood that the memory 56 likely includes a number of other routines that are not expressly mentioned herein. As employed herein, the expression "a number of" and variations thereof shall refer broadly to any nonzero quantity including a quantity of one. The processor 52 interfaces with the memory 56, and the routine 60 is executable on the processor 52.

20 The device 4 further includes a wireless communication system. As can be seen in Fig. 3, the device 4 with the routine 60 can interface with a messaging service 62 to wirelessly provide the messaging capability on the device 4. In the depicted exemplary

embodiment, the messaging service 62 provides an instant messaging capability on the device 4 and on the other electronic devices having routines that are subscribers to the messaging service 62. The messaging service 62 is schematically depicted as including a server, although the teachings herein are not limited to messaging services that employ a server. For instance, the messaging service could, for example, provide a point-to-point communication capability such as is provided with the Bluetooth protocol, or may provide some other type of communication capability, whether or not wireless.

Fig. 3 further depicts another device 104 as being a device having a routine that is another subscriber to the messaging service 62. Specifically, the device 104 is an electronic device having a routine 160 thereon which can communicate with the messaging service 62 to provide a messaging capability on the device 104. While the exemplary devices 4 and 104 are depicted as having a wireless connection with the messaging service 62, it is understood that either or both of the devices 4 and 104 may employ a non-wireless communication capability and still not depart from the concept of the invention. It is further understood that while only the two devices 4 and 104 are depicted in Fig. 3 as being subscribers to the messaging service 62, many more subscribers to the messaging service 62 may exist but are not expressly depicted in Fig. 3.

During the course of an electronic conversation, such as depicted in Fig. 4 between, for instance, the devices 4 and 104, a number of messages 68 are communicated between the devices 4 and 104. An incoming message 72 received on, for instance, the device 4, provides a visual indication of a communication that has been transmitted from, for instance, the device 104 to the device 4. As can be seen in Fig. 4, an incoming message 72 includes an incoming symbol 66 and an incoming text portion 70. In the exemplary output depicted herein, the incoming symbol 66 is a mathematical greater than ">" symbol. The text portion 70 is an exemplary linguistic output that could be of numerous types of forms, such as in different languages, and also can include, for instance, symbols and the like that need not necessarily be a part of any particular language.

An outgoing message 76 is depicted as including an outgoing symbol 74 and an outgoing text portion 78. In the exemplary output depicted herein, the outgoing symbol 74 is a mathematical less than "<" symbol. The text portion 78 is an exemplary linguistic output that could be of numerous types of forms.

As can be further seen from Fig. 4, the exemplary conversation depicted therein includes a plurality of incoming messages 72 and a plurality of outgoing messages 76 that are transmitted between the devices 4 and 104 at a conversational speed, i.e., at a speed in which back-to-back communications between the devices 4 and 104 occur without a meaningful delay therebetween. Due to the conversational speed of the back-to-back communications, the messages 68 do not include an indications of the times at which such messages 68 were transmitted, it being assumed as a general matter that in such circumstances the specific time at which a given message within such a conversation occurred may not be of significance to a user.

At a certain point in the exemplary conversation, though, an exemplary message 68 which, for example, may be an outgoing message 76, may also become a non-responded to message 80, meaning that subsequent to its transmission substantially no additional communication occurs between the device 4 and 104 within a predetermined duration of time. More specifically, as the conversation transpires, the back-to-back incoming messages 72 and outgoing messages 76 are displayed adjacent one another. However, after the expiration of a predetermined duration of time after the transmission of a message 68, for instance ten minutes, in which substantially no additional communication occurs between the device 4 and 104, the message 68 is determined in accordance with the invention to be a non-responded to message 80, and responsive to such determination a first time stamp 84 is output adjacent the non-responded to message 80. For instance, if the non-responded to message 80 was transmitted at 2:44 PM, and if substantially no additional communication between the device 4 and 104 occurs between 2:44 PM and 2:54 PM, at 2:54 PM the first time stamp 84 "2:44 pm" is output to provide to the users of the devices 4 and 104 an indication that the conversation was interrupted at 2:44 PM. Such selective outputting of the first time stamp 84 generally only in response to a message 68 of some significance, such as the terminal message of a conversation, saves space on the display 50. It is noted that the display of the first time stamp 84 typically will occur on both the device 4 and the device 104.

It is understood, however, that the time duration of ten minutes is completely exemplary and that the time duration could be set at any duration. It is also understood that the first time stamp 84 can be output in response to the occurrence of additional and/or other predetermined events. Moreover, it is noted that the predetermined time duration may be variable depending upon the characteristics of the conversation. For

instance, if messages are being exchanged on a more infrequent basis, such as every nine minutes, the predetermined duration of time after which the first time stamp 84 is output may be adjusted to be twenty minutes, for example.

By way of further example, and as is depicted generally in Fig. 5, another message 5 68 may subsequently be communicated between the devices 4 and 104. Since the message 68 corresponds with a resumption of communication between the devices 4 and 104 after a period of interruption, the message 68 is determined to be a resumption message 88, and a second time stamp 92 is output adjacent the resumption message 88. A user thus can determine from the output on the display 50 the period of time during which the 10 conversation was suspended, i.e., the time between transmission of the non-responded to message 80 and transmission of the resumption message 88. Selective outputting of the second time stamp 92 saves space on the display 50. In this depicted example, the first time stamp 84 is disposed, for example, adjacent the non-responded to message 80, and the second time stamp 92 is disposed, for example, adjacent the resumption message 88. 15 It is also noted that the second time stamp 92 is disposed, for example, between the non-responded to message 80 and the resumption message 88.

As the conversation continues after transmission of the resumption message 88, one of the users of the devices 4 and 104 may determine that a time stamp would desirably be displayed in association with a message 68, such as if the user wished to emphasize to 20 himself or herself, or to the other user, the time at which the message 68 was transmitted. If such a time stamp is desired, the user may active a user interface 96, such as the exemplary user interface 96 of Fig. 6a, which can manually cause the output of an inserted time stamp 98 adjacent the message 68, as in Fig. 6b. As mentioned above, the inserted time stamp 98 can be made to appear on both the device 4 and the device 104, and it is 25 also noted that, if desired, the inserted time stamp 98 could be made to appear on only one or the other of the devices 4 and 104.

As can be seen in Fig. 7, the output could provide a non-responded to message 180 and a resumption message 188, with a first time stamp 184 being disposed adjacent the non-responded to message 180, and with a second time stamp 192 being disposed adjacent 30 the resumption message 188. However, in the exemplary output of Fig. 7 the first time stamp 184 and the second time stamp 192 are disposed adjacent one another and are both disposed between the non-responded to message 180 and the resumption message 188. Such an exemplary display of the first and second time stamps 184 and 192 illustrates the

gap in the conversation that occurred between transmission of the non-responded to message 180 and transmission of the resumption message 188. It is noted that the first time stamp 184 and the second time stamp 192 may have been generated in a fashion similar to the generation of the first time stamp 84 and the second time stamp 92.

5 As can be seen in Figs. 8a and 8b, the time stamps can be output in other places. For instance, a text portion of a non-responded to message 280 may have a beginning 282 and an ending 286. Similarly, a text portion of a resumption message 288 may have a beginning 290 and an ending 294. In accordance with another aspect of the invention, a first time stamp 284 can be output at either the beginning 282 or the ending 286 of the text
10 portion of the non-responded to message 280, and in the example of Fig. 8a the exemplary first time stamp 284 is output at the beginning 282. Also, a second time stamp 292 can be output at either the beginning 290 or the ending 294 of the text portion of the resumption message 288, and in the example of Fig. 8a the exemplary second time stamp 292 is output at the beginning 290. Other positioning of the first time stamp 284 and the second
15 time stamp 292 are possible within the concept of the invention.

For instance, and as another example, Fig. 8b depicts the exemplary first time stamp 284 as being output at the ending 286 while the exemplary second time stamp 292 is output at the beginning 290. Figs. 8a and 8b depict different exemplary ways in which the first and second time stamps 284 and 292 can be output to provide time data to a user.
20 In Fig. 8a the first and second time stamps 284 and 292 are disposed at a consistent location, i.e., at the beginnings 282 and 290 of the text portions of the non-responded to message 280 and the resumption message 288. Fig. 8b disposes the first and second time stamps 284 and 292 generally between the ending 286 of the non-responded to message 280 and the beginning 290 of the resumption message 288, which focuses the attention of
25 the user on the interval during which the conversation was interrupted. Other ways of outputting the first and second time stamps 284 and 292 will be apparent.

Another way of providing time stamps in a fashion that saves space on the display
50 is depicted in Fig. 9. Specifically, the messages 368 are output without displayed time stamps, but upon moving a cursor 374 or other pointing device or other device in proximity to a given message 368 a corresponding requested time stamp is output adjacent
30 the message 368. In this way, the messages 368 can be provided without also displaying time stamps, but if a time stamp is desired as to any of the messages 368 a requested time stamp 378 can be readily output. In this regard, the requested time stamp 378 may be

output for only a predetermined duration of time, for instance a few seconds, and/or the requested time stamp 378 may be deleted from the display 50 upon a detection of another input, such as from the input apparatus 12 or otherwise. In this regard, all of the messages 368 can have time stamps associated therewith that are not displayed until requested.

5 It is also noted that the requested time stamp 378 need not be requested by the cursor 374, and rather could be requested with virtually any other type of input desired, such as with a stylus and a touch sensitive screen, by an actuation of a key, or by the use of alternate pointing or other devices. Other ways of managing the output of the requested time stamp 378 as to any of the messages 368 will be apparent.

10 It is noted that the appearances of the various time stamps herein is completely exemplary, and that the time stamps could be provided in any format without departing from the concept of the invention. In this regard, and in accordance with another aspect of the invention, a given time stamp may be a smart time stamp and provide additional information depending upon the prevailing circumstances. For instance, if the first time
15 stamp 84 of Fig. 4 was output as indicated above, and if the conversation was not resumed until the following day, the first time stamp 84 potentially could be configured to automatically change from being displayed as "2:44 pm" on the day of communication of the non-responded to message 80 to being displayed as, for instance, "2:44 pm Thursday" or, for instance, "2:44 PM September 17, 2004" or, for instance, "2:44 pm yesterday" on
20 the following day, although other configurations will be apparent and will be within the concept of the invention.

Further in this regard, the time stamps can be configured to depict relative times, i.e., elapsed times, rather than absolute times. For instance, and as is depicted generally in Fig. 10, a time stamp 478 associated with a message 468 can be output to say, for
25 example, "less than one minute ago", meaning that the message 468 that has been activated by the cursor 474 has been transmitted less than one minute prior to the current time.

Such a time stamp 478 could be configured to be an active time stamp, meaning that it would change as time progressed. For instance, the time stamp 478 could
30 progressively change from saying "less than one minute ago" to saying "one minute ago", "two minutes ago", "forty-five minutes ago", and the like as time progressed. Such a time stamp also could be configured, for instance, to revert back to displaying an absolute time after the expiration of a given time duration. For example, once the message 468 is one

hour old, for instance, the time stamp 478 might be configured to no longer output a relative time such as “fifty-nine minutes ago”, and rather to output an absolute time such as “2:54 pm”. Other variations can be provided without departing from the concept of the invention.

5 If it is desired to provide such time stamps that output relative times, it might also be desirable to output such time stamps in any of the fashions set forth above, and such time stamps potentially could be configured to be output without first detecting a delay or a break in the “conversation”. For instance, the time stamp “less than a minute ago” could be displayed immediately upon receiving a message on the handheld electronic device 4, if
10 such a configuration is desired. In such a configuration, and order to save space on the display 50, the handheld electronic device 4 may be configured to provide such a relative time stamp only for the most recently transmitted message. That is, responsive to detecting the transmission of a message, the handheld electronic device may be configured to substantially immediately output a time stamp such as “less than a minute ago”. After
15 one minute the time stamp may be altered to say “one minute ago”, and the like. However, upon the transmission of an additional message, the time stamp for the prior message can be deleted and a new time stamp such as “less than a minute ago” can be provided with respect to the new message.

Such relative time stamps provide to the user an expedited understanding of the
20 timing aspects of the message. That is, the user can understand an aspect of the time of transmission without having to refer to the current time. This advantageously saves effort by the user because it eliminates the mental step of determining the current time and subtracting therefrom an absolute time displayed by a time stamp to determine the elapsed time since transmission of the message.

25 The different fashions of selectively providing intelligent time data in the form of selectively output time stamps advantageously saves valuable space on the display 50. Moreover, such selective outputting of time stamps advantageously avoids unnecessary visual clutter on the display 50.

While specific embodiments of the invention have been described in detail, it will
30 be appreciated by those skilled in the art that various modifications and alternatives to those details could be developed in light of the overall teachings of the disclosure. Accordingly, the particular arrangements disclosed are meant to be illustrative only and

not limiting as to the scope of the invention which is to be given the full breadth of the claims appended and any and all equivalents thereof.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

- 5 The present invention is directed at handheld electronic device and a method for providing information representative of the times of certain communications in a messaging environment.

CLAIMS:

1. A method providing an output on at least one of a first electronic device (4) and a second electronic device (104), the first electronic device being adapted to be in electronic communication with the second electronic device, the method comprising:

determining that a first messaging communication (68) has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device; and,

outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication;

the method being characterised by further comprising:

determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time without further communication between the first device and the second device; and,

outputting after the elapse of said predetermined period of time, if no additional communication has occurred during that period of time, a first time stamp (84) representative of the first time.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first time stamp (84) is disposed adjacent the first indication.

3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

determining that a second messaging communication has occurred at a second time between the first device and the second device;

outputting a second indication that is representative of at least a portion of the second messaging communication; and,

outputting a second time stamp representative of the second time.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein:

the first time stamp (84) is disposed adjacent the first indication, and the second time stamp is disposed adjacent the second indication;

one of the first time stamp and the second time stamp is disposed substantially between the first indication and the second indication; and,

one of the first indication and the second indication is disposed substantially between the first time stamp and the second time stamp.

5. The method of Claim 3, wherein:

the first time stamp (84) is disposed adjacent the first indication, and the second time stamp is disposed adjacent the second indication; and,

the first time stamp and the second time stamp are disposed substantially between the first indication and the second indication.

6. The method of Claim 3, wherein:

the first indication is a first linguistic output, and the second indication is a second linguistic output;

the first time stamp (84) is disposed adjacent one of the beginning and the ending of the first linguistic output; and,

the second time stamp is disposed adjacent one of the beginning and the ending of the second linguistic output.

7. The method of Claim 3, wherein:

the first indication is a first linguistic output, and the second indication is a second linguistic output;

the first time stamp (84) is disposed adjacent one of the beginning and the ending of the first linguistic output; and,

the second time stamp is disposed adjacent the other of the beginning and the ending of the second linguistic output.

8. The method of Claim 3, wherein the first time stamp is a time-of-day representative of the first time, and wherein the method further comprises:

detecting a change in date; and,

responsive to said detecting a change in date, outputting as the first time stamp a time-of-day and a date representative of the first time.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first time stamp is a relative time stamp representative of an elapsed time.

10. A handheld electronic device (4) adapted to be in electronic communication with another electronic device (104), the handheld electronic device (4) comprising:

a processor apparatus (20) including a processor (52) and a memory (56);

an input apparatus; and,

an output apparatus;

the processor apparatus being adapted to receive input from the input apparatus and to provide output to the output apparatus;

the processor apparatus being adapted to determine that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the handheld electronic device and the another electronic device; and,

the output apparatus being adapted to output a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication;

the handheld electronic device being characterised by:

the processor apparatus being adapted to determine that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time without further communication between the handheld electronic device and the another electronic device; and,

the output apparatus outputting after the elapse of said predetermined period of time, if no additional communication has occurred during that period of time, a first time stamp (84) representative of the first time.

1/7

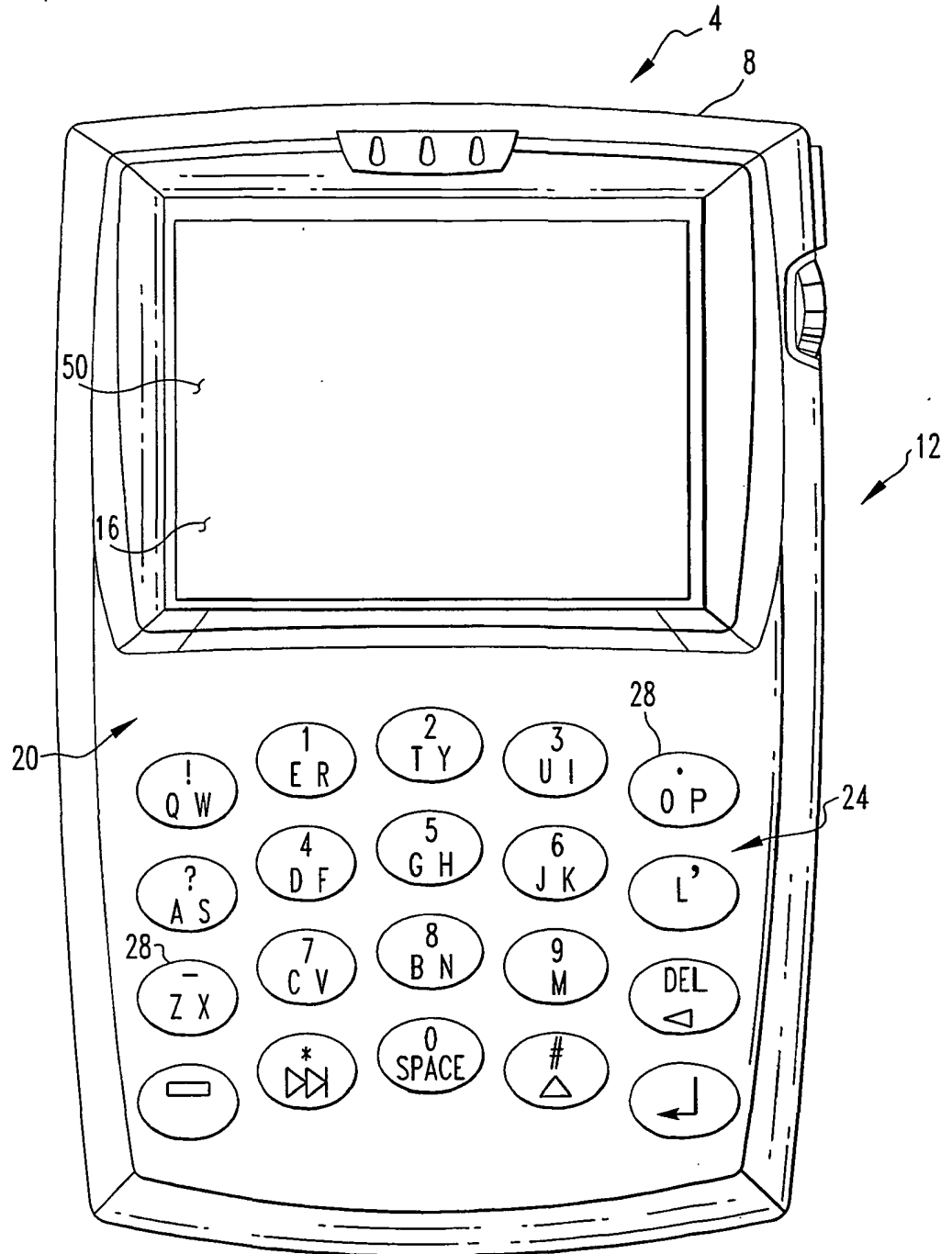


FIG. 1

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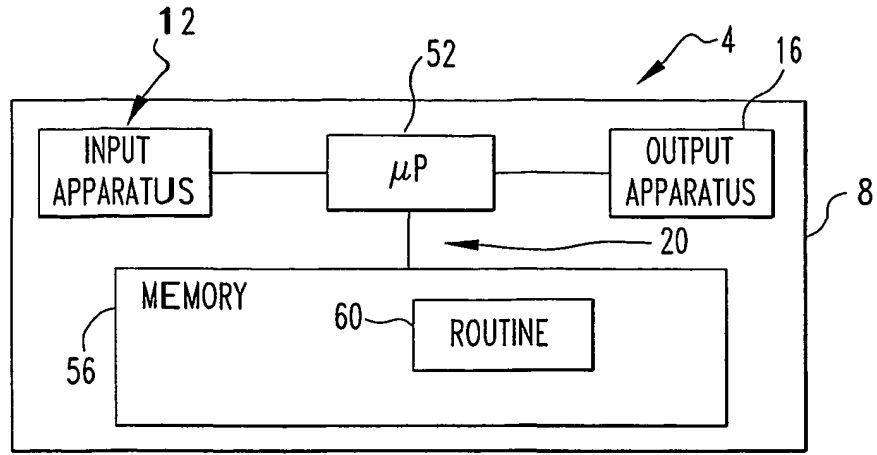


FIG. 2

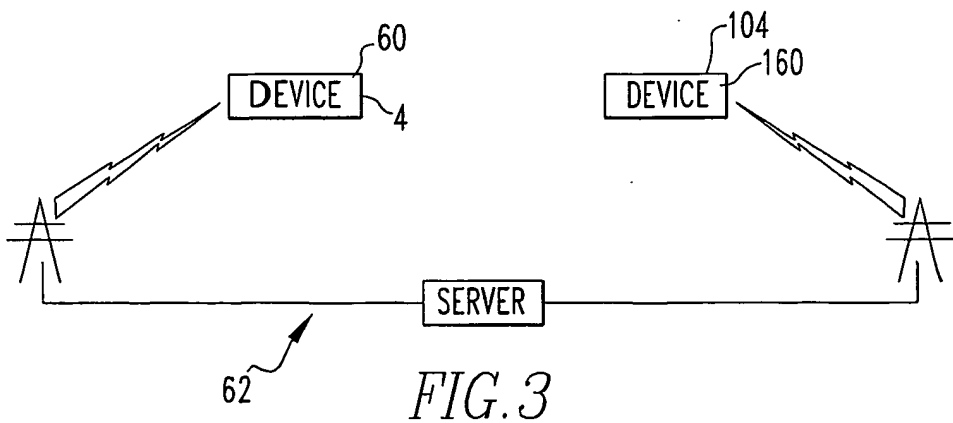


FIG. 3

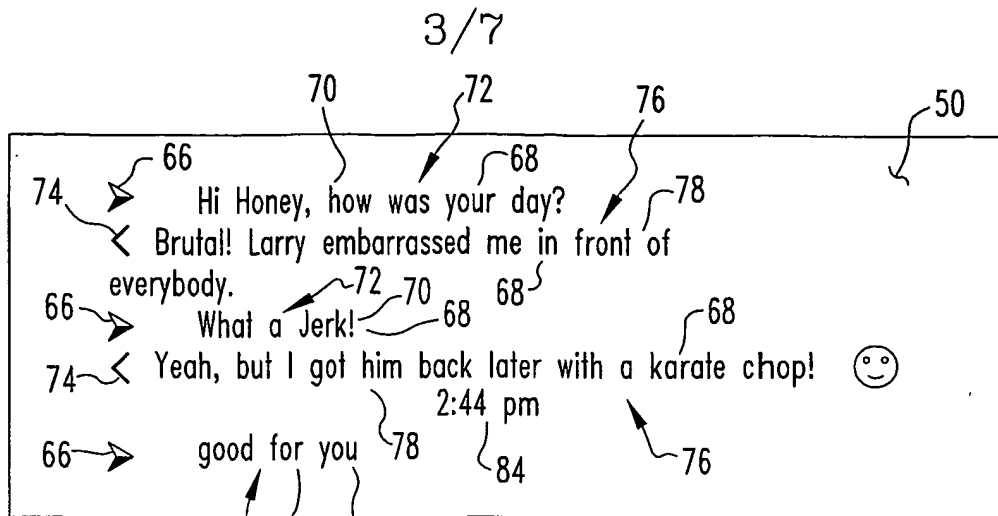


FIG. 4

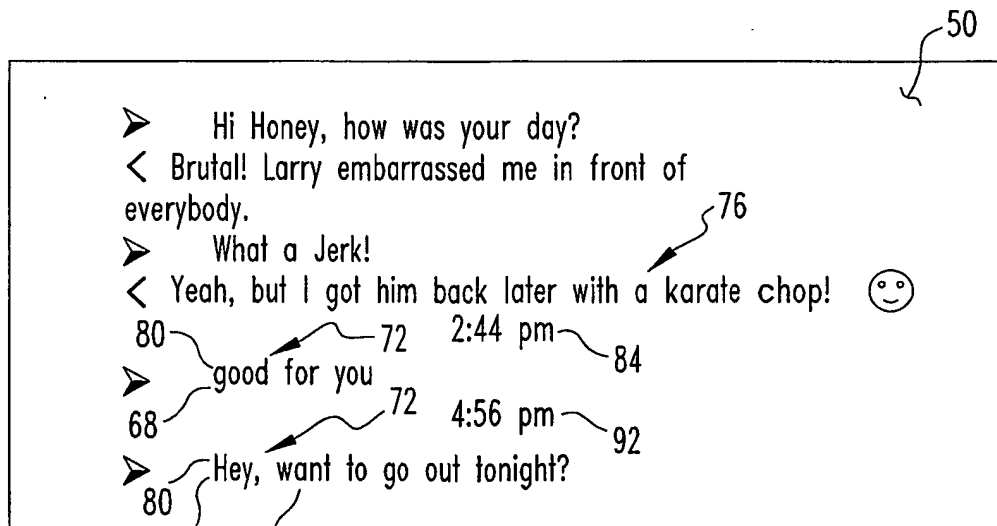


FIG. 5

4 / 7

50

96

➤ Hi Honey, how was your day?
 < Brutal! Larry embarrassed me in front of everybody.

➤ What a Jerk!
 < Yeah, but I got him back later with
 84 — 2:44 pm

➤ good for you
 92 — 4:56 pm

➤ Hey, want to go out tonight?
 < Sure, sounds fun.

➤ Great, I'll pick you up in an hour.
 < Can't wait — 68

Hide Menu
Find
Select
Clear conversation
View Contact List
Insert Time
End Conversation

FIG. 6a

50

➤ Hi Honey, how was your day?
 < Brutal! Larry embarrassed me in front of everybody.

➤ What a Jerk!
 < Yeah, but I got him back later with a karate chop! 😊
 2:44 pm — 84

➤ good for you
 4:56 pm — 92

➤ Hey, want to go out tonight?
 < Sure, sounds fun.

➤ Great, I'll pick you up in an hour.
 5:04 pm — 98

< Can't wait — 68

FIG. 6b

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50

➤ Hi Honey, how was your day?

< Brutal! Larry embarrassed me in front of everybody.

➤ What a Jerk!

< Yeah, but I got him back later with a karate chop! 😊

➤ Hey, want to go out tonight? ~180

188 2:44 pm ~184

4:56 pm ~192

< Sure, sounds fun.

➤ Great, I'll pick you up in an hour.

< Can't wait

FIG. 7

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50

➤ Hi Honey, how was your day?
 < Brutal! Larry embarrassed me in front of everybody.
 ➤ What a Jerk! 282
 284 < Yeah, but I got him back later with a karate chop! 😊
 ➤ [2:44 pm] Hey, want to go out tonight? 286
 < [4:56 pm] Sure, sounds fun. 294 280
 292 ➤ Great, I'll pick you up in an hour.
 < Can't wait 290 288

FIG. 8a

50

➤ Hi Honey, how was your day?
 < Brutal! Larry embarrassed me in front of everybody.
 ➤ What a Jerk! 280 286
 282 < Yeah, but I got him back later with a karate chop! 😊
 ➤ Hey, want to go out tonight? [2:44 pm] 284
 < [4:56 pm] Sure, sounds fun. 294
 292 ➤ Great, I'll pick you up in an hour.
 < Can't wait 290 288

FIG. 8b

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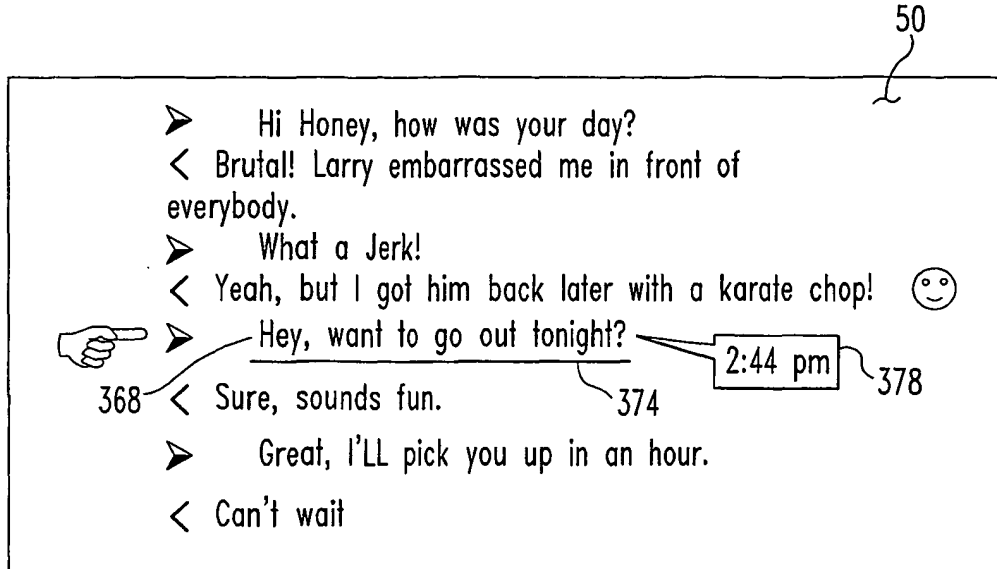


FIG. 9

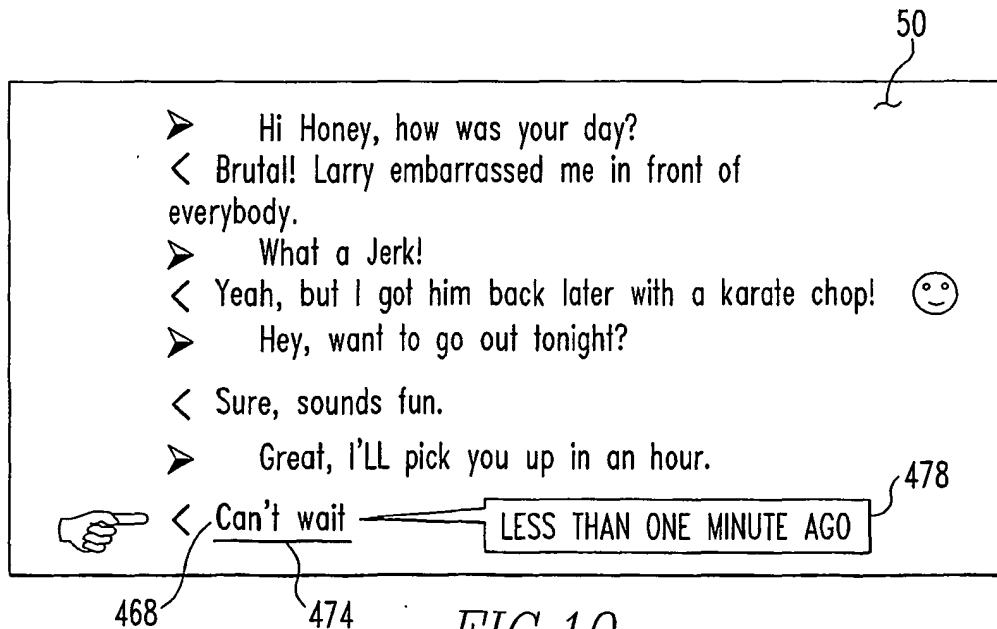


FIG. 10

CLAIMS:

1. A method providing an output on at least one of a first electronic device (4) and a second electronic device (104), the first electronic device being adapted to be in electronic communication with the second electronic device, the method comprising:

determining that a first messaging communication (68) has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device; and,

outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication;

the method being characterised by further comprising:

determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time without further communication between the first device and the second device; and,

outputting after the elapse of said predetermined period of time, if no additional communication has occurred during that period of time, a first time stamp (84) representative of the first time.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first time stamp (84) is disposed adjacent the first indication.

3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

determining that a second messaging communication has occurred at a second time between the first device and the second device;

outputting a second indication that is representative of at least a portion of the second messaging communication; and,

outputting a second time stamp representative of the second time.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein:

the first time stamp (84) is disposed adjacent the first indication, and the second time stamp is disposed adjacent the second indication;

one of the first time stamp and the second time stamp is disposed substantially between the first indication and the second indication; and,

one of the first indication and the second indication is disposed substantially between the first time stamp and the second time stamp.

5. The method of Claim 3, wherein:

the first time stamp (84) is disposed adjacent the first indication, and the second time stamp is disposed adjacent the second indication; and,

the first time stamp and the second time stamp are disposed substantially between the first indication and the second indication.

6. The method of Claim 3, wherein:

the first indication is a first linguistic output, and the second indication is a second linguistic output;

the first time stamp (84) is disposed adjacent one of the beginning and the ending of the first linguistic output; and,

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7. The method of Claim 3, wherein:

the first indication is a first linguistic output, and the second indication is a second linguistic output;

the first time stamp (84) is disposed adjacent one of the beginning and the ending of the first linguistic output; and,

the second time stamp is disposed adjacent the other of the beginning and the ending of the second linguistic output.

8. The method of Claim 3, wherein the first time stamp is a time-of-day representative of the first time, and wherein the method further comprises:

detecting a change in date; and,

responsive to said detecting a change in date, outputting as the first time stamp a time-of-day and a date representative of the first time.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first time stamp is a relative time stamp representative of an elapsed time.

10. A handheld electronic device (4) adapted to be in electronic communication with another electronic device (104), the handheld electronic device (4) comprising:

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an input apparatus; and,

an output apparatus;

the processor apparatus being adapted to receive input from the input apparatus and to provide output to the output apparatus;

the processor apparatus being adapted to determine that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the handheld electronic device and the another electronic device; and,

the output apparatus being adapted to output a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication;

the handheld electronic device being characterised by:

the processor apparatus being adapted to determine that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time without further communication between the handheld electronic device and the another electronic device; and,

the output apparatus outputting after the elapse of said predetermined period of time, if no additional communication has occurred during that period of time, a first time stamp (84) representative of the first time.

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EPO - Munich
83
17 Sep. 2009

European Patent Office
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Our Ref: P40430EP-K/GCF/PJ

14 September 2009

Dear Sirs

European Patent Application No. 04 786 633.0
In the name of: Research In Motion Limited

This is written in response to the Communication dated 24 August 2009.

Please replace pages 13 to 15 on file with the enclosed new pages 13 to 15.

In response to the Examiner's clarity objection in Section 2 of the Communication, the word "substantially" has been removed from lines 11 and 14 of claim 1 on file and from lines 17 and 21 of claim 10 on file.

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Yours faithfully



FENNELL, Gareth Charles
Authorized Representative
For and on behalf of Kilburn & Strode LLP

Enc: New pages 13 to 15

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CLAIMS:

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2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first time stamp (84) is disposed adjacent the first indication.

3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

determining that a second messaging communication has occurred at a second time between the first device and the second device;

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4. The method of Claim 3, wherein:

the first time stamp (84) is disposed adjacent the first indication, and the second time stamp is disposed adjacent the second indication;

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one of the first indication and the second indication is disposed substantially between the first time stamp and the second time stamp.

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the handheld electronic device being characterised by:

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2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first time stamp (84) is disposed adjacent the first indication.

3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

determining that a second messaging communication has occurred at a second time between the first device and the second device;

outputting a second indication that is representative of at least a portion of the second messaging communication; and,

outputting a second time stamp representative of the second time.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein:

the first time stamp (84) is disposed adjacent the first indication, and the second time stamp is disposed adjacent the second indication;

one of the first time stamp and the second time stamp is disposed substantially between the first indication and the second indication; and,

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FAX TRANSMISSION Page 1 of 4

European Patent Office
Erhardtstrasse 27
D-80298 München
GERMANY

Our Ref: P40430EP-K/GCF/PJ

14 September 2009

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Yours faithfully



FENNELL, Gareth Charles
Authorized Representative
For and on behalf of Kilburn & Strode LLP

Enc: New pages 13 to 15

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1353733v1

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1353733v

The examination is being carried out on the **following application documents**:

Description, Pages

1, 5-12	as published			
3, 4	received on	06.02.2008	with letter of	05.02.2008
2	filed with telefax on	11.12.2008		

Claims, Numbers

1-10	received on	06.02.2008	with letter of	05.02.2008
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Drawings, Sheets

1/7-7/7	as published			
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1. In the light of the arguments brought forward by the Applicant in his last letter dated 10.12.2008, the examiner is now of the opinion that the claims currently on file appear to meet the requirements of Article 52(1) EPC as far as novelty and inventive step are concerned.
2. However, **claims 1 and 10** do, for the following reasons, **not** meet the requirements of Article 84 EPC in respect of clarity:
 - 2.1 The relative term "*substantially*" used in claims 1 and 10 has no well-recognized meaning and leaves the reader in doubt as to the meaning of the technical features to which it refers, thereby rendering the definition of the subject-matter of said claims unclear (Article 84 EPC, see also the EPO-Guidelines, C-III 4.7).

In this case, either a communication between the two device took place or it did not and, therefore, the use of the term "*substantially*" appears not to be appropriate.

3. By amending the claims, care should be taken during revision not to add subject-matter which extends beyond the content of the application as originally filed, Article 123(2) EPC.

In his letter of reply, the Applicant should indicate the parts of the originally filed application serving as a basis for subject-matter newly introduced into the claims.



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Application No. 04 786 633.0 - 2416	Ref. P40430EP-K/JJH	Date 24.08.2009
Applicant Research In Motion Limited		

Communication pursuant to Article 94(3) EPC

The examination of the above-identified application has revealed that it does not meet the requirements of the European Patent Convention for the reasons enclosed herewith. If the deficiencies indicated are not rectified the application may be refused pursuant to Article 97(2) EPC.

You are invited to file your observations and insofar as the deficiencies are such as to be rectifiable, to correct the indicated deficiencies within a period

of 4 months

from the notification of this communication, this period being computed in accordance with Rules 126(2) and 131(2) and (4) EPC. One set of amendments to the description, claims and drawings is to be filed within the said period on separate sheets (R. 50(1) EPC).

Failure to comply with this invitation in due time will result in the application being deemed to be withdrawn (Art. 94(4) EPC).



Lastoria, Gianluca
Primary Examiner
For the Examining Division

Enclosure(s): 2 page/s reasons (Form 2906)

04786633.0 - 2416 / 1668824

26.03.09

Client Database System (CDS) - clean up.

Application Nr.: 04786633.0

Following clean up action in CDS the entries concerning the **Representative for the applicant** have been amended and are now as follows:

Hibbert, Juliet Jane Grace
Kilburn & Strode LLP
20 Red Lion Street
London WC1R 4PJ
GB

Where appropriate, the Register of European Patents will be updated to show the amended details.

For questions please contact the Client Data Registration department of the European Patent Office in Munich, telephone +49 (0)89 2399 2780.

Kilburn & Strode

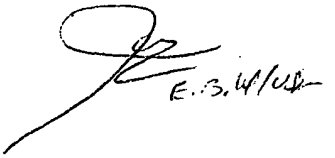
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European Patent Office
Erhardtstrasse 27
D-80298 München
Germany

M: 5-03-09

S I F R E I P

E.B.W./us

Our Ref: M51037/NJH/ss
Your Ref:

4 March 2009

Dear Sirs,

Kilburn & Strode – Request to update the Register

On 1 April 2009, the business of Kilburn & Strode is being transferred to Kilburn & Strode LLP.

I enclose herewith a Certificate of Incorporation of Kilburn & Strode LLP.

All address and contact details for Kilburn & Strode LLP are identical to the present details of Kilburn & Strode.

All EPO representatives who are currently at Kilburn & Strode will be transferred to Kilburn & Strode LLP. I enclose herewith a list of these representatives. Kilburn & Strode and the enclosed European Patent Attorneys are currently authorised representatives on a large number of European Patents and European Patent applications as well as a number of oppositions. Please amend the European Patent Register to record Kilburn & Strode LLP in place of Kilburn & Strode. I trust that it is not necessary to itemise each patent and patent application for which we are authorised representative.

I hope that the above information is sufficient to enable you to make the change requested above. If you need anything further from me, please do not hesitate to let me know.

I have written separately to the European Patent Office Cash and Accounts Department and the Institute of Professional Representatives before the European Patent Office (epi).

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J.C.Hollywood * S.Kirby † A.T.Korenberg * E.E.Phillips * J.E.Pitchford * A.E.Ruhrmann * M.A.M.Terry *

Consultants: R.Ashinead *† T.Z.Gold, M.B.E. A.C.Roberts * A.B.Addison * J.J.G.Hibbert *

Partnership Secretary: B.Collins Records: M.R.Jenkins Accounts: B.J.Nutchey

* Patent Attorney † Trade Mark Attorney

1178448v1

**Kilburn
& Strode**

Page 2

Please acknowledge safe receipt of this letter by stamping and returning the enclosed copy of EPO Form 1037.

Yours sincerely



N J M Hedley
Kilburn & Strode

Enc.



**CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION
OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP**

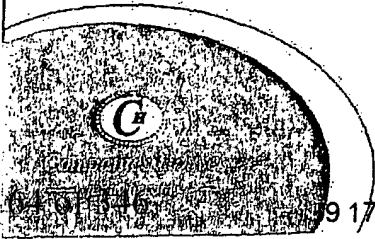
Partnership No. OC342299

The Registrar of Companies for England and Wales hereby certifies that

KILBURN & STRODE LLP

is this day incorporated under the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2000 as a limited liability partnership and that the partnership is limited.

Given at Companies House on 23rd December 2008.



THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE
REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES

REPRESENTATIVES

JENNINGS,	Nigel Robin
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In some messaging circumstances, however, it may be desirable for information regarding certain timing aspects of conversation to be available to a user. Nevertheless, the limited space available on a display of a handheld electronic device has made a solution difficult. It thus would be desirable to provide an improved handheld electronic device and an associated method that provide time data in a messaging environment.

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Main aspects of the present invention are as set out in the independent claims. Principal subsidiary features are as set out in the dependent claims.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

An improved handheld electronic device and an associated method are provided in which time data regarding certain aspects of a messaging conversation on a handheld electronic device are made available to a user. Such time data is provided, for instance, in situations where an interruption has occurred during a messaging conversation. Time data can also be provided to a user on demand in certain circumstances.

Accordingly, an aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device and a method in which data regarding the times at which certain communications have occurred in a messaging environment are made available to a user.

Another aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device and a method that enable a user to be made aware of certain timing aspects of a conversation in a messaging environment.

Another aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device and a method in which data regarding the times at which certain communications have occurred are made available to a user while limiting the amount of display area that is occupied by such data.

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European Patent Office
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D-80298 München
GERMANY

EPO - Munich
56

12. Dez. 2008

Our Ref: P40430EP-K/GCF/PJ/tab

10 December 2008

Dear Sirs

European Patent Application No. 04 786 633.0
In the name of: Research In Motion Limited

This is written in response to the Communication dated 25 July 2008.

Please replace the page 2 on file with the enclosed new page 2.

The present invention, as reflected in claims 1 and 10, relates to messaging conversations that may occur between two electronic devices. In particular, when messages are displayed on a device, the time of the message is not always displayed along with the message itself. Instead, a determination is made as to whether each message is a "non-responded to" message (see page 7 of the present application) by determining whether a predetermined duration of time has expired after the transmission of the message in which substantially no additional communication occurs between the two devices. If a message is determined to be such a "non-responded to" message, *then and only then* is a time stamp output on the receiving device, which indicates the time of that message. The selective outputting of a time stamp only after the expiration of the predetermined duration of time in which no other communication occurs in the manner just described is advantageous as it saves space on the display of the electronic device, which space is often limited.

Thus, claim 1 of the present application recites "determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device", "outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication".

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Partnership Secretary: B.Collins Records: M.R.Jenkins Accounts: B.J.Nutchev * Patent Attorney † Trade Mark Attorney

“determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time *substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device*”, and “responsive to said determining that the predetermined period of time has elapsed since ... , outputting a first time stamp representative of the first time.” In other words, in the method as claimed, the first time stamp representative of the time at which the first communication occurred is only output by the device if a predetermined period of time has in fact elapsed since that first time without any further communication occurring between the first device and the second device. In such a case, the first messaging communication is determined to have been a “non-responded to” message. Claim 10 recites a handheld electronic device which is adapted to implement the method of claim 1.

The Examiner has now cited D3 (GB 2350 746) as the closest prior art. D3 describes an “email-reception indication device” that receives an email and determines whether a reply to the email is needed. If a reply is needed, the device determines a reply deadline for sending the reply, and until a reply is actually sent, provides an LED of varying colours to indicate to the user that a reply to the email needs to be sent. In other words, D3 merely describes a reminder mechanism for reminding the user that a reply email needs to be sent but has not yet actually been sent. Nowhere does D3 describe a step wherein a determination is made as to whether a certain predetermined amount of time has elapsed since a first communication has occurred *without any further communication taking place between two devices* and, responsive to a determination that such a predetermined period of time has in fact elapsed (*e.g.*, a message is determined to be a “non-responded to” message), outputting a time stamp that represents the time at which the first message occurred. In fact, in D3, it is possible and even probable that a user will get one or more additional emails from the same device that sent the original email (or sent other, non-reply emails to that device) before the user sends a reply to the original email. However, in D3, the reminder LED indicator will not be tuned off until the reply to the original email is sent. In other words, even though there may be further communication between the two devices in D3 before a reply is sent, the LED indicator will continue to provide in D3 an indication that no reply has been sent.

In the present invention, a time stamp is output *only* after it has been determined that *a certain predetermined amount of time has elapsed since a first communication has occurred without any further communication taking place between two devices*. In claim 1 on file, the third and fourth steps are: “determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device; and, outputting after the elapse of said predetermined period of time, if substantially no further communication has occurred during that period of time, a first time stamp representative of the first time”. The operation in D3 does not depend on whether “no further communication has occurred during that period of time”. The Examiner can observe this from considering Figures 10 to 12 and the associated text in D3. The D3 system is keeping track of multiple e-mails, not just one, with the lack of response to the oldest one of the e-mails determining turn-off of the LEDs. This can be seen from Figure 12, in particular, where for instance all Level-4 reply e-mails need to have been sent before the blue LED turns off. What D3 is tracking is the time taken to reply to the

oldest of the received e-mails to which a reply has not already been sent. That tracking is performed without regard to whether all of the received e-mails to which no replies have been sent are from the same sender or from multiple senders. In the subject invention what is being tracked is whether a further messaging communication has been received from the same sender. D3 does not make that distinction. The present invention as claimed in claims 1 and 10 is thus clearly distinguishable from D3.

The primary purpose of D3 is to alert the user of a device of the age of an oldest received message that has not yet been replied to by a user, not whether a particular one of the senders has sent a further e-mail within a predetermined period of time. As indicated in the foregoing paragraph, D3 does not disclose the content of the third and fourth steps of claim 1 on file. A technical problem to be solved by the present invention may be stated as follows:

How to more efficiently display message information on the display of a handheld electronic device in order to preserve system assets such as display space?

The present invention solves that problem by “determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device”, “determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time *substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device*”, and “outputting after the elapse of said predetermined period of time, if substantially no additional communication has occurred during that period of time, a first time stamp representative of the first time.” A person skilled in the art would not be prompted to this solution by D3. D3 teaches how to alert a user of the device that (i) the user has received one or more messages that require a reply, and (ii) the user has not yet responded to that message or messages. As noted above, with regard to the receiving device and any particular one of the sending devices in D3, the LED indication will be provided based on e-mails from all of the sending devices even if further communications have taken place between the receiving device and the particular one of the sending devices. D3 is not directed to the question of preserving display space. Rather, it relates to an external device having a set number of visible LEDs and thus not to a situation of a device display screen where the amount of displayed information might be reduced. At any one time D3’s LEDs might either on or off, but in either case all of them remain visible. Secondly, as set out above, D3 is not concerned with the age of an e-mail received from a particular sender, but rather is tracking the oldest of the e-mails to which no reply has been sent. So, for instance, if in D3 senders A, B and C send e-mails in the order A sends the first, B sends the second, A sends the third, and C sends the fourth, and the recipient replies to none of them, the sender A first e-mail is determinant of how many LEDs have been turned on in D3. The second e-mail from A is still awaiting response, so even if a reply sent to sender A’s first e-mail causes one or more of the LEDs to turn off in D3, it cannot be said with respect to sender A that “no additional communication has occurred” during the period of time since the first e-mail was received. D3 is simply not addressing the same problem as the subject invention. There would therefore thus be no reason for a skilled person, upon reading D3, to think of implementing the steps of claims 1 and 10 in a device. Thus it is submitted that the

independent claims 1 and 10, as well as the claims dependent upon claim 1, contain an inventive step over D3.

A discussion of D3 has been added to page 2 of the disclosure. The wording of lines 17 and 18 on page 2 has been amended to clarify that the disclosure conforms to the wording of the claims.

In view of the foregoing comments, the Applicant submits that the subject patent application is in condition for allowance. It is requested that the examination procedure continues to be conducted in writing. However, purely as a precautionary measure in the event that the Examining Division is minded to refuse this application, Oral Proceedings are requested.

Please acknowledge safe receipt of this letter by returning the enclosed copy of EPO Form 1037.

Yours faithfully



FENNELL, Gareth Charles
Authorized Representative
Kilburn & Strode

Enc: New page 2

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10 In some messaging circumstances, however, it may be desirable for information regarding certain timing aspects of conversation to be available to a user. Nevertheless, the limited space available on a display of a handheld electronic device has made a solution difficult. It thus would be desirable to provide an improved handheld electronic device and an associated method that provide time data in a messaging environment.

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25 Main aspects of the present invention are as set out in the independent claims. Principal subsidiary features are as set out in the dependent claims.

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Accordingly, an aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device and a method in which data regarding the times at which certain communications have occurred in a messaging environment are made available to a user.

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Kilburn & Strode

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European Patent Office
Erhardtstrasse 27
D-80298 München
GERMANY

Our Ref: P40430EP-K/GCF/PJ/tab

10 December 2008

Dear Sirs

European Patent Application No. 04 786 633.0
In the name of: Research In Motion Limited

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Kilburn & Strode

Page 2

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In the present invention, a time stamp is output *only* after it has been determined that *a certain predetermined amount of time has elapsed since a first communication has occurred without any further communication taking place between two devices*. In claim 1 on file, the third and fourth steps are: “determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device; and, outputting after the elapse of said predetermined period of time, if substantially no further communication has occurred during that period of time, a first time stamp representative of the first time”. The operation in D3 does not depend on whether “no further communication has occurred during that period of time”. The Examiner can observe this from considering Figures 10 to 12 and the associated text in D3. The D3 system is keeping track of multiple e-mails, not just one, with the lack of response to the oldest one of the e-mails determining turn-off of the LEDs. This can be seen from Figure 12, in particular, where for instance all Level-4 reply e-mails need to have been sent before the blue LED turns off. What D3 is tracking is the time taken to reply to the

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Page 3

oldest of the received e-mails to which a reply has not already been sent. That tracking is performed without regard to whether all of the received e-mails to which no replies have been sent are from the same sender or from multiple senders. In the subject invention what is being tracked is whether a further messaging communication has been received from the same sender. D3 does not make that distinction. The present invention as claimed in claims 1 and 10 is thus clearly distinguishable from D3.

The primary purpose of D3 is to alert the user of a device of the age of an oldest received message that has not yet been replied to by a user, not whether a particular one of the senders has sent a further e-mail within a predetermined period of time. As indicated in the foregoing paragraph, D3 does not disclose the content of the third and fourth steps of claim 1 on file. A technical problem to be solved by the present invention may be stated as follows:

How to more efficiently display message information on the display of a handheld electronic device in order to preserve system assets such as display space?

The present invention solves that problem by "determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device", "determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time *substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device*", and "outputting after the elapse of said predetermined period of time, if substantially no additional communication has occurred during that period of time, a first time stamp representative of the first time." A person skilled in the art would not be prompted to this solution by D3. D3 teaches how to alert a user of the device that (i) the user has received one or more messages that require a reply, and (ii) the user has not yet responded to that message or messages. As noted above, with regard to the receiving device and any particular one of the sending devices in D3, the LED indication will be provided based on e-mails from all of the sending devices even if further communications have taken place between the receiving device and the particular one of the sending devices. D3 is not directed to the question of preserving display space. Rather, it relates to an external device having a set number of visible LEDs and thus not to a situation of a device display screen where the amount of displayed information might be reduced. At any one time D3's LEDs might either on or off, but in either case all of them remain visible. Secondly, as set out above, D3 is not concerned with the age of an e-mail received from a particular sender, but rather is tracking the oldest of the e-mails to which no reply has been sent. So, for instance, if in D3 senders A, B and C send e-mails in the order A sends the first, B sends the second, A sends the third, and C sends the fourth, and the recipient replies to none of them, the sender A first e-mail is determinant of how many LEDs have been turned on in D3. The second e-mail from A is still awaiting response, so even if a reply sent to sender A's first e-mail causes one or more of the LEDs to turn off in D3, it cannot be said with respect to sender A that "no additional communication has occurred" during the period of time since the first e-mail was received. D3 is simply not addressing the same problem as the subject invention. There would therefore thus be no reason for a skilled person, upon reading D3, to think of implementing the steps of claims 1 and 10 in a device. Thus it is submitted that the

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Page 4

independent claims 1 and 10, as well as the claims dependent upon claim 1, contain an inventive step over D3.

A discussion of D3 has been added to page 2 of the disclosure. The wording of lines 17 and 18 on page 2 has been amended to clarify that the disclosure conforms to the wording of the claims.

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Enc: New page 2

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FAX TRANSMISSION Page 1 of 5

European Patent Office
Erhardtstrasse 27
D-80298 München
GERMANY

Our Ref: P40430EP-K/GCF/PJ/tab

10 December 2008

Dear Sirs

European Patent Application No. 04 786 633.0
In the name of: Research In Motion Limited

This is written in response to the Communication dated 25 July 2008.

Please replace the page 2 on file with the enclosed new page 2.

The present invention, as reflected in claims 1 and 10, relates to messaging conversations that may occur between two electronic devices. In particular, when messages are displayed on a device, the time of the message is not always displayed along with the message itself. Instead, a determination is made as to whether each message is a "non-responded to" message (see page 7 of the present application) by determining whether a predetermined duration of time has expired after the transmission of the message in which substantially no additional communication occurs between the two devices. If a message is determined to be such a "non-responded to" message, *then and only then* is a time stamp output on the receiving device, which indicates the time of that message. The selective outputting of a time stamp only after the expiration of the predetermined duration of time in which no other communication occurs in the manner just described is advantageous as it saves space on the display of the electronic device, which space is often limited.

Thus, claim 1 of the present application recites "determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device", "outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication",

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Partnership Secretary: B.Collins, Records: M.R.Jenkins, Accounts: B.J.Nutchey * Patent Attorney † Trade Mark Attorney

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Page 2

“determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time *substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device*”, and “responsive to said determining that the predetermined period of time has elapsed since ... , outputting a first time stamp representative of the first time.” In other words, in the method as claimed, the first time stamp representative of the time at which the first communication occurred is only output by the device if a predetermined period of time has in fact elapsed since that first time without any further communication occurring between the first device and the second device. In such a case, the first messaging communication is determined to have been a “non-responded to” message. Claim 10 recites a handheld electronic device which is adapted to implement the method of claim 1.

The Examiner has now cited D3 (GB 2350 746) as the closest prior art. D3 describes an “email-reception indication device” that receives an email and determines whether a reply to the email is needed. If a reply is needed, the device determines a reply deadline for sending the reply, and until a reply is actually sent, provides an LED of varying colours to indicate to the user that a reply to the email needs to be sent. In other words, D3 merely describes a reminder mechanism for reminding the user that a reply email needs to be sent but has not yet actually been sent. Nowhere does D3 describe a step wherein a determination is made as to whether a certain predetermined amount of time has elapsed since a first communication has occurred *without any further communication taking place between two devices* and, responsive to a determination that such a predetermined period of time has in fact elapsed (*e.g.*, a message is determined to be a “non-responded to” message), outputting a time stamp that represents the time at which the first message occurred. In fact, in D3, it is possible and even probable that a user will get one or more additional emails from the same device that sent the original email (or sent other, non-reply emails to that device) before the user sends a reply to the original email. However, in D3, the reminder LED indicator will not be tuned off until the reply to the original email is sent. In other words, even though there may be further communication between the two devices in D3 before a reply is sent, the LED indicator will continue to provide in D3 an indication that no reply has been sent.

In the present invention, a time stamp is output *only* after it has been determined that *a certain predetermined amount of time has elapsed since a first communication has occurred without any further communication taking place between two devices*. In claim 1 on file, the third and fourth steps are: “determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device; and, outputting after the elapse of said predetermined period of time, if substantially no further communication has occurred during that period of time, a first time stamp representative of the first time”. The operation in D3 does not depend on whether “no further communication has occurred during that period of time”. The Examiner can observe this from considering Figures 10 to 12 and the associated text in D3. The D3 system is keeping track of multiple e-mails, not just one, with the lack of response to the oldest one of the e-mails determining turn-off of the LEDs. This can be seen from Figure 12, in particular, where for instance all Level-4 reply e-mails need to have been sent before the blue LED turns off. What D3 is tracking is the time taken to reply to the

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Yours faithfully



FENNELL, Gareth Charles
Authorized Representative
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Enc: New page 2



Hibbert, Juliet Jane Grace
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GRANDE BRETAGNE

For any questions about this communication:
Tel.: +31 (0)70 340 45 00

Date 27.11.08

Reference P40430EP-K/JJH	Application No./Patent No. 04786633.0 - 2416 / 1668824
Applicant/Proprietor Research In Motion Limited	

Extension of time limit pursuant to Rule 132(2) EPC

Examination procedure

With reference to your request, the time limit for replying to the communication dated 25.07.08 has been extended

by 2 months
to a total of 6 months

from the date of notification of the above-mentioned communication.

Please note: To the extent that your request exceeded the above extension, your request has been refused.

Note

The granting of extensions to time limits is governed by the Implementing Regulations to the EPC and the Guidelines for Examination in the EPO, part E-VIII, 1.6.

If no reply to the communication is received in due time, the European patent application will be deemed to be withdrawn (Art. 94(4) EPC).

For the Examining Division



FAX TRANSMISSION Page 1 of 1

European Patent Office
Erhardtstrasse 27
D-80298 München
Germany

EPO - Munich
32
26, Nov. 2008

Our Ref: P40430EP-K/GCF/tab

Your Ref:

20 November 2008

Dear Sirs

European Patent Application No. 04786633.0
In the name of Research In Motion Limited

We refer to the Communication pursuant to Article 94(3) EPC dated 25 July 2008 and hereby request an extension of time of two months to the period for submitting a response.

Please acknowledge safe receipt of this letter by returning the enclosed copy of EPO Form 1037.

Yours faithfully,



FENNELL, Gareth Charles
Authorised Representative
Kilburn & Strode

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1089232v1

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1089232v1

(12) **UK Patent Application** (19) **GB** (11) **2 350 746** (13) **A**

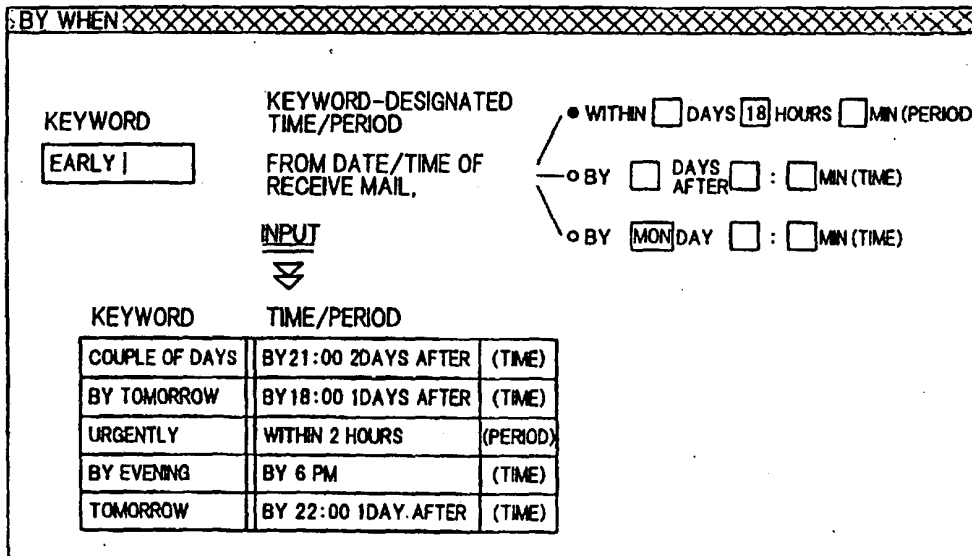
(43) Date of A Publication 06.12.2000

<p>(21) Application No 0007395.7</p> <p>(22) Date of Filing 27.03.2000</p> <p>(30) Priority Data (31) 11082482 (32) 25.03.1999 (33) JP</p>	<p>(51) INT CL⁷ H04L 12/54 // H04L 12/58</p> <p>(52) UK CL (Edition R) H4K KOD4 H4P PQA</p> <p>(56) Documents Cited JP 110004251 A JP 080180004 A JP 8180004 PAJ ABSTRACT AND WPI ABSTRACT ACCESSION NO. 1996-375898 JP11004251 PAJ ABSTRACT AND WPI ABSTRACT ACCESSION NO. 1999-127844</p> <p>(58) Field of Search UK CL (Edition R) H4K KOD4 , H4P PQA INT CL⁷ H04L 12/54 12/58 ONLINE: WPI, PAJ, EPODOC</p>
<p>(71) Applicant(s) NEC Corporation (Incorporated in Japan) 7-1, Shiba 5-Chome, Minato-Ku, Tokyo 108-01, Japan</p> <p>(72) Inventor(s) Takahiro Nobukiyo</p> <p>(74) Agent and/or Address for Service Mathys & Squire 100 Grays Inn Road, LONDON, WC1X 8AL, United Kingdom</p>	

(54) Abstract Title
E-mail reply deadline calculation

(57) An email-reception indication device has an email-reception confirming section for confirming whether an email is received by a mail server or not; a reply judging section for judging whether an email the reception of which is confirmed by the email-reception confirming section includes a content to require a reply or not; a designated reply time/ period calculating section for calculating a reply deadline by which a reply email has to be sent in response to an email judged as requiring sending of a reply by the reply judging section; and a reply-status indicating section for informing the receiver of email of the reply deadline calculated by the designated reply time/period calculating section.

FIG.3



GB 2 350 746 A

FIG. 1

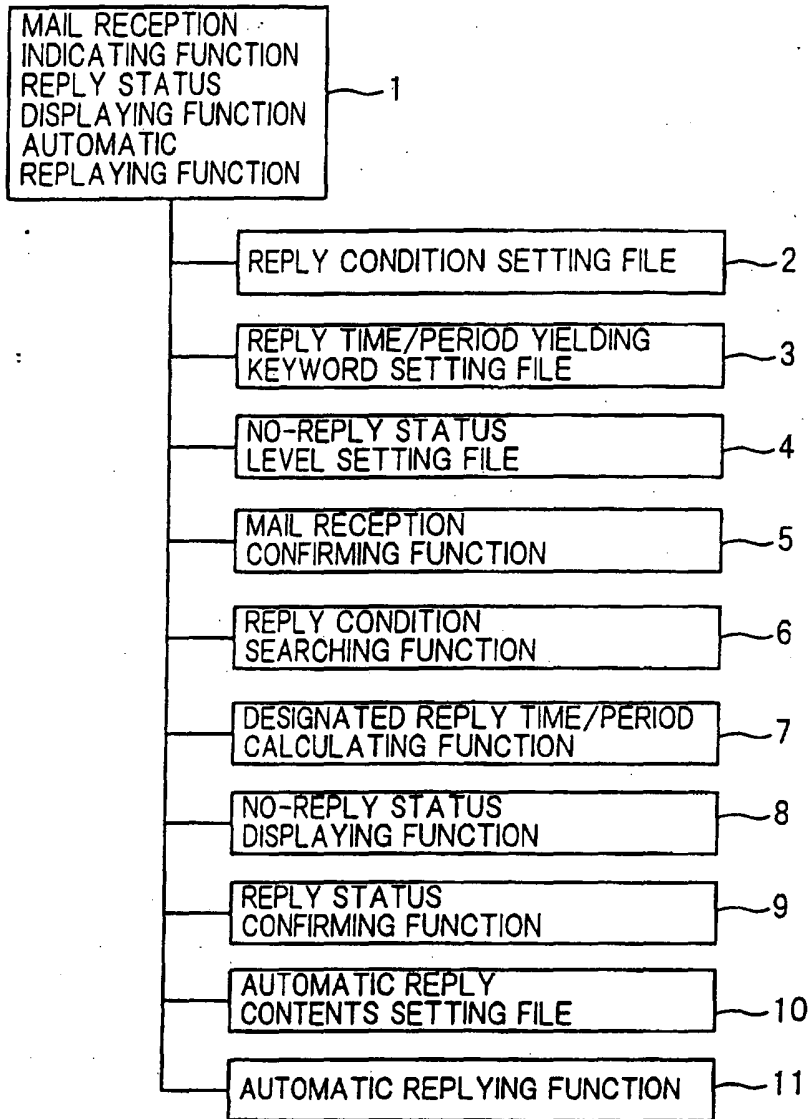


FIG. 2

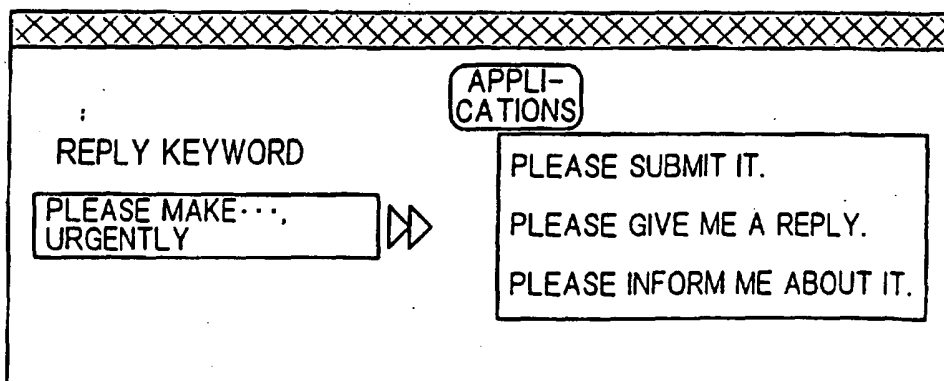


FIG. 3

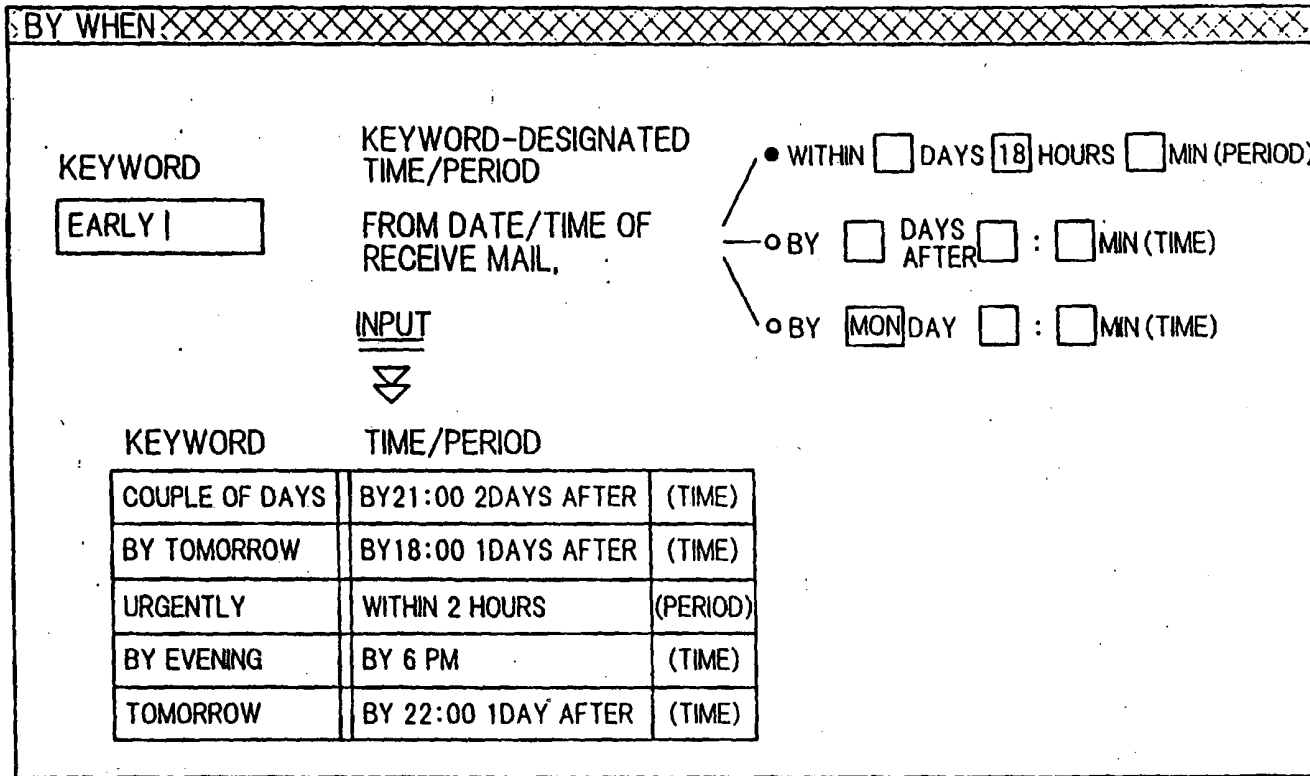


FIG. 4

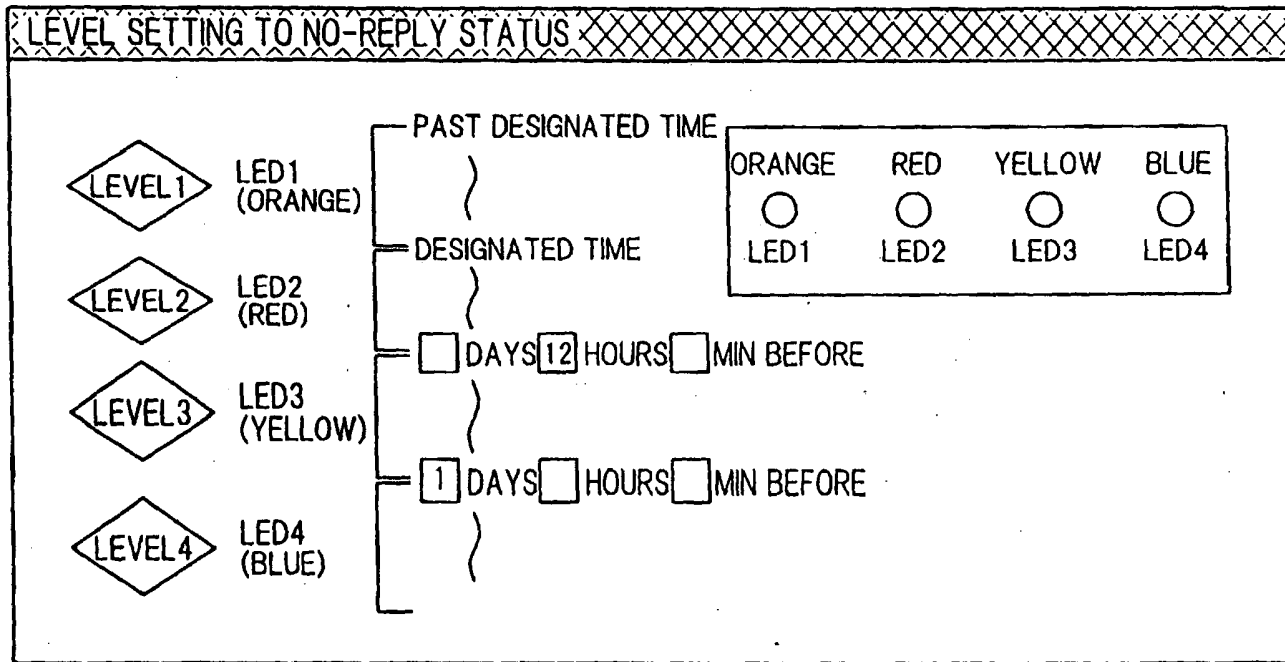


FIG. 5

THIS IS $\Delta\Delta$ OF $\square\square$ TRADE COMPANY.
I'M SORRY MY REPLY TO YOUR
E-MAIL IS LATE.
IN CASE OF URGENT WORK/REQUEST,
PLEASE MAKE CONTACT
TO OUR COMPANY.
REGARDS

FIG. 6

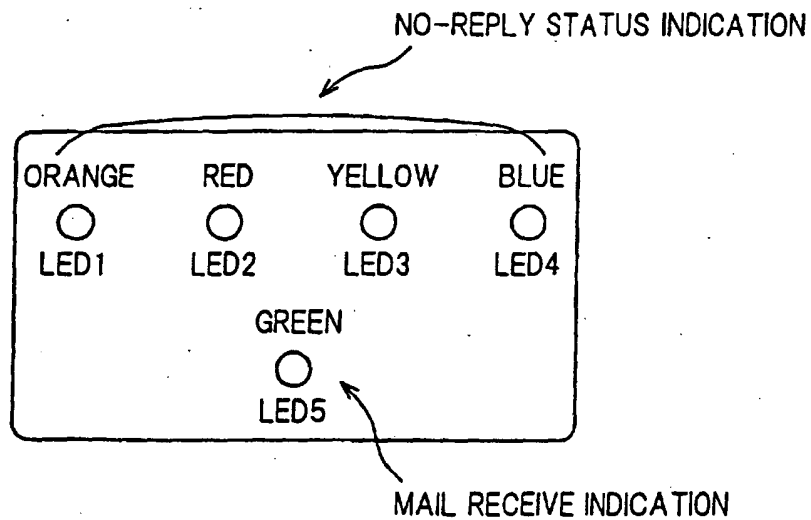


FIG. 7

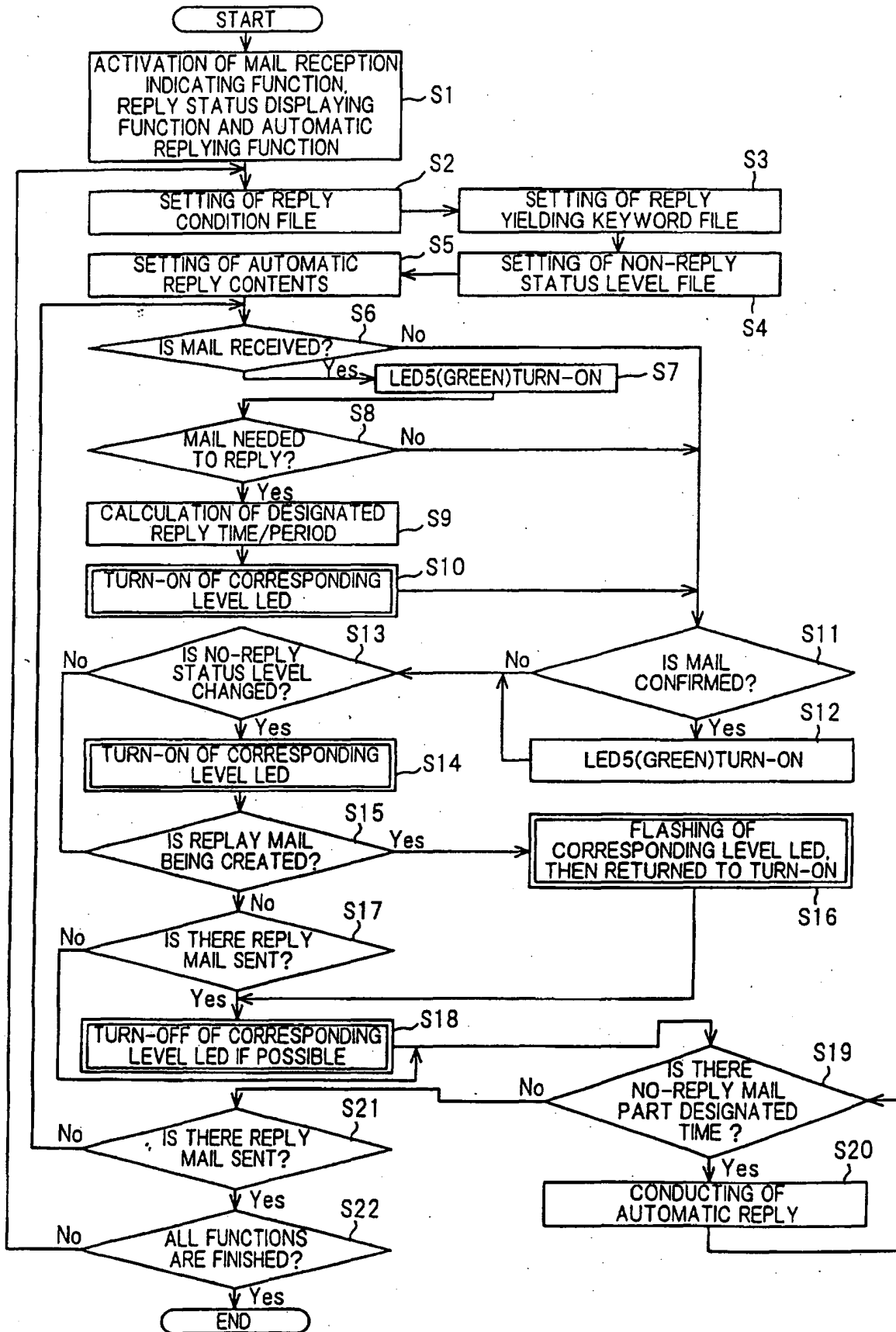


FIG. 8

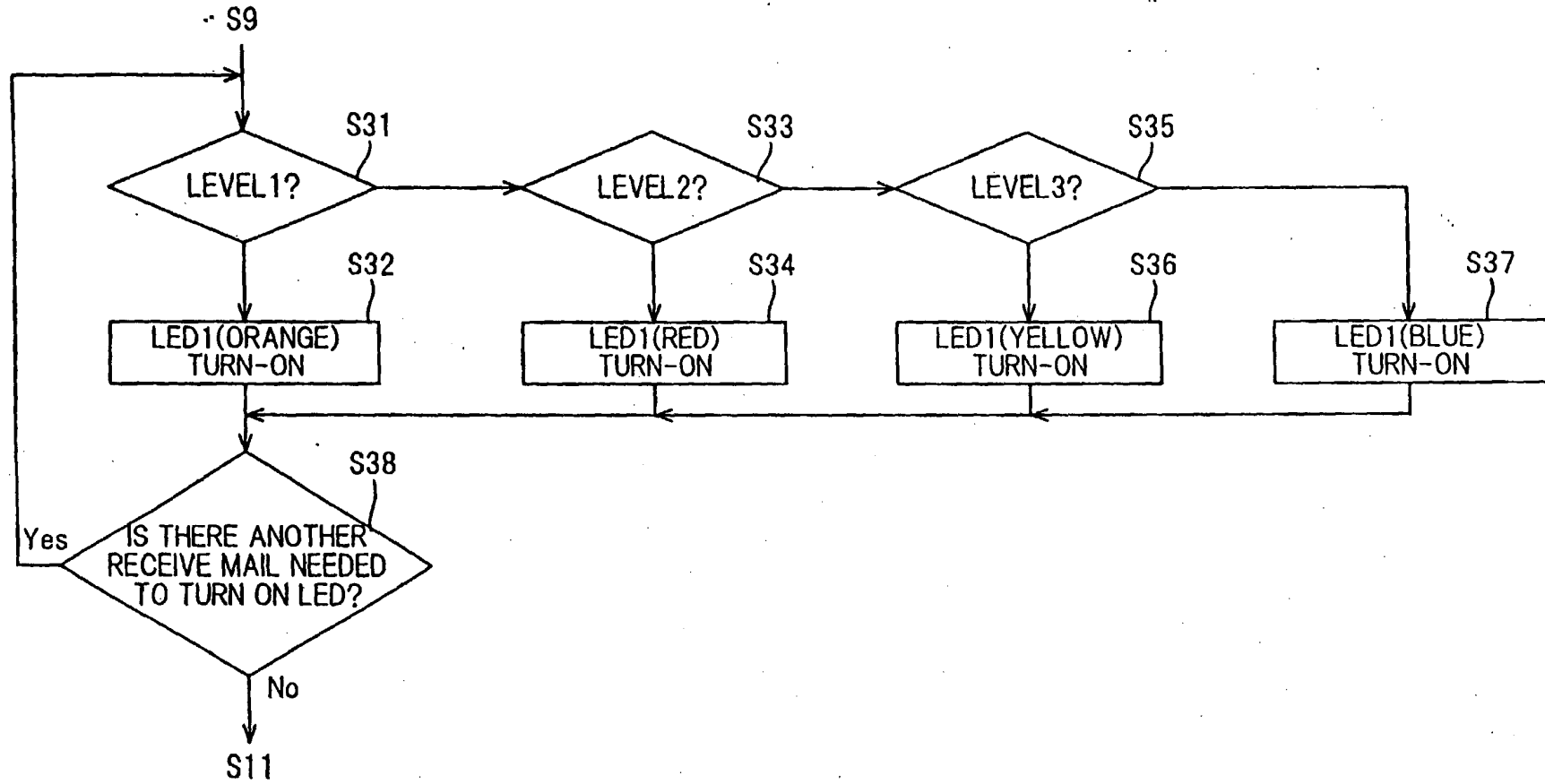


FIG. 9

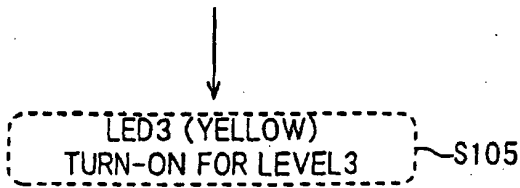
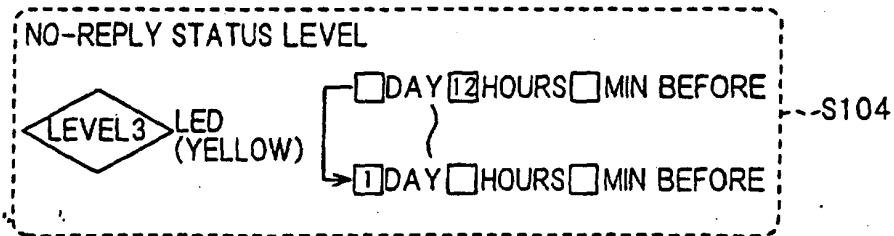
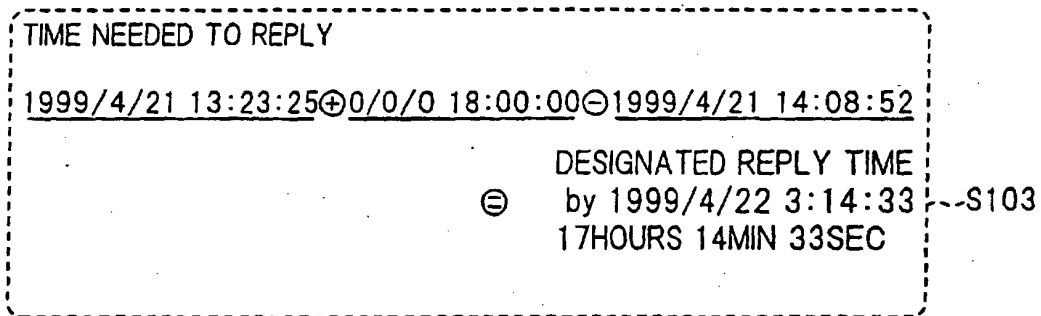
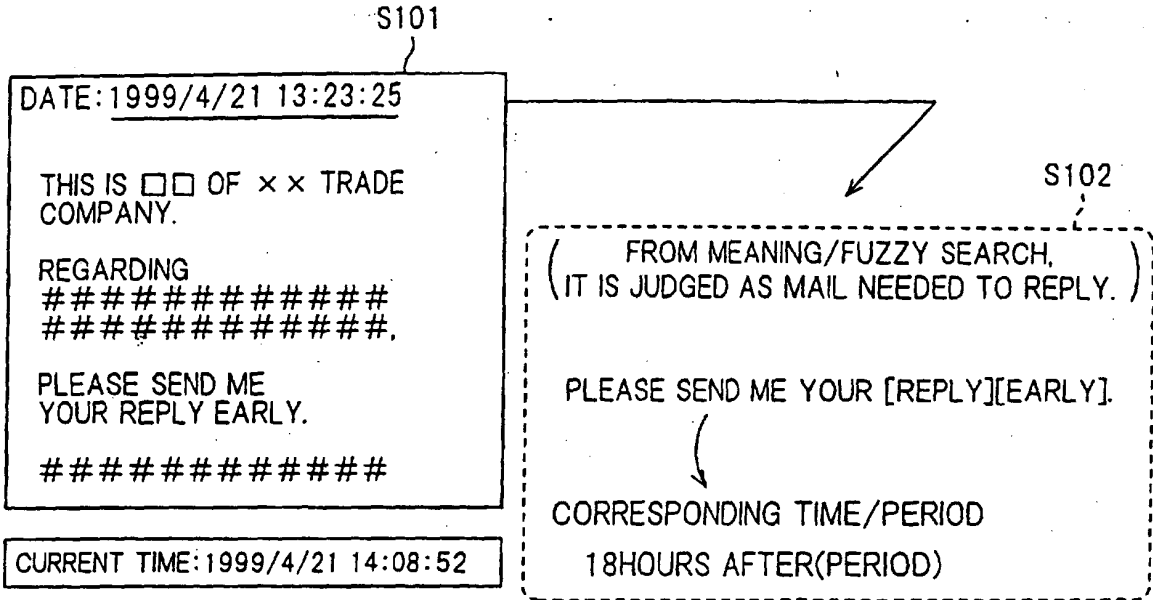


FIG. 10

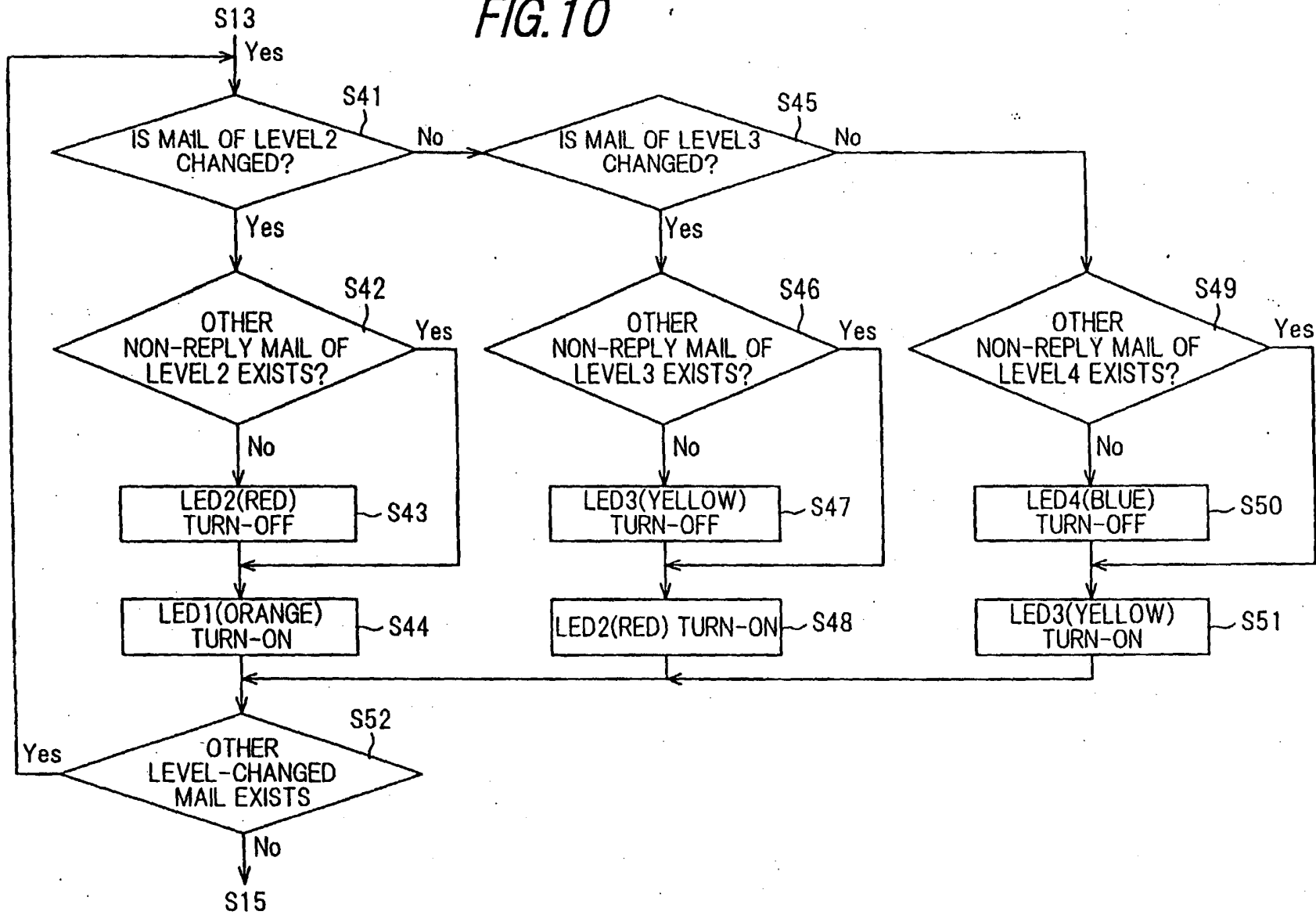


FIG. 11

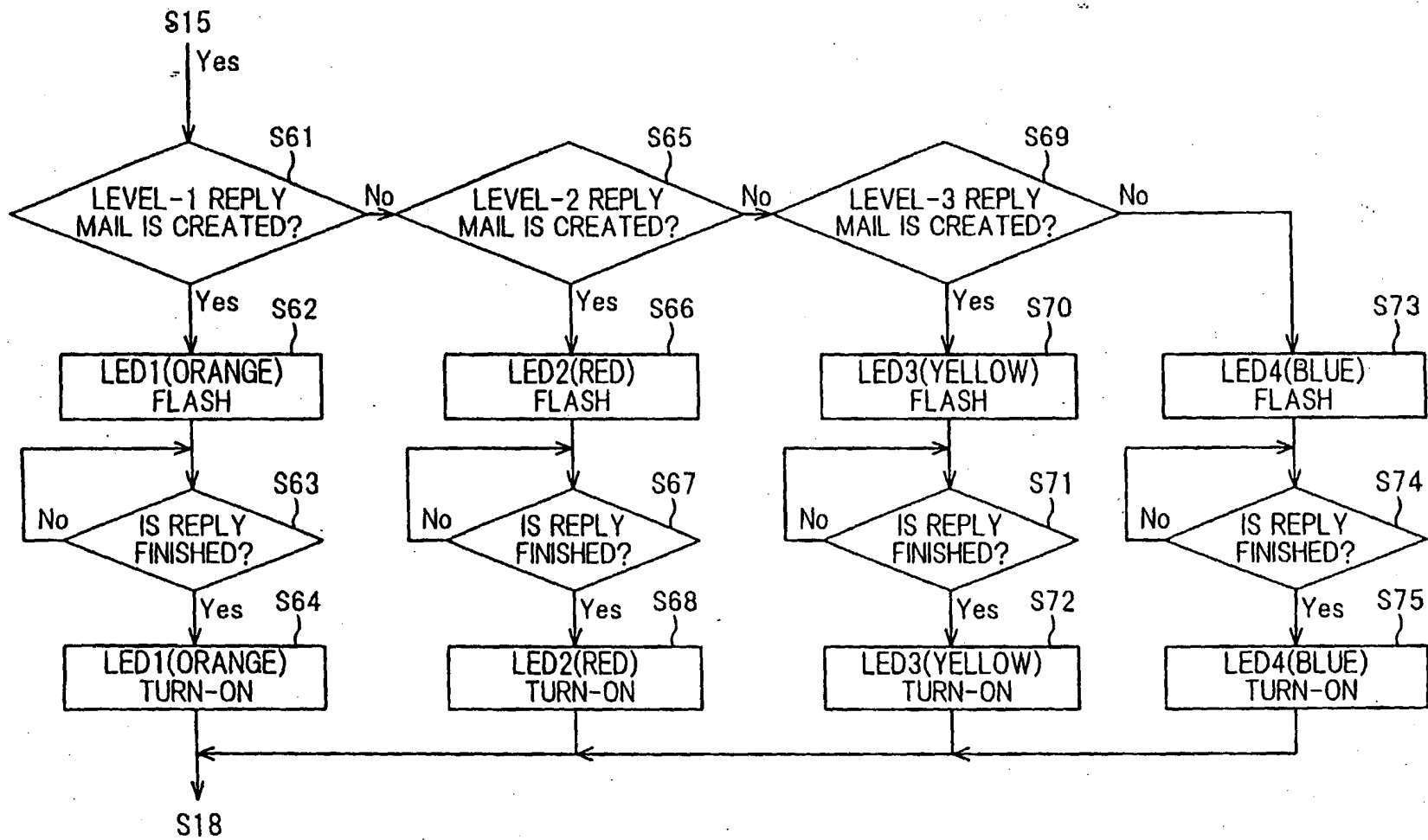
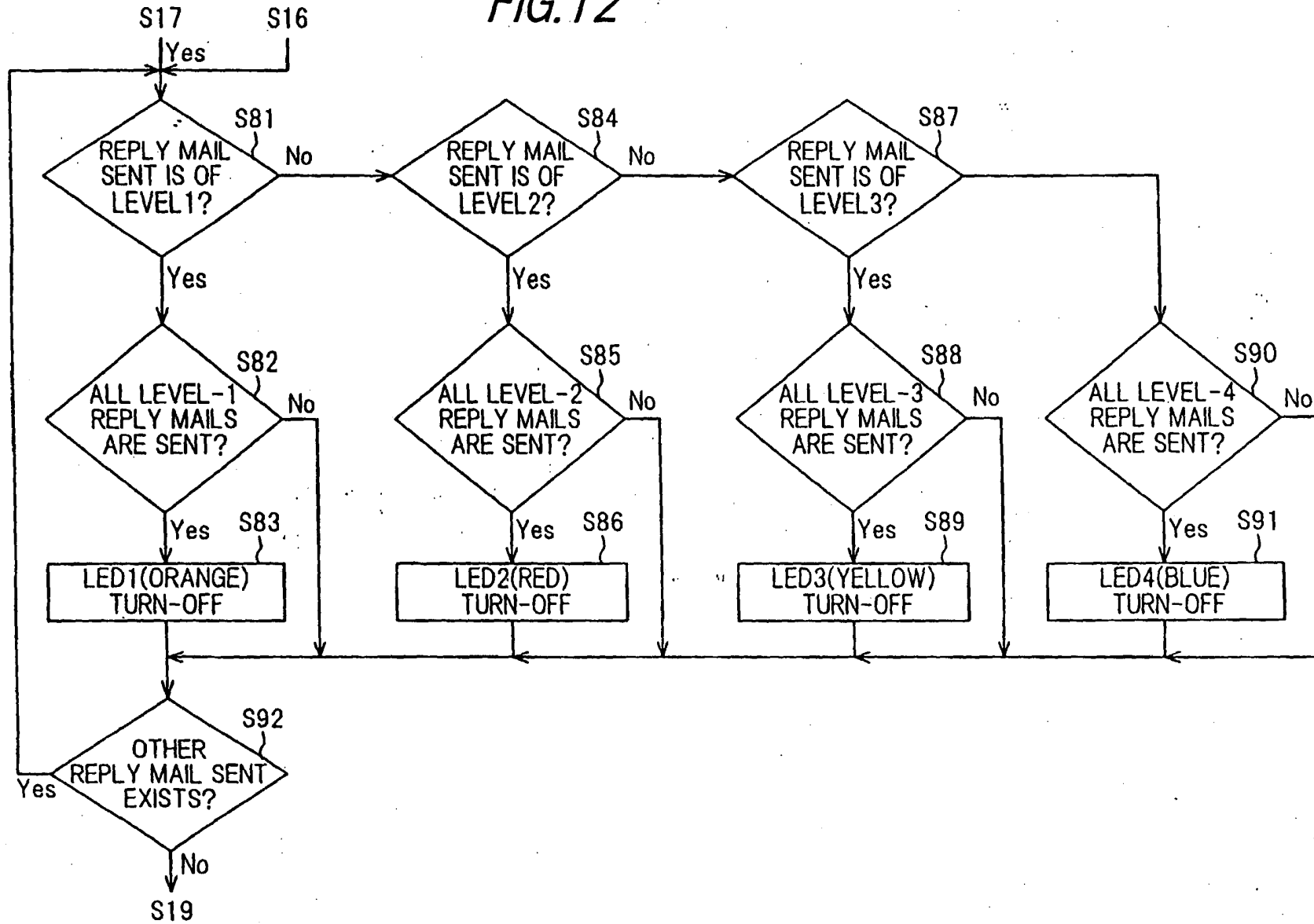


FIG. 12



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FIG. 13

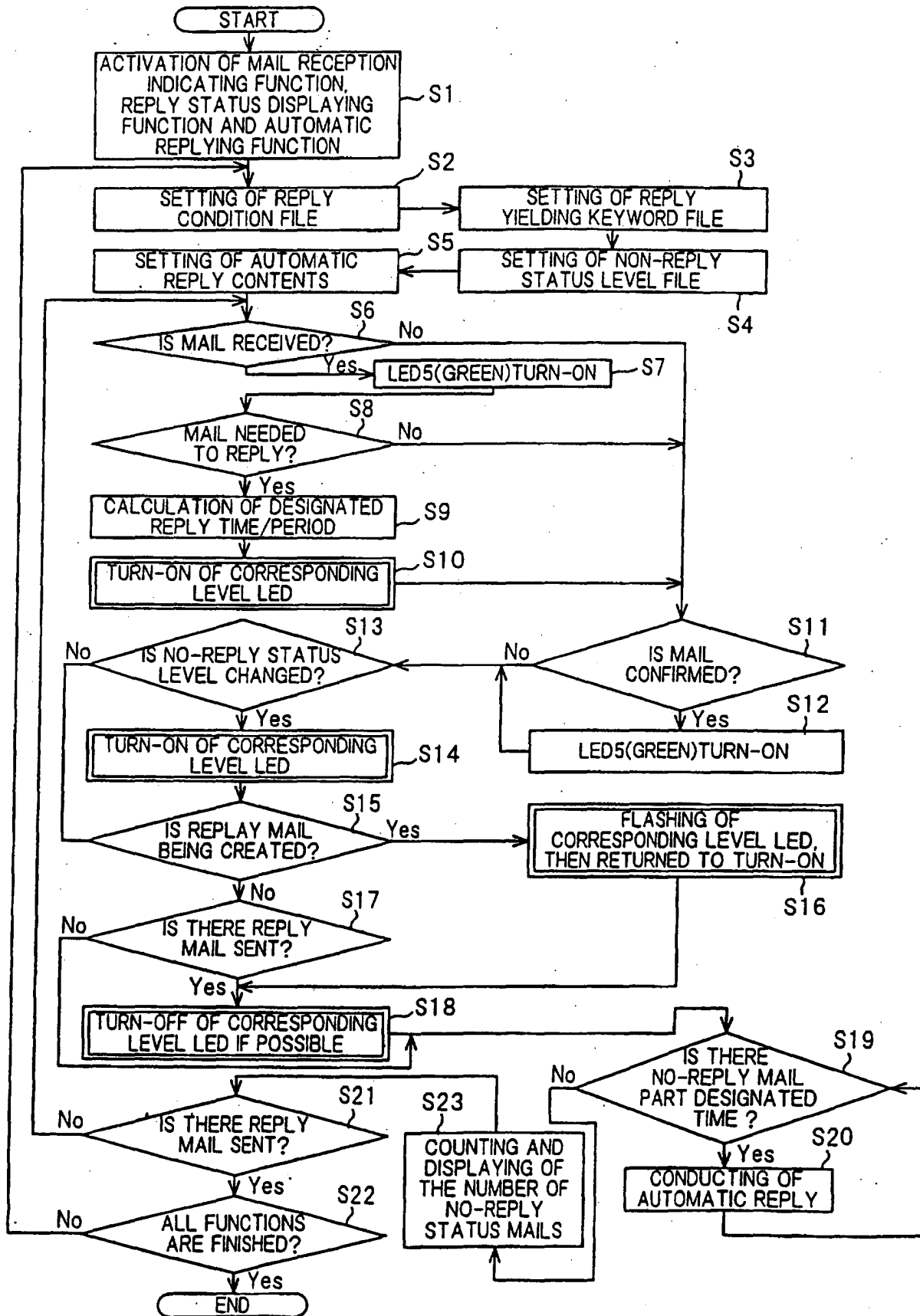


FIG. 14

LED FOR SEGMENT DISPLAY


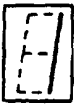



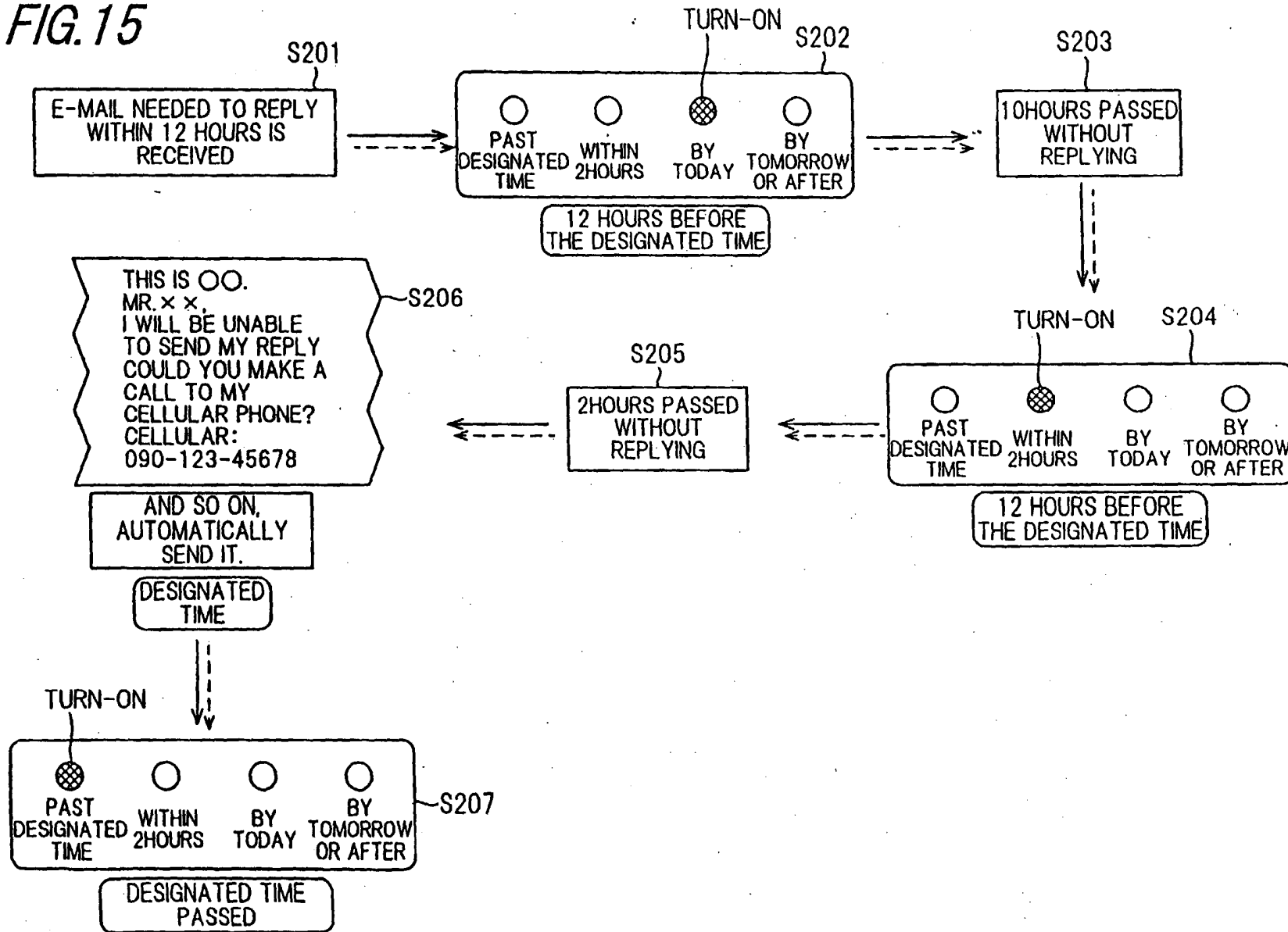
NUMBER OF NO-REPLY STATUS MAILES	LED DISPLAY
NONE	
ONE	
TWO	
⋮	⋮
NINE	
TEN	

FIG. 15



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EMAIL-RECEPTION INDICATION DEVICE AND METHOD

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a device and method for indicating reception of email, and more particularly to, a device and method for indicating reception of email while
5 administering and classifying the received email.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Conventional email-reception indication devices or methods are used as, e.g. administering function received emails. However, the conventional email-reception indicator was designed
10 to indicate only reception of email. Therefore, without confirming the contents of email, it was impossible to judge whether email requiring a reply existed in the received emails. Some email-reception indication systems for solving this problem have been suggested.

15 Japanese laid-open Patent Application No. 6-237269 (1994) discloses an email system (hereinafter referred to as 'prior art 1'), which has a technical field similar to that of this invention. In prior art 1, it is intended to manage data items sufficiently about the deadline and information of each reply
20 email.

Japanese laid-open Patent Application No. 7-162452 (1995) discloses an email system (hereinafter referred to as 'prior art 2') in which email-opening deadline information attached to email is used to prevent the email from being left as it is

or to prevent the validity of email from being lost.

Japanese laid-open Patent Application No.8-180004 (1996) discloses an email system (hereinafter referred to as 'prior art 3') that enables the email-receiving side to check the contents of email and to automatically prompt the user to do the reply operation. For the purpose of checking the contents of email, it is provided with some keywords stored in a keyword table to signify the request of answer or reply to email. The contents of received email are searched based on the keywords, and it is checked whether the same word as one of the keywords exists.

Japanese laid-open Patent Application No. 10-28131 (1998) discloses an email system (hereinafter referred to as 'prior art 4') that is, besides managing data items about the deadline and information of each reply email, provided with a function such that an email cannot be deleted until a reply email is sent.

Japanese laid-open Patent Application No. 10-269283 (1998) discloses an information management device (hereinafter referred to as 'prior art 5') that in case of scheduled notification email, the schedule is automatically adjusted and the reply email is sent automatically.

Japanese laid-open Patent Application No. 10-269154 (1996) discloses an email-reception indication system (hereinafter referred to as 'prior art 6') that is provided with a telop-display condition setting file, inquiring about the reception of email to a email server periodically, by conducting the

full-text search by using a file when a email is received; information concerned is extracted from an email matching the search criteria, and a telop is displayed on the display.

However, the prior art described above has some problems
5 described below.

First, unless the monitor is turned on, it cannot be known that an email requiring sending of a reply is received. In the conventional system in which the monitor displays a telop to indicate the reception of email, the monitor has to be always
10 turned on, if the receiver of email is to read the telop.

Second, it cannot be known by which emails require sending of a reply. Even if an important keyword selected by the receiver is input, a notification made reflecting the current time is not issued. Therefore, a telop displayed on the monitor
15 or the contents of received email requires to be read in detail in order to know the time deadline by which a reply must be sent.

Third, even when a telop to be displayed on the monitor is confirmed by the receiver of email, it can result in a email
20 not being sent until past the deadline by which the email requires the email to be sent. This is because, in addition to the second problem, it is not provided with a function for managing the deadlines of reply email. Therefore, the receiver of mail has to read a telop displayed on the monitor, calculate
25 the deadline, and keep it in mind.

Also, of prior arts 1 to 6 above, prior art 1 is limited to the management of contents about the deadline or information

of each reply email. Prior art 2 is limited to the setting up of email-opening deadline information to prevent the received email from being left as it is. Prior art 3 is limited to the keyword search, where a fuzzy content search is not conducted.
5 Prior art 4 is limited to the secure management of a reply transmission to an email received. Prior art 5 is limited to the automatic information management of a reply transmission to scheduled notification email. Prior art 6 is limited to the inquiry management to the mail server about the existence of
10 received email.

Thus, in prior arts 1 to 6, the automatic fuzzy content search in the email is not realized. Therefore, any of the conventional email-reception indication systems (devices or methods) does not offer a sufficient management of reply email.

15 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, it is an object of the preferred embodiments of the invention to provide an email-reception indication device that offers a sufficient management of reply email by an automatic fuzzy content search in received email.

20 According to the invention, an email-reception indication device, comprises:

an email-reception confirming means for confirming whether an email is received by an email server;

a reply judging means for judging whether an email, the
25 reception of which is confirmed, includes a content requiring a reply;

a designated reply time/period calculating means for calculating a reply deadline by which a reply email has to be sent in response to an email judged as requiring sending of a reply by the reply judging means; and,

5 a reply-status indicating means for informing the receiver of email of the reply deadline calculated by the designated reply time/period calculating means.

Therefore, this device can confirm whether a received email requires sending of a reply, or, in case of a received
10 email requiring sending of a reply, it can confirm by when or by which day the reply email has to be sent, instead of the receiver. Thus, the receiver can save the troublesome work that the receiver has to check all the contents of received email.

15 Also, the device may further have:

an automatic reply means for sending a reply email automatically when an email is in no-reply status even past the reply deadline; and,

20 a text storing means for storing in advance an email text to be sent by the automatic reply means into a file.

Therefore, when the receiver has no time to send a reply for some reason, the device can send automatically an email text made in advance by the receiver to inform the sender of being unable to send a reply.

25 Also, the device may have:

a word/phrase storing means for storing in advance a word/phrase to be referenced in conducting the judgement and

calculation by the reply judging means and the designated reply time/period calculating means into a file.

Therefore, the selection of email requiring sending of a reply can be automatically conducted instead of by the receiver
5 keeping track himself. Also, by when or by which day the reply email has to be sent can be automatically calculated instead of by the receiver keeping track himself.

Also, the device may have:

a time-period setting means for assigning a time period
10 between the reception of email and the reply deadline that is set in advance by the receiver of email to a word stored into the word storing means and for storing the assigned word into a file.

Therefore, the remaining time period by the reply deadline
15 to be predetermined by timekeeping of the receiver himself can be detected automatically.

Also, the device may have the reply-status indicating means that is composed of multiple LEDs that indicate stepwise a remaining time period by the reply deadline to be calculated
20 by the designated reply time/period calculating means to the receiver.

Therefore, the device can indicate by when or by which day the reply email has to be sent and how many hours remain by the reply deadline. Thus, the receiver can always confirm the
25 information/status of received email even when the power of a monitor in a terminal device is turned off.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Preferred features of the present invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

5 FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing an email-reception indication device in a preferred embodiment according to the invention, wherein a composition of a unit for email-reception indicating function, reply status displaying function and automatic replying function is shown,

10 FIG. 2 is an illustration showing a setting image of a reply condition setting file in FIG.1,

FIG. 3 is an illustration showing a setting image of a reply , time/period yielding keyword setting file in FIG. 1,

15 FIG. 4 is an illustration showing a setting image of a no-reply status level setting file 4 in FIG. 1,

FIG. 5 is an illustration showing a text example in a automatic reply contents setting file 10 in FIG. 1,

20 FIG. 6 is an illustration showing an example of LED composition for the display of mail-reception indication and no-reply status indication,

FIG. 7 is a flow chart showing an operation example in the embodiment of the invention,

FIG. 8 is a flowchart showing in detail step S10 in FIG.7,

25 FIG. 9 is an illustration showing an operation example in the embodiment in a case that a mail requiring to send a reply is received and the indication of mail-reception at corresponding level is then conducted,

FIG.10 is a flowchart showing in detail step S14 in FIG.7,
FIG.11 is a flowchart showing in detail step S16 in FIG.7,
FIG.12 is a flowchart showing in detail step S18 in FIG.7,
FIG. 13 is a flowchart showing an operation example in
5 another preferred embodiment of the invention,

FIG. 14 is an illustration showing an example of count and
display operation in the other embodiment, and,

FIG. 15 is an illustration showing an example of email-
reception indication in the embodiments of the invention

10 DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

An email-reception indication device and method in the
preferred embodiments according to the invention will be
explained below referring to FIGS. 1 to 15.

FIG. 1 shows the basic functions of an email-reception
15 indication device in the preferred embodiment according to the
invention. In FIG. 1, a composition of unit 1 for email-
reception indicating function, reply status displaying function
and automatic replying function is shown. As shown in FIG. 1,
the unit 1 for email-reception indicating function, reply
20 status displaying function and automatic replying function is
composed of a reply condition setting file 2, a reply time/
period yielding keyword setting file 3, a no-reply status level
setting file 4, a email-reception confirming function section
5, a reply condition searching function section 6, a designated
25 reply time/period calculating function section 7, a no-reply
status displaying function section 8, a reply status confirming

function section 9, an automatic reply contents setting file 10, and an automatic replying function section 11.

Of the function sections above, the reply condition setting file 2 is a file to set a keyword database used to judge 5 whether a received email requires sending of a reply when the email is received.

FIG. 2 shows an example of a setting image in the reply condition setting file 2. In FIG. 2, keywords for detecting an email requiring a reply are set, and, based on the keyword, 10 it is searched whether a received email has contents requiring a reply. Meanwhile, the reply condition setting file 2 is predefined as a database, in which keywords can be newly added, deleted and altered.

The reply time/period yielding keyword setting file 3 is 15 a database setting file for keywords used to calculate time or a period by or by the end of which a reply email needs to be sent, from data/time of a received email, which is an email requiring sending of a reply.

FIG. 3 shows an example of a setting image in the reply 20 time/period yielding keyword setting file 3. Herein set are keywords about designated time/period to specify by when to send a reply, and a time/period into which such keywords are converted. Although in this embodiment "early" is input, even such an ambiguous word or phrase is set a particular time 25 according to time sense of each receiver. Thereby, ambiguous words can be converted into parameters as to time, and therefore the display of reply mail status and the support of

replying to match with individual time sense are available. Meanwhile, the reply time/period yielding keyword setting file 3 is predefined as a database, in which keywords can be newly added, deleted and altered.

5 The no-reply status level setting file 4 is a setting file for assigning a level to indicate to which status the current time belongs comparing with the designated reply time, at intervals of arbitrary period.

10 FIG. 4 shows an example of a setting image in the no-reply status level setting file 4. The definition time for each level is set so that the remaining time before the designated time to send a reply email can be indicated by LED to be turned on according to each level.

15 The mail-reception confirming function section 5 is a function section which confirms periodically whether a receive email exists to the mail server.

20 The reply condition searching function section 6 is a function section which searches whether a received email coincides with the reply condition based on the database of the reply condition setting file 2, i.e., whether the received email requires sending of a reply. In the search of the received email, existing Japanese meaning/fuzzy search applications are used.

25 The designated reply time/period calculating function section 7 is a function section which calculates designated time/period of reply email from the current time of a terminal device and the search results of header information and

contents of received email, based on the database of the reply time/period yielding keyword setting file 3. In the recognition and conversion of word/phrase about time/period in a receive mail, existing Japanese meaning/fuzzy search applications are used.

The no-reply status displaying function section 8 is a function section which compares the calculation result of the designated reply time/period calculating function section 7 with the levels set by the no-reply status level setting file 4, turning on a LED corresponding to a designated reply time to indicate the reception of an email requiring sending of a reply at each level, turning on a LED until the reply email has been sent, and turning on a LED corresponding to the remaining time when no-reply status continues. Also, it has a function that flashes (flashes on and off) a LED on the level of the corresponding no-reply status during the preparation of reply email.

The reply status confirming function section 9 is a function section which confirms whether a reply email to a received email has been sent or not.

The automatic reply contents setting file 10 is a file for setting reply contents to be sent automatically. FIG.5 shows a text example of the automatic reply contents setting file 10. In FIG.5, shown is a text that a receiver of email informs the sender of mail that he cannot send a reply.

The automatic replying function section 11 is a function section which automatically sends an email that informs the

sender of being unable to send a reply, if there is an email in no-reply status even when the designated reply time passes away.

As shown in FIG.6. five LEDs are used to indicate the reception of an email requiring sending of a reply, and to display the no-reply status. The four upper LEDs (LED1 to LED4) indicate a level of no-reply status, and the lower LED (LED5) indicates reception of mail.

FIG.7 is a flow chart showing the operation of this embodiment, where steps S1 to S22 are taken as an example of procedure.

At first, the unit 1 for mail-reception indicating function, reply status displaying function and automatic replying function is booted (step S1). Then, the reply condition setting file 2 is set (step S2) as shown in FIG. 2, the reply time/period yielding keyword setting file 3 is set as shown in FIG. 3 (step S3), the no-reply status level setting file 4 is set as shown in FIG.4 (step S4), and the automatic reply contents is set while adding, deleting or altering each database (step S5).

Then, it periodically confirms to the mail server whether received email exists. When a received email exists (step S6/Yes), LED5 (green) as an email reception indication (step S7). Further, when an email requiring sending of a reply is found in the received email (step S6/Yes), it is calculated by when the email has to be sent and how many hours remain at the current time (step S9), and a LED corresponding to a level of

remaining reply time is turned on so as to indicate that an email requiring sending of a reply is received (step S10). Then, it proceeds to step S11. When no email is received (step S6/No) or when it is judged that a received email does not require sending of reply (step S8/No), it directly proceeds to step S11.

FIG. 8 is a flow chart showing in detail step S10. Namely, in comparing the calculation result on step S9 and times set by the no-reply status level setting file 4, if the email requiring a reply is at level 1 of no-reply status (step S31/Yes), then LED1 (orange) is turned on (step S32), and then it proceeds to step S38. Also when the email requiring a reply is at one of levels 2 to 4, it is processed similarly (steps S33 to S37). On step S38 it is searched whether another email requiring sending of a reply is received. If another email requiring a reply is received (step S38/Yes), it returns to step S31. If there is no email requiring to reply (step S38/No), then it proceeds to step S11. Thus, when two or more emails requiring a reply are received, step S38 does not yield "No" at one time and therefore the flow chart in FIG.8 is repeated.

FIG. 9 shows a processing flow from the reception of an email requiring a reply to the indication of reception at each level. If an email is received (step S101), the meaning search and fuzzy search of the received email are conducted (step S102). If it is judged that the received email requires the sending of a reply, a time period is detected from keywords

useful to calculate the reply time/period (step S102). Then, a designated reply time is calculated from the search results, and it is judged that the received email is at level 3 (step S104). Thus, LED3 (yellow) is turned on (step S105).

5 On step S11 in FIG. 7, it is searched whether the email contents are confirmed by the receiver. If confirmed (step S11/Yes), LED5 (green) for email-reception indication is turned off (step S12), and then it proceeds to step S13. If the received email is not confirmed (step S11/No), then it proceeds
10 to step S13 while leaving LED5 (green) turned on.

On step S13, it is judged whether the level of email in no-reply status is changed. If changed (step S13/Yes), a LED before the change is turned off and a LED after the change is turned on (step S14), then it proceeds to step S15. If not
15 changed (step S13/No), it directly proceeds to step S15.

FIG. 10 is a flowchart showing in detail step S14. Namely, if an email in no-reply status of level 2 is changed (step S41/Yes) and other email in no-reply status of level 2 does not exist (step S42/No), then LED (red) is turned off
20 (step S43) because no email of level 2 exists. Then, LED1 (orange) is turned on (step S44), and it proceeds to step S52. If other email in no-reply status of level 2 does exist (step S42/Yes), then it proceeds to step S44 while leaving LED (red) turned on because the email in no-reply status of level 2 is
25 left. Then, LED1 (orange) is turned on, and it proceeds to step S52. Also in case of level 3 and level 4, the change of no-reply status level is conducted similarly (steps S45 to

S51).

On step S52, it is searched whether the other email needed to change the level of no-reply status exists. If it exists (step S52/Yes), it returns to step S41 again. If it does not exist (step S52/No), it proceeds to step S15. Thus, when two or more emails needed to change the level of no-reply status are received, step S52 does not yield "No" at one time and therefore the flow chart in FIG. 10 is repeated. Meanwhile, level 1 that means the status past the designated reply time is not subject to the change of level.

On step S15 in FIG.7, it is judged whether a reply email is currently being created currently. If created (step S15/Yes), LED corresponding to the level of email created is flashed (flashed on and off) and then returns to the turn-on after sending the reply email (step S16). Then, if a LED to the level of the reply email sent is allowed to turn off, it is turned off (step S18), then it proceeds to step S19. If not created (step S15/No), if there is a reply email sent already (step S17/Yes), and if LED to the level of the reply email sent is allowed to turn off, then it is turned off (step S18), then it proceeds to step S19. If there is no reply mail sent already (step S17/No), it directly proceeds to step S19.

FIG.11 is a flow chart showing in detail step S16. Namely, if a reply email of level 1 is being created (step S61/Yes), LED1 (orange) is flashed (step S62), after the reply is finished (step S63/Yes), LED1 (orange) returns to the turn-on again (step S64), then it proceeds to step S18. While the

reply is not finished (step S63/No), step S63 is repeated. Also in case of a reply mail of level 2 to 4, the procedure is conducted similarly (steps S65 to S75).

FIG. 12 is a flow chart showing in detail step S18. Namely, if a reply email sent is of level 1 (step S81/Yes) and if there is no reply email of level 1 (step S82/Yes), LED1 (orange) is turned off (step S83), then it proceeds to step S92. Then, if other reply mail of level 1 remains (step S82/No), it proceeds to step S92 while leaving LED1 (orange) turned on. Also when a reply mail sent is of level 2 to 4, the procedure is conducted similarly (steps S84 to S91).

On step S92, it is searched whether another email sent exists. If it exists (step S92/Yes), it returns to step S81 again. If it does not exist (step S92/No), it proceeds to step S19. Thus, when two or more emails sent already exist, step S92 does not yield "No" at one time and therefore the flow chart in FIG. 12 is repeated.

On step S19 in FIG.7, it is searched whether a mail past the designated reply time exists. If it exists (step S19/Yes), the automatic reply function section turns on, and notifies the sender of mail of being unable to send a reply (step S20). Then, it returns to step S19 again, and then it is searched whether another mail past the designated reply time exists. If does not exist (step S19/No) it proceeds to step S21. When two or more no-reply status emails past the designated reply time exist, steps S19 and S20 are repeated. Also, the automatic reply function section sends only one reply for one

no-reply status mail. Namely, it does send an email informing the sender of mail of being unable to send a reply only once.

On step S21, it is searched whether all reply emails are sent. If the reply of all emails requiring sending of a reply is finished (step S21/Yes), then it is determined whether all the functions are to be finished (step S22). If it is determined to be finished (step S22/Yes), all the functions are finished. If it is not determined to be finished (step S22/No), it returns to step S2 again. Also, if the reply of all emails requiring sending of a reply is not finished (step S21/No), it returns to step S6.

Another embodiment according to the invention is explained below.

FIG. 13 is a flow chart showing the other preferred embodiment of the invention in which a function of counting and displaying the number of no-reply status emails is added to the embodiment in FIG. 7.

The function of counting and displaying the number of no-reply status emails is inserted between step S19 and step S21. Namely, if there is no email past the designated reply time (step S19/No), the number of no-reply status emails is counted and displayed (step S23), then it proceeds to step S21.

FIG. 14 shows a format for the number count and display. Namely, a LED that can be applied to the segment display is provided. If there is no no-reply status email, the LED is turned off. If one to nine no-reply status emails exist, the number is displayed by the LED. Also, if ten no-reply status

emails exist, "F" is displayed by the LED. For the processing of step S23, the reply status confirming function section 9 and the no-reply status displaying function section 8 are used.

When an email is received, the meaning search and fuzzy
5 search to the full text are conducted, and it is searched whether the received mail requires sending of a reply. Also, when an email requiring sending of a reply is received, it is calculated by when the reply email has to be sent, and designated reply time is calculated by using the results of
10 meaning search and fuzzy search to the full text. For the meaning search and fuzzy search to the full text, a keyword database, which can be newly added, deleted and altered optionally by the receiver, is provided in advance.

If it is judged that the received email is needed to send
15 a reply, a LED is turned on so as to inform that an email requiring sending of a reply is received. Also, the LED stays on until the reply email is sent, and after the reply is finished, it turns off. The indication in reception of email requiring a reply is such as "past the designated reply time",
20 "two hours before the designated reply time", "by today" and "by tomorrow or after". Thus, levels based on the remaining time period by the designated reply time are set, and multiple LEDs are used to indicate each of the levels. Also, when no-reply status continues, an LED corresponding to the remaining
25 time period is turned on.

If the receiver of email does not send a reply after the designated reply time, then a reply email to inform the e-mail

sender of being unable to send a reply is sent automatically.

FIG. 15 illustrates an example of display in operation. First, when an email requiring sending of a reply is received (step S201), it is detected that an email requiring sending of a reply is received, the designated reply time/period is calculated, a LED is turned on so as to indicate reception at each level (step S202). Then, if time elapses in no-reply status, the turn-on of an LED as reception indication is switched to a no-reply status level corresponding to the remaining time period until the designated reply time (steps S203 to S205). When it comes to the designated reply time in no-reply status, it informs the sender of email of being unable to send a reply (step S206). Finally, in this example, a LED to indicate that it is past the designated reply time is turned on (step S207), since the no-reply status continues even past the designated reply time.

Although the invention has been described with respect to specific embodiments for complete and clear disclosure, the appended claims are not to be thus limited but are to be construed as embodying all modification and alternative constructions that may occur to one skilled in the art which fairly fall within the basic teaching here is set forth.

Each feature disclosed in this specification (which term includes the claims) and/or shown in the drawings may be incorporated in the invention independently of other disclosed and/or illustrated features.

The text of the abstract filed herewith is repeated here

as part of the specification.

An email-reception indication device has a email-reception confirming section for confirming whether an email is received by a mail server or not; a reply judging section
5 for judging whether an email the reception of which is confirmed by the mail-reception confirming section includes a content to require a reply or not; a designated reply time/period calculating section for calculating a reply deadline by which a reply email has to be sent in response to an email
10 judged as requiring to send a reply by the reply judging section; and a reply-status indicating section for informing the receiver of email of the reply deadline calculated by the designated reply time/period calculating section.

What is claimed is:

1. An email-reception indication device, comprising:
an email-reception confirming means for confirming whether an email is received by a email server;

a reply judging means for judging whether an email, the reception of which is confirmed, includes a content requiring a reply or not;

a designated reply time/period calculating means for calculating a reply deadline by which a reply email has to be sent in response to an email judged as requiring sending of a reply; and,

a reply-status indicating means for informing the receiver of the email of the reply deadline.

2. An email-reception indication device, according to claim 1, further comprising:

an automatic reply means for sending a reply email automatically when an email is in a no-reply status past the reply deadline; and,

a text storing means for storing in advance an email text to be sent by said automatic reply means into a file.

3. An email-reception indication device, according to claim 1, further comprising:

a word/phrase storing means for storing in advance a word/phrase to be referenced in conducting the judgement and

calculation by said reply judging means and said designated reply time/period calculating means into a file.

4. An email-reception indication device, according to claim 1, further comprising:

a time-period setting means for assigning a time period between the reception of email and the reply deadline that is set in advance by the receiver of email to a word stored into said word storing means and for storing the assigned word into a file.

5. An email-reception indication device, according to claim 1, wherein:

said reply-status indicating means is composed of multiple LEDs that indicate stepwise a remaining time period by the reply deadline to be calculated by said designated reply time/period calculating means to the receiver.

6. An email-reception indication method, comprising:

an email-reception confirming step to confirm whether an email is received by a mail server;

a reply judging means step to judge whether an email the reception of which is confirmed in said email-reception confirming step includes a content requiring a reply;

a designated reply time/period calculating step to calculate a reply deadline by which a reply email has to be sent in response to an email judged as requiring a reply; and,

a reply status indicating step to inform the receiver of email of the reply deadline calculated in said designated reply time/period calculating step.

7. An email-reception indication method according to claim 6, further comprising:

an automatic reply step to send a reply email automatically when an email is in no-reply status past the reply deadline; and,

a text storing step to store in advance an email text to be sent in said automatic reply step into a file.

8. An email-reception indication method, according to claim 6, further comprising:

a word/phrase storing step to store in advance a word/phrase to be referenced in conducting the judgement and calculation in said reply judging step and said designated reply time/period calculating step into a file.

9. An email-reception indication method, according to claim 6, further comprising:

a time-period setting step to assign a time period between the reception of email and the reply deadline that is set in advance by the receiver of email to a word stored in said word storing step and to store the assigned word into a file.

10. An email-reception indication method, according to

claim 6, wherein:

said reply-status indicating step is conducted using multiple LEDs that indicate stepwise a remaining time period by the reply deadline to be calculated in said designated reply time/period calculating step to the receiver.

11. An email-reception indication device substantially as herein described with reference to and as shown in the accompanying drawings.

12. An email-reception indication method substantially as herein described with reference to and as shown in the accompanying drawings.



Application No: GB 0007395.7
Claims searched: 1 to 12

Examiner: Mark Bell
Date of search: 2 October 2000

Patents Act 1977
Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:
UK Cl (Ed.R): H4P (PQA) H4K (K0D4)
Int Cl (Ed.7): H04L (12/54, 12/58), G06F (13/00)
Other: ONLINE: WPI, PAJ, EPODOC

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
X	JP8180004 (CASIO COMPUTER CO LTD), PAJ abstract and WPI abstract Accession No. 1996-375898	X: 1,3,6 and 8 Y: 2 and 7
X	JP11004251 (HITACHI LTD), PAJ abstract and WPI abstract ACCESSION No. 1999-127844	2 and 7

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

The examination is being carried out on the **following application documents**:

Description, Pages

1, 5-12	as published			
2-4	received on	06.02.2008	with letter of	05.02.2008

Claims, Numbers

1-10	received on	06.02.2008	with letter of	05.02.2008
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Drawings, Sheets

1/7-7/7	as published
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1. It comes to the attention of the Examining Division that the following document, cited by the examiners' own knowledge (see the Guidelines, C-VI, 8.7), is relevant for the assessment of the inventive step of the subject-matter of the newly filed **independent claims 1 and 10**. A copy of the document is annexed to the present communication:

D3: GB 2 350 746

The numbering will be adhered to in the rest of the procedure.

2. Document **D3** discloses, according to the main features of **claim 1**, a method providing an output on at least one of a first electronic device and a second electronic device (see figures 4 and 6), the first electronic device being adapted to be in

electronic communication with the second electronic device (implicit in the fact that the method is implemented in an e-mail system, wherein e-mails are exchanged among different computers), the method comprising:

- determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device (see in particular figure 7, step S6); and,
- outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication (see in particular figure 9, step S101);
- determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device (see figure 7, step S9); and,
- flashing after the elapse of said predetermined period of time, if substantially no additional communication has occurred during that period of time, a LED representative of the first time (see figure 7, step S16; see also figures 4 and 6).

The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from the disclosure of document D3 in that the method of document D1 is characterised by flashing a certain LED after a time has elapsed without further communication rather than outputting a certain time stamp after a predetermined period of time has elapsed.

However, the feature of outputting a time stamp instead of flashing an LED is merely one of the several straightforward possibilities from which the skilled person would select, in accordance with circumstances, without the exercise of inventive skill, in order to solve the problem of making a user aware that a message is still waiting for a reply.

The subject-matter of claim 1, therefore, does **not** involve an inventive step, as defined in Articles 52(1) and 56 EPC, and thus claim 1 is **not** allowable.

3. The same considerations as made above in paragraph 2. regarding the method of claim 1 are in essence also valid for **independent claim 10**, since said claim is based on the same essential feature combination as claim 1 in terms of a device implementing each of the steps of the method of claim 1.

The subject-matter of claim 10 therefore does **not** involve an inventive step, Articles 52(1) and 56 EPC, and hence claim 10 is **not** allowable.

4. **Dependent claims 2 to 9** do not contain any additional features which, in combination with the features of the claims to which they respectively refer, involve an inventive step for the reason that the subject-matter of said claims is **either** in principle directly derivable from the disclosure of document **D1** or **D2** or **D3** or represents simple design details which are generally known to the person skilled in the art.

Due to the above reasons, dependent claims 2 to 9 are **not** allowable, Articles 52(1) and 56 EPC.

5. It is not at present apparent that an inventive contribution has been made to the prior art by the method and systems according to the present claims on file.

Therefore, if the Applicant does not provide amended claims or give at least further conclusive arguments underlining the inventive significance of the claimed subject-matter, the Applicant will be invited to attend Oral Proceedings as requested by the Applicant in his letter.

6. Should the Applicant intend to file a new set of claims, the following requirements should also be taken into consideration:
- 6.1 To meet the requirements of Rule 43(1)(b) EPC, document **D3** should be acknowledged and briefly discussed in the opening part of the description.
- 6.2 The opening part of the description should be modified to bring it into agreement with any new independent claim, Rule 43(1)(c) EPC.

7. Care should be taken during revision not to add subject-matter which extends beyond the content of the application as originally filed, Article 123(2) EPC.

In his letter of reply, the Applicant should indicate the parts of the originally filed application serving as a basis for subject-matter newly introduced into the claims.



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Application No. 04 786 633.0 - 2416	Ref. P40430EP-K/JJH	Date 25.07.2008
Applicant Research In Motion Limited		

Communication pursuant to Article 94(3) EPC

The examination of the above-identified application has revealed that it does not meet the requirements of the European Patent Convention for the reasons enclosed herewith. If the deficiencies indicated are not rectified the application may be refused pursuant to Article 97(2) EPC.

You are invited to file your observations and insofar as the deficiencies are such as to be rectifiable, to correct the indicated deficiencies within a period

of 4 months

from the notification of this communication, this period being computed in accordance with Rules 126(2) and 131(2) and (4) EPC. One set of amendments to the description, claims and drawings is to be filed within the said period on separate sheets (R. 50(1) EPC).

Failure to comply with this invitation in due time will result in the application being deemed to be withdrawn (Art. 94(4) EPC).



Lastoria, Gianluca
Primary Examiner
For the Examining Division

Enclosure(s): 4 page/s reasons (Form 2906)
GB2350746

CLAIMS:

1. A method providing an output on at least one of a first electronic device (4) and a second electronic device (104), the first electronic device being adapted to be in electronic communication with the second electronic device, the method comprising:

determining that a first messaging communication (68) has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device; and,

outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication;

the method being characterised by further comprising:

determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device; and,

outputting after the elapse of said predetermined period of time, if substantially no additional communication has occurred during that period of time, a first time stamp (84) representative of the first time.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first time stamp (84) is disposed adjacent the first indication.

3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

determining that a second messaging communication has occurred at a second time between the first device and the second device;

outputting a second indication that is representative of at least a portion of the second messaging communication; and,

outputting a second time stamp representative of the second time.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein:

the first time stamp (84) is disposed adjacent the first indication, and the second time stamp is disposed adjacent the second indication;

one of the first time stamp and the second time stamp is disposed substantially between the first indication and the second indication; and,

one of the first indication and the second indication is disposed substantially between the first time stamp and the second time stamp.

5. The method of Claim 3, wherein:

the first time stamp (84) is disposed adjacent the first indication, and the second time stamp is disposed adjacent the second indication; and,

the first time stamp and the second time stamp are disposed substantially between the first indication and the second indication.

6. The method of Claim 3, wherein:

the first indication is a first linguistic output, and the second indication is a second linguistic output;

the first time stamp (84) is disposed adjacent one of the beginning and the ending of the first linguistic output; and,

the second time stamp is disposed adjacent one of the beginning and the ending of the second linguistic output.

7. The method of Claim 3, wherein:

the first indication is a first linguistic output, and the second indication is a second linguistic output;

the first time stamp (84) is disposed adjacent one of the beginning and the ending of the first linguistic output; and,

the second time stamp is disposed adjacent the other of the beginning and the ending of the second linguistic output.

8. The method of Claim 3, wherein the first time stamp is a time-of-day representative of the first time, and wherein the method further comprises:

detecting a change in date; and,

responsive to said detecting a change in date, outputting as the first time stamp a time-of-day and a date representative of the first time.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first time stamp is a relative time stamp representative of an elapsed time.

10. A handheld electronic device (4) adapted to be in electronic communication with another electronic device (104), the handheld electronic device (4) comprising:

a processor apparatus (20) including a processor (52) and a memory (56);

an input apparatus; and,

an output apparatus;

the processor apparatus being adapted to receive input from the input apparatus and to provide output to the output apparatus;

the processor apparatus being adapted to determine that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the handheld electronic device and the another electronic device; and,

the output apparatus being adapted to output a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication;

the handheld electronic device being characterised by:

the processor apparatus being adapted to determine that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the handheld electronic device and the another electronic device; and,

the output apparatus outputting after the elapse of said predetermined period of time, if substantially no additional communication has occurred during that period of time, a first time stamp (84) representative of the first time.

In this example, incoming messages are indicated by a greater than" > "mathematical symbol, and outgoing messages are indicated by a less than" < "mathematical symbol. If the conversation continues quickly, i.e., substantially without interruption, the messages do not need a time stamp on them. In the environment of a handheld electronic device, it would be desirable to avoid unnecessary time stamps and other unnecessary output since it occupies too much valuable space on the limited display of the handheld electronic device.

In some messaging circumstances, however, it may be desirable for information regarding certain timing aspects of conversation to be available to a user. Nevertheless, the limited space available on a display of a handheld electronic device has made a solution difficult. It thus would be desirable to provide an improved handheld electronic device and an associated method that provide time data in a messaging environment.

US 2003/060240 (Graham) relates to wireless mobile image messaging. A received image message to convey current information may be aged via time and/or colour displays.

WO 01/30091 (Motorola) discloses a two-way selective call device for determining if a response was received at a message transmitter to a message transmitted to a designation device.

The present invention is set out in the independent claims, with optional features set out in the claims dependent thereto.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

An improved handheld electronic device and an associated method are provided in which time data regarding certain aspects of a messaging conversation on a handheld electronic device are made available to a user. Such time data is provided, for instance, in situations where an interruption has occurred during a messaging conversation. Time data can also be provided to a user on demand in certain circumstances.

Accordingly, an aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device and a method in which data regarding the times at which certain communications have occurred in a messaging environment are made available to a user.

Another aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device and a method that enable a user to be made aware of certain timing aspects of a conversation in a messaging environment.

Another aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device and a method in which data regarding the times at which certain communications have occurred are made available to a user while limiting the amount of display area that is occupied by such data.

Another aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device and a method in which data can be provided regarding the elapsed time since a communication.

5 Accordingly, one aspect of the invention is to provide an improved method of providing an output on at least one of a first electronic device and a second electronic device, the first electronic device being adapted to be in electronic communication with the second electronic device. The method includes the steps of: determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device; outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication; determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device; and, outputting after the elapse of the predetermined period of time, if substantially no additional communication has occurred during that period of time, a first time stamp representative of the first time.

15 The first time stamp may be disposed adjacent the first indication.

The method may further include the steps of: determining that a second messaging communication has occurred at a second time between the first device and the second device; outputting a second indication that is representative of at least a portion of the second messaging communication; and, outputting a second time stamp representative of the second time.

20 Another aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device of a type that is adapted to be in electronic communication with another electronic device. The handheld electronic device includes: a processor apparatus including a processor and a memory; and input apparatus; and, an output apparatus. The processor apparatus is adapted to receive input from the input apparatus, and to provide output to the output apparatus, and to determine that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the handheld electronic device and the another electronic device. The output apparatus is adapted to output a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication. The processor apparatus is adapted to determine that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without additional communication between the handheld electronic device and the another electronic device. The output apparatus outputs after the elapse of the predetermined period of time, if substantially no additional communication has occurred during that period of time, a first time stamp representative of the first time.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A full understanding of the invention can be gained from the following Description of the Preferred Embodiments when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

5 Fig. 1 is an exemplary top plan view of a handheld electronic device in accordance with the invention which can be used in conjunction with an improved method in accordance with the invention;

 Fig. 2 is a schematic view of the handheld electronic device of Fig. 1;

10 Fig. 3 is a schematic view of the handheld electronic device of Fig. 1 and another device in a messaging environment;

 Fig. 4 is an exemplary view of an output provided in accordance an aspect of the method of the invention;

 Fig. 5 is another exemplary view of an output provided in accordance an aspect of the method of the invention;

15 Fig. 6a is another exemplary view of an output provided in accordance an aspect of the method of the invention;

 Fig. 6b is another exemplary view of an output provided in accordance an aspect of the method of the invention;

20 Fig. 7 is another exemplary view of an output provided in accordance an aspect of the method of the invention;

FAX TRANSMISSION Page 1 of 11

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37

06. Feb. 2008

5 February 2008

Our Ref: P40430EP-K/GCF/PJ/tab

Dear Sirs

European Patent Application No. 04 786 633.0
In the name of: Research In Motion Limited

This is written in response to the Communication dated 16 August 2007.

Please replace pages 2 to 4 and 13 to 15 on file with the enclosed new pages 2 to 4 and 13 to 15.

The final portion of the independent claims 1 and 10 on file has been amended to better define the subject invention over the cited prior art. The new claim 1 now refers to: "outputting *after the elapse of said predetermined period of time, if substantially no further communication has occurred during that period of time*, a first time stamp (84) representative of the first time". This amended wording is supported by the sentence that extends between lines 15 and 24 on page 7. A similar amendment has been made to the final portion of the wording of claim 10. Although no change has been made to the content of claims 2 to 9 on file, the wording of those claims has been re-arranged to improve their clarity. Apart from these changes, some clerical corrections have been made to claim 10; these corrections are discussed following comments on the prior art.

The present invention, as reflected in the new claims 1 and 10, relates to messaging conversations that occur between two electronic devices. A determination is made as to whether each message is a "non-responded-to" message (see page 7 of the subject application) by determining whether a predetermined duration of time has expired after the transmission of the message during which substantially no additional communication has occurred between the two devices. If a message is determined to be one of such "non-responded-to" messages, *then and only then* is a time stamp

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output on the receiving device to indicate the received time of the non-responded-to message. The selective outputting of the time stamp only after the expiration of the predetermined duration of time (in which no other communication occurs, in the manner just described) is advantageous, since it saves on the limited space on the display of the electronic device.

Thus, claim 1 of the present application recites “determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device”, “determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time *substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device*”, and “responsive to said determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed, outputting a first time stamp representative of the first time”. In other words, in the method as claimed, the first time stamp representative of the time at which the first communication occurred is only output by the device if a predetermined period of time has in fact elapsed since that first time without any further communication occurring between the first device and the second device. In such a case, the first messaging communication is determined to have been a “non-responded to” message. Claim 10 recites a handheld electronic device which is adapted to implement the method of claim 1.

The following comments are submitted on the objections based on cited prior art in Sections 2.1, 2.2 and 4 of the Communication.

As in the previous Communication, the Examiner has cited US Patent Publication No 2003/0060240 to Graham (D1) as the closest prior art. D1 describes a system wherein mobile devices are able to engage in non-verbal communications with one another using image messages that include one or more images (paragraph [0064]). In particular, a user of a mobile device is able to create a message by selecting one or more images from a number of image options that are provided on the screen of the mobile device. When the user finishes selecting images and activates an enter button, an image message including the selected image is sent to another device. The image message that is sent typically includes an identification of the sender and the time at which the image message was sent. Figure 7 illustrates an exemplary format for an image message, the format including time information 1040 in the form of an alpha-numeric character or string. This is described in paragraphs [0071], [0072], [0083] and [0086].

The system of D1 furthermore provides for indicating on the receiving mobile device either (1) the time that has elapsed since a particular image message was sent to the receiving device, or (2) the actual time that a particular image message was sent to the receiving device. As noted in D1, the receiving mobile device is able to compute and/or display these times based upon the time identifier 1040 that is included in each image message that is received (paragraphs [0078] and [0086]). Furthermore, the “relative age”, (i.e. how long the message has been sitting on the receiving device), of each received message may be indicated on the receiving mobile device by illuminating each message with a particular colour, the colours being keyed to the time that has elapsed since each message was received. The colours for each message may over time be

changed to depict the advanced age of each received message. Of particular relevance here is the fact that in D1, this “relative age” information is output automatically, regardless of whether any further communications have taken place. Nowhere does D1 describe a step wherein a determination is made as to whether a certain predetermined amount of time has elapsed since a first communication has occurred *without any further communication taking place between two devices* and, responsive to a determination that such a predetermined period of time has in fact elapsed (e.g. a message is determined to be a “non-responded-to” message), outputting a time stamp that represents the time at which the first message occurred.

Paragraphs [0098] to [0102], with reference to Figure 9, describe the reception process. Paragraph [0099] describes that if the transmitted message is an image message, that image message is parsed to recover included image identifiers (or the images themselves). The final part of paragraph [0099] reads:

“..... Further, for the embodiment, the time when the image message was generated is ascertained based on the image message data. Then, the amount of elapsed time since the message has been sent may be determined.”

The Examiner will note that the “elapsed time” in this case is simply the time elapsed since the image message was sent. There is no “predetermined period of time” involved, with which the elapsed time is compared before display occurs. The elapsed-time-before-display in D1 could have any value; all the receiving device of D1 does is determine it and then have a receiving mobile device display it in various ways. Paragraph [0101] indicates that the receiving mobile device displays the identity of the user who sent the image message and the time when that message was sent, before the process advances to processing other actions. Paragraphs [0099] and [0101] together indicate that, as soon as the message is retrieved, its sending time is displayed (with paragraph [0102] indicating that any increase in time could then be shown by means of a colour change). This differs from the subject invention in which, after the message is retrieved, the sending time is not displayed until a predetermined time has passed in which substantially no additional communications are received.

With particular regard to the colour change aspect, the Examiner in rejecting claims 1 and 10 mentioned that “the subject-matter of claim 1 differs from the disclosure of document D1 in that document D1 outputs a certain colour rather than a time stamp after a predetermined period of time has elapsed”. However, that is not the only difference. The most significant difference is that in the present invention a time stamp is output *only* after it has been determined that *a certain predetermined amount of time has elapsed since a first communication has occurred without any further communication taking place between two devices*. (Based on the foregoing comments relating to D1 disclosing no elapsed predetermined period of time, the problem set out for inventive step in the third paragraph following below has been modified from that set out in the third paragraph of Section 2.1 of the Communication.)

D2 describes a system in which, after a message is transmitted and confirmed as being received, a timer is started in the device *that transmitted the message* to determine a period of time within which a response is to be received. This differs from the subject invention in a number of ways. Firstly, the sending device rather than the receiving device is calculating a predetermined time. Secondly, a special character (?; ??) must be included in the message to be transmitted to alert the controller of the sending device to watch for a received response to the particular transmitted message. Thirdly, no "time stamp" appears to be involved with D2; rather a "no response" or a "delinquent response" (page 11, lines 9 and 10) alerts the user of the sending device that no response has been received.

Based on the foregoing comments, it is submitted that the new independent claims 1 and 10, and also the dependent claims 2 to 9, have novelty over both D1 and D2.

Taking D1 as the starting point for inventive step, D1 does not disclose the feature of displaying, only after the elapse of a predetermined time following a messaging communication between two devices and only if substantially no additional communication occurs in the predetermined time, a time stamp of the messaging communication. One technical problem to be solved in view of this difference is:

How might message information be displayed more efficiently on the display of a handheld electronic device in order to better preserve system assets such as display space and available power?

The present invention solves this problem by "determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device", "determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time *substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device*", and "responsive to said determining that a predetermined period of times has elapsed, outputting a first time stamp representative of the first time". It is submitted that a skilled person would not be prompted to this solution by either D1 or D2 or a combination of the two for the reasons next set out.

D1 does not address this problem. D1 is concerned with presenting, without any initial delay, a display related to a received message according to the age of that message, and regardless of whether or not any additional communications have taken place. Either a 'send time' or a 'time elapsed since a send time' is displayed, with the 'time elapsed' being alternatively displayed in terms of colour change. There is no mention in D1 of the display only occurring if, and after, a predetermined time has elapsed without substantial additional communication. No suggestion is made to the skilled person for more efficiently displaying information and preserving assets such as display space and power in the receiving device. Rather D1 is only directed to a new method for a receiving device to display, starting as soon as a communication has been received from a sending device, ongoing information on the time elapsed since that communication was received.

D2 also does not address the foregoing problem. D2 is directed to preventing a sender from inadvertently failing to realize that a timely response has not been received in respect of an earlier sent message (page 11, lines 13 and 14). It is submitted that the fact that a message sender rather than a message receiver is involved (as in the subject invention) would be a initial factor directing the skilled person away from considering this reference. In D2, if a response message is not received by the sending device within a predetermined time, the sender is alerted to "no response" or "delinquent response". Either a situation exists in which the sender is alerted or no such situation is present, but in either case saving of display space and power-saving in regard to the output display are not considerations. The main point of D2 is to alert a sender to a lack of a response to a respective specific important message that has been transmitted. A skilled person would look to D2 for a fail-safe system for receiving responses to important messages, not for considerations of reducing display space and power consumption. It is therefore submitted that the new independent claims 1 and 10, and also the dependent claims 2 to 9, have an inventive step over both D1 and D1 in combination with D2.

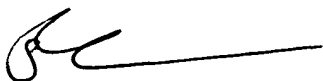
Apart from the change noted above to independent claim 10, the following clerical corrections have been made. The words "an apparatus" in line 4 have been changed to "an input apparatus" to agree with "the input apparatus" in lines 6 and 7. In line 9, "first" has been replaced by "first time" to agree with "the first time" in the third-last line of the claim on file.

Features in the claims have been provided with some additional reference signs placed in parentheses, and a discussion of D2 has been added to page 2. The statement of invention on pages 3 and 4 has been amended to agree with the new claim wording.

In view of the foregoing comments, the Applicant submits that the subject patent application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner considered it appropriate, the undersigned representative would be pleased to discuss this application by telephone. It is requested that the examination procedure is conducted in writing. However, purely as a precautionary measure in case the Examining Division should be minded to refuse this application, Oral Proceedings are requested.

Please acknowledge safe receipt of this letter by returning the enclosed copy of EPO Form 1037.

Yours faithfully



FENNELL, Gareth Charles
Authorized Representative
Kilburn & Strode

Enc: New pages 2 to 4 and 13 to 15

CLAIMS:

1. A method providing an output on at least one of a first electronic device (4) and a second electronic device (104), the first electronic device being adapted to be in electronic communication with the second electronic device, the method comprising:

determining that a first messaging communication (68) has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device; and,

outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication;

the method being characterised by further comprising:

determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device; and,

outputting after the elapse of said predetermined period of time, if substantially no additional communication has occurred during that period of time, a first time stamp (84) representative of the first time.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first time stamp (84) is disposed adjacent the first indication.

3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

determining that a second messaging communication has occurred at a second time between the first device and the second device;

outputting a second indication that is representative of at least a portion of the second messaging communication; and,

outputting a second time stamp representative of the second time.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein:

the first time stamp (84) is disposed adjacent the first indication, and the second time stamp is disposed adjacent the second indication;

one of the first time stamp and the second time stamp is disposed substantially between the first indication and the second indication; and,

one of the first indication and the second indication is disposed substantially between the first time stamp and the second time stamp.

5. The method of Claim 3, wherein:

the first time stamp (34) is disposed adjacent the first indication, and the second time stamp is disposed adjacent the second indication; and,

the first time stamp and the second time stamp are disposed substantially between the first indication and the second indication.

6. The method of Claim 3, wherein:

the first indication is a first linguistic output, and the second indication is a second linguistic output;

the first time stamp (34) is disposed adjacent one of the beginning and the ending of the first linguistic output; and,

the second time stamp is disposed adjacent one of the beginning and the ending of the second linguistic output.

7. The method of Claim 3, wherein:

the first indication is a first linguistic output, and the second indication is a second linguistic output;

the first time stamp (34) is disposed adjacent one of the beginning and the ending of the first linguistic output; and,

the second time stamp is disposed adjacent the other of the beginning and the ending of the second linguistic output.

8. The method of Claim 3, wherein the first time stamp is a time-of-day representative of the first time, and wherein the method further comprises:

detecting a change in date; and,

responsive to said detecting a change in date, outputting as the first time stamp a time-of-day and a date representative of the first time.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first time stamp is a relative time stamp representative of an elapsed time.

10. A handheld electronic device (4) adapted to be in electronic communication with another electronic device (104), the handheld electronic device (4) comprising:

a processor apparatus (20) including a processor (52) and a memory (56);

an input apparatus; and,

an output apparatus;

the processor apparatus being adapted to receive input from the input apparatus and to provide output to the output apparatus;

the processor apparatus being adapted to determine that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the handheld electronic device and the another electronic device; and,

the output apparatus being adapted to output a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication;

the handheld electronic device being characterised by:

the processor apparatus being adapted to determine that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the handheld electronic device and the another electronic device; and,

the output apparatus outputting after the elapse of said predetermined period of time, if substantially no additional communication has occurred during that period of time, a first time stamp (84) representative of the first time.

CLAIMS:

1. A method providing an output on at least one of a first electronic device (4) and a second electronic device (104), the first electronic device being adapted to be in electronic communication with the second electronic device, the method comprising:

determining that a first messaging communication (68) has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device; and,

outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication;

the method being characterised by further comprising:

determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device; and,

outputting after the elapse of said predetermined period of time, if substantially no additional communication has occurred during that period of time, a first time stamp (84) representative of the first time.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first time stamp (84) is disposed adjacent the first indication.

3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

determining that a second messaging communication has occurred at a second time between the first device and the second device;

outputting a second indication that is representative of at least a portion of the second messaging communication; and,

outputting a second time stamp representative of the second time.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein:

the first time stamp (84) is disposed adjacent the first indication, and the second time stamp is disposed adjacent the second indication;

one of the first time stamp and the second time stamp is disposed substantially between the first indication and the second indication; and,

one of the first indication and the second indication is disposed substantially between the first time stamp and the second time stamp.

5. The method of Claim 3, wherein:

the first time stamp (34) is disposed adjacent the first indication, and the second time stamp is disposed adjacent the second indication; and,

the first time stamp and the second time stamp are disposed substantially between the first indication and the second indication.

6. The method of Claim 3, wherein:

the first indication is a first linguistic output, and the second indication is a second linguistic output;

the first time stamp (34) is disposed adjacent one of the beginning and the ending of the first linguistic output; and,

the second time stamp is disposed adjacent one of the beginning and the ending of the second linguistic output.

7. The method of Claim 3, wherein:

the first indication is a first linguistic output, and the second indication is a second linguistic output;

the first time stamp (34) is disposed adjacent one of the beginning and the ending of the first linguistic output; and,

the second time stamp is disposed adjacent the other of the beginning and the ending of the second linguistic output.

8. The method of Claim 3, wherein the first time stamp is a time-of-day representative of the first time, and wherein the method further comprises:

detecting a change in date; and,

responsive to said detecting a change in date, outputting as the first time stamp a time-of-day and a date representative of the first time.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first time stamp is a relative time stamp representative of an elapsed time.

10. A handheld electronic device (4) adapted to be in electronic communication with another electronic device (104), the handheld electronic device (4) comprising:

a processor apparatus (20) including a processor (52) and a memory (56);

an input apparatus; and,

an output apparatus;

the processor apparatus being adapted to receive input from the input apparatus and to provide output to the output apparatus;

the processor apparatus being adapted to determine that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the handheld electronic device and the another electronic device; and,

the output apparatus being adapted to output a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication;

the handheld electronic device being characterised by:

the processor apparatus being adapted to determine that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the handheld electronic device and the another electronic device; and,

the output apparatus outputting after the elapse of said predetermined period of time, if substantially no additional communication has occurred during that period of time, a first time stamp (84) representative of the first time.

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In this example, incoming messages are indicated by a greater than" > "mathematical symbol, and outgoing messages are indicated by a less than" < "mathematical symbol. If the conversation continues quickly, i.e., substantially without interruption, the messages do not need a time stamp on them. In the environment of a handheld electronic device, it would be desirable to avoid unnecessary time stamps and other unnecessary output since it occupies too much valuable space on the limited display of the handheld electronic device.

In some messaging circumstances, however, it may be desirable for information regarding certain timing aspects of conversation to be available to a user. Nevertheless, the limited space available on a display of a handheld electronic device has made a solution difficult. It thus would be desirable to provide an improved handheld electronic device and an associated method that provide time data in a messaging environment.

US 2003/060240 (Graham) relates to wireless mobile image messaging. A received image message to convey current information may be aged via time and/or colour displays.

WO 01/30091 (Motorola) discloses a two-way selective call device for determining if a response was received at a message transmitter to a message transmitted to a designation device.

The present invention is set out in the independent claims, with optional features set out in the claims dependent thereto.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

An improved handheld electronic device and an associated method are provided in which time data regarding certain aspects of a messaging conversation on a handheld electronic device are made available to a user. Such time data is provided, for instance, in situations where an interruption has occurred during a messaging conversation. Time data can also be provided to a user on demand in certain circumstances.

Accordingly, an aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device and a method in which data regarding the times at which certain communications have occurred in a messaging environment are made available to a user.

Another aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device and a method that enable a user to be made aware of certain timing aspects of a conversation in a messaging environment.

Another aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device and a method in which data regarding the times at which certain communications have occurred are made available to a user while limiting the amount of display area that is occupied by such data.

Another aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device and a method in which data can be provided regarding the elapsed time since a communication.

5 Accordingly, one aspect of the invention is to provide an improved method of providing an output on at least one of a first electronic device and a second electronic device, the first electronic device being adapted to be in electronic communication with the second electronic device. The method includes the steps of: determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device; outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication; determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device; and, outputting after the elapse of the predetermined period of time, if substantially no additional communication has occurred during that period of time, a first time stamp representative of the first time.

15 The first time stamp may be disposed adjacent the first indication.

The method may further include the steps of: determining that a second messaging communication has occurred at a second time between the first device and the second device; outputting a second indication that is representative of at least a portion of the second messaging communication; and, outputting a second time stamp representative of the second time.

20 Another aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device of a type that is adapted to be in electronic communication with another electronic device. The handheld electronic device includes: a processor apparatus including a processor and a memory; and input apparatus, and, an output apparatus. The processor apparatus is adapted to receive input from the input apparatus, and to provide output to the output apparatus, and to determine that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the handheld electronic device and the another electronic device. The output apparatus is adapted to output a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication. The processor apparatus is adapted to determine that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without additional communication between the handheld electronic device and the another electronic device. The output apparatus outputs after the lapse of the predetermined period of time, if substantially no additional communication has occurred during that period of time, a first time stamp representative of the first time.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A full understanding of the invention can be gained from the following Description of the Preferred Embodiments when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

5 Fig. 1 is an exemplary top plan view of a handheld electronic device in accordance with the invention which can be used in conjunction with an improved method in accordance with the invention;

Fig. 2 is a schematic view of the handheld electronic device of Fig. 1;

10 Fig. 3 is a schematic view of the handheld electronic device of Fig. 1 and another device in a messaging environment;

Fig. 4 is an exemplary view of an output provided in accordance an aspect of the method of the invention;

Fig. 5 is another exemplary view of an output provided in accordance an aspect of the method of the invention;

15 Fig. 6a is another exemplary view of an output provided in accordance an aspect of the method of the invention;

Fig. 6b is another exemplary view of an output provided in accordance an aspect of the method of the invention;

20 Fig. 7 is another exemplary view of an output provided in accordance an aspect of the method of the invention;

1

In this example, incoming messages are indicated by a greater than" > "mathematical symbol, and outgoing messages are indicated by a less than" < "mathematical symbol. If the conversation continues quickly, i.e., substantially without interruption, the messages do not need a time stamp on them. In the environment of a handheld electronic device, it would be desirable to avoid unnecessary time stamps and other unnecessary output since it occupies too much valuable space on the limited display of the handheld electronic device.

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Another aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device and a method that enable a user to be made aware of certain timing aspects of a conversation in a messaging environment.

Another aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device and a method in which data regarding the times at which certain communications have occurred are made available to a user while limiting the amount of display area that is occupied by such data.

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The method may further include the steps of: determining that a second messaging communication has occurred at a second time between the first device and the second device; outputting a second indication that is representative of at least a portion of the second messaging communication; and, outputting a second time stamp representative of the second time.

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A full understanding of the invention can be gained from the following Description of the Preferred Embodiments when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

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20 Fig. 7 is another exemplary view of an output provided in accordance an aspect of the method of the invention;

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Our Ref: P40430EP-K/GCF/PJ/t&b

5 February 2008

Dear Sirs

European Patent Application No. 04 786 633.0
In the name of: Research In Motion Limited

This is written in response to the Communication dated 16 August 2007.

Please replace pages 2 to 4 and 13 to 15 on file with the enclosed new pages 2 to 4 and 13 to 15.

The final portion of the independent claims 1 and 10 on file has been amended to better define the subject invention over the cited prior art. The new claim 1 now refers to: “outputting *after the elapse of said predetermined period of time, if substantially no further communication has occurred during that period of time,* a first time stamp (84) representative of the first time”. This amended wording is supported by the sentence that extends between lines 15 and 24 on page 7. A similar amendment has been made to the final portion of the wording of claim 10. Although no change has been made to the content of claims 2 to 9 on file, the wording of those claims has been re-arranged to improve their clarity. Apart from these changes, some clerical corrections have been made to claim 10; these corrections are discussed following comments on the prior art.

The present invention, as reflected in the new claims 1 and 10, relates to messaging conversations that occur between two electronic devices. A determination is made as to whether each message is a “non-responded-to” message (see page 7 of the subject application) by determining whether a predetermined duration of time has expired after the transmission of the message during which substantially no additional communication has occurred between the two devices. If a message is determined to be one of such “non-responded-to” messages, *then and only then* is a time stamp

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output on the receiving device to indicate the received time of the non-responded-to message. The selective outputting of the time stamp only after the expiration of the predetermined duration of time (in which no other communication occurs, in the manner just described) is advantageous, since it saves on the limited space on the display of the electronic device.

Thus, claim 1 of the present application recites “determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device”, “determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time *substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device*”, and “responsive to said determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed, outputting a first time stamp representative of the first time”. In other words, in the method as claimed, the first time stamp representative of the time at which the first communication occurred is only output by the device if a predetermined period of time has in fact elapsed since that first time without any further communication occurring between the first device and the second device. In such a case, the first messaging communication is determined to have been a “non-responded to” message. Claim 10 recites a handheld electronic device which is adapted to implement the method of claim 1.

The following comments are submitted on the objections based on cited prior art in Sections 2.1, 2.2 and 4 of the Communication.

As in the previous Communication the Examiner has cited US Patent Publication No 2003/0060240 to Graham (D1) as the closest prior art. D1 describes a system wherein mobile devices are able to engage in non-verbal communications with one another using image messages that include one or more images (paragraph [0064]). In particular, a user of a mobile device is able to create a message by selecting one or more images from a number of image options that are provided on the screen of the mobile device. When the user finishes selecting images and activates an enter button, an image message including the selected image is sent to another device. The image message that is sent typically includes an identification of the sender and the time at which the image message was sent. Figure 7 illustrates an exemplary format for an image message, the format including time information 1040 in the form of an alpha-numeric character or string. This is described in paragraphs [0071], [0072], [0083] and [0086].

The system of D1 furthermore provides for indicating on the receiving mobile device either (1) the time that has elapsed since a particular image message was sent to the receiving device, or (2) the actual time that a particular image message was sent to the receiving device. As noted in D1, the receiving mobile device is able to compute and/or display these times based upon the time identifier 1040 that is included in each image message that is received (paragraphs [0078] and [0086]). Furthermore, the “relative age”, (i.e. how long the message has been sitting on the receiving device), of each received message may be indicated on the receiving mobile device by illuminating each message with a particular colour, the colours being keyed to the time that has elapsed since each message was received. The colours for each message may over time be

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changed to depict the advanced age of each received message. Of particular relevance here is the fact that in D1, this "relative age" information is output automatically, regardless of whether any further communications have taken place. Nowhere does D1 describe a step wherein a determination is made as to whether a certain predetermined amount of time has elapsed since a first communication has occurred *without any further communication taking place between two devices* and, responsive to a determination that such a predetermined period of time has in fact elapsed (e.g. a message is determined to be a "non-responded-to" message), outputting a time stamp that represents the time at which the first message occurred.

Paragraphs [0098] to [0102], with reference to Figure 9, describe the reception process. Paragraph [0099] describes that if the transmitted message is an image message, that image message is parsed to recover included image identifiers (or the images themselves). The final part of paragraph [0099] reads:

"..... Further, for the embodiment, the time when the image message was generated is ascertained based on the image message data. Then, the amount of elapsed time since the message has been sent may be determined."

The Examiner will note that the "elapsed time" in this case is simply the time elapsed since the image message was sent. There is no "predetermined period of time" involved, with which the elapsed time is compared before display occurs. The elapsed-time-before-display in D1 could have any value; all the receiving device of D1 does is determine it and then have a receiving mobile device display it in various ways. Paragraph [0101] indicates that the receiving mobile device displays the identity of the user who sent the image message and the time when that message was sent, before the process advances to processing other actions. Paragraphs [0099] and [0101] together indicate that, as soon as the message is retrieved, its sending time is displayed (with paragraph [0102] indicating that any increase in time could then be shown by means of a colour change). This differs from the subject invention in which, after the message is retrieved, the sending time is not displayed until a predetermined time has passed in which substantially no additional communications are received.

With particular regard to the colour change aspect, the Examiner in rejecting claims 1 and 10 mentioned that "the subject-matter of claim 1 differs from the disclosure of document D1 in that document D1 outputs a certain colour rather than a time stamp after a predetermined period of time has elapsed". However, that is not the only difference. The most significant difference is that in the present invention a time stamp is output *only* after it has been determined that *a certain predetermined amount of time has elapsed since a first communication has occurred without any further communication taking place between two devices*. (Based on the foregoing comments relating to D1 disclosing no elapsed predetermined period of time, the problem set out for inventive step in the third paragraph following below has been modified from that set out in the third paragraph of Section 2.1 of the Communication.)

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D2 describes a system in which, after a message is transmitted and confirmed as being received, a timer is started in the device *that transmitted the message* to determine a period of time within which a response is to be received. This differs from the subject invention in a number of ways. Firstly, the sending device rather than the receiving device is calculating a predetermined time. Secondly, a special character (?; ??) must be included in the message to be transmitted to alert the controller of the sending device to watch for a received response to the particular transmitted message. Thirdly, no "time stamp" appears to be involved with D2; rather a "no response" or a "delinquent response" (page 11, lines 9 and 10) alerts the user of the sending device that no response has been received.

Based on the foregoing comments, it is submitted that the new independent claims 1 and 10, and also the dependent claims 2 to 9, have novelty over both D1 and D2.

Taking D1 as the starting point for inventive step, D1 does not disclose the feature of displaying, only after the elapse of a predetermined time following a messaging communication between two devices and only if substantially no additional communication occurs in the predetermined time, a time stamp of the messaging communication. One technical problem to be solved in view of this difference is:

How might message information be displayed more efficiently on the display of a handheld electronic device in order to better preserve system assets such as display space and available power?

The present invention solves this problem by "determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device", "determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time *substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device*", and "responsive to said determining that a predetermined period of times has elapsed, outputting a first time stamp representative of the first time". It is submitted that a skilled person would not be prompted to this solution by either D1 or D2 or a combination of the two for the reasons next set out.

D1 does not address this problem. D1 is concerned with presenting, without any initial delay, a display related to a received message according to the age of that message, and regardless of whether or not any additional communications have taken place. Either a 'send time' or a 'time elapsed since a send time' is displayed, with the 'time elapsed' being alternatively displayed in terms of colour change. There is no mention in D1 of the display only occurring if, and after, a predetermined time has elapsed without substantial additional communication. No suggestion is made to the skilled person for more efficiently displaying information and preserving assets such as display space and power in the receiving device. Rather D1 is only directed to a new method for a receiving device to display, starting as soon as a communication has been received from a sending device, ongoing information on the time elapsed since that communication was received.

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D2 also does not address the foregoing problem. D2 is directed to preventing a *sender* from inadvertently failing to realize that a timely response has not been received in respect of an earlier sent message (page 11, lines 13 and 14). It is submitted that the fact that a message sender rather than a message receiver is involved (as in the subject invention) would be a initial factor directing the skilled person away from considering this reference. In D2, if a response message is not received by the sending device within a predetermined time, the sender is alerted to "no response" or "delinquent response". Either a situation exists in which the sender is alerted or no such situation is present, but in either case saving of display space and power-saving in regard to the output display are not considerations. The main point of D2 is to alert a sender to a lack of a response to a respective specific important message that has been transmitted. A skilled person would look to D2 for a fail-safe system for receiving responses to important messages, not for considerations of reducing display space and power consumption. It is therefore submitted that the new independent claims 1 and 10, and also the dependent claims 2 to 9, have an inventive step over both D1 and D1 in combination with D2.

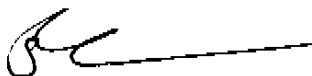
Apart from the change noted above to independent claim 10, the following clerical corrections have been made. The words "an apparatus" in line 4 have been changed to "an input apparatus" to agree with "the input apparatus" in lines 6 and 7. In line 9, "first" has been replaced by "first time" to agree with "the first time" in the third-last line of the claim on file.

Features in the claims have been provided with some additional reference signs placed in parentheses, and a discussion of D2 has been added to page 2. The statement of invention on pages 3 and 4 has been amended to agree with the new claim wording.

In view of the foregoing comments, the Applicant submits that the subject patent application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner considered it appropriate, the undersigned representative would be pleased to discuss this application by telephone. It is requested that the examination procedure is conducted in writing. However, purely as a precautionary measure in case the Examining Division should be minded to refuse this application, Oral Proceedings are requested.

Please acknowledge safe receipt of this letter by returning the enclosed copy of EPO Form 1037.

Yours faithfully



FENNELL, Gareth Charles
Authorized Representative
Kilburn & Strode

Enc: New pages 2 to 4 and 13 to 15

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Our Ref: P40430EP-K/GCF/PJ/tab

5 February 2008

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In the name of: Research In Motion Limited

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The present invention, as reflected in the new claims 1 and 10, relates to messaging conversations that occur between two electronic devices. A determination is made as to whether each message is a "non-responded-to" message (see page 7 of the subject application) by determining whether a predetermined duration of time has expired after the transmission of the message during which substantially no additional communication has occurred between the two devices. If a message is determined to be one of such "non-responded-to" messages, *then and only then* is a time stamp

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output on the receiving device to indicate the received time of the non-responded-to message. The selective outputting of the time stamp only after the expiration of the predetermined duration of time (in which no other communication occurs, in the manner just described) is advantageous, since it saves on the limited space or the display of the electronic device.

Thus, claim 1 of the present application recites "determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device", "determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time *substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device*", and "responsive to said determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed, outputting a first time stamp representative of the first time". In other words, in the method as claimed, the first time stamp representative of the time at which the first communication occurred is only output by the device if a predetermined period of time has in fact elapsed since that first time without any further communication occurring between the first device and the second device. In such a case, the first messaging communication is determined to have been a "non-responded to" message. Claim 10 recites a handheld electronic device which is adapted to implement the method of claim 1.

The following comments are submitted on the objections based on cited prior art in Sections 2.1, 2.2 and 4 of the Communication.

As in the previous Communication the Examiner has cited US Patent Publication No 2003/0060240 to Graham (D1) as the closest prior art. D1 describes a system wherein mobile devices are able to engage in non-verbal communications with one another using image messages that include one or more images (paragraph [0064]). In particular, a user of a mobile device is able to create a message by selecting one or more images from a number of image options that are provided on the screen of the mobile device. When the user finishes selecting images and activates an enter button, an image message including the selected image is sent to another device. The image message that is sent typically includes an identification of the sender and the time at which the image message was sent. Figure 7 illustrates an exemplary format for an image message, the format including time information 1040 in the form of an alpha-numeric character or string. This is described in paragraphs [0071], [0072], [0083] and [0086].

The system of D1 furthermore provides for indicating on the receiving mobile device either (1) the time that has elapsed since a particular image message was sent to the receiving device, or (2) the actual time that a particular image message was sent to the receiving device. As noted in D1, the receiving mobile device is able to compute and/or display these times based upon the time identifier 1040 that is included in each image message that is received (paragraphs [0078] and [0086]). Furthermore, the "relative age", (i.e. how long the message has been sitting on the receiving device), of each received message may be indicated on the receiving mobile device by illuminating each message with a particular colour, the colours being keyed to the time that has elapsed since each message was received. The colours for each message may over time be

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changed to depict the advanced age of each received message. Of particular relevance here is the fact that in D1, this “relative age” information is output automatically, regardless of whether any further communications have taken place. Nowhere does D1 describe a step wherein a determination is made as to whether a certain predetermined amount of time has elapsed since a first communication has occurred *without any further communication taking place between two devices* and, responsive to a determination that such a predetermined period of time has in fact elapsed (e.g. a message is determined to be a “non-responded-to” message), outputting a time stamp that represents the time at which the first message occurred.

Paragraphs [0098] to [0102], with reference to Figure 9, describe the reception process. Paragraph [0099] describes that if the transmitted message is an image message, that image message is parsed to recover included image identifiers (or the images themselves). The final part of paragraph [0099] reads:

“..... Further, for the embodiment, the time when the image message was generated is ascertained based on the image message data. Then, the amount of elapsed time since the message has been sent may be determined.”

The Examiner will note that the “elapsed time” in this case is simply the time elapsed since the image message was sent. There is no “predetermined period of time” involved, with which the elapsed time is compared before display occurs. The elapsed-time-before-display in D1 could have any value; all the receiving device of D1 does is determine it and then have a receiving mobile device display it in various ways. Paragraph [0101] indicates that the receiving mobile device displays the identity of the user who sent the image message and the time when that message was sent, before the process advances to processing other actions. Paragraphs [0099] and [0101] together indicate that, as soon as the message is retrieved, its sending time is displayed (with paragraph [0102] indicating that any increase in time could then be shown by means of a colour change). This differs from the subject invention in which, after the message is retrieved, the sending time is not displayed until a predetermined time has passed in which substantially no additional communications are received.

With particular regard to the colour change aspect, the Examiner in rejecting claims 1 and 10 mentioned that “the subject-matter of claim 1 differs from the disclosure of document D1 in that document D1 outputs a certain colour rather than a time stamp after a predetermined period of time has elapsed”. However, that is not the only difference. The most significant difference is that in the present invention a time stamp is output *only* after it has been determined that *a certain predetermined amount of time has elapsed since a first communication has occurred without any further communication taking place between two devices*. (Based on the foregoing comments relating to D1 disclosing no elapsed predetermined period of time, the problem set out for inventive step in the third paragraph following below has been modified from that set out in the third paragraph of Section 2.1 of the Communication.)

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D2 describes a system in which, after a message is transmitted and confirmed as being received, a timer is started in the device *that transmitted the message* to determine a period of time within which a response is to be received. This differs from the subject invention in a number of ways. Firstly, the sending device rather than the receiving device is calculating a predetermined time. Secondly, a special character (?; ??) must be included in the message to be transmitted to alert the controller of the sending device to watch for a received response to the particular transmitted message. Thirdly, no "time stamp" appears to be involved with D2; rather a "no response" or a "delinquent response" (page 11, lines 9 and 10) alerts the user of the sending device that no response has been received.

Based on the foregoing comments, it is submitted that the new independent claims 1 and 10, and also the dependent claims 2 to 9, have novelty over both D1 and D2.

Taking D1 as the starting point for inventive step, D1 does not disclose the feature of displaying, only after the elapse of a predetermined time following a messaging communication between two devices and only if substantially no additional communication occurs in the predetermined time, a time stamp of the messaging communication. One technical problem to be solved in view of this difference is:

How might message information be displayed more efficiently on the display of a handheld electronic device in order to better preserve system assets such as display space and available power?

The present invention solves this problem by "determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device", "determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time *substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device*", and "responsive to said determining that a predetermined period of times has elapsed, outputting a first time stamp representative of the first time". It is submitted that a skilled person would not be prompted to this solution by either D1 or D2 or a combination of the two for the reasons next set out.

D1 does not address this problem. D1 is concerned with presenting, without any initial delay, a display related to a received message according to the age of that message, and regardless of whether or not any additional communications have taken place. Either a 'send time' or a 'time elapsed since a send time' is displayed, with the 'time elapsed' being alternatively displayed in terms of colour change. There is no mention in D1 of the display only occurring if, and after, a predetermined time has elapsed without substantial additional communication. No suggestion is made to the skilled person for more efficiently displaying information and preserving assets such as display space and power in the receiving device. Rather D1 is only directed to a new method for a receiving device to display, starting as soon as a communication has been received from a sending device, ongoing information on the time elapsed since that communication was received.

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D2 also does not address the foregoing problem. D2 is directed to preventing a sender from inadvertently failing to realize that a timely response has not been received in respect of an earlier sent message (page 11, lines 13 and 14). It is submitted that the fact that a message sender rather than a message receiver is involved (as in the subject invention) would be a initial factor directing the skilled person away from considering this reference. In D2, if a response message is not received by the sending device within a predetermined time, the sender is alerted to "no response" or "delinquent response". Either a situation exists in which the sender is alerted or no such situation is present, but in either case saving of display space and power-saving in regard to the output display are not considerations. The main point of D2 is to alert a sender to a lack of a response to a respective specific important message that has been transmitted. A skilled person would look to D2 for a fail-safe system for receiving responses to important messages, not for considerations of reducing display space and power consumption. It is therefore submitted that the new independent claims 1 and 10, and also the dependent claims 2 to 9, have an inventive step over both D1 and D1 in combination with D2.

Apart from the change noted above to independent claim 10, the following clerical corrections have been made. The words "an apparatus" in line 4 have been changed to "an input apparatus" to agree with "the input apparatus" in lines 6 and 7. In line 9, "first" has been replaced by "first time" to agree with "the first time" in the third-last line of the claim on file.

Features in the claims have been provided with some additional reference signs placed in parentheses, and a discussion of D2 has been added to page 2. The statement of invention on pages 3 and 4 has been amended to agree with the new claim wording.

In view of the foregoing comments, the Applicant submits that the subject patent application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner considered it appropriate, the undersigned representative would be pleased to discuss this application by telephone. It is requested that the examination procedure is conducted in writing. However, purely as a precautionary measure in case the Examining Division should be minded to refuse this application, Oral Proceedings are requested.

Please acknowledge safe receipt of this letter by returning the enclosed copy of EPO Form 1037.

Yours faithfully



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Enc: New pages 2 to 4 and 13 to 15



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Date 21.12.07

Reference P40430EP-K/JJH	Application No./Patent No. 04786633.0 - 2416
Applicant/Proprietor Research In Motion Limited	

Extension of time limit pursuant to Rule 132(2) EPC

Examination procedure

With reference to your request, the time limit for replying to the communication dated 16.08.07 has been extended

by 2 months
to a total of 6 months

from the date of notification of the above-mentioned communication.

Please note: To the extent that your request exceeded the above extension, your request has been refused.

Note

The granting of extensions to time limits is governed by the Implementing Regulations to the EPC and the Guidelines for Examination in the EPO, part E-VIII, 1.6.

If no reply to the communication is received in due time, the European patent application will be deemed to be withdrawn (Art. 94(4) EPC).

For the Examining Division



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19. Dez. 2007

Our Ref: P40430EP-K/GCF/tab

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17 December 2007

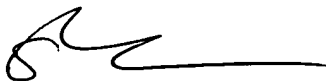
Dear Sirs

**European Patent Application No. 04786633.0
In the name of Research In Motion Limited**

We refer to the Communication pursuant to Article 96(2) EPC dated 16 August 2007 and hereby request an extension of time of two months to the period for submitting a response.

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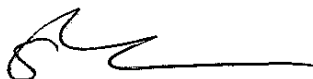
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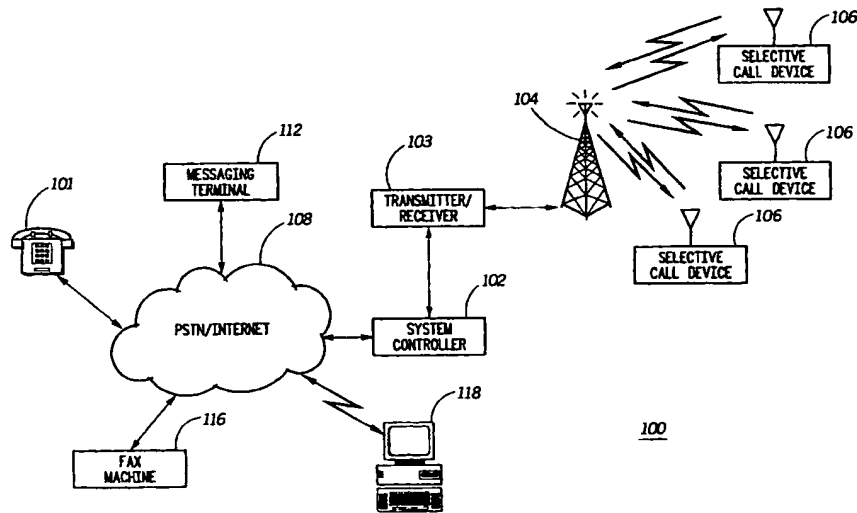
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHOD FOR INDICATING A DELINQUENT RESPONSE TO A MESSAGE FROM A SELECTIVE CALL DEVICE



(57) Abstract: A two-way selective call device (106) for determining if a response was received to a message transmitted to a designation device including at least one switch (216) to construct the message having at least an identifiable character. An address book designates at least one destination device (106, 112, 116, 118) and a selector (216) selects a destination device (106) of the at least one destination device (106, 112, 116, 118) to receive the message. A transmitter (222) transmits the message to the destination device (106) and a timer (302) measures a first predetermined time. A processor (206) coupled to the receiver (204) monitors received messages during the first predetermined time period to determine when a response to the message was received and an output device (208, 212, 214) indicates when the response from the at least one identified destination device was not received within the first predetermined time period.

WO 01/30091 A1

METHOD FOR INDICATING A DELINQUENT RESPONSE
TO A MESSAGE FROM A SELECTIVE CALL DEVICE

Field of the Invention

5 This invention relates in general to communication systems, and more specifically to a method for indicating a delinquent response to a message from a selective call device.

Background of the Invention

10 There are many types of communication systems in operation today (including two-way selective call systems) that provide message, data, and voice information. The communication subscriber units, e.g., two-way selective call devices or two-way subscriber devices, utilize sophisticated receiver/transmitter architectures and signaling formats that have been optimized to provide both high
15 receiver sensitivities and excellent battery saving capabilities. With the proliferation of two-way selective call devices, users have become accustomed to and comfortable with using these two-way subscriber devices to transmit and request time critical information that can have, for example, enormous economical or other significant benefits to the users.

20 Currently, selective call devices have various types of alerts to indicate, e.g., the receipt of a message. Other types of alerts are: the "reminder alert" which is used to indicate to the user that a received message has not been read, the "content sensitive alert" which is used to provide an indication to the user that certain keywords were found within a received message, and the "message read alert"
25 which is used to indicate to the sender of a message that a message was read.

 When a user of a two way subscriber device sends a message soliciting a response, a question, or a request to another user, the user has to remember: 1) that a message containing a question was sent, 2) who was the recipient of the message containing the question, and 3) whether a response was received from that
30 recipient. This task becomes even more burdensome when a user sends numerous questions or requests to multiple devices. Under this condition, the user could

easily forget that a response was never received, and in this fast paced world where information is critical for economical or other critical needs, the user who forgets that a response is delinquent or was never received, may be unable to execute on critical time sensitive events that could be of great significance to the user.

- 5 Therefore, what is needed, in a two-way device or selective call device, is a method for alerting or reminding a user that an answer or a response is delinquent to a question or a message that was previously sent soliciting a response.

Brief Description of the Drawings

- 10 FIG. 1 is an electrical block diagram of a communication system in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is an electrical block diagram of a two-way selective call device according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 3 an electrical block diagram of the DSP/controller according to FIG. 2.

- 15 FIG. 4 is a flow diagram illustrating a method for indicating a delinquent response to a message in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Description of a Preferred Embodiment

- 20 Referring to FIG. 1, an electrical block diagram of a two-way selective call or radio communication system 100 is shown in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention. The two-way selective call communication system 100 comprises a system controller 102 coupled or connected through a conventional public switched telephone network (PSTN) or internet 108 by
25 conventional telephone links or other high data rate link suitable for such use. It can be appreciated that the communication system 100 can be coupled to other networks, e.g., satellites, microwaves or any other wireless or wireline communication system or protocol. Coupled to the PSTN/internet 108 are message-input devices, e.g., conventional telephone 101, a facsimile machine 116,
30 a messaging terminal 112, and/or a computer 118 for sending and receiving electronic mail (email) or other electronic messages to, e.g., an email address. The

communication system 100 preferably operates in accordance with the ReFLEX™ protocol, which is one of the FLEX® family of protocol standards. The system controller 102 oversees the operation of at least one radio frequency (RF) transmitter/receivers 103, through one or more communication links which, e.g.,
5 are twisted-pair telephone wires, which additionally can include RF, microwave, or other high quality audio communication links. The system controller 102 encodes and decodes inbound and outbound addresses into formats that are compatible with landline message switch computers. The system controller 102 also functions to encode and schedule outbound messages, which can include
10 such information as analog voice messages, digital alphanumeric messages, graphics type data, and response commands, for transmission by the radio frequency (RF) transmitter/receivers 103 to a plurality of preferably two-way selective call devices 106 or two-way subscriber units 106. The system controller 102 further functions to decode inbound messages, including unsolicited and
15 response messages received by the radio frequency transmitter/receivers 103 from the plurality of two-way selective call devices 106. It can be appreciated by one of ordinary skill in the art that selective call devices 106 are able to operate on multiple frequencies and multiple protocols.

An example of an outbound alphanumeric message intended for a selective
20 call device 106 is an alphanumeric selective call message entered from the messaging terminal 112, a selective call device 106, computer 118, telephone 101 or FAX machine 116. An example of an outbound analog message intended for a selective call device 106 is a voice message entered from the telephone 101 or another selective call device 106. Examples of response messages are
25 acknowledgments or demand response messages. An acknowledgment, e.g., is an inbound message transmitted by or from a selective call device 106 that can indicate a successful reception of an outbound message, an answer to a question, a response, or a request for information to the communication system. The inbound and outbound messages are included in outbound radio signals
30 transmitted from, and inbound radio signals received by, respectively, a

conventional antenna 104 coupled to the radio frequency transmitter/receiver 103.

It should be noted that the system controller 102 is capable of operating in a distributed transmission control environment that allows mixing conventional
5 cellular, simulcast, satellite, or other coverage schemes involving a plurality of radio frequency transmitter/receivers, conventional antennas, for providing reliable radio signals within a geographic area as large as a worldwide network. Moreover, as one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that the telephonic and selective call device communication system functions can reside in separate
10 system controllers that operate either independently or in a network fashion. Each of the selective call devices 106 assigned for use in the radio communication system 100 has at least one address assigned to the communication system 100 which is a unique selective call address. The selective call address enables the transmission of a message to and from the system controller 102 only to the
15 addressed selective call device 106.

Referring to FIG. 2, an electrical block diagram of a selective call device is shown in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention. It will be appreciated that the selective call device 106 is one of several types of radios or portable wireless devices, including two-way selective call devices,
20 pagers, cellular radio telephones, conventional mobile radios, Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) or conventional trunked mobile radios that have a data terminal attached thereto, or which optionally have data terminal capability for accessing the internet or intranet. Each of the selective call devices 106 assigned for use in the radio communication system 100 has an address assigned thereto
25 which is unique to the selective call device 106. The address enables the transmission of a message from the system controller 102 to be received only by the addressed or designated selective call device 106, and identifies messages and responses received at the system controller 102 from the selective call device 106. Furthermore, each of one or more of the selective call devices 106 can have a
30 unique telephone number assigned thereto, the telephone number being unique within the PSTN/internet 108 (FIG. 1). When the system controller 102 receives

an inbound message from a selective call device 106, the system controller 102 establishes communication and checks by well known techniques if the requesting selective call device 106 is a valid subscribing unit within the communication system 100.

5 The selective call device 106 (e.g., a two-way selective call device) can initiate or transmit an inbound signal in response to the receipt of a message from the communication system 100 from, e.g., another selective call device. The outbound signal from, e.g., the system controller can be received on any signaling protocol, preferably the ReFLEX protocol. The selective call device 106 comprises an

10 antenna 202 that provides a radio frequency (RF) carrier signal to a receiver 204. The receiver 204 generates a recovered signal suitable for processing by a digital signal processor ("DSP") or controller 206 in a manner well known to one of ordinary skill in the art. The DSP 206 performs functions such as encoding and decoding messages and controlling the operation of the selective call device 106

15 well known to one of ordinary skill in the art. The DSP 206 processes received signals to decode the address and compares the decoded address with one or more predetermined addresses contained in a memory, for example, a codeplug 218 or any other programmable read-only-memory (PROM). When the addresses are the same or substantially similar, the user is alerted that a signal has been

20 received either by an audio alert (e.g., a speaker or transducer) 212, a tactile alert (e.g., a vibrator) 214, or an indication on a display 208. The received signal can also include optional message data directed to some selective call device 106. Also, if the selective call device 106 includes an optional voice output, recovered audio components of the received RF signal may be presented. For a message

25 selective call device, the recovered message is stored in a memory 220 for subsequent presentation by an output device which for example is the display 208. The output device will automatically, or when manually selected by switches 216, present the message, such as by displaying the message on the display 208. The switches 216 also can be used a selector for designating a message as a message to

30 which a response is requested. An external clock 224 can be optionally coupled to the digital signal processor 206 that provides clock signals to determine a count

down period or predetermined time periods. In conjunction with the external clock 224, e.g., a predetermined value can be stored in a volatile or non-volatile memory, e.g., the memory 220 to perform timer functions. The controller 206 preferably decreases the count or predetermined value in memory. When that value reaches zero or some predetermined threshold, the user is alerted that the response or answer to his or her message or question is delinquent or has not been received, the details of which will be disclosed below.

According to the preferred embodiment of the present invention, a user of a selective call device 106 preferably the Motorola PagerWriter™ 2000 two-way selective call device can form, create, generate, or compose a message by using a keyboard (not shown), switches 216, or pre-stored messages in memory ("canned message"). The message is sent preferably to another selective call device 106 and includes a request for a response to the message or the message itself can be in the form of a question. It is preferred to include at least one special character within the message, preferably the question sign ("?") to enable a "no response" or "delinquent response" notification or alerting feature, the details will be discussed below. Preferably, the message is modulated by the DSP 206 and encoded in a manner well known in the art. The inbound message is then encoded by the DSP/controller 206 and passed to a transmitter 222 for transmission by the antenna 202. A power switch 210 performs battery saving functions well known to one of ordinary skill in the arts.

The digital signal processor 206 of FIG. 2 can be implemented with a microcomputer or processor as shown in FIG. 3. FIG. 3 is an electrical block diagram of a microcomputer-based decoder/controller suitable for use in the selective call device 106 of FIG. 2. As shown, the microcomputer or DSP 206 preferably comprises a series microcomputers, such as manufactured by Motorola, Inc., which includes an on-board display driver 314. The microcomputer 206 includes an oscillator 318 that generates timing signals utilized in the operation of the microcomputer 206 and for varying the countdown or predetermined value to determine when an answer or response was not received or is delinquent. A crystal, or crystal oscillator (not shown) is coupled to the inputs of the oscillator

318 to provide a reference signal for establishing the microcomputer timing. A timer/counter 302 couples to the oscillator 318 and provides programmable timing functions that are utilized in controlling the operation of the receiver or the processor. The crystal, the oscillator 318, and timer/counter 302 are used to set the clock cycles to enable the DSP to, e.g., decrease the count value. A RAM (random access memory) 304 is utilized to store variables derived during processing, as well as to provide storage of message information or the timer values for setting the predetermined time for a response or an answer. A ROM (read only memory) 306 stores the subroutines that control the operation of the receiver or the processor. The oscillator 318, timer/counter 302, RAM 304, and ROM 306 are coupled through an address/data/control bus 308 to a central processing unit (CPU) 310 that performs the instructions and controls the operations of the microcomputer 206. According to the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the oscillator 318, the timer/counter 302, and RAM 304 which via the bus 308 coupled to the CPU 310 comprises one example of the hardware necessary for storing a predetermined value in RAM 304, and providing predetermined time for a response or answer. The CPU retrieves the predetermined value from RAM 304, and varies (e.g., decreases) it. When the predetermined value reaches zero or some predetermined value, the CPU 310 enables an alert to indicate that a response is delinquent or has not been received during the predetermined period of time. It is understood by one of ordinary skill in the art that instead of decreasing the count, the value could be increased.

The demodulated data generated by the selective call device 106 is coupled into the microcomputer 206 through an input/output (I/O) port 312. The demodulated data is processed by the CPU 310, and when the received address is the same as stored within the code-plug memory which couples into the microcomputer through, for example an I/O port 313, the message, if any, is received and stored in RAM 304. Recovery of the stored message and selection of the predetermined destination address are provided by the switches that are coupled to the I/O port 312. The microcomputer 206 then recovers the stored message and directs the information over the data bus 308 to the display driver

314 which processes the information and formats the information for presentation by a display 208 (FIG. 2) such as an LCD (liquid crystal display). At the time a selective call device's address is received, the alert signal is generated which can be routed through the data bus 308 to an alert generator 316 that generates the alert enable signal which is coupled to the audible alert device that was described above. Alternatively, when the vibrator alert is selected, as described above, the microcomputer 206 generates an alert enable signal which is coupled through data bus 308 to the I/O port 313 to enable generation of a vibratory, or silent alert. Switch inputs are received by the I/O port 312 via the data bus 308. The switch inputs are processed by the CPU 310. Specifically, the CPU 310 retrieves the address of the selective call base station from RAM 304 and in conjunction with the timer counter 302 and the oscillator 318, the CPU 310 generates the inbound signal which is passed via the data bus 308 to the transmitter.

The battery saver operation is controlled by the CPU 310 with battery saving signals which are directed over the data bus 308 to the I/O port 312 which couples to the power switch 210. Power is periodically supplied to the receiver to enable decoding of the received selective call device address signals and any message information, which are directed to the selective call device 106. Specifically, when the selective call device 106 begins decoding the selective call signal, the receiver is powered by the power switch 210. When the selective call information is received and stored, the microcomputer or DSP 206 sends a signal to the power switch 210 to disable power to the receiver 204 and enable power to the transmitter for transmitting the inbound signal.

Referring to FIG. 4, a flow diagram is shown illustrating a method for indicating a delinquent or no response to a message in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention. The initialization process for start-up is performed, step 400. Preferably, the user of the selective call device 106 constructs, generates, forms, or writes a message in the form of a question or for soliciting a response, step 402. It is preferable for the message to include at least one identifiable or a special character to enable a "no response" or a "delinquent response" alert, step 404. The preferred special character is the "?" character. The

position of the special character, e.g., "?" in the message or question is not critical, but for grammatical purpose is best placed at the end of the message or question. It is appreciated that any character including numbers, letters, Greek alphabet, or icons can be used as the special character or as a receipt request icon. It is, 5 however, desirable to make it convenient to the users to include or to remember the symbol for the special character. Alternately in step 404, the message can be uniquely identified without using the special character. This can be accomplished using well known techniques such as using switches 216 to select a mode in the selective call device 106 which enables the "no response" or "delinquent response" 10 alert for messages constructed by the user.

In determining the addressee(s) of a message or question, the user preferably uses an address book application stored in the selective call device 106 well known to those skilled in the art to designate a destination or designated device, step 406. The designated or destination device could be the address of another selective call 15 device 106, a computer 118 with an email account, a FAX machine 116 and any other addressable device, or all of or a combination thereof. The address book is scrolled through until the desired address is reached and selected. By selecting the desired address from the address book, the address is appended to, included, or associated with the message. It is appreciated that a designated recipient 20 having the designated or destination device can have more than one address in the address book because the recipient can have, e.g., a pager, a cellular telephone, a fax machine, and a computer. The sender must therefore choose the desired address to send his/her message or question. Once the address is appended to the message, the message can be sent to the designated recipient, step 408. The 25 DSP/controller 206 preferably under the operation of a software routine checks and determines if the special character, e.g., ("?") is present in the message to be transmitted or if the message is uniquely identified, step 410. It is appreciated that the message can be sent with or without the special character. If the message did not include the special character or was not uniquely identified, the process ends, 30 step 412. On the other hand, if the special character is present or the message is uniquely identified, the user name and/or address of the recipient and all the

related delivery addresses (e.g., pager, cellphone, facsimile, or email) that was previously stored in the address book are retrieved and stored in a special memory location, step 414.

After the message or question is transmitted and confirmed as being received
5 by preferably the system controller 102, a timer in the selective call device is started to determine a predetermined time in which a response is to be received, step 416. This timer could be user settable and could be set to 10 minutes, for example. The DSP then begins to monitor any received messages to determine if and when a response or answer is received, step 418. The ReFLEX protocol allows
10 for a selective call device 106 to determine whether a received message from another selective call device 106 is a reply to a message sent by the designated selective call device 106. This can be accomplished by identifying a reply message different from an unsolicited message. In this way, the selective call device 106 can determine if a received message is a reply or response to a message or
15 question sent in step 408 or if a received message is an unsolicited message which may or may not be sent in response to a question or message sent in step 408. In step 420, the DSP checks if a message is received during the predetermined time period from the destination device identified in step 406 or alternately from any one of the plurality of destination devices assigned to the recipient of the message
20 as described previously. This allows the recipient of the message to respond with any one of the devices available for use (selective call device 106, computer 118, FAX machine 116, etc.) and not just the device that originally received the message or question. If not, the DSP 206 checks if the predetermined time has expired (timer =0), step 422. If not, the process continues to monitor received messages,
25 step 418. Otherwise, if the timer is zero (the predetermined time has expired), the "no response" or delinquent response is generated to inform or alert the user that a response was not received or is delinquent, step 424. Returning to step 420, when a message is received during this time period and the identification of the sender's device (selective call device address, email account number, etc.) is the
30 same or is from one of the addresses listed or stored in the special memory location (address, email account number, etc.) of the designated recipient, the user

is prompted to determine if the selective call device 106 should continue to monitor the received messages (e.g., was the question was properly answered), step 426. At step 428, if the user indicates that the selective call device 106 should continue to monitor received message (an unsatisfactory or incomplete response),
5 the current timer is reset, step 432, and a new time period is started, step 416. If, on the other hand, the question was appropriately answered, the user will indicate that the selective call device should stop monitoring the received message, step 428, and the process ends, step 430.

In this way, a "no response" or a "delinquent response" alerts the user that a
10 response or answer was not received within a predetermined time period. The user may seek an alternative source or can extend time for a response or set a new time depending on the urgency or the user's request. The "no response" or "delinquent response" alerts the user to prevent the user from inadvertently failing to realized that a timely response was not received and to prevent a time
15 critical event from passing without the user realizing.

Additionally, the preferred special character "?" can be used to select the value of the timer in step 416. For example, if the user constructs a message containing a single "?", the timer of step 416 could be set to 10 minutes, for example. However, if the user constructs a messages containing two special
20 characters e.g. "??", the timer of step 416 could be set to 20 minutes (10 minutes per special character). This allows the user to selectively allow more response time for specific requests or questions.

In summary, in a two-way selective call device, a method for indicating a delinquent response includes the steps of generating a message having an
25 identifiable character being addressed to a destination device; sending the message including the identifiable character to the destination device; setting a predetermined time for a response to the message including the identifiable character; monitoring received messages to determine when the response to the message including the identifiable character is received; and indicating that the
30 response to the message including the identifiable character was not received within the predetermined time.

The step of indicating indicates when a response to the message including the identifiable character was received within the predetermined time, and the step of generating further comprises the steps of identifying a recipient of the message including the identifiable character; selecting an address from one or more
5 addresses in an address book; and storing the one or more addresses of the recipient in a special memory. A user is prompted as whether to continue monitoring the received messages when the response is received on an address that is different from the address of destination device but is same as an address of the one or more addresses stored the special memory.

10

What is claimed is:

CLAIMS

1. In a two-way selective call device, a method for indicating a delinquent
5 response, comprising the steps of:
 - generating a message including an identifiable character being addressed to a destination device;
 - sending the message to the destination device;
 - setting a predetermined time for a response to the message;
 - 10 monitoring received messages to determine when the response to the message is received; and
 - indicating that the response to the message was not received within the predetermined time.
- 15 2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of indicating indicates when a response to the message was received within the predetermined time.
3. The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of generating further comprises the steps of:
20
 - identifying a recipient of the message;
 - selecting an address from one or more addresses in an address book; and
 - storing the one or more addresses of the recipient in a special memory.
4. The method according to claim 3 further comprises the step of monitoring
25 received messages to determine when a message is received from any one of the one or more addresses stored in the special memory.
5. The method according to claim 4 further comprises the step of prompting a
30 user whether to continue monitoring the received messages when a message is received on an address that is different from the address of the destination device but is same as an address of the one or more addresses stored the special memory.

6. The method according to claim 5 further comprises the steps of:
 setting a second predetermined time period if a user elects to continue
 monitoring the received messages;
- 5 monitoring the received messages for a message during the second
predetermined time period; and
 determining whether a message from an address of an at least one address
was received during the second predetermined time period.
- 10 7. The method according to claim 6 further comprises the step of indicating a
response to the message was not received within the second predetermined time
period.
8. The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of generating further
15 comprises a step of including at least one "?" as the identifiable character.
9. The method according to claim 1 further comprises the step of sending the
message including the identifiable character to the destination device.
- 20 10. A two-way selective call device for determining when a response was not
received to a message transmitted to an at least one destination device,
comprising:
 at least one switch for constructing the message including an at least one
 identifiable character;
- 25 an address book for designating the at least one destination device;
 a selector for selecting a destination address of the at least one destination
device to receive the message;
 a transmitter for transmitting the message to a destination device;
 a timer for measuring a first predetermined time;
- 30 a processor coupled to a receiver for monitoring received messages during
the first predetermined time to determine if a message is received; and

an output device for indicating when a message from the at least one destination device was not received within the first predetermined time.

11. The two-way selective call device according to claim 10 wherein:

5 the timer is started for a second predetermined time period if a user elects to continue monitoring receiving messages; and

the processor determines whether a message from the at least one destination device was received during the second predetermined time period.

10 12. The two-way selective call device of claim 11 wherein the output device indicates that a message from the at least one destination device was not received within the second predetermined time period.

15 13. The two-way selective call device according to claim 12 wherein the destination device comprises any one of a portable wireless device, a computer having an electronic mail address and a facsimile machine.

14. The two-way selective call device according to claim 10 wherein the at least one identifiable character comprises at least one "?".

20

15. The two-way selective call device according to claim 10 wherein each one of a more than one "?" designates a predetermined time period for monitoring received messages.

25 16. In a portable wireless device, a method of determining when a response to a message is delinquent, comprising the steps of:

generating a message;

identifying an at least one destination device;

selecting the at least one destination device to receive the message;

30 designating the message as requiring a response;

transmitting the message to the at least one destination device;

setting a time period during which the response to the message is to be received;

monitoring messages being received during the time period; and

5 indicating when the response to the message was not received within the time period from the at least one destination device.

17. The method according to claim 16 wherein the step of indicating indicates when the response from the at least one destination device was received within the time period.

10

18. The method according to claim 16 further comprises the step of prompting a user whether to continue monitoring messages in response to a received message from the at least one destination device within the time period.

15 19. The method according to claim 18 wherein the step of setting further comprises:

setting a second time period if a user elects to continue the step of monitoring received messages; and

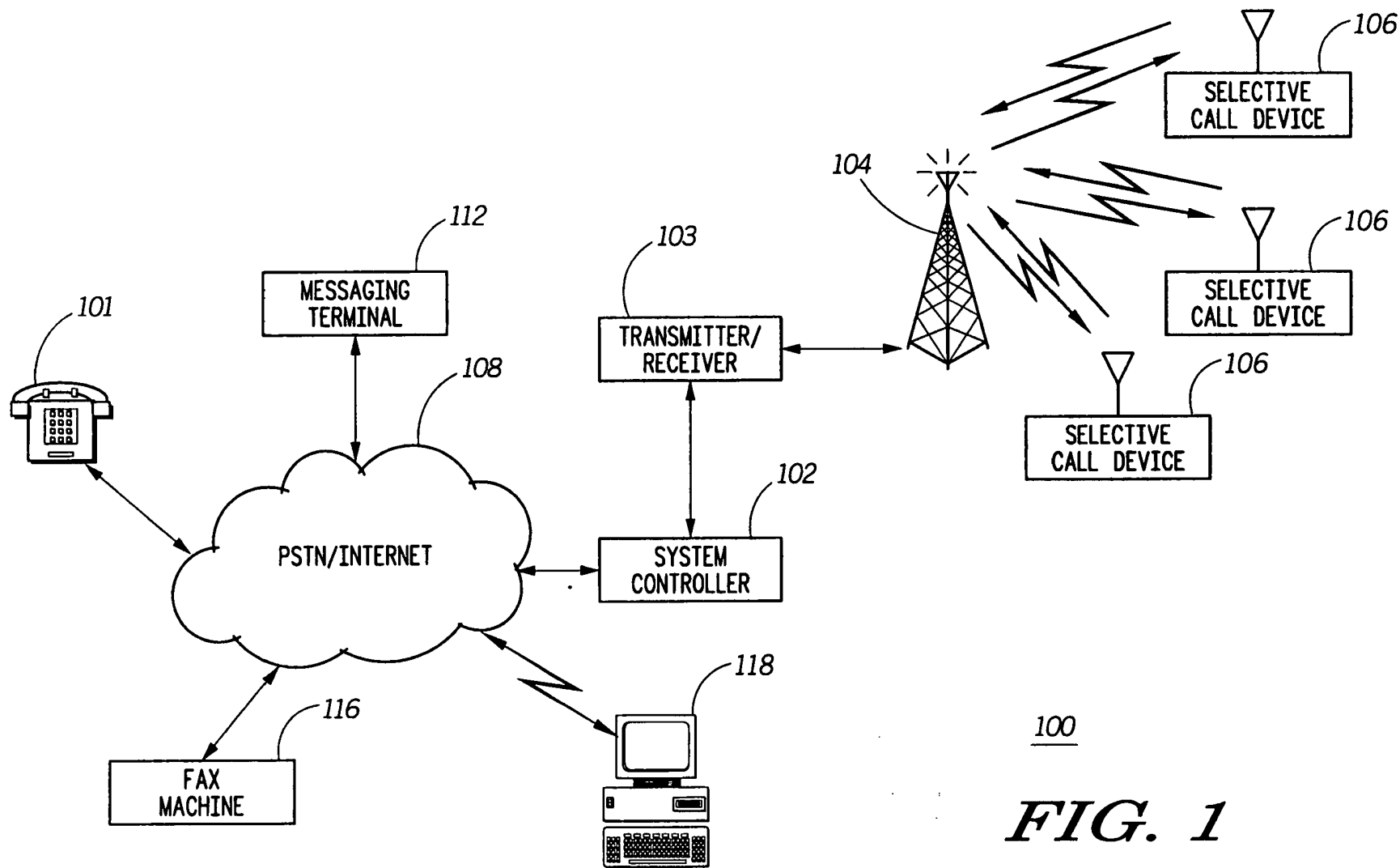
20 determining whether the response from an at least one identified destination device was received during the second time period.

20. The method according to claim 19 wherein the step of indicating indicates when message from the at least one destination device was not received within the second time period.

25

21. The method according to claim 16 wherein the step of designating a message as requiring a response comprises selecting an icon designated as a receipt response icon.

22. The method according to claim 16 wherein the step of designating a message as requiring a response further comprises including at least one "?" within the message.
- 5 23. The method according to claim 16 wherein the step of designating a message as requiring a response comprises selecting a switch for indicating when the response to the message is received.
- 10 24. The method according to claim 16 wherein the step of identifying identifies a recipient having more than one destination device to receive the message.
25. The method according to claim 24 wherein the step of indicating indicates when a message from the recipient was not received within the time period.



100
FIG. 1

2/3

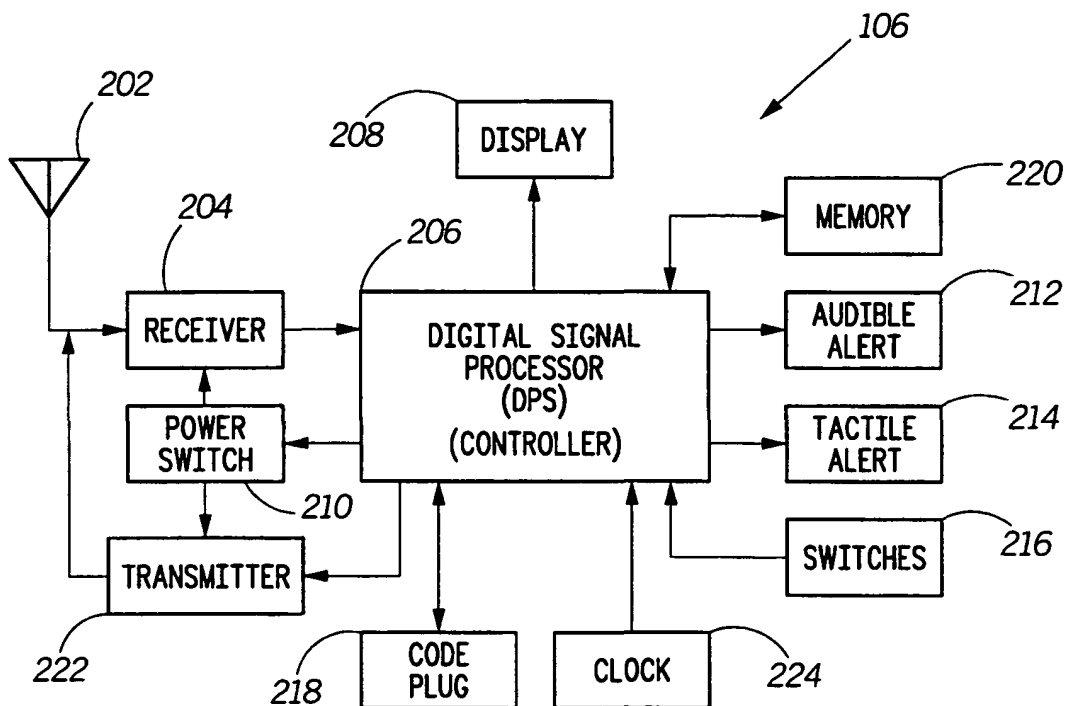
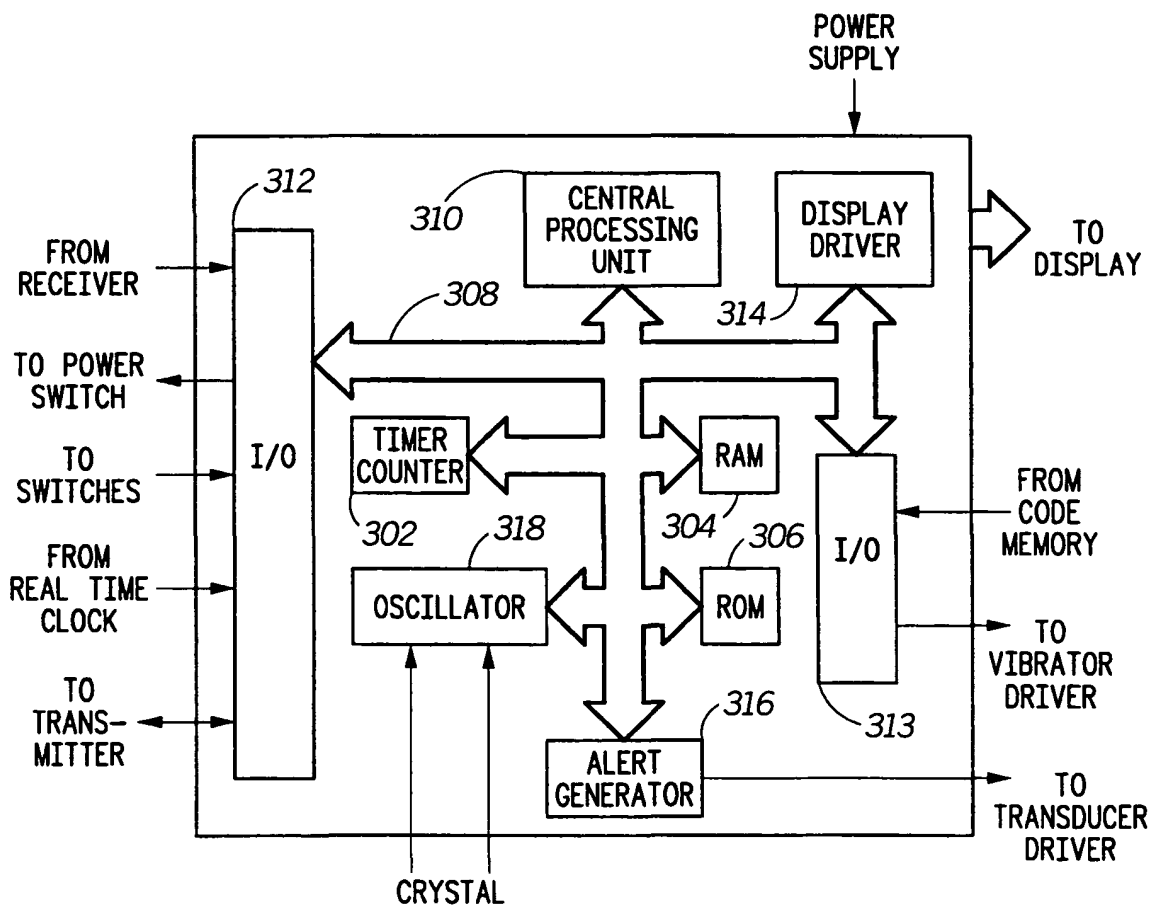


FIG. 2



206

FIG. 3

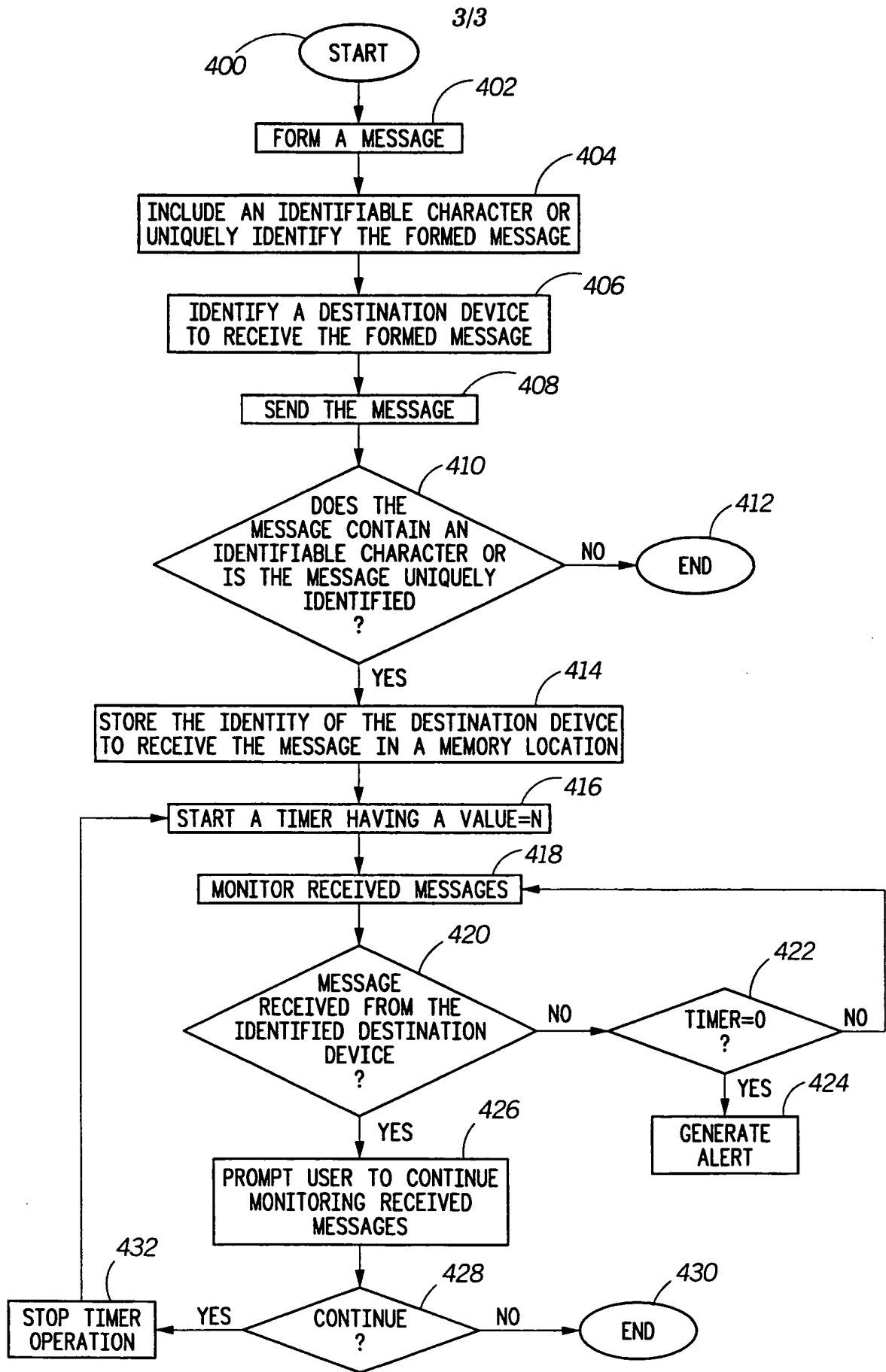


FIG. 4

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US00/26498

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC(7) : H04Q 7/00, 7/24; H04L 1/18
 US CL : 340/311.1, 313, 825.44; 455/31.3; 714/748, 749
 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. : 340/311.1, 313, 825.44; 455/31.3; 714/748, 749

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)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 4,940,963 A (GUTMAN et al) 10 July 1990, see entire document.	1-25
Y	US 5,526,401 A (ROACH, Jr. et al) 11 June 1996, see entire document.	1-25
Y	US 5,920,576 A (EATON et al) 06 July 1999, see entire document.	1-25

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	*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
A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	*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
E earlier document published on or after the international filing date	*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
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)	* & * document member of the same patent family
O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
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 15 NOVEMBER 2000	Date of mailing of the international search report 27 DEC 2000
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer YVES DALENCOURT <i>Kyryemira Zogor</i> Telephone No. (703) 308 - 8547

**Bescheid/Protokoll (Anlage)**Datum
Date 16.08.2007
Date**Communication/Minutes (Annex)**Blatt
Sheet 1
Feuille**Notification/Procès-verbal (Annexe)**Anmelde-Nr.:
Application No.: 04 786 633.0
Demande n°:

The examination is being carried out on the **following application documents**:

Description, Pages

1, 3-12	as published			
2	received on	18.12.2006	with letter of	14.12.2006

Claims, Numbers

1-10	filed with telefax on	21.05.2007
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Drawings, Sheets

1/7-7/7	as published
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1. It comes to the attention of the Examining Division that the following document, cited by the examiners' own knowledge (see the Guidelines, C-VI, 8.7), is relevant for the assessment of the inventive step of the subject-matter of the newly filed **independent claims 1 and 10**. A copy of the document is annexed to the present communication:

D2: WO 01/30091

The numbering will be adhered to in the rest of the procedure.

2. Taking into account the arguments filed by the Applicant with the letter of 18.02.2005, the Examining Division is still of the opinion that **independent claims 1, 12 and 16**



do not fulfil the requirements of Article 52(1) and 56 EPC for the following reasons:

- 2.1 Document **D1** (see in particular the passages cited in the search report) discloses, according to the main features of **claim 1**, a method of providing an output on at least one of a first electronic device and a second electronic device (see step 1250 in figure 9), the first electronic device being adapted to be in electronic communication with the second electronic device (see step 1205 in figure 9; see also figure 8 for message generation on a mobile device), the method comprising:
- determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device (see in particular paragraph 97);
 - outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication (see paragraph 77 and figure 6);
 - determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device (see paragraph 86); and
 - responsive to said determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed, outputting a colour representative of the first time (see in particular paragraph 102).

The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from the disclosure of document D1 in that document D1 outputs a certain colour rather than a time stamp after a predetermined period of time has elapsed, without specifying whether the displayed message has been replied to.

The problem to be solved by the present invention may therefore be regarded as how to make the user aware that a message is still waiting for a reply.

In consulting the prior art in the general field of messaging communication systems, the person skilled in the art, wishing to find a solution to overcome the above mentioned shortcoming and bearing in mind the disclosure of document D1, would come across document **D2** (see in particular figures 1 and 4), which discloses a method for alerting a user in case a message has not been replied to in a certain period of time.



The feature of outputting a timestamp as alert signe is merely one of the several straightforward possibilities from which the skilled person would select, in accordance with circumstances, without the exercise of inventive skill, in order to solve the problem posed.

For the person skilled in the art, therefore, starting from the method described in document D1 and being aware both of the above problem and of the **principle** of the solution described in document D2, it would be obvious to apply said principle to the method of document D1, in order to arrive at a method wherein the above problem has been overcome.

The skilled person would thus arrive, **without** the exercise of inventive skill, at the method corresponding to the subject-matter of claim 1.

The subject-matter of claim 1 therefore does **not** involve an inventive step, as defined in Articles 52(1) and 56 EPC, and thus claim 1 is **not** allowable.

- 2.2 The same considerations as made above in paragraph 2.1 regarding the method of claim 1 are in essence also valid for **independent claim 10**, since said claim is based on the same essential feature combination as claim 1 in terms of a device implementing each of the steps of the method of claim 1.

The subject-matter of claim 10 therefore does **not** involve an inventive step, Articles 52(1) and 56 EPC, and hence claim 10 is **not** allowable.

4. **Dependent claims 2 to 9** do not contain any additional features which, in combination with the features of the claims to which they respectively refer, involve an inventive step for the reason that the subject-matter of said claims is **either** in principle directly derivable from the disclosure of document **D1** or **D2** or represents simple design details which are generally known to the person skilled in the art.

Due to the above reasons, dependent claims 2 to 9 are **not** allowable, Articles 52(1)



and 56 EPC.

5. Should the Applicant intend to file a new set of claims, the following requirements should also be taken into consideration:
 - 5.1 To meet the requirements of Rule 27(1)(b) EPC, document **D2** should be acknowledged and briefly discussed in the opening part of the description.
 - 5.2 The opening part of the description should be modified to bring it into agreement with any new independent claim, Rule 27(1)(c) EPC.
6. Care should be taken during revision not to add subject-matter which extends beyond the content of the application as originally filed, Article 123(2) EPC.

In his letter of reply, the Applicant should indicate the parts of the originally filed application serving as a basis for subject-matter newly introduced into the claims.



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(Formalities and other matters)



Application No. 04 786 633.0 - 2416	Ref. P40430EP-K/JJH	Date 16.08.2007
Applicant Research In Motion Limited		

Communication pursuant to Article 96(2) EPC

The examination of the above-identified application has revealed that it does not meet the requirements of the European Patent Convention for the reasons enclosed herewith. If the deficiencies indicated are not rectified the application may be refused pursuant to Article 97(1) EPC.

You are invited to file your observations and insofar as the deficiencies are such as to be rectifiable, to correct the indicated deficiencies within a period

of 4 months

from the notification of this communication, this period being computed in accordance with Rules 78(2) and 83(2) and (4) EPC.

One set of amendments to the description, claims and drawings is to be filed within the said period on separate sheets (Rule 36(1) EPC).

Failure to comply with this invitation in due time will result in the application being deemed to be withdrawn (Article 96(3) EPC).



Lastoria, Gianluca
Primary Examiner
for the Examining Division

Enclosure(s): 4 page/s reasons (Form 2906)
WO01/30091



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Formalities Officer

Name: Filip

Tel.: 2861

Date

04-06-2007

Reference
P40430EP-K/JJH

Application No./Patent No.
04786633.0 - 2416

Applicant/Proprietor
Research In Motion Limited

Communication in response to letter dated 23.05.2007

Communication following telephone conversation of _____

Having regard to the current workload, it is expected that the Division will next communicate with you in respect of the above-mentioned application within 03 months time.

If you wish your application to be examined more quickly than the timeframe indicated above, please telephone the director concerned (see telephone number, below).

Telephone numbers:

Director 089/2399 2416

Primary examiner 089/2399 7339
(Substantive examination matters)

For the Examining Division



What is claimed is:

1. A method providing an output on at least one of a first electronic device (4) and a second electronic device (104), the first electronic device being adapted to be in electronic communication with the second electronic device, the method comprising:

determining that a first messaging communication (68) has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device;

outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication; characterised by

determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device; and

responsive to said determining that the predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device, outputting a first time stamp (84) representative of the first time.

2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent the first indication.

3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising determining that a second messaging communication has occurred at a second time between the first device and the second device, outputting a second indication that is representative of at least a portion of the second messaging communication, and outputting a second time stamp representative of the second time.

4. The method of Claim 3, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent the first indication, and outputting as the second time stamp a second time stamp disposed adjacent the second indication, one of the first time stamp and the second time stamp being disposed substantially between the first indication and the second indication, one of the first indication and the second indication being disposed substantially between the first time stamp and the second time stamp.

5. The method of Claim 3, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent the first indication, and outputting as the second time stamp a

second time stamp disposed adjacent the second indication, the first time stamp and the second time stamp being disposed substantially between the first indication and the second indication.

6. The method of Claim 3, further comprising outputting as the first indication a first linguistic output, outputting as the second indication a second linguistic output, outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent one of the beginning and the ending of the first linguistic output, and outputting as the second time stamp a second time stamp disposed adjacent the one of the beginning and the ending of the second linguistic output.

7. The method of Claim 3, further comprising outputting as the first indication a first linguistic output, outputting as the second indication a second linguistic output, outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent one of the beginning and the ending of the first linguistic output, and outputting as the second time stamp a second time stamp disposed adjacent the other of the beginning and the ending of the second linguistic output.

8. The method of Claim 1, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a time of day representative of the first time, detecting a change in date and, responsive to said detecting a change in date, outputting as the first time stamp a time of day and a date representative of the first time.

9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a relative time stamp representative of an elapsed time.

10. A handheld electronic (4) device adapted to be in electronic communication with another electronic device (104), the handheld electronic device comprising:

a processor apparatus (20) including a processor (52) and a memory (56);

an apparatus; and

an output apparatus;

the processor apparatus being adapted to receive input from the input apparatus and to provide output to the output apparatus;

the processor apparatus being adapted to determine that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the handheld electronic device and the another electronic device;

the output apparatus being adapted to output a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication; characterised by

the processor apparatus being adapted to determine that a predetermined period of time elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the handheld electronic device and the another electronic device; and

responsive to a determination that the predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the handheld electronic device and another electronic device, the output apparatus being adapted to output a first time stamp (84) representative of the first time.

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European Patent Office
Erhardtstrasse 27
D-80298 München
Germany

Our Ref: P40430EP-K/PH/CBJ/LF
Your Ref:

17 May 2007

Dear Sirs

European Patent Application No. 04786633.0-2416
In the name of Research In Motion Limited

In response to the communication pursuant to Article 96(2) EPC, dated 29 December 2006, we file amended pages 13-15 (including amended claims 1-10) to replace previous pages 13-16 (including previous claims 1-20).

Amended claims 1-10 correspond to previous claims 1-9 and 20, with clarificatory amendments made to amended claim 1 and 10 based upon page 7 and previous claims 1 and 10, for instance. Previous claims 10-19 have been deleted. The applicant hereby reserves the right to reinstate deleted subject matter and/or file divisional applications related thereto.

In the above-reference communication, the Examiner raises an objection to the section 2.1 pursuant to Article 84 EPC. The amended claims set includes only a single independent claim per claim category, addressing this objection.

Claim 1 of the present application recites "determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device", "determining that a predetermined period of time has been elapsed since the first time *substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device*", and "responsive to said determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed, outputting a first time stamp representative of the first time." In other words, in the method as claimed, the first time stamp representative of the first time which the first communication occurred is only output by the device if a predetermined period of time has in fact elapsed since that first time without any further communication occurring between the first device and the second device. In such a case,

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* Patent Attorney † Trade Mark Attorney ‡ Patent & Trade Mark Attorney

the first messaging communication is determined to have been a “non-responded to” message. Claim 10 recites a handheld electronic device which is adapted to implement the method of claim 1.

There is no disclosure in D1 (US 2003/060240) of determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since a first time substantially without further communication between first and second devices. Indeed, no reference is made in D1 to “non-responded to” messages at all. Further, there is no disclosure in D1 of, responsive to such a determination that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time without further communication between the first and second devices, outputting a first time stamp representative of the first time. Rather in D1, a time identifier is included in each image message that is received irrespective of the responded/non-responded status of an outgoing message (not determined in D1). The invention of amended claim 1 is thus novel over disclosures of D1.

The present invention, as reflected in claims 1 and 10, relates to messaging conversations that may occur between two electronic devices. In particular, when messages are displayed on a device, the time of the message is not always displayed along with the message itself. Instead, a determination is made as to whether each message is a “non-responded to” message (see page 7 of the present application) by determining whether a predetermined duration of time has expired after the transmission of the message in which substantially no additional communication occurs between the two devices. If a message is determined to be such a “non-responded to” message, then and only then (see page 7 lines 10-24) is a time stamp output on the device which indicates the time of that message. The selective outputting of a time stamp only after the expiration of the predetermined duration of which no other communication occurs in the manner just described is advantageous as it saves space on the display of the electronic device, which space is often limited, as described on page 7 lines 25-28.

The problem with D1 is that it suffers from restriction of space in the displaying of information of time that the present invention addresses.

D1 describes a system wherein mobile devices are able to engage in non-verbal communications with one another using image messages that include one or more images – (Paragraph 64). In particular, a user of a mobile device is able to create a message by selecting one or more images from a number of image options that are provided on the screen of the mobile device. When the user finishes selecting images and activates an enter button, an image message including the selected images is sent to another mobile device. In addition, the image message also typically includes an identification of the sender and a time that the image message was sent (see Figure 7 which illustrates an exemplary format for an image message that includes time information 1040 which is an alpha-numeric character or string that identifies when the image message was sent) – (Paragraphs 71, 72, 83 and 86). Figure 6 illustrates what the received image messages may look like on the receiving mobile device. In particular, figure 6 shows six received image messages with cache message including four images and indicating the identity of the sender of the message. Furthermore, the system in D1 provides for indicating on the receiving mobile device either (1)

the time that has elapsed since a particular image message was sent to the receiving device, or (2) the actual time that a particular image message was sent to the receiving device.

As noted in D1, the receiving mobile device is able to compute and/or display these times based upon the time identifier 1040 that is included in each image message that is received. This contrasts the selective outputting at the present invention. Furthermore, the "relative age" (*i.e.* how long the message has been sitting on the receiving device) of each received message may be indicated on the receiving mobile device by illuminating each message with a particular colour wherein the colours are keyed to the time that has elapsed since each message was received. The colours for each message may over time be changed to depict the advanced age of each received message. However, as indicated by the Examiner, the outputting itself is not conditioned upon a predetermined period of no communication *i.e.* the characterisation of the outgoing message as a "non responded to" message. Nowhere does D1 even describe a step wherein a determination is made as to whether a certain predetermined amount of time elapsed since a first communication has occurred without any further communication taking place between two devices and, responsive to a determination that such a predetermined period of time has in fact elapsed (*e.g.* a message is determined to be a "non-responded to" message), outputting a time stamp that represents the time at which the first message occurred. The Examiner attempted to equate the colour coding from D1 just described to the determining step of claim 1.

However, it is apparent that contrary to the Examiner's statements the colours merely indicate how long a message has been "sitting on" a receiving mobile device and are in no way determined based upon whether a predetermined amount of time has elapsed since a message occurred without any further communication between two devices having occurred as is claimed.

The independent amended claims have been placed in two part form with respect to the disclosures of D1, and reference numerals included with the claims. The description is in line with the amended claims, and D1 is acknowledged in the description.

In the event the Examiner intends to raise any further objections, we would be grateful if these could be detailed in a communication pursuant to Article 96(2) EPC. In the event the Examiner intends to refuse this application, Oral Proceedings hereby are requested. A further PACE request accompanies this response.

Yours faithfully



BRYN-JACOBSEN, Caelia
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outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication; characterised by

determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device;

and

responsive to said determining that the predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device, outputting a first time stamp (84) representative of the first time.

2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent the first indication.

3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising determining that a second messaging communication has occurred at a second time between the first device and the second device, outputting a second indication that is representative of at least a portion of the second messaging communication, and outputting a second time stamp representative of the second time.

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the output apparatus being adapted to output a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication; characterised by

the processor apparatus being adapted to determine that a predetermined period of time elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the handheld electronic device and the another electronic device; and

responsive to a determination that the predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the handheld electronic device and another electronic device, the output apparatus being adapted to output a first time stamp (84) representative of the first time.

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17 May 2007

Dear Sirs

European Patent Application No. 04786633.0-2416
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Received at the EPO on May 21, 2007 13:01:01. Page 1 of 6
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Page 203 of 346

the first messaging communication is determined to have been a “non-responded to” message. Claim 10 recites a handheld electronic device which is adapted to implement the method of claim 1.

There is no disclosure in D1 (US 2003/060240) of determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since a first time substantially without further communication between first and second devices. Indeed, no reference is made in D1 to “non-responded to” messages at all. Further, there is no disclosure in D1 of, responsive to such a determination that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time without further communication between the first and second devices, outputting a first time stamp representative of the first time. Rather in D1, a time identifier is included in each image message that is received irrespective of the responded/non-responded status of an outgoing message (not determined in D1). The invention of amended claim 1 is thus novel over disclosures of D1.

The present invention, as reflected in claims 1 and 10, relates to messaging conversations that may occur between two electronic devices. In particular, when messages are displayed on a device, the time of the message is not always displayed along with the message itself. Instead, a determination is made as to whether each message is a “non-responded to” message (see page 7 of the present application) by determining whether a predetermined duration of time has expired after the transmission of the message in which substantially no additional communication occurs between the two devices. If a message is determined to be such a “non-responded to” message, then and only then (see page 7 lines 10-24) is a time stamp output on the device which indicates the time of that message. The selective outputting of a time stamp only after the expiration of the predetermined duration of which no other communication occurs in the manner just described is advantageous as it saves space on the display of the electronic device, which space is often limited, as described on page 7 lines 25-28.

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Kilburn & Strode

Page 3

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FAX TRANSMISSION Page 1 of 6

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17 May 2007

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Page 2

the first messaging communication is determined to have been a "non-responded to" message. Claim 10 recites a handheld electronic device which is adapted to implement the method of claim 1.

There is no disclosure in D1 (US 2003/060240) of determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since a first time substantially without further communication between first and second devices. Indeed, no reference is made in D1 to "non-responded to" messages at all. Further, there is no disclosure in D1 of, responsive to such a determination that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time without further communication between the first and second devices, outputting a first time stamp representative of the first time. Rather in D1, a time identifier is included in each image message that is received irrespective of the responded/non-responded status of an outgoing message (not determined in D1). The invention of amended claim 1 is thus novel over disclosures of D1.

The present invention, as reflected in claims 1 and 10, relates to messaging conversations that may occur between two electronic devices. In particular, when messages are displayed on a device, the time of the message is not always displayed along with the message itself. Instead, a determination is made as to whether each message is a "non-responded to" message (see page 7 of the present application) by determining whether a predetermined duration of time has expired after the transmission of the message in which substantially no additional communication occurs between the two devices. If a message is determined to be such a "non-responded to" message, then and only then (see page 7 lines 10-24) is a time stamp output on the device which indicates the time of that message. The selective outputting of a time stamp only after the expiration of the predetermined duration of which no other communication occurs in the manner just described is advantageous as it saves space on the display of the electronic device, which space is often limited, as described on page 7 lines 25-28.

The problem with D1 is that it suffers from restriction of space in the displaying of information of time that the present invention addresses.

D1 describes a system wherein mobile devices are able to engage in non-verbal communications with one another using image messages that include one or more images – (Paragraph 64). In particular, a user of a mobile device is able to create a message by selecting one or more images from a number of image options that are provided on the screen of the mobile device. When the user finishes selecting images and activates an enter button, an image message including the selected images is sent to another mobile device. In addition, the image message also typically includes an identification of the sender and a time that the image message was sent (see Figure 7 which illustrates an exemplary format for an image message that includes time information 1040 which is an alpha-numeric character or string that identifies when the image message was sent) – (Paragraphs 71, 72, 83 and 86). Figure 6 illustrates what the received image messages may look like on the receiving mobile device. In particular, figure 6 shows six received image messages with cache message including four images and indicating the identity of the sender of the message. Furthermore, the system in D1 provides for indicating on the receiving mobile device either (1)

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Page 3

the time that has elapsed since a particular image message was sent to the receiving device, or (2) the actual time that a particular image message was sent to the receiving device.

As noted in D1, the receiving mobile device is able to compute and/or display these times based upon the time identifier 1040 that is included in each image message that is received. This contrasts the selective outputting at the present invention. Furthermore, the "relative age" (*i.e.* how long the message has been sitting on the receiving device) of each received message may be indicated on the receiving mobile device by illuminating each message with a particular colour wherein the colours are keyed to the time that has elapsed since each message was received. The colours for each message may over time be changed to depict the advanced age of each received message. However, as indicated by the Examiner, the outputting itself is not conditioned upon a predetermined period of no communication *i.e.* the characterisation of the outgoing message as a "non responded to" message. Nowhere does D1 even describe a step wherein a determination is made as to whether a certain predetermined amount of time elapsed since a first communication has occurred without any further communication taking place between two devices and, responsive to a determination that such a predetermined period of time has in fact elapsed (*e.g.* a message is determined to be a "non-responded to" message), outputting a time stamp that represents the time at which the first message occurred. The Examiner attempted to equate the colour coding from D1 just described to the determining step of claim 1.

However, it is apparent that contrary to the Examiner's statements the colours merely indicate how long a message has been "sitting on" a receiving mobile device and are in no way determined based upon whether a predetermined amount of time has elapsed since a message occurred without any further communication between two devices having occurred as is claimed.

The independent amended claims have been placed in two part form with respect to the disclosures of D1, and reference numerals included with the claims. The description is in line with the amended claims, and D1 is acknowledged in the description.

In the event the Examiner intends to raise any further objections, we would be grateful if these could be detailed in a communication pursuant to Article 96(2) EPC. The event the Examiner intends to refuse this application, Oral Proceedings hereby are requested. A further PACE request accompanies this response.

Yours faithfully



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Formalities Officer

Name: Filip

Tel.: 2861

Date
26.04.07

Reference P40430EP-K/JJH	Application No./Patent No. 04786633.0 - 2416
Applicant/Proprietor Research In Motion Limited	

Extension of time limit pursuant to Rule 84 EPC

Examination procedure

With reference to your request, the time limit for replying to the communication dated 29.12.06 has been extended

by 2 months

to a total of 6 months

from the date of notification of the above-mentioned communication.

Please note: To the extent that your request exceeded the above extension, your request has been refused.

Note:

The granting of extensions to time limits is governed by the implementing Regulations to the EPC and the Guidelines for Examination in the EPO, part E-VIII, 1.6.

If no reply to the communication is received in due time, the European patent application will be deemed to be withdrawn (Article 96(3) EPC).

Examining Division



FAX TRANSMISSION Page 1 of 1

European Patent Office
Erhardtstrasse 27
D-80298 München
Germany

**EPO - Munich
39
25. April 2007**

Our Ref: P40430EP-K/PH/CB-J/AJE
Your Ref:

19 April 2007

Dear Sirs

European Patent Application No. 04786633.0-2416
In the name of Research In Motion Limited

I hereby request a further two month extension to the period to reply to the Art 96(2) communication dated 29 December 2006.

Yours faithfully



BRYN-JACOBSEN, Caelia
Additional Authorised Representative
Kilburn & Strode

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**Bescheid/Protokoll (Anlage)**Datum
Date 29.12.2006
Date**Communication/Minutes (Annex)**Blatt
Sheet 1
Feuille**Notification/Procès-verbal (Annexe)**Anmelde-Nr.:
Application No.: 04 786 633.0
Demande n°:

The examination is being carried out on the **following application documents**:

Description, Pages

1, 3-12	as published			
2	received on	18.12.2006	with letter of	14.12.2006

Claims, Numbers

1-9, 10(part), 18(part) filed with entry into the regional phase before the EPO
, 19, 20

10(part), 11-17, 18 (part)	received on	18.12.2006	with letter of	14.12.2006
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Drawings, Sheets

1/7-7/7 as published

1. The following documents are referred to in this communication; the numbering will be adhered to in the rest of the procedure:

D1: US 2003/060240 A1 (GRAHAM TYROL R ET AL) 27 March 2003 (2003-03-27)

2. The claims do, for the following reasons, **not** meet the requirements of Article 84 EPC in respect of clarity:
 - 2.1 The various definitions of the method given in **independent claims 1, 10 and 18** are such that the claims as a whole are **not concise**, contrary to Article 84 EPC. Moreover, lack of clarity of the claims as a whole arises, since the plurality of independent claims makes it difficult, if not impossible, to determine the matter for



which protection is sought, and places an undue burden on others seeking to establish the extent of the protection.

Under Article 84 in combination with Rule 29(2) EPC an application may contain more than one independent claim in a particular category only if the claimed subject-matter falls within one or more of the exceptional situations set out in paragraphs (a), (b) or (c) of Rule 29(2) EPC.

In the present case, the independent claims do **not** meet this requirement, since claims 10 and 18 include the same feature combination of claim 1, with the small difference that in claim 10 the time stamp is displayed after detecting a predetermined action rather than after a time interval is elapsed.

The applicant is requested to file an amended set of claims which complies with Rule 29(2) EPC. Failure to do so, or to submit convincing arguments as to why the current set of claims does in fact comply with these provisions, will lead to refusal of the application under Article 97(1) EPC.

- 2.2 Since it is not known at the present stage how the Applicant would amend independent claims 10 and 18 in order to comply with the conciseness objections at point 2.1 above, independent claims 10 and 18 will not be examined with regard to novelty and inventive step.
3. In so far as the present text can be understood, the present application does not meet the requirements of Articles 52(1) and 56 EPC because the subject-matter of the claims does not involve an inventive step
 - 3.1 Document **D1** (see in particular the passages cited in the search report) discloses, according to the main features of **claim 1**, a method of providing an output on at least one of a first electronic device and a second electronic device (see step 1250 in figure 9), the first electronic device being adapted to be in electronic communication with the second electronic device (see step 1205 in figure 9; see also figure 8 for message generation on a mobile device), the method comprising:



- determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device (see in particular paragraph 97);
- outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication (see paragraph 77 and figure 6);
- determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device (see paragraph 86); and
- responsive to said determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed, outputting a colour representative of the first time (see in particular paragraph 102).

The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from the disclosure of document D1 in that document D1 outputs a certain colour rather than a time stamp after a predetermined period of time has elapsed.

Therefore, document D1 discloses an alternative solution to the problem of rendering a user aware that a received messages is aging.

However, the feature of outputting a time stamp is merely one of the several straightforward possibilities from which the skilled person would select, in accordance with circumstances, without the exercise of inventive skill, in order to solve the problem posed.

The subject-matter of claim 1 therefore does **not** involve an inventive step, as defined in Articles 52(1) and 56 EPC, and thus claim 1 is **not** allowable.

It should furthermore be noted that:

- document D1 teaches the output of a time stamp or an elapsed time (see in particular paragraph 86), however, it is not clear whether the output is conditioned by the age of the received message.
- the feature in which document D1 and the subject-matter of claim 1 differ, namely the using of colour code or displaying a time stamp, could be considered merely relating to a presentation of information (Article 52(2)(d) EPC).



- 3.2 The same considerations as made above in paragraph 3.1 regarding the method of claim 1 are in essence also valid for **independent claim 20**, since said claim is based on the same essential feature combination as claim 1 in terms of a device implementing each of the steps of the method of claim 1.

The subject-matter of claim 20 therefore does **not** involve an inventive step, Articles 52(1) and 56 EPC, and hence claim 20 is **not** allowable.

4. **Dependent claims 2 to 9, 11 to 17 and 19** do not contain any additional features which, in combination with the features of the claims to which they respectively refer, involve an inventive step for the reason that the subject-matter of said claims is **either** in principle directly derivable from the disclosure of document **D1** or represents simple design details which are generally known to the person skilled in the art.

Due to the above reasons, dependent claims 2 to 9, 11 to 17 and 19 are **not** allowable, Articles 52(1) and 56 EPC.

5. It is not at present apparent which part of the application could serve as a basis for a new, allowable claim. Should the Applicant nevertheless regard some particular matter as patentable, an independent claim should be filed taking account of Rule 29(1) EPC. The Applicant is requested to indicate in the letter of reply the difference of the subject-matter of the new claim vis-à-vis the state of the art and the significance thereof (i.e. particular advantages).
6. Should the Applicant intend to file a new set of claims, the following requirements should also be taken into consideration:
- 6.1 To meet the requirements of Rule 29(1) EPC any new independent claim should be properly cast in the **two-part form**, when such a form does not turn out to be too artificial and inappropriate, with those features which in combination are part of the



closest prior art being placed in the preamble.

- 6.2 **Reference signs** in parentheses should be inserted in the claims to increase their intelligibility, Rule 29(7) EPC. This applies to both the preamble and characterising portion (see the Guidelines, C-III, 4.11).
- 6.3 To meet the requirements of Rule 27(1)(b) EPC, document **D1** should be acknowledged and briefly discussed in the opening part of the description.
- 6.4 The opening part of the description should be modified to bring it into agreement with any new independent claim, Rule 27(1)(c) EPC.
7. Care should be taken during revision not to add subject-matter which extends beyond the content of the application as originally filed, Article 123(2) EPC.

In his letter of reply, the Applicant should indicate the parts of the originally filed application serving as a basis for subject-matter newly introduced into the claims.



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(Formalities and other matters)



Application No. 04 786 633.0 - 2416	Ref. P40430EP-K/JJH	Date 29.12.2006
Applicant Research In Motion Limited		

Communication pursuant to Article 96(2) EPC

The examination of the above-identified application has revealed that it does not meet the requirements of the European Patent Convention for the reasons enclosed herewith. If the deficiencies indicated are not rectified the application may be refused pursuant to Article 97(1) EPC.

You are invited to file your observations and insofar as the deficiencies are such as to be rectifiable, to correct the indicated deficiencies within a period

of 4 months

from the notification of this communication, this period being computed in accordance with Rules 78(2) and 83(2) and (4) EPC.

One set of amendments to the description, claims and drawings is to be filed within the said period on separate sheets (Rule 36(1) EPC).

Failure to comply with this invitation in due time will result in the application being deemed to be withdrawn (Article 96(3) EPC).



Lastoria, Gianluca
Primary Examiner
for the Examining Division

Enclosure(s): 5 page/s reasons (Form 2906)

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Celebrating 100 years in 2006

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EPO - Munich
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19. Dez. 2006

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Our Ref: P40430EP-K/JJH/CB-J/AJE
Your Ref:

14 December 2006

Dear Sirs

European Patent Application No. 04786633.0-2416
In the name of Research In Motion Limited

By way of voluntary amendment after issue of the search report dated 17 August 2006, please find enclosed amended pages 2 and 15 (including amended claim 10) to replace previous pages 2 and 15 (including previous claim 10). Amendments to claim 10 are based upon previous claim 1. Remaining claims 1 to 9, part of claim 10 appearing on page 14 and claims 11 to 20 remain unamended by this response. It is requested that examination of this application be conducted on the basis of the amendments filed herewith, in view of the following comments.

The search report makes reference to D1 (US 2003/060240 A1) as being considered relevant to the previous independent claims. The invention of the independent claims relates to an improved handheld electronic device and an associated method in which time data pertaining to certain aspects of a messaging conversation on handheld electronic devices are made available to a user. The method addresses the problem discussed on pages 2 and 3 of not being able to display time data owing to the amount of display area. The solution recited in the independent claims is to output time data in response to determining that a predetermined period or first period of idle time has elapsed (claims 1 and 10) or in response to an input from a user (claim 18). Claim 20 includes corresponding technical features to independent claim 1.

Turning to the disclosures of D1, D1 relates to wireless mobile image messaging, in which when a message incorporates image data, such image data includes a time in which a message was sent. There is no disclosure in D1 of outputting a time indication in response to a determination that a predetermined period or first period of idle time has elapsed since a first messaging

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Partnership Secretary: B.Collins Records: M.R.Jenkins Accounts: B.J.Nutchey
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communication has occurred, or of outputting the time indication in response to a predetermined input from a user. Indeed, there is no disclosure of any comparison of a passage of time or a detection of a predetermined input in D1. The invention of the independent claims is therefore novel over the disclosures of D1.

D1 suffers from the problem of limited space for display of timing information. A skilled person would not consider the solution of the present independent claims given the disclosures of D1. There is no suggestion in D1 of determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the occurrence of a messaging communication, or outputting a time stamp or any other indication of the time at which a message was sent or received in response to determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed. No comparison of the passage of time since any transmission or receipt of any message to any predetermined period of time takes place in D1. In D1, any outputting of an indication of time regarding a message is conditioned solely on the incorporation of an image into that message, such that if an image is so incorporated, then an indication of the time of which the message was sent is automatically output (see paragraph 99).

As identified by the present application, the amount of viewable space on the display of a handheld electronic device is quite limited, and therefore highly valuable. The method of D1 therefore suffers from the very problem that the present invention addresses, and the automatic display of such a timing output would lead the skilled person away from the claimed invention. The disclosures in paragraph 78 further serve to emphasize that in D1 there is display of an indication of whether a message is sent, and this is not linked in any way to detection of a predetermined idle period of time since the occurrence of the messaging communication, of a first idle period of time, or of detection of a predetermined user input. It is the counterintuitive requirement for the determination/detection of these further variables which define such an inventive step over the automatic generation of D1. The invention of the claims is therefore inventive over the disclosures of the cited prior art.

It is noted with regard to Rule 29(2) EPC, that the presence of three independent method claim is consistent with the presence of alternative solutions to the same problem, and that all independent claims are in unity.

The description has been amended to bring it in line with the claims, and D1 acknowledged in the description. Regarding two-part form, the use of two-part form is not considered suitable in the present case so a single-part form has been maintained so as not to give a distorted or misleading picture of the invention or prior art. The acknowledgement of the prior art has been given in terms of the prior art document itself. Accordingly, a sufficiently clear indication of the prior art has been made in the description to meet the requirements of Rule 27(1)(b) EPC, and therefore the discretion of the Examiner is requested in not insisting upon two-part form of claims (see guidelines part C Chapter III 2.3).

Should the Examiner wish to maintain any objections, we would be grateful if these could be discussed in a communication pursuant to Article 96(2) EPC.

In the event the Examiner intends to refuse this application, Oral Proceedings are hereby requested.

Yours faithfully



BRYN-JACOBSEN, Caelia
Authorised Representative

Kilburn & Strode

Encs.

detecting a predetermined input from a user of at least one of the first electronic device and the second electronic device; and

responsive to said detecting a predetermined input, outputting a first time stamp representative of the first time.

5

11. The method of Claim 10, further comprising detecting as the predetermined input a predetermined input to the first electronic device, and outputting as the first indication a first indication on the second electronic device.

10

12. The method of Claim 10, further comprising detecting as the predetermined input a movement of a cursor to a location one of adjacent and overlapping the first indication.

13. The method of Claim 12, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent the first indication.

15

14. The method of Claim 12, further comprising detecting another input and, responsive to said detecting another input, removing the first time stamp.

20

15. The method of Claim 12, further comprising detecting an expiration of a predetermined duration of time and, responsive to said detecting an expiration of a predetermined-duration of time, removing the first time stamp.

25

16. The method of Claim 10, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a time of day representative of the first time, detecting a change in date and, responsive to said detecting a change in date, outputting as the first time stamp a time of day and a date representative of the first time.

30

17. The method of Claim 10, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a relative time stamp representative of an elapsed time.

18. A method of providing an output on at least one of a first electronic device and a second electronic device, the first electronic device being adapted to be in electronic communication with a second electronic device, the method comprising:

In this example, incoming messages are indicated by a greater than" > "mathematical symbol, and outgoing messages are indicated by a less than" < "mathematical symbol. If the conversation continues quickly, i. e. , substantially without interruption, the messages do not need a time stamp on them. In the environment of a handheld electronic device, it would be desirable to avoid unnecessary time stamps and other unnecessary output since it occupies too much valuable space on the limited display of the handheld electronic device.

In some messaging circumstances, however, it may be desirable for information regarding certain timing aspects of conversation to be available to a user. Nevertheless, the limited space available on a display of a handheld electronic device has made a solution difficult. It thus would be desirable to provide an improved handheld electronic device and an associated method that provide time data in a messaging environment.

US 2003/060240 relates to wireless mobile image messaging.

The present invention is set out in the independent claims with optional features set out in the claims dependent thereto.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

An improved handheld electronic device and an associated method are provided in which time data regarding certain aspects of a messaging conversation on a handheld electronic device are made available to a user. Such time data is provided, for instance, in situations where an interruption has occurred during a messaging conversation. Time data can also be provided to a user on demand in certain circumstances.

Accordingly, an aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device and a method in which data regarding the times at which certain communications have occurred in a messaging environment are made available to a user.

Another aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device and a method that enable a user to be made aware of certain timing aspects of a conversation in a messaging environment.

Another aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device and a method in which data regarding the times at which certain communications have occurred are made available to a user while limiting the amount of display area that is occupied by such data.

Another aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device and a method in which data can be provided regarding the elapsed time since a communication.

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Celebrating 100 years in 2006

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In the name of Research In Motion Limited

By way of voluntary amendment after issue of the search report dated 17 August 2006, please find enclosed amended pages 2 and 15 (including amended claim 10) to replace previous pages 2 and 15 (including previous claim 10). Amendments to claim 10 are based upon previous claim 1. Remaining claims 1 to 9, part of claim 10 appearing on page 14 and claims 11 to 20 remain unamended by this response. It is requested that examination of this application be conducted on the basis of the amendments filed herewith, in view of the following comments.

The search report makes reference to D1 (US 2003/060240 A1) as being considered relevant to the previous independent claims. The invention of the independent claims relates to an improved handheld electronic device and an associated method in which time data pertaining to certain aspects of a messaging conversation on handheld electronic devices are made available to a user. The method addresses the problem discussed on pages 2 and 3 of not being able to display time data owing to the amount of display area. The solution recited in the independent claims is to output time data in response to determining that a predetermined period or first period of idle time has elapsed (claims 1 and 10) or in response to an input from a user (claim 18). Claim 20 includes corresponding technical features to independent claim 1.

Turning to the disclosures of D1, D1 relates to wireless mobile image messaging, in which when a message incorporates image data, such image data includes a time in which a message was sent. There is no disclosure in D1 of outputting a time indication in response to a determination that a predetermined period or first period of idle time has elapsed since a first messaging

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A.T.Korenberg * I.A.Stewart † Consultants: Alison C.Roberts * Ann B.Addison * J.J.G.Hibbert *
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535752v1

Received at the EPO on Dec 18, 2006 10:40:08. Page 1 of 5

Page 227 of 346

communication has occurred, or of outputting the time indication in response to a predetermined input from a user. Indeed, there is no disclosure of any comparison of a passage of time or a detection of a predetermined input in D1. The invention of the independent claims is therefore novel over the disclosures of D1.

D1 suffers from the problem of limited space for display of timing information. A skilled person would not consider the solution of the present independent claims given the disclosures of D1. There is no suggestion in D1 of determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the occurrence of a messaging communication, or outputting a time stamp or any other indication of the time at which a message was sent or received in response to determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed. No comparison of the passage of time since any transmission or receipt of any message to any predetermined period of time takes place in D1. In D1, any outputting of an indication of time regarding a message is conditioned solely on the incorporation of an image into that message, such that if an image is so incorporated, then an indication of the time of which the message was sent is automatically output (see paragraph 99).

As identified by the present application, the amount of viewable space on the display of a handheld electronic device is quite limited, and therefore highly valuable. The method of D1 therefore suffers from the very problem that the present invention addresses, and the automatic display of such a timing output would lead the skilled person away from the claimed invention. The disclosures in paragraph 78 further serve to emphasize that in D1 there is display of an indication of whether a message is sent, and this is not linked in any way to detection of a predetermined idle period of time since the occurrence of the messaging communication, of a first idle period of time, or of detection of a predetermined user input. It is the counterintuitive requirement for the determination/detection of these further variables which define such an inventive step over the automatic generation of D1. The invention of the claims is therefore inventive over the disclosures of the cited prior art.

It is noted with regard to Rule 29(2) EPC, that the presence of three independent method claim is consistent with the presence of alternative solutions to the same problem, and that all independent claims are in unity.

The description has been amended to bring it in line with the claims, and D1 acknowledged in the description. Regarding two-part form, the use of two-part form is not considered suitable in the present case so a single-part form has been maintained so as not to give a distorted or misleading picture of the invention or prior art. The acknowledgement of the prior art has been given in terms of the prior art document itself. Accordingly, a sufficiently clear indication of the prior art has been made in the description to meet the requirements of Rule 27(1)(b) EPC, and therefore the discretion of the Examiner is requested in not insisting upon two-part form of claims (see guidelines part C Chapter III 2.3).

Should the Examiner wish to maintain any objections, we would be grateful if these could be discussed in a communication pursuant to Article 96(2) EPC.

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Page 3

In the event the Examiner intends to refuse this application, Oral Proceedings are hereby requested.

Yours faithfully



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In this example, incoming messages are indicated by a greater than" > "mathematical symbol, and outgoing messages are indicated by a less than" < "mathematical symbol. If the conversation continues quickly, i. e. , substantially without interruption, the messages do not need a time stamp on them. In the environment of a handheld electronic device, it would be desirable to avoid unnecessary time stamps and other unnecessary output since it occupies too much valuable space on the limited display of the handheld electronic device.

In some messaging circumstances, however, it may be desirable for information regarding certain timing aspects of conversation to be available to a user. Nevertheless, the limited space available on a display of a handheld electronic device has made a solution difficult. It thus would be desirable to provide an improved handheld electronic device and an associated method that provide time data in a messaging environment.

US 2003/060240 relates to wireless mobile image messaging.

The present invention is set out in the independent claims with optional features set out in the claims dependent thereto.

15 DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

An improved handheld electronic device and an associated method are provided in which time data regarding certain aspects of a messaging conversation on a handheld electronic device are made available to a user. Such time data is provided, for instance, in situations where an interruption has occurred during a messaging conversation. Time data can also be provided to a user on demand in certain circumstances.

Accordingly, an aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device and a method in which data regarding the times at which certain communications have occurred in a messaging environment are made available to a user.

Another aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device and a method that enable a user to be made aware of certain timing aspects of a conversation in a messaging environment.

Another aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device and a method in which data regarding the times at which certain communications have occurred are made available to a user while limiting the amount of display area that is occupied by such data.

Another aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device and a method in which data can be provided regarding the elapsed time since a communication.

detecting a predetermined input from a user of at least one of the first electronic device and the second electronic device; and

responsive to said detecting a predetermined input, outputting a first time stamp representative of the first time.

5

11. The method of Claim 10, further comprising detecting as the predetermined input a predetermined input to the first electronic device, and outputting as the first indication a first indication on the second electronic device.

10

12. The method of Claim 10, further comprising detecting as the predetermined input a movement of a cursor to a location one of adjacent and overlapping the first indication.

13. The method of Claim 12, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent the first indication.

15

14. The method of Claim 12, further comprising detecting another input and, responsive to said detecting another input, removing the first time stamp.

20

15. The method of Claim 12, further comprising detecting an expiration of a predetermined duration of time and, responsive to said detecting an expiration of a predetermined-duration of time, removing the first time stamp.

25

16. The method of Claim 10, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a time of day representative of the first time, detecting a change in date and, responsive to said detecting a change in date, outputting as the first time stamp a time of day and a date representative of the first time.

30

17. The method of Claim 10, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a relative time stamp representative of an elapsed time.

18. A method of providing an output on at least one of a first electronic device and a second electronic device, the first electronic device being adapted to be in electronic communication with a second electronic device, the method comprising:

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Our Ref: **P40430EP-K/JJH/CB-J/AJE**
Your Ref:

14 December 2006

Dear Sirs

European Patent Application No. 04786633.0-2416
In the name of Research In Motion Limited

By way of voluntary amendment after issue of the search report dated 17 August 2006, please find enclosed amended pages 2 and 15 (including amended claim 10) to replace previous pages 2 and 15 (including previous claim 10). Amendments to claim 10 are based upon previous claim 1. Remaining claims 1 to 9, part of claim 10 appearing on page 14 and claims 11 to 20 remain unamended by this response. It is requested that examination of this application be conducted on the basis of the amendments filed herewith, in view of the following comments.

The search report makes reference to D1 (US 2003/060240 A1) as being considered relevant to the previous independent claims. The invention of the independent claims relates to an improved handheld electronic device and an associated method in which time data pertaining to certain aspects of a messaging conversation on handheld electronic devices are made available to a user. The method addresses the problem discussed on pages 2 and 3 of not being able to display time data owing to the amount of display area. The solution recited in the independent claims is to output time data in response to determining that a predetermined period or first period of idle time has elapsed (claims 1 and 10) or in response to an input from a user (claim 18). Claim 20 includes corresponding technical features to independent claim 1.

Turning to the disclosures of D1, D1 relates to wireless mobile image messaging, in which when a message incorporates image data, such image data includes a time in which a message was sent. There is no disclosure in D1 of outputting a time indication in response to a determination that a predetermined period or first period of idle time has elapsed since a first messaging

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A.T.Korenberg * I.A.Stewart † Consultants: Alison C.Roberts * Ann B.Addison * J.J.G.Hibbert *

535752v1

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D1 suffers from the problem of limited space for display of timing information. A skilled person would not consider the solution of the present independent claims given the disclosures of D1. There is no suggestion in D1 of determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the occurrence of a messaging communication, or outputting a time stamp or any other indication of the time at which a message was sent or received in response to determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed. No comparison of the passage of time since any transmission or receipt of any message to any predetermined period of time takes place in D1. In D1, any outputting of an indication of time regarding a message is conditioned solely on the incorporation of an image into that message, such that if an image is so incorporated, then an indication of the time of which the message was sent is automatically output (see paragraph 99).

As identified by the present application, the amount of viewable space on the display of a handheld electronic device is quite limited, and therefore highly valuable. The method of D1 therefore suffers from the very problem that the present invention addresses, and the automatic display of such a timing output would lead the skilled person away from the claimed invention. The disclosures in paragraph 78 further serve to emphasize that in D1 there is display of an indication of whether a message is sent, and this is not linked in any way to detection of a predetermined idle period of time since the occurrence of the messaging communication, of a first idle period of time, or of detection of a predetermined user input. It is the counterintuitive requirement for the determination/detection of these further variables which define such an inventive step over the automatic generation of D1. The invention of the claims is therefore inventive over the disclosures of the cited prior art.

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Page 3

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Yours faithfully



BRYN-JACOBSEN, Caelia
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15

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In this example, incoming messages are indicated by a greater than" > "mathematical symbol, and outgoing messages are indicated by a less than" < "mathematical symbol. If the conversation continues quickly, i. e. , substantially without interruption, the messages do not need a time stamp on them. In the environment of a handheld electronic device, it would be desirable to avoid unnecessary time stamps and other unnecessary output since it occupies too much valuable space on the limited display of the handheld electronic device.

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EPO - Munich
41
24. Nov. 2006

Our Ref: P40430EP-K/JJH/SJB
Your Ref:

22 November 2006

Dear Sirs,

European Patent Application No. 04786633.0
In the name of Research In Motion Limited

We refer to the recent Communication pursuant to Article 96(1), Rule 51(1) EPC and reference to Article 79(2) EPC. We hereby confirm that the applicant wishes to proceed further with this application.

Please note that a request for accelerated examination has already been filed on this case. We therefore look forward to receipt of the first Communication under 96(2) EPC or Rule 51(4) EPC as soon as possible.

Please acknowledge safe receipt of this letter by returning the enclosed copy of EPO Form 1037.

Yours faithfully



FENNELL, Gareth Charles
Authorised Representative
Kilburn & Strode

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A.T.Korenberg* I.A.Stewart † Consultants: Alison C.Roberts * Ann B.Addison * J.J.G.Hibbert *
Partnership Secretary: B.Collins Records: M.R.Jenkins Accounts: B.J.Nutchey
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Our Ref: P40430EP-K/JJH/SJB
Your Ref:

22 November 2006

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European Patent Application No. 04786633.0
In the name of Research In Motion Limited

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A.T.Korenberg * I.A.Stewart † Consultants: Alison C.Roberts * Ann B.Addison * J.J.G.Hibbert *

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Received at the EPO on Nov 22, 2006 14:34:13: Page 1 of 1
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Page 238 of 346



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Tel.: +31 (0)70 340 45 00

Date

13-09-2006

Reference P40430EP-K/JJH	Application No./Patent No. 04786633.0 - 2416 PCT/CA2004001712
Applicant/Proprietor Research In Motion Limited	

Proceeding further with the European patent application pursuant to Article 96(1) and Rule 51(1) EPC

A supplementary European search report has been drawn up concerning the above European patent application (publication number 1668824).

Since you have filed a request for examination prior to the transmission of the supplementary European search report, you are hereby invited to indicate within

two months

of notification of this invitation whether you desire to proceed further with the European patent application.

If you do not indicate in due time that you desire to proceed further with the European patent application, it will be deemed to be withdrawn (Art. 96(3) EPC).

If you wish you may comment on the supplementary European search report and amend, where appropriate, the description, claims and drawings (R. 51(1) EPC).

Receiving Section



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Date

17.08.06

Reference P40430EP-K/JJH	Application No./Patent No. 04786633.0 - 2416 PCT/CA2004001712
Applicant/Proprietor Research In Motion Limited	

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the supplementary European search report under Article 157(2)(a) EPC for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

- Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

Refund of the search fee

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 2003/060240 A1 (GRAHAM TYROL R ET AL) 27 March 2003 (2003-03-27) * paragraph [0011] - paragraph [0013] * * paragraph [0077] - paragraph [0086]; figures 6,7 * * paragraph [0097] - paragraph [0102]; figure 9 *	1,10,18, 20	INV. H04L12/58
A	----- EP 0 743 762 A (NEC CORPORATION) 20 November 1996 (1996-11-20) * abstract * * column 1, line 41 - column 2, line 16 * * column 4, line 38 - column 5, line 6 * * figures 2,3 *	1-20	
A	----- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2003, no. 08, 6 August 2003 (2003-08-06) & JP 2003 111145 A (TOSHIBA CORP), 11 April 2003 (2003-04-11) * abstract *	1-20	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			H04L H04M
The supplementary search report has been based on the last set of claims valid and available at the start of the search.			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 9 August 2006	Examiner Lastoria, G
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

1

EPO FORM 1503 03 82 (P04C04)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 04 78 6633

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on the European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

09-08-2006

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2003060240	A1	27-03-2003	NONE	

EP 0743762	A	20-11-1996	JP 2647055 B2	27-08-1997
			JP 8317439 A	29-11-1996
			US 5861818 A	19-01-1999

JP 2003111145	A	11-04-2003	NONE	

EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82



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Date

17.05.06

Reference P40430EP-K/JJH	Application No./Patent No. 04786633.0 - 2416 PCT/CA2004001712
Applicant/Proprietor Research In Motion Limited	

Notification of European publication number and information on the application of Article 67(3) EPC

The provisional protection under Article 67(1) and (2) EPC in the individual contracting states becomes effective only when the conditions referred to in Article 67(3) EPC have been fulfilled (for further details, see information brochure of the European Patent Office "National Law relating to the EPC" and additional information in the Official Journal of the European Patent Office).

Pursuant to Article 158(1) EPC the publication under Article 21 PCT of an international application for which the European Patent Office is a designated Office takes the place of the publication of a European patent application.

The bibliographic data of the above-mentioned Euro-PCT application will be published on 14.06.06 in Section I.1 of the European Patent Bulletin. The European publication number is 1668824.

In all future communications to the European Patent Office, please quote the application number plus Directorate number.

Receiving Section





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Date

03-05-2006

Reference P40430EP-K/JJH	Application No./Patent No. 04786633.0 - 2416 PCT/CA2004001712
Applicant/Proprietor Research In Motion Limited	

Communication pursuant to Rules 109 and 110 EPC

(1) Amendment of application documents, especially the claims (R. 109 EPC)

The above mentioned international (Euro-PCT) application has entered the European phase, or can do so, once the necessary conditions are fulfilled.

Under Articles 28, 41 PCT, Rules 52, 78 PCT and Rule 86(2) to (4) EPC, the applicant may amend the application documents after receiving the international search report.

Whether or not he has already done so, he now has a further opportunity to file amended claims or other application documents within a non-extendable time limit of one month after notification of the present communication (R. 109 EPC).

The claims applicable on expiry of the above time limit, i.e. those filed on entry into the European phase or in response to the present communication, will form the basis for the calculation of any claims fee to be paid (see page 2) and for any supplementary search to be carried out under Article 157(2) EPC (R. 109 EPC).

--2/

**(2) Claims fees under Rule 110 EPC**

If the application documents on which the European grant procedure is to be based comprise more than ten claims, a claims fee shall be payable for the eleventh and each subsequent claim within the period provided for in Rule 107(1) EPC.

- Based on the application documents currently on file, all necessary claims fees have already been paid (or the documents do not comprise more than 10 claims).
- All necessary fees will be/have been debited automatically according to the automatic debit order.
- The claims fee due for the claims to were not paid within the above-mentioned period.

Any non-paid claims fee, either based on the current set of claims or on any amended claims to be filed pursuant to Rule 109 EPC (see page 1), may still be validly paid within a non-extendable period of grace of **one month** after notification of this communication.

If a payment is made for only some of the claims, it must be indicated for which claims it is intended. If a claims fee is not paid in due time, the claim concerned is deemed to be abandoned (R. 110(4) EPC).

If claims fees have already been paid, but on expiry of the above-mentioned time limit there is a new set of claims containing fewer fee-incurring claims than previously, the claims fees in excess of those due under Rule 110(2), 2nd sentence, EPC will be refunded (R. 110(3) EPC).

You are reminded that any supplementary search under Article 157(2) EPC will relate only to the last set of claims applicable on expiry of the above time limit AND will be confined to those fee-incurring claims for which fees have been paid in due time.

The fee for the eleventh and each subsequent claim is EUR 45,00.

Receiving Section



PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PAT 57519W-90	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See item 4 below
International application No. PCT/CA2004/001712	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 20 September 2004 (20.09.2004)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 19 September 2003 (19.09.2003)
International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237		
Applicant RESEARCH IN MOTION LIMITED		

<p>1. This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 bis.1(a).</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 8 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.</p>																								
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <table> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. I</td> <td>Basis of the report</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. II</td> <td>Priority</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. III</td> <td>Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. IV</td> <td>Lack of unity of invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. V</td> <td>Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VI</td> <td>Certain documents cited</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VII</td> <td>Certain defects in the international application</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VIII</td> <td>Certain observations on the international application</td> </tr> </table> <p>4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2).</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application																						

	Date of issuance of this report 21 March 2006 (21.03.2006)
The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Authorized officer Athina Nickitas-Etienne
Facsimile No. +41 22 740 14 35	Telephone No. +41 22 338 89 95

Form PCT/IB/373 (January 2004)

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:
BORDEN LADNER GERVAIS LLP
World Exchange Plaza
1100 - 100 Queen Street
OTTAWA, Ontario
Canada, K1P 1J9

3/3

PCT

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing (date/month/year) 14 February 2005 (14-02-2005)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PAT 57519W-90		FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below
International application n ^o PCT/CA2004/001712	International filing date (date/month/year) 20 September 2004 (20-09-2004)	Priority date (date/month/year) 19 September 2003 (19-09-2003)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC IPC: H04L 12/24, H04L 12/54		
Applicant RESEARCH IN MOTION LIMITED		

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items :

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(I) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Commissioner of Patents Canadian Patent Office Box PCT, Ottawa/Gatineau K1A 0C9	Authorized officer Suchita Varma Tel: (819) 934-4549
Facsimile No. (819) 953-9538	

Form PCT/ISA/237 (cover sheet) (January 2004)

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/CA2004/001712

Box No. I **Basis of this opinion**

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

- This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language __, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).

2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of :

a. type of material

- a sequence listing
 table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

- in written format
 in computer readable form

c. time of filing/furnishing

- contained in the international application as filed.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments :

Description pages 1 - 12, as originally filed;
Claims pages 1 - 4, as originally filed;
Drawings pages 1 - 7, as originally filed;

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/CA2004/001712

Box No. II Priority

- 1 The following document has not yet been furnished :
- copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43*bis*.1 and 66.7(a)).
- translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (rule 43*bis*.1 and 66.7(b)).
- Consequently it has not been possible to consider the validity of the priority claim. This opinion has nevertheless been established on the assumption that the relevant date is the claimed priority date.
- 2 This opinion has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid (Rules 43*bis*.1 and 64.1). Thus for the purpose of this opinion, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.
3. Additional observations, if necessary :

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/CA2004/001712

Box No. V reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(I) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-20	YES
	Claims	None	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	7, 11	YES
	Claims	1-6, 8-10, 12-20	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-20	YES
	Claims	None	NO

2. Citations and explanations :

The claimed invention relates to an improved handheld electronic device and an associated method in which time data pertaining to certain aspects of a messaging conversation on a handheld electronic device are made available to a user. This method proposes to overcome the problem of not being able to display certain timing aspects of a conversation on a handheld electronic device due to the limited space available on the display of the handheld electronic device.

The solution to being able to display time data pertaining to certain aspects of a messaging conversation on a handheld device that is limited in space (for display and storage) according to the claimed invention is to have time data displayed on the screen in locations such as beside an input/output message on the screen or the time data could be hidden off the screen until the user moves a cursor to see the hidden time data so that minimal space is consumed by the time data on the handheld electronic device. This time data could be displayed after a predetermined period of time or on demand and it could represent the last time a message was exchanged (input/output) from or to the electronic device, the current date/time, or the elapsed conversation time. This information could be displayed in various languages. Furthermore, the time data could be deleted or overridden whenever desired by the user.

This opinion is formed based on the originally filed claims 1-20.

The following relevant documents appear in the International Search Report.

D1: US 6590529 B2
D2: GB 2384150 A

D1 discloses an individualized, location specific weather forecasting system in which weather data is transmitted to an electronic handheld device as a function of location and time so that subscribers receive weather forecast data specific to their current location. This information could be displayed by the handheld device periodically or on demand if desired by the user.

D2 discloses a method for displaying time-stamp associated data. This data is displayed with a display mode such as background colour which is varied to indicate timing variations in the current time and the time-stamp of the associated time data to be displayed. The method can be applied to a mobile telephone or to a personal digital assistant (PDA).

The following observations are made:

Novelty:

Claims 1-20 are considered to be novel (PCT Article 33(2)) as no single piece of prior art discloses explicitly the solution of having time data displayed in minimal space by having various ways of displaying the information and also be able to display the time and date information either on demand, or after a predetermined period of time based on an idle period in a conversation occurring on a handheld electronic device. Furthermore, no single prior art discloses the ability to delete or override the time data whenever desired by the user.

(continued on supplemental sheet)

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/CA2004/001712

Box No. VIII

Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made :

Claim 1:

The term "a second electronic device" (line 5) is repeated even though it is previously defined in the preamble of claim 1, which results in double inclusion.

The inclusion of the term "substantially" (line 11) causes ambiguity because it is unclear as to how long is considered to be a substantial amount of idle communication time. The same objection applies to claim 18 (line 3), claim 19 (line 9), and claim (28).

The term "a predetermined period of time" (line 13) is repeated in claim 1 for a second time which results in double inclusion.

Claim 4:

The term "the second indication" (line 25) is missing an antecedent.

Claim 6:

The term "the one" (line 8) is missing an antecedent and should perhaps be "one of the".

Claim 8:

The term "a change in date" (line 20) is repeated in claim 8 for a second time which results in double inclusion.

The term "a time of day" (line 20) is repeated in claim 8 for a second time which results in double inclusion.

Claim 10:

The term "a second electronic device" (line 28) is repeated in claim 10 for a second time which results in double inclusion.

The term "a predetermined input" (line 1) is repeated in claim 10 for a second time which results in double inclusion.

Claim 15:

The term "an expiration of a predetermined duration of time" (lines 18-19) is repeated in claim 15 for a second time which results in double inclusion.

Claim 16:

The term "a change in date" (line 23) is repeated in claim 16 for a second time which results in double inclusion.

The term "a time of day" (line 23) is repeated in claim 16 for a second time which results in double inclusion.

Claim 18:

The term "a second electronic device" (line 31) is repeated even though it is previously defined in the preamble of claim 18, which results in double inclusion.

The term "a first period of time" (line 5) is repeated in claim 18 for a second time which results in double inclusion.

Claim 19:

The term "a second period of time" is repeated in claim 19 for a second time which results in double inclusion.

Claim 20:

The term "a predetermined period of time" is repeated in claim 20 for a second time which results in double inclusion.

Therefore, the aforementioned claims do not meet the requirements of PCT Article 6 since they are not clear and concise due to the reasons indicated above.

Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of : V

Inventive Step:

What is stated in claim 1 and claim 18 is considered to define an equivalent method as that described in D1. Claim 1 recites, "a method of providing an output on at least one of a first electronic device and a second electronic device, the first electronic device being adapted to be in electronic communication with a second electronic device, the method comprising: determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device; outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first communication; determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device; and responsive to said determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed, outputting a first time-stamp representative of the first time." Claim 18 is equivalent to claim 1, but uses a first period of time instead of predetermined period of time. The weather forecasting system in D1 communicates with an electronic device to send it weather information, which is displayed on the small display of the electronic device (column 15, claim 1). The weather information includes information as a function of location and time (column 2, line 48). This weather information could be setup to be displayed periodically after a predetermined period of time has elapsed, i.e. every seven minutes (column 2, lines 48-50). The information is not limited to only being displayed if there is no further communication between the electronic device and the weather forecasting system, instead, it is displayed periodically regardless of the communication status. However, it is merely a design consideration to display the information regularly or only when no further communication is available.

D2 discloses that time-stamps are displayed on an electronic device (page 2, lines 4-6). This time-stamp could be in the form of the current time and date requested by the user (page 3, lines 7-23). The time-stamp is stored in memory and may be displayed by the user on the electronic device whenever desired. Furthermore, each time desired, a new time-stamp can be displayed on the electronic device. The electronic device would use a change in the background colour to indicate the most recent time-stamps and the elder time-stamps (page 6, lines 13-24). Therefore, claim 1, claim 3, claim 14, and claim 18 are found to lack an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)) in view of D1 and D2.

Dependent claims 2, 4-6, and 13 merely indicate a design preference of how the time-stamp(s) can be displayed on the screen and are not considered to involve any inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

Dependent claim 7 indicates outputting information on the display in different languages. This is considered to involve an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

Dependent claim 8 indicates displaying the date and time on the display of an electronic device when the device detects a change in the date. This is equivalently found in D2 which indicates that the current date and time is stored and displayed on the electronic device. Time-stamps of current date and times can be stored and displayed all together (Figure 2; Figure 6). Therefore, as the date changes, the time-stamp showing this change will inherently be displayed on the screen. The same applies to claim 16. Therefore, claim 8 and claim 16 are considered to lack an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

Dependent claims 9 and 17 indicate displaying a time-stamp indicating an elapsed time. This is indicated in D1 which can display a time-stamp indicating the elapsed time since the last time-stamp indicating the weather condition was displayed on the screen (Figure 4). Therefore, claim 9 and claim 17 are considered to lack an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

Independent claim 10 indicates outputting a time-stamp based on a predetermined input. This is equivalently disclosed in D1, which states that "with a simple press of a button on the cellular telephone, the arrival time of rain and/or possibly severe weather would be displayed and described" (column 5, lines 10-12). Therefore, claim 10 is considered to lack an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

Dependent claim 11 discloses displaying a time-stamp that is entered on a first electronic device on a second electronic device. This is considered to involve an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

Dependent claim 12 indicates detecting the movement of a cursor as a predetermined input to a location so that the hidden time-stamp can be displayed. This is equivalent to having any method that hides information on the display until a user input indicates to show the hidden information. This is shown in D1, which utilizes a menu icon to display hidden weather information. Only when this icon is selected by the user, is the information displayed on the screen (column 2, lines 5-7). Therefore, claim 12 is not considered to involve an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

(continued on supplemental sheet)

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Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.
Continuation of : V

Dependent claim 14 discloses detecting an input and responsive to the input, removing the first time-stamp. This is included in the scenario of updating a time-stamp to a newer time-stamp based on an input, as indicated in D1 (column 7, lines 43-45). The same applies to claim 15. Therefore, claims 14 and 15 are considered to lack an inventive concept (PCT Article 33(3)).

Dependent claim 19 discloses displaying a second time-stamp if a second period of idle communication time is larger than the first idle communication time on the handheld electronic device. This is equivalently disclosed in D2 (Figure 2; Figure 6; Figure 7; Figure 8), however, the second time-stamp is not restricted to only being displayed if it is larger than the first time-stamp. This is considered to be a design preference and therefore, claim 19 is considered to lack an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

What is stated in independent claim 20 is a handheld electronic device that includes a processor, input apparatus, output apparatus, and a display means. This is equivalently disclosed in D1 (column 2, lines 44-50; column 5, lines 10-12; column 7, lines 43-45; column 10, 24-27) and D2 (column 3, lines 7-23) which contain all the same essential components in their electronic devices. Therefore, claim 20 is considered to lack an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

Industrial Applicability:

The subject-matter of claims 1-20 is considered to have industrial applicability (PCT Article 33(4)).

13.04.2006

What is claimed is:

(105)

1. A method of providing an output on at least one of a first electronic device and a second electronic device, the first electronic device being adapted to be in electronic communication with the second electronic device, the method comprising:

determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device;

outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication;

determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device; and

responsive to said determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed, outputting a first time stamp representative of the first time.

2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent the first indication.

3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising determining that a second messaging communication has occurred at a second time between the first device and the second device, outputting a second indication that is representative of at least a portion of the second messaging communication, and outputting a second time stamp representative of the second time.

4. The method of Claim 3, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent the first indication, and outputting as the second time stamp a second time stamp disposed adjacent the second indication, one of the first time stamp and the second time stamp being disposed substantially between the first indication and the second indication, one of the first indication and the second indication being disposed substantially between the first time stamp and the second time stamp.

5. The method of Claim 3, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent the first indication, and outputting as the second time stamp a

second time stamp disposed adjacent the second indication, the first time stamp and the second time stamp being disposed substantially between the first indication and the second indication.

6. The method of Claim 3, further comprising outputting as the first indication a first linguistic output, outputting as the second indication a second linguistic output, outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent one of the beginning and the ending of the first linguistic output, and outputting as the second time stamp a second time stamp disposed adjacent the one of the beginning and the ending of the second linguistic output.

7. The method of Claim 3, further comprising outputting as the first indication a first linguistic output, outputting as the second indication a second linguistic output, outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent one of the beginning and the ending of the first linguistic output, and outputting as the second time stamp a second time stamp disposed adjacent the other of the beginning and the ending of the second linguistic output.

8. The method of Claim 1, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a time of day representative of the first time, detecting a change in date and, responsive to said detecting a change in date, outputting as the first time stamp a time of day and a date representative of the first time.

9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a relative time stamp representative of an elapsed time.

10. A method of providing an output on at least one of a first electronic device and a second electronic device, the first electronic device being adapted to be in electronic communication with the second electronic device, the method comprising:

determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device;

outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication;

detecting a predetermined input; and

responsive to said detecting a predetermined input, outputting a first time stamp representative of the first time.

11. The method of Claim 10, further comprising detecting as the predetermined input a predetermined input to the first electronic device, and outputting as the first indication a first indication on the second electronic device.

12. The method of Claim 10, further comprising detecting as the predetermined input a movement of a cursor to a location one of adjacent and overlapping the first indication.

13. The method of Claim 12, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent the first indication.

14. The method of Claim 12, further comprising detecting another input and, responsive to said detecting another input, removing the first time stamp.

15. The method of Claim 12, further comprising detecting an expiration of a predetermined duration of time and, responsive to said detecting an expiration of a predetermined duration of time, removing the first time stamp.

16. The method of Claim 10, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a time of day representative of the first time, detecting a change in date and, responsive to said detecting a change in date, outputting as the first time stamp a time of day and a date representative of the first time.

17. The method of Claim 10, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a relative time stamp representative of an elapsed time.

18. A method of providing an output on at least one of a first electronic device and a second electronic device, the first electronic device being adapted to be in electronic communication with the second electronic device, the method comprising:

determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device;

outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication;

determining that a first period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device; and

responsive to said determining that a first period of time has elapsed, outputting a first time stamp representative of the first period of time.

19. The method of Claim 18, further comprising determining that a second period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device, the second period of time being of a greater magnitude than the first period of time; and

responsive to said determining that a second period of time has elapsed, outputting a second time stamp representative of the second period of time.

20. A handheld electronic device adapted to be in electronic communication with another electronic device, the handheld electronic device comprising:

a processor apparatus including a processor and a memory;

an input apparatus; and

an output apparatus;

the processor apparatus being adapted to receive input from the input apparatus and to provide output to the output apparatus;

the processor apparatus being adapted to determine that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the handheld electronic device and the another electronic device;

the output apparatus being adapted to output a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication;

the processor apparatus being adapted to determine that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the handheld electronic device and the another electronic device; and

responsive to a determination that a predetermined period of time has elapsed, the output apparatus being adapted to output a first time stamp representative of the first time.

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
31 March 2005 (31.03.2005)

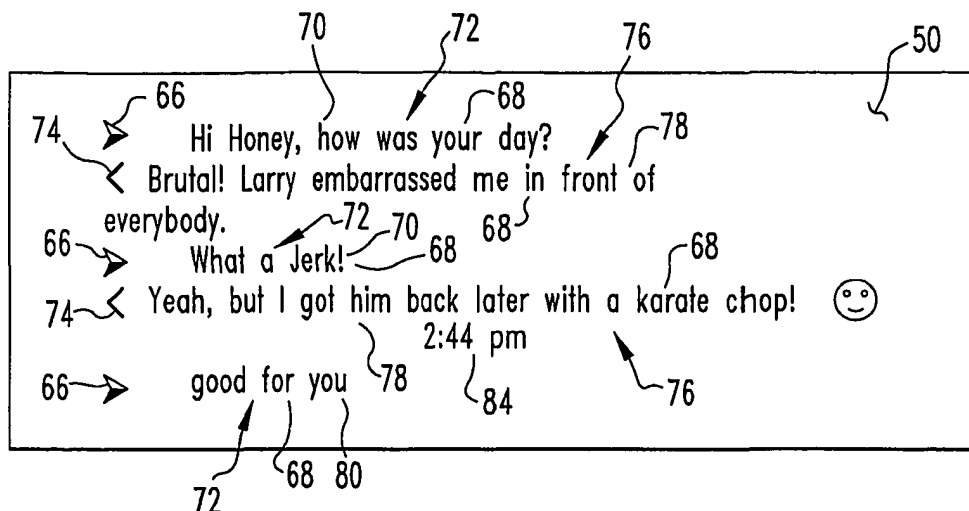
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/029771 A1

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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.

(54) Title: HANDHELD ELECTRONIC DEVICE AND ASSOCIATED METHOD PROVIDING TIME DATA IN A MESSAGING ENVIRONMENT



(57) Abstract: An improved handheld electronic device and an associated method are provided in which time data regarding certain aspects of a messaging conversation on a handheld electronic device are made available to a user. Such time data is provided, for instance, in situations where an interruption has occurred during a messaging conversation. Time data can also be provided to a user on demand in certain circumstances.

WO 2005/029771 A1

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EPO - DG 1

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Our Ref: P40430EP-K/JJH/ct
Your Ref:

12 April 2006

CONFIRMATION

Dear Sirs

European Patent Application No. 04786633.0
In the name of Research In Motion Limited

In order to effect entry of International Patent Application no. PCT/CA2004/001712 into the European regional phase before the European Patent Office, we file herewith the following documents:

- Front cover of the international application as published;
- EPO Form 1200;
- A list of additional representatives;
- A copy of amended claims; and
- EPO Form 1005.

Further proceedings before the EPO are to be based on the following documents:

the application documents as amended in accordance with Article 19 PCT.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Applicant reserves the right to reintroduce any subject matter that may have been deleted at any stage or to file a divisional patent application to any such subject matter.

Separate arrangements have been made for payment of the appropriate fees as follows:

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Consultants: Alison C.Roberts * Ann B.Addison *
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* Patent Attorney † Trade Mark Attorney ‡ Patent & Trade Mark Attorney

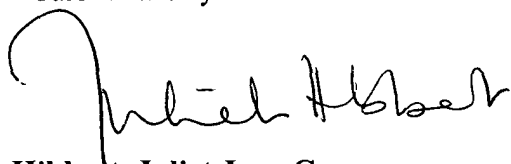
Filing fee
Search Fee
Fee for substantive examination
Excess claims fees
Designation and extension fees for all possible contracting and extension states
Fee for two extra copies of citations

However, if the payment is not received or is in any way insufficient, please debit our account no. 28050204 to make up the shortfall.

We file herewith a Form 1005 to request accelerated search and examination of the application under the PACE provision.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter by returning the attached form 1037.

Yours faithfully



**Hibbert, Juliet Jane Grace
Authorised Representative
Kilburn & Strode**

Encs.



**Eintritt in die
europäische Phase
(EPA als Bestimmungsamt
oder ausgewähltes Amt)**

**Entry into the
European phase
(EPO as designated or
elected Office)**

**Entrée dans la
phase européenne
(l'OEB agissant en qualité
d'office désigné ou élu)**

Europäische Anmeldenummer oder, falls nicht bekannt, PCT-Aktenzeichen oder PCT-Veröffentlichungsnummer	European application number, or, if not known, PCT application or publication number PCT/CA2004/001712 04786633.0	Numéro de dépôt de la demande de brevet européen ou, à défaut, numéro de dépôt PCT ou de publication PCT
Zeichen des Anmelders oder Vertreters (max. 15 Positionen)	Applicant's or representative's reference (max. 15 spaces) P40430EP-K/JJH	Référence du demandeur ou du mandataire (15 caractères ou espaces au maximum)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. Anmelder Die Angaben über den (die) Anmelder sind in der internationalen Veröffentlichung enthalten oder vom Internationalen Büro nach der internationalen Veröffentlichung vermerkt worden. <input type="checkbox"/> Änderungen, die das Internationale Büro noch nicht vermerkt hat, sind auf einem Zusatzblatt angegeben. Zustellanschrift <i>(siehe Merkblatt II, 1)</i>	1. Applicant Indications concerning the applicant(s) are contained in the international publication or recorded by the International Bureau after the international publication. Changes which have not yet been recorded by the International Bureau are set out on an additional sheet. Address for correspondence <i>(see Notes II, 1)</i>	1. Demandeur Les indications concernant le(s) demandeur(s) figurent dans la publication internationale ou ont été enregistrées par le Bureau international après la publication internationale. Les changements qui n'ont pas encore été enregistrés par le Bureau international sont indiqués sur une feuille additionnelle. Adresse pour la correspondance <i>(voir notice II, 1)</i>
2. Vertreter Name (Nur einen Vertreter angeben, der in das europäische Patentregister eingetragen und an den zugestellt wird) Geschäftsanschrift Telefon Telefax Telex <input type="checkbox"/> Weitere(r) Vertreter auf Zusatzblatt	2. Representative Name (Name only one representative who will be listed in the Register of European Patents and to whom notification will be made) HIBBERT, Juliet Jane Grace Address of place of business Kilburn & Strode 20 Red Lion Street London WC1R 4JP Telephone 020 7539 4200 Fax Telex 020 7539 4299 <input type="checkbox"/> Additional representative(s) on additional sheet	2. Mandataire Nom (N'indiquer qu'un seul mandataire, qui sera inscrit au Registre européen des brevets et auquel signification sera faite) Adresse professionnelle Téléphone Téléfax Télex <input type="checkbox"/> Autre(s) mandataire(s) sur une feuille additionnelle
3. Vollmacht <input type="checkbox"/> Einzelvollmacht ist beigelegt. <input type="checkbox"/> Allgemeine Vollmacht ist registriert unter Nummer: <input type="checkbox"/> Allgemeine Vollmacht ist eingereicht, aber noch nicht registriert. <input type="checkbox"/> Die beim EPA als PCT-Anmeldeamt eingereichte Vollmacht schließt ausdrücklich die europäische Phase ein.	3. Authorisation Individual authorisation is attached. General authorisation has been registered under No: A general authorisation has been filed, but not yet registered. The authorisation filed with the EPO as PCT receiving Office expressly includes the European phase.	3. Pouvoir Un pouvoir spécial est joint. Un pouvoir général a été enregistré sous le n° : Un pouvoir général a été déposé, mais n'est pas encore enregistré. Le pouvoir général déposé à l'OEB agissant en qualité d'office récepteur au titre du PCT s'applique expressément à la phase européenne.

<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. Prüfungsantrag Hiermit wird die Prüfung der Anmeldung gemäß Art. 94 EPU beantragt. Die Prüfungsgebühr wird (wurde) entrichtet.</p> <p>Prüfungsantrag in einer zugelassenen Nichtamtssprache (siehe Merkblatt III, 5.2) :</p>	<p>4. Request for examination Examination of the application under Art. 94 EPC is hereby requested. The examination fee is being (has been, will be) paid.</p> <p>Request for examination in an admissible non-EPO language (see Notes III, 5.2) :</p>	<p>4. Requête en examen Il est demandé que soit examinée la demande de brevet conformément à l'art. 94 CBE. Il est (a été, sera) procédé au paiement de la taxe d'examen.</p> <p>Requête en examen dans une langue non officielle autorisée (voir notice III, 5.2) :</p>
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5. Abschriften Zusätzliche Abschrift(en) der im ergänzenden europäischen Recherchenbericht angeführten Schriftstücke wird (werden) beantragt.</p> <p>Anzahl der zusätzlichen Sätze von Abschriften</p>	<p>5. Copies Additional copy (copies) of the documents cited in the supplementary European search report is (are) requested.</p> <p>Number of additional sets of copies</p>	<p>5. Copies Prière de fournir une ou plusieurs copies supplémentaires des documents cités dans le rapport complémentaire de recherche européenne.</p> <p>Nombre de jeux supplémentaires de copies</p>
2		
<p>6. Für das Verfahren vor dem EPA bestimmte Unterlagen</p> <p>6.1 Dem Verfahren vor dem EPA als Bestimmungsamt (PCT I) sind folgende Unterlagen zugrunde zu legen:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> die vom Internationalen Büro veröffentlichten Anmeldungsunterlagen (mit allen Ansprüchen, Beschreibung und Zeichnungen), gegebenenfalls mit den geänderten Ansprüchen nach Art. 19 PCT</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> soweit sie nicht ersetzt werden durch die beigefügten Änderungen.</p> <p><i>Falls nötig, sind Klarstellungen auf einem Zusatzblatt einzureichen!</i></p> <p>6.2 Dem Verfahren vor dem EPA als ausgewähltem Amt (PCT II) sind folgende Unterlagen zugrunde zu legen:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> die dem internationalen vorläufigen Prüfungsbericht zugrunde gelegten Unterlagen, einschließlich seiner eventuellen Anlagen (Solche Anlagen müssen immer beigefügt werden)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> soweit sie nicht ersetzt werden durch die beigefügten Änderungen.</p> <p><i>Falls nötig, sind Klarstellungen auf einem Zusatzblatt einzureichen!</i></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sind dem EPA als mit der internationalen vorläufigen Prüfung beauftragten Behörde Versuchsberichte zugegangen, dürfen diese dem Verfahren vor dem EPA zugrunde gelegt werden.</p>	<p>6. Documents intended for proceedings before the EPO</p> <p>6.1 Proceedings before the EPO as designated Office (PCT I) are to be based on the following documents:</p> <p>the application documents published by the International Bureau (with all claims, description and drawings), where applicable with amended claims under Art. 19 PCT</p> <p>unless replaced by the amendments enclosed.</p> <p><i>Where necessary, clarifications must be submitted on a separate sheet!</i></p> <p>6.2 Proceedings before the EPO as elected Office (PCT II) are to be based on the following documents:</p> <p>the documents on which the international preliminary examination report is based, including its possible annexes (Such annexes must always be filed)</p> <p>unless replaced by the amendments enclosed.</p> <p><i>Where necessary, clarifications must be submitted on a separate sheet!</i></p> <p>If the EPO as International Preliminary Examining Authority has received test reports, these may be used as the basis of proceedings before the EPO.</p>	<p>6. Pièces destinées à la procédure devant l'OEB</p> <p>6.1 La procédure devant l'OEB agissant en qualité d'office désigné (PCT I) doit se fonder sur les pièces suivantes :</p> <p>les pièces de la demande publiée par le Bureau international (avec toutes les revendications, la description et les dessins), éventuellement avec les revendications modifiées conformément à l'article 19 du PCT</p> <p>dans la mesure où elles ne sont pas remplacées par les modifications jointes.</p> <p><i>Le cas échéant, des explications doivent être jointes sur une feuille additionnelle!</i></p> <p>6.2 La procédure devant l'OEB agissant en qualité d'office élu (PCT II) doit se fonder sur les pièces suivantes :</p> <p>les pièces sur lesquelles se fonde le rapport d'examen préliminaire international, y compris ses annexes éventuelles (De telles annexes sont toujours à joindre)</p> <p>dans la mesure où elles ne sont pas remplacées par les modifications jointes.</p> <p><i>Le cas échéant, des explications doivent être jointes sur une feuille additionnelle!</i></p> <p>Si l'OEB, agissant en qualité d'administration chargée de l'examen préliminaire international, a reçu des rapports d'essais, ceux-ci peuvent constituer la base de la procédure devant l'OEB.</p>

<p>7. Übersetzungen Beigefügt sind die nachfolgend angekreuzten Übersetzungen in einer der Amtssprachen des EPA (Deutsch, Englisch, Französisch):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Im Verfahren vor dem EPA als Bestimmungsamt oder ausgewähltem Amt (PCT I + II):</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Übersetzung der ursprünglich eingereichten internationalen Anmeldung (Beschreibung, Ansprüche, etwaige Textbestandteile in den Zeichnungen), der veröffentlichten Zusammenfassung, und etwaiger Angaben über biologisches Material nach Regel 13^{bis}.3 und 13^{bis}.4 PCT <input type="checkbox"/> Übersetzung der prioritätsbegründenden Anmeldung(en) <input type="checkbox"/> Es wird hiermit erklärt, daß die internationale Anmeldung in ihrer ursprünglich eingereichten Fassung eine vollständige Übersetzung der früheren Anmeldung ist (Regel 38(5) EPÜ) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Zusätzlich im Verfahren vor dem EPA als Bestimmungsamt (PCT I):</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Übersetzung der nach Art. 19 PCT geänderten Ansprüche nebst Erklärung, falls diese dem Verfahren vor dem EPA zugrunde gelegt werden sollen (siehe Feld 6) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Zusätzlich im Verfahren vor dem EPA als ausgewähltem Amt (PCT II):</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Übersetzung der Anlagen zum internationalen vorläufigen Prüfungsbericht 	<p>7. Translations Translations in one of the official languages of the EPO (English, French, German) are enclosed as crossed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>In proceedings before the EPO as designated or elected Office (PCT I + II):</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Translation of the international application (description, claims, any text in the drawings) as originally filed, of the abstract as published and of any indication under Rule 13^{bis}.3 and 13^{bis}.4 PCT regarding biological material <input type="checkbox"/> Translation of the priority application(s) <input type="checkbox"/> It is hereby declared that the international application as originally filed is a complete translation of the previous application (Rule 38(5) EPC) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>In addition, in proceedings before the EPO as designated Office (PCT I):</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Translation of amended claims and any statement under Art. 19 PCT, if the claims as amended are to form the basis for the proceedings before the EPO (see Section 6) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>In addition, in proceedings before the EPO as elected Office (PCT II):</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report 	<p>7. Traductions Vous trouverez, ci-joint, les traductions cochées ci-après dans l'une des langues officielles de l'OEB (allemand, anglais, français) :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Dans la procédure devant l'OEB agissant en qualité d'office désigné ou élu (PCT I + II):</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Traduction de la demande internationale telle que déposée initialement (description, revendications, textes figurant éventuellement dans les dessins), de l'abrégé publié, et de toutes indications visées aux règles 13^{bis}.3 et 13^{bis}.4 du PCT concernant le matériel biologique <input type="checkbox"/> Traduction de la (des) demande(s) ouvrant le droit de priorité <input type="checkbox"/> Il est déclaré par la présente que la demande internationale telle que déposée initialement est une traduction intégrale de la demande antérieure (règle 38(5) CBE) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>De plus, dans la procédure devant l'OEB agissant en qualité d'office désigné (PCT I) :</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Traduction des revendications modifiées et de la déclaration faite conformément à l'article 19 du PCT, si la procédure devant l'OEB doit être fondée sur les revendications modifiées (voir la rubrique 6) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>De plus, dans la procédure devant l'OEB agissant en qualité d'office élu (PCT II) :</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Traduction des annexes du rapport d'examen préliminaire international
<p><input type="checkbox"/> 8. Biologisches Material Die Erfindung bezieht sich auf bzw. verwendet biologisches Material, das nach Regel 28 EPÜ hinterlegt worden ist.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Die Angaben nach Regel 28(1)c) EPÜ (falls noch nicht bekannt, die Hinterlegungsstelle und das (die) Bezugszeichen [Nummer, Symbole usw.] des Hinterlegers) sind in der internationalen Veröffentlichung oder in der gemäß Feld 7 eingereichten Übersetzung enthalten auf:</p> <p>Seite(n) / Zeile(n)</p> <p>Die Empfangsbescheinigung(en) der Hinterlegungsstelle</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ist (sind) beigefügt</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> wird (werden) nachgereicht</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Verzicht auf die Verpflichtung des Antragstellers nach Regel 28(3) EPÜ auf gesondertem Schriftstück</p>	<p>8. Biological material The invention relates to and/or uses biological material deposited under Rule 28 EPC.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The particulars referred to in Rule 28(1)(c) EPC (if not yet known, the depository institution and the identification reference(s) [number, symbols etc.] of the depositor) are given in the international publication or in the translation submitted under Section 7 on:</p> <p>page(s) / line(s)</p> <p>The receipt(s) of deposit issued by the depository institution</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> is (are) enclosed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> will be filed at a later date</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Waiver of the right to an undertaking from the requester pursuant to Rule 28(3) EPC attached.</p>	<p>8. Matière biologique L'invention concerne et/ou utilise de la matière biologique, déposée conformément à la règle 28 CBE.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Les indications visées à la règle 28(1)c) CBE (si non encore connues, l'autorité de dépôt et la (les) référence(s) d'identification [numéro ou symboles etc.] du déposant) figurent dans la publication internationale ou dans une traduction produite conformément à la rubrique 7 à la / aux:</p> <p>page(s) / ligne(s)</p> <p>Le(s) récépissé(s) de dépôt délivré(s) par l'autorité de dépôt</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> est (sont) joint(s)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sera (seront) produit(s) ultérieurement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Renonciation, sur document distinct, à l'engagement du requérant au titre de la règle 28(3) CBE.</p>

<p>9. Nucleotid- und Aminosäuresequenzen</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Die nach Regeln 5.2 und 13^{ter} PCT sowie Regel 111(3) EPÜ erforderlichen Unterlagen liegen dem EPA bereits vor.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Das schriftliche Sequenzprotokoll wird anliegend nachgereicht.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Das Sequenzprotokoll geht nicht über den Inhalt der Anmeldung in der ursprünglich eingereichten Fassung hinaus.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Der vorgeschriebene Datenträger ist beigelegt.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Die auf dem Datenträger gespeicherte Information stimmt mit dem schriftlichen Sequenzprotokoll überein.</p>	<p>9. Nucleotide and amino acid sequences</p> <p>The items necessary in accordance with Rules 5.2 and 13^{ter} PCT and Rule 111(3) EPC have already been furnished to the EPO.</p> <p>The written sequence listing is furnished herewith.</p> <p>The sequence listing does not include matter which goes beyond the content of the application as filed.</p> <p>The prescribed data carrier is enclosed.</p> <p>The information recorded on the data carrier is identical to the written sequence listing.</p>	<p>9. Séquences de nucléotides et d'acides aminés</p> <p>Les pièces requises selon les règles 5.2 et 13^{ter} PCT et la règle 111(3) CBE ont déjà été déposées auprès de l'OEB.</p> <p>La liste de séquences écrite est produite ci-joint.</p> <p>La liste de séquences ne contient pas d'éléments s'étendant au-delà du contenu de la demande telle qu'elle a été déposée.</p> <p>Le support de données prescrit est joint.</p> <p>L'information figurant sur le support de données est identique à celle que contient la liste de séquences écrite.</p>
<p>10. Benennungsgebühren</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10.1 Es ist derzeit beabsichtigt, den siebenfachen Betrag einer Benennungsgebühr zu entrichten. Damit gelten die Benennungsgebühren für alle Vertragsstaaten des EPÜ¹ als entrichtet (Art. 2 Nr. 3 GebO), soweit sie in der internationalen Anmeldung bestimmt sind².</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 10.2 Abweichend von der Erklärung in Nr. 10.1 ist derzeit beabsichtigt, weniger als sieben Benennungsgebühren für folgende in der internationalen Anmeldung bestimmte Vertragsstaaten des EPÜ² zu entrichten:</p> <p>(1) <input type="text"/></p> <p>(2) <input type="text"/></p> <p>(3) <input type="text"/></p>	<p>10. Designation fees</p> <p>10.1 It is currently intended to pay seven times the amount of the designation fee. The designation fees for all the EPC contracting states¹ designated in the international application² are thereby deemed to have been paid (Art. 2 No. 3 RFees).</p> <p>10.2 The declaration in No. 10.1 does not apply. Instead, it is currently intended to pay fewer than seven designation fees for the following EPC contracting states² designated in the international application:</p> <p>(4) <input type="text"/></p> <p>(5) <input type="text"/></p> <p>(6) <input type="text"/></p>	<p>10. Taxes de désignation</p> <p>10.1 Il est actuellement envisagé de payer un montant correspondant à sept fois la taxe de désignation. Les taxes de désignation sont ainsi réputées payées pour tous les Etats contractants de la CBE¹ désignés dans la demande internationale² (art. 2, point 3 du RRT).</p> <p>10.2 Contrairement à ce qui est indiqué au n° 10.1, il est actuellement envisagé de payer moins de sept taxes de désignation pour les Etats contractants de la CBE² suivants désignés dans la demande internationale :</p>
<p>Soweit unter Nr. 10.2 Vertragsstaaten aufgeführt sind, wird beantragt, für die dort nicht aufgeführten Vertragsstaaten von der Zustellung einer Mitteilung nach Regel 108(3) EPÜ abzusehen.</p>	<p>If contracting states are indicated under No. 10.2, it is requested that no communication under Rule 108(3) EPC be issued for contracting states not thus indicated.</p>	<p>Si des Etats contractants sont mentionnés au n° 10.2, prière de ne pas procéder à la signification d'une notification prévue par la règle 108(3) CBE pour les Etats contractants n'y étant pas mentionnés.</p>
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10.3 Wird ein automatischer Abbuchungsauftrag erteilt (Feld 12), so wird das EPA beauftragt, bei Ablauf der Grundfrist nach Regel 107(1)d) EPÜ den siebenfachen Betrag einer Benennungsgebühr abzubuchen. Ist eine Erklärung nach Nr. 10.2 abgegeben worden, so sollen die Benennungsgebühren nur für die dort angegebenen Vertragsstaaten abgebucht werden, sofern dem EPA nicht bis zum Ablauf der Grundfrist ein anderslautender Auftrag zugeht.</p>	<p>10.3 If an automatic debit order has been issued (Section 12), the EPO is authorised, on expiry of the basic period under Rule 107(1)(d) EPC, to debit seven times the amount of the designation fee. If states are indicated under No. 10.2, the EPO will debit designation fees only for those states, unless instructed otherwise before the basic period expires.</p>	<p>10.3 Si un ordre de prélèvement automatique est donné (rubrique 12), il est demandé à l'OEB de prélever, à l'expiration du délai normal visé à la règle 107(1)d) CBE, un montant correspondant à sept fois la taxe de désignation. Si une déclaration a été faite au n° 10.2, les taxes de désignation ne sont à prélever que pour les Etats contractants qui y sont indiqués, sauf instruction contraire reçue par l'OEB avant l'expiration du délai normal.</p>
<p><small>1 Stand bei Drucklegung: 27 Vertragsstaaten, und zwar: / Status when this form was printed: 27 contracting states, namely / Situation à la date d'impression: 27 Etats contractants, à savoir: AT Österreich / Austria / Autriche, BE Belgien / Belgium / Belgique, BG Bulgarien / Bulgaria / Bulgarie, CH / LI Schweiz und Liechtenstein / Switzerland and Liechtenstein / Suisse et Liechtenstein, CY Zypern / Cyprus / Chypre, CZ Tschechische Republik / Czech Republic / République tchèque, DE Deutschland / Germany / Allemagne, DK Dänemark / Denmark / Danemark, EE Estland / Estonia / Estonie, ES Spanien / Spain / Espagne, FI Finnland / Finland / Finlande, FR Frankreich / France / France, GB Vereinigtes Königreich / United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni, GR Griechenland / Greece / Grèce, HU Ungarn / Hungary / Hongrie, IE Irland / Ireland / Irlande, IT Italien / Italy / Italie, LU Luxemburg / Luxembourg / Luxembourg, MC Monaco / Monaco / Monaco, NL Niederlande / Netherlands / Pays-Bas, PT Portugal / Portugal / Portugal, RO Rumänien / Romania / Roumanie, SE Schweden / Sweden / Suède, SI Slowenien / Slovenia / Slovénie, SK Slowakische Republik / Slovak Republic / République slovaque, TR Türkei / Turkey / Turquie</small></p> <p><small>2 Für folgende Staaten nur möglich, falls in der internationalen Anmeldung am oder nach folgendem Tag bestimmt: Slowakische Republik, Bulgarien, Tschechische Republik und Estland: 1. Juli 2002, Slowenien: 1. Dezember 2002, Ungarn: 1. Januar 2003 und Rumänien: 1. März 2003. / For the following states this is possible only if they are designated in the international application on or after the stated date: Slovak Republic, Bulgaria, Czech Republic and Estonia: 1 July 2002, Slovenia: 1 December 2002, Hungary: 1 January 2003 and Romania: 1 March 2003. / En ce qui concerne les Etats suivants seulement si la désignation a été effectuée dans la demande internationale à la date suivante ou à une date ultérieure: République slovaque, Bulgarie, République tchèque et Estonie: 1^{er} juillet 2002, Slovénie: 1^{er} décembre 2002, Hongrie: 1^{er} janvier 2003 et Roumanie: 1^{er} mars 2003.</small></p>		

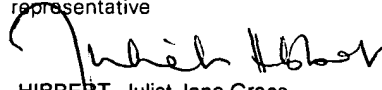
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 11. Erstreckung des europäischen Patents Bei Zahlung der Erstreckungsgebü(hr)en gilt diese Anmeldung auch als wirksamer Erstreckungsantrag für die in der internationalen Anmeldung bestimmten »Erstreckungsstaaten«. Es ist beabsichtigt, diese Gebü(hr)en für folgende Staaten zu entrichten:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SI Slowenien ¹⁾ <input type="checkbox"/> LT Litauen <input type="checkbox"/> LV Lettland <input type="checkbox"/> AL Albanien <input type="checkbox"/> RO Rumänien ¹⁾ <input type="checkbox"/> MK Ehemalige jugoslawische Republik Mazedonien <input type="checkbox"/> _____ ²⁾</p>	<p>11. Extension of the European patent On payment of the extension fee(s) this application is also deemed to be a request for extension to all the "extension states" designated in the international application. It is intended to pay the fee(s) for the following states:</p> <p>Slovenia ¹⁾ Lithuania Latvia Albania Romania ¹⁾ Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia _____ ²⁾</p>	<p>11. Extension des effets du brevet européen La taxe (Les taxes) d'extension payée(s), la présente demande est également réputée être une demande d'extension à tous les «Etats autorisant l'extension» désignés dans la demande internationale. Il est envisagé de payer la taxe (les taxes) d'extension pour les Etats suivants:</p> <p>Slovénie ¹⁾ Lituanie Lettonie Albanie Roumanie ¹⁾ Ex-République yougoslave de Macédoine _____ ²⁾</p>
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1) Für Slowenien und Rumänien nur möglich, falls in der internationalen Anmeldung bis 30. November 2002 (Slowenien) oder bis 28. Februar 2003 (Rumänien) bestimmt. / For Slovenia and Romania this is possible only if they are designated in the international application up to 30 November 2002 (Slovenia) or 28 February 2003 (Romania). / En ce qui concerne la Slovénie et la Roumanie, seulement si la désignation a été effectuée dans la demande internationale jusqu'au 30 novembre 2002 (Slovénie) ou jusqu'au 28 février 2003 (Roumanie).

2) Platz für Staaten, mit denen »Erstreckungsabkommen« nach Drucklegung dieses Formblatts in Kraft treten und die in der internationalen Anmeldung bestimmt waren. / Space for States with which "extension agreements" enter into force after this form has been printed and which were designated in the international application. / Prévu pour des Etats à l'égard desquels des «accords d'extension» entrèrent en vigueur après l'impression du présent formulaire et qui ont été désignés dans la demande internationale.

<p><input type="checkbox"/> 12. Automatischer Abbuchungsauftrag (Nur möglich für Inhaber von beim EPA geführten laufenden Konten) Das EPA wird beauftragt, nach Maßgabe der Vorschriften über das automatische Abbuchungsverfahren fällige Gebühren und Auslagen vom untenstehenden laufenden Konto abzubuchen. In Bezug auf die Benennungsgebühren wird auf Feld 10.3 verwiesen. Das EPA wird ferner beauftragt, die Erstreckungsgebühren für jeden in Feld 11 angekreuzten »Erstreckungsstaat« bei Ablauf der Grundfrist zu ihrer Zahlung abzubuchen, sofern ihm nicht bis dahin ein anderslautender Auftrag zugeht. Nummer und Kontoinhaber</p>	<p>12. Automatic debit order (for EPO deposit account holders only) The EPO is hereby authorised, under the Arrangements for the automatic debiting procedure, to debit from the deposit account below any fees and costs falling due. For designation fees, see Section 10.3. The EPO is also authorised, on expiry of the basic period for paying the extension fees, to debit those fees for each of the "extension states" marked with a cross in Section 11, unless instructed otherwise before the said period expires. Number and account holder</p>	<p>12. Ordre de prélèvement automatique (uniquement possible pour les titulaires de comptes courants ouverts auprès de l'OEB) Par la présente, il est demandé à l'OEB de prélever du compte courant ci-dessous les taxes et frais venant à échéance, conformément à la réglementation relative au prélèvement automatique. Pour les taxes de désignation, se reporter à la rubrique 10.3. Il est en outre demandé à l'OEB de prélever, à l'expiration du délai normal prévu pour leur paiement, les taxes d'extension pour chaque «Etat autorisant l'extension» coché à la rubrique 11, sauf instruction contraire reçue avant l'expiration de ce délai. Numéro et titulaire du compte</p>
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<p><input type="checkbox"/> 13. Eventuelle Rückzahlungen auf das beim EPA geführte laufende Konto Nummer und Kontoinhaber</p>	<p>13. Any reimbursement to EPO deposit account Number and account holder 28050204 Kilburn & Strode</p>	<p>13. Remboursements éventuels à effectuer sur le compte courant ouvert auprès de l'OEB Numéro et titulaire du compte</p>
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<p>14. Unterschrift(en) des (der) Anmelder(s) oder Vertreters Ort / Datum Für Angestellte (Art. 133(3) EPÜ) mit allgemeiner Vollmacht: Nr. Name(n) des (der) Unterzeichneten bitte in Druckschrift wiederholen. Bei juristischen Personen bitte auch die Stellung des (der) Unterzeichneten innerhalb der Gesellschaft in Druckschrift angeben.</p>	<p>14. Signature(s) of applicant(s) or representative  HIBBERT, Juliet Jane Grace Authorised Representative Place / Date London 10.04.06 For employees (Art. 133(3) EPC) having a general authorisation: No. Please print name(s) under signature(s). In the case of legal persons, the position of the signatory within the company should also be printed.</p>	<p>14. Signature(s) du (des) demandeur(s) ou du mandataire Lieu / Date Pour les employés (art. 133(3) CBE) disposant d'un pouvoir général : N° Le ou les noms des signataires doivent être indiqués en caractères d'imprimerie. S'il s'agit d'une personne morale, la position occupée au sein de celle-ci par le ou les signataires doit également être indiquée en caractères d'imprimerie.</p>
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ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATIVES SHEET

The Representatives, including the aforementioned representative and additional representatives, are as follows:

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REES,	David Christopher
MAGGS,	Michael Norman
HALE,	Peter
CHAPMAN,	Paul William
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HEDLEY,	Nicholas James Matthew
LEE,	Nicholas John
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Netherlands

Our Ref: P40430EP-K/JJH/ct

Your Ref:

12 April 2006

Dear Sirs

European Patent Application No. 04786633.0
In the name of Research In Motion Limited

In order to effect entry of International Patent Application no. PCT/CA2004/001712 into the European regional phase before the European Patent Office, we file herewith the following documents:

- Front cover of the international application as published;
- EPO Form 1200;
- A list of additional representatives;
- A copy of amended claims; and
- EPO Form 1005.

Further proceedings before the EPO are to be based on the following documents:

the application documents as amended in accordance with Article 19 PCT.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Applicant reserves the right to reintroduce any subject matter that may have been deleted at any stage or to file a divisional patent application to any such subject matter.

Separate arrangements have been made for payment of the appropriate fees as follows:

CONFIDENTIALITY: The information in this communication is confidential and may be privileged. If you are not the intended recipient referred to above you should not disclose any of the contents to anyone, make copies or take any action in reliance upon it. If you have received this communication in error please contact the sender. We will make arrangements for it to be collected. Thank you.

Partners: R.Ashmead † N.R.Jennings † D.C.Rees † M.N.Maggs † P.Hale † P.W.Chapman † J.L.W.Miller † K.V.J.Cornish *
G.V.Roberts * T.Z.Gold † N.J.Hedley † N.C.Bassil * N.J.Lee † C.H.A.Lindley † T.G.Copsey * J.J.G.Hibbert * W.J.Neobard *

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Consultants: Alison C.Roberts * Ann B.Addison *

Partnership Secretary: B.Collins Records: M.R.Jenkins Accounts: B.J.Nutchey

* Patent Attorney † Trade Mark Attorney ‡ Patent & Trade Mark Attorney

Kilburn & Strode

Page 2

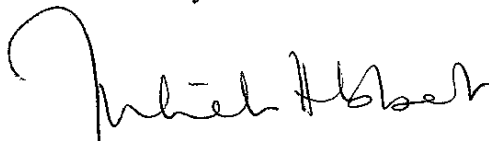
Filing fee
Search Fee
Fee for substantive examination
Excess claims fees
Designation and extension fees for all possible contracting and extension states
Fee for two extra copies of citations

However, if the payment is not received or is in any way insufficient, please debit our account no. 28050204 to make up the shortfall.

We file herewith a Form 1005 to request accelerated search and examination of the application under the PACE provision.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter by returning the attached form 1037.

Yours faithfully



Hibbert, Juliet Jane Grace
Authorised Representative
Kilburn & Strode

Encs.

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



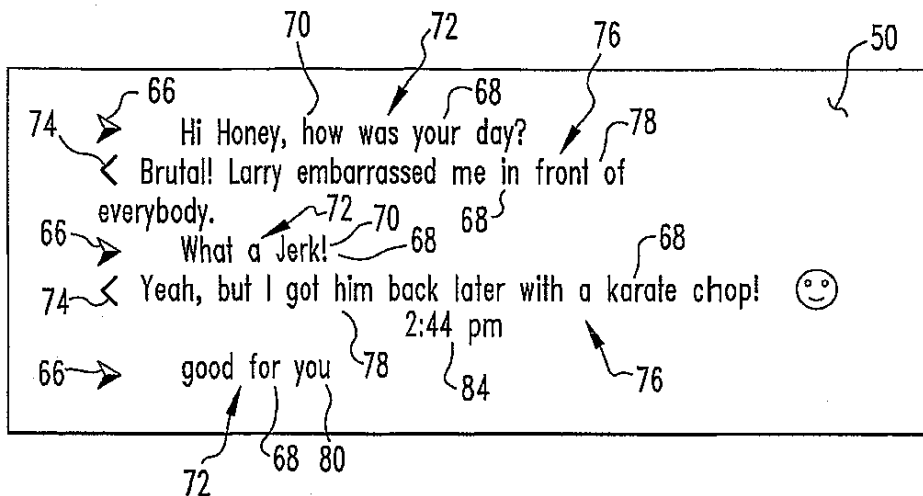
(43) International Publication Date 31 March 2005 (31.03.2005)

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(10) International Publication Number WO 2005/029771 A1

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 - (25) Filing Language: English
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 - (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): RESEARCH IN MOTION LIMITED [CA/CA]; 295 Phillip Street, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3W8 (CA).
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 - (74) Agents: WONG, Jeffrey, W. et al.; Borden Ladner Gervais LLP, 100 Queen Street, Suite 1100, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1J0 (CA).
 - (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
 - (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- 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.*

(54) Title: HANDHELD ELECTRONIC DEVICE AND ASSOCIATED METHOD PROVIDING TIME DATA IN A MESSAGING ENVIRONMENT



(57) Abstract: An improved handheld electronic device and an associated method are provided in which time data regarding certain aspects of a messaging conversation on a handheld electronic device are made available to a user. Such time data is provided, for instance, in situations where an interruption has occurred during a messaging conversation. Time data can also be provided to a user on demand in certain circumstances.

WO 2005/029771 A1



An das Europäische Patentamt

To the European Patent Office

A l'Office européen des brevets

1

**Eintritt in die
europäische Phase
(EPA als Bestimmungsamt
oder ausgewähltes Amt)**

**Entry into the
European phase
(EPO as designated or
elected Office)**

**Entrée dans la
phase européenne
(l'OEB agissant en qualité
d'office désigné ou élu)**

Europäische Anmeldenummer oder, falls nicht bekannt, PCT-Aktenzeichen oder PCT-Veröffentlichungsnummer	European application number, or, if not known, PCT application or publication number PCT/CA2004/001712 04786633.0	Número de depósito de la demanda de brevet europeo ou, à défaut, numéro de dépôt PCT ou de publication PCT
Zeichen des Anmelders oder Vertreters (max. 15 Positionen)	Applicant's or representative's reference (max. 15 spaces) P40430EP-K/JJH	Référence du demandeur ou du mandataire (15 caractères ou espaces au maximum)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. Anmelder Die Angaben über den (die) Anmelder sind in der internationalen Veröffentlichung enthalten oder vom Internationalen Büro nach der internationalen Veröffentlichung vermerkt worden. <input type="checkbox"/> Änderungen, die das Internationale Büro noch nicht vermerkt hat, sind auf einem Zusatzblatt angegeben. Zustellanschrift (siehe Merkblatt II, 1)	1. Applicant Indications concerning the applicant(s) are contained in the international publication or recorded by the International Bureau after the international publication. Changes which have not yet been recorded by the International Bureau are set out on an additional sheet. Address for correspondence (see Notes II, 1)	1. Demandeur Les indications concernant le(s) demandeur(s) figurent dans la publication internationale ou ont été enregistrées par le Bureau international après la publication internationale. Les changements qui n'ont pas encore été enregistrés par le Bureau international sont indiqués sur une feuille additionnelle. Adresse pour la correspondance (voir notice II, 1)
2. Vertreter Name (Nur einen Vertreter angeben, der in das europäische Patentregister eingetragen und an den zugestellt wird) Geschäftsanschrift Telefon Telefax Telex	2. Representative Name (Name only one representative who will be listed in the Register of European Patents and to whom notification will be made) HIBBERT, Juliet Jane Grace Address of place of business Kilburn & Strode 20 Red Lion Street London WC1R 4JP Telephone 020 7539 4200 Fax Telex 020 7539 4299	2. Mandataire Nom (N'indiquer qu'un seul mandataire, qui sera inscrit au Registre européen des brevets et auquel signification sera faite) Adresse professionnelle Téléphone Téléfax Télex
<input type="checkbox"/> Weitere(r) Vertreter auf Zusatzblatt	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional representative(s) on additional sheet	<input type="checkbox"/> Autre(s) mandataire(s) sur une feuille additionnelle
3. Vollmacht <input type="checkbox"/> Einzelvollmacht ist beigefügt. <input type="checkbox"/> Allgemeine Vollmacht ist registriert unter Nummer: <input type="checkbox"/> Allgemeine Vollmacht ist eingereicht, aber noch nicht registriert. <input type="checkbox"/> Die beim EPA als PCT-Anmeldeamt eingereichte Vollmacht schließt ausdrücklich die europäische Phase ein.	3. Authorisation Individual authorisation is attached. General authorisation has been registered under No: A general authorisation has been filed, but not yet registered. The authorisation filed with the EPO as PCT receiving Office expressly includes the European phase.	3. Pouvoir Un pouvoir spécial est joint. Un pouvoir général a été enregistré sous le n° : Un pouvoir général a été déposé, mais n'est pas encore enregistré. Le pouvoir général déposé à l'OEB agissant en qualité d'office récepteur au titre du PCT s'applique expressément à la phase européenne.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. Prüfungsantrag Hiermit wird die Prüfung der Anmeldung gemäß Art. 94 EPU beantragt. Die Prüfungsgebühr wird (wurde) entrichtet. Prüfungsantrag in einer zugelassenen Nichtamtssprache (siehe Merkblatt III, 5.2) :	4. Request for examination Examination of the application under Art. 94 EPC is hereby requested. The examination fee is being (has been, will be) paid. Request for examination in an admissible non-EPO language (see Notes III, 5.2) :	4. Requête en examen Il est demandé que soit examinée la demande de brevet conformément à l'art. 94 CBE. Il est (a été, sera) procédé au paiement de la taxe d'examen. Requête en examen dans une langue non officielle autorisée (voir notice III, 5.2) :
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5. Abschriften Zusätzliche Abschrift(en) der im ergänzenden europäischen Recherchenbericht angeführten Schriftstücke wird (werden) beantragt. Anzahl der zusätzlichen Sätze von Abschriften	5. Copies Additional copy (copies) of the documents cited in the supplementary European search report is (are) requested. Number of additional sets of copies	5. Copies Prière de fournir une ou plusieurs copies supplémentaires des documents cités dans le rapport complémentaire de recherche européenne. Nombre de jeux supplémentaires de copies
2		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6. Für das Verfahren vor dem EPA bestimmte Unterlagen 6.1 Dem Verfahren vor dem EPA als Bestimmungsamt (PCT I) sind folgende Unterlagen zugrunde zu legen: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> die vom Internationalen Büro veröffentlichten Anmeldeunterlagen (mit allen Ansprüchen, Beschreibung und Zeichnungen), gegebenenfalls mit den geänderten Ansprüchen nach Art. 19 PCT <input type="checkbox"/> soweit sie nicht ersetzt werden durch die beigefügten Änderungen . <i>Falls nötig, sind Klarstellungen auf einem Zusatzblatt einzureichen!</i>	6. Documents intended for proceedings before the EPO 6.1 Proceedings before the EPO as designated Office (PCT I) are to be based on the following documents: the application documents published by the International Bureau (with all claims, description and drawings), where applicable with amended claims under Art. 19 PCT unless replaced by the amendments enclosed. <i>Where necessary, clarifications must be submitted on a separate sheet!</i>	6. Pièces destinées à la procédure devant l'OEB 6.1 La procédure devant l'OEB agissant en qualité d'office désigné (PCT I) doit se fonder sur les pièces suivantes : les pièces de la demande publiée par le Bureau international (avec toutes les revendications, la description et les dessins), éventuellement avec les revendications modifiées conformément à l'article 19 du PCT dans la mesure où elles ne sont pas remplacées par les modifications jointes. <i>Le cas échéant, des explications doivent être jointes sur une feuille additionnelle!</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6.2 Dem Verfahren vor dem EPA als ausgewähltem Amt (PCT II) sind folgende Unterlagen zugrunde zu legen: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> die dem internationalen vorläufigen Prüfungsbericht zugrunde gelegten Unterlagen , einschließlich seiner eventuellen Anlagen (Solche Anlagen müssen immer beigefügt werden) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> soweit sie nicht ersetzt werden durch die beigefügten Änderungen . <i>Falls nötig, sind Klarstellungen auf einem Zusatzblatt einzureichen!</i>	6.2 Proceedings before the EPO as elected Office (PCT II) are to be based on the following documents: the documents on which the international preliminary examination report is based , including its possible annexes (Such annexes must always be filed) unless replaced by the amendments enclosed. <i>Where necessary, clarifications must be submitted on a separate sheet!</i>	6.2 La procédure devant l'OEB agissant en qualité d'office élu (PCT II) doit se fonder sur les pièces suivantes : les pièces sur lesquelles se fonde le rapport d'examen préliminaire international , y compris ses annexes éventuelles (De telles annexes sont toujours à joindre) dans la mesure où elles ne sont pas remplacées par les modifications jointes. <i>Le cas échéant, des explications doivent être jointes sur une feuille additionnelle!</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sind dem EPA als mit der internationalen vorläufigen Prüfung beauftragten Behörde Versuchsberichte zugegangen, dürfen diese dem Verfahren vor dem EPA zugrunde gelegt werden.	If the EPO as International Preliminary Examining Authority has received test reports , these may be used as the basis of proceedings before the EPO.	Si l'OEB, agissant en qualité d'administration chargée de l'examen préliminaire international, a reçu des rapports d'essais , ceux-ci peuvent constituer la base de la procédure devant l'OEB.

<p>7. Übersetzungen Beigefügt sind die nachfolgend angekreuzten Übersetzungen in einer der Amtssprachen des EPA (Deutsch, Englisch, Französisch):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Im Verfahren vor dem EPA als Bestimmungsamt oder ausgewähltem Amt (PCT I + II):</i> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Übersetzung der ursprünglich eingereichten internationalen Anmeldung (Beschreibung, Ansprüche, etwaige Textbestandteile in den Zeichnungen), der veröffentlichten Zusammenfassung, und etwaiger Angaben über biologisches Material nach Regel 13^{bis}.3 und 13^{bis}.4 PCT</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Übersetzung der prioritätsbegründenden Anmeldung(en)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Es wird hiermit erklärt, daß die internationale Anmeldung in ihrer ursprünglich eingereichten Fassung eine vollständige Übersetzung der früheren Anmeldung ist (Regel 38(5) EPU)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Zusätzlich im Verfahren vor dem EPA als Bestimmungsamt (PCT I):</i> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Übersetzung der nach Art. 19 PCT geänderten Ansprüche nebst Erklärung, falls diese dem Verfahren vor dem EPA zugrunde gelegt werden sollen (siehe Feld 6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Zusätzlich im Verfahren vor dem EPA als ausgewähltem Amt (PCT II):</i> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Übersetzung der Anlagen zum internationalen vorläufigen Prüfungsbericht</p>	<p>7. Translations Translations in one of the official languages of the EPO (English, French, German) are enclosed as crossed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>In proceedings before the EPO as designated or elected Office (PCT I + II):</i> <p>Translation of the international application (description, claims, any text in the drawings) as originally filed, of the abstract as published and of any indication under Rule 13^{bis}.3 and 13^{bis}.4 PCT regarding biological material</p> <p>Translation of the priority application(s)</p> <p>It is hereby declared that the international application as originally filed is a complete translation of the previous application (Rule 38(5) EPC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>In addition, in proceedings before the EPO as designated Office (PCT I):</i> <p>Translation of amended claims and any statement under Art. 19 PCT, if the claims as amended are to form the basis for the proceedings before the EPO (see Section 6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>In addition, in proceedings before the EPO as elected Office (PCT II):</i> <p>Translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report</p>	<p>7. Traductions Vous trouverez, ci-joint, les traductions cochées ci-après dans l'une des langues officielles de l'OEB (allemand, anglais, français) :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Dans la procédure devant l'OEB agissant en qualité d'office désigné ou élu (PCT I + II):</i> <p>Traduction de la demande internationale telle que déposée initialement (description, revendications, textes figurant éventuellement dans les dessins), de l'abrégé publié, et de toutes indications visées aux règles 13^{bis}.3 et 13^{bis}.4 du PCT concernant le matériel biologique</p> <p>Traduction de la (des) demande(s) ouvrant le droit de priorité</p> <p>Il est déclaré par la présente que la demande internationale telle que déposée initialement est une traduction intégrale de la demande antérieure (règle 38(5) CBE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>De plus, dans la procédure devant l'OEB agissant en qualité d'office désigné (PCT I) :</i> <p>Traduction des revendications modifiées et de la déclaration faite conformément à l'article 19 du PCT, si la procédure devant l'OEB doit être fondée sur les revendications modifiées (voir la rubrique 6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>De plus, dans la procédure devant l'OEB agissant en qualité d'office élu (PCT II) :</i> <p>Traduction des annexes du rapport d'examen préliminaire international</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> 8. Biologisches Material Die Erfindung bezieht sich auf bzw. verwendet biologisches Material, das nach Regel 28 EPU hinterlegt worden ist.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Die Angaben nach Regel 28(1)c) EPU (falls noch nicht bekannt, die Hinterlegungsstelle und das (die) Bezugszeichen [Nummer, Symbole usw.] des Hinterlegers) sind in der internationalen Veröffentlichung oder in der gemäß Feld 7 eingereichten Übersetzung enthalten auf:</p> <p>Seite(n) / Zeile(n)</p> <p>Die Empfangsbescheinigung(en) der Hinterlegungsstelle</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ist (sind) beigefügt</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> wird (werden) nachgereicht</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Verzicht auf die Verpflichtung des Antragstellers nach Regel 28(3) EPU auf gesondertem Schriftstück</p>	<p>8. Biological material The invention relates to and/or uses biological material deposited under Rule 28 EPC.</p> <p>The particulars referred to in Rule 28(1)(c) EPC (if not yet known, the depository institution and the identification reference(s) [number, symbols etc.] of the depositor) are given in the international publication or in the translation submitted under Section 7 on:</p> <p>page(s) / line(s)</p> <p>The receipt(s) of deposit issued by the depository institution</p> <p>is (are) enclosed</p> <p>will be filed at a later date</p> <p>Waiver of the right to an undertaking from the requester pursuant to Rule 28(3) EPC attached.</p>	<p>8. Matière biologique L'invention concerne et/ou utilise de la matière biologique, déposée conformément à la règle 28 CBE.</p> <p>Les indications visées à la règle 28(1)c) CBE (si non encore connues, l'autorité de dépôt et la (les) référence(s) d'identification [numéro ou symboles etc.] du déposant) figurent dans la publication internationale ou dans une traduction produite conformément à la rubrique 7 à la / aux:</p> <p>page(s) / ligne(s)</p> <p>Le(s) récépissé(s) de dépôt délivré(s) par l'autorité de dépôt</p> <p>est (sont) joint(s)</p> <p>sera (seront) produit(s) ultérieurement</p> <p>Renonciation, sur document distinct, à l'engagement du requérant au titre de la règle 28(3) CBE.</p>

9. Nucleotid- und Aminosäuresequenzen

- Die nach Regeln 5.2 und 13^{ter} PCT sowie Regel 111(3) EPU erforderlichen Unterlagen liegen dem EPA bereits vor.
- Das schriftliche Sequenzprotokoll wird anliegend nachgereicht.
- Das Sequenzprotokoll geht nicht über den Inhalt der Anmeldung in der ursprünglich eingereichten Fassung hinaus.
- Der vorgeschriebene Datenträger ist beigelegt.
- Die auf dem Datenträger gespeicherte Information stimmt mit dem schriftlichen Sequenzprotokoll überein.

9. Nucleotide and amino acid sequences

- The items necessary in accordance with Rules 5.2 and 13^{ter} PCT and Rule 111(3) EPC have already been furnished to the EPO.
- The written sequence listing is furnished herewith.
- The sequence listing does not include matter which goes beyond the content of the application as filed.
- The prescribed data carrier is enclosed.
- The information recorded on the data carrier is identical to the written sequence listing.

9. Séquences de nucléotides et d'acides aminés

- Les pièces requises selon les règles 5.2 et 13^{ter} PCT et la règle 111(3) CBE ont déjà été déposées auprès de l'OEB.
- La liste de séquences écrite est produite ci-joint.
- La liste de séquences ne contient pas d'éléments s'étendant au-delà du contenu de la demande telle qu'elle a été déposée.
- Le support de données prescrit est joint.
- L'information figurant sur le support de données est identique à celle que contient la liste de séquences écrite.

10. Benennungsgebühren

- 10.1 Es ist derzeit beabsichtigt, den **siebenfachen** Betrag einer Benennungsgebühr zu entrichten. Damit gelten die Benennungsgebühren für **alle Vertragsstaaten des EPU¹** als entrichtet (Art. 2 Nr. 3 GebO), soweit sie **in der internationalen Anmeldung** bestimmt sind².
- 10.2 Abweichend von der Erklärung in Nr. 10.1 ist derzeit beabsichtigt, **weniger als sieben** Benennungsgebühren für folgende **in der internationalen Anmeldung bestimmte Vertragsstaaten des EPU²** zu entrichten:

10. Designation fees

- 10.1 It is currently intended to pay **seven times** the amount of the designation fee. The designation fees for **all the EPC contracting states¹ designated in the international application²** are thereby deemed to have been paid (Art. 2 No. 3 RFEes).
- 10.2 The declaration in No. 10.1 does not apply. Instead, it is currently intended to pay **fewer than seven** designation fees for the following **EPC contracting states² designated in the international application:**

10. Taxes de désignation

- 10.1 Il est actuellement envisagé de payer un montant correspondant à **sept fois** la taxe de désignation. Les taxes de désignation sont ainsi réputées payées pour **tous les Etats contractants de la CBE¹ désignés dans la demande internationale²** (art. 2, point 3 du RRT).
- 10.2 Contrairement à ce qui est indiqué au n° 10.1, il est actuellement envisagé de payer **moins de sept** taxes de désignation pour les **Etats contractants de la CBE² suivants désignés dans la demande internationale :**

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

(6)

Soweit unter Nr. 10.2 Vertragsstaaten aufgeführt sind, wird beantragt, für die dort nicht aufgeführten Vertragsstaaten von der Zustellung einer Mitteilung nach Regel 108(3) EPU abzusehen.

If contracting states are indicated under No. 10.2, it is requested that no communication under Rule 108(3) EPC be issued for contracting states not thus indicated.

Si des Etats contractants sont mentionnés au n° 10.2, prière de ne pas procéder à la signification d'une notification prévue par la règle 108(3) CBE pour les Etats contractants n'y étant pas mentionnés.

- 10.3 Wird ein **automatischer Abbuchungsauftrag** erteilt (Feld 12), so wird das EPA beauftragt, bei Ablauf der Grundfrist nach Regel 107(1)d) EPU den siebenfachen Betrag einer Benennungsgebühr abzubuchen. Ist eine Erklärung nach Nr. 10.2 abgegeben worden, so sollen die Benennungsgebühren nur für die dort angegebenen Vertragsstaaten abgebucht werden, sofern dem EPA nicht bis zum Ablauf der Grundfrist ein anderslautender Auftrag zugeht.

- 10.3 If an **automatic debit order** has been issued (Section 12), the EPO is authorised, on expiry of the basic period under Rule 107(1)(d) EPC, to debit seven times the amount of the designation fee. If states are indicated under No. 10.2, the EPO will debit designation fees only for those states, unless instructed otherwise before the basic period expires.

- 10.3 Si un **ordre de prélèvement automatique** est donné (rubrique 12), il est demandé à l'OEB de prélever, à l'expiration du délai normal visé à la règle 107(1)d) CBE, un montant correspondant à sept fois la taxe de désignation. Si une déclaration a été faite au n° 10.2, les taxes de désignation ne sont à prélever que pour les Etats contractants qui y sont indiqués, sauf instruction contraire reçue par l'OEB avant l'expiration du délai normal.

¹ Stand bei Drucklegung: 27 Vertragsstaaten, und zwar: / Status when this form was printed: 27 contracting states, namely / Situation à la date d'impression: 27 Etats contractants, à savoir: AT Österreich / Austria / Autriche, BE Belgien / Belgium / Belgique, BG Bulgarien / Bulgaria / Bulgarie, CH / LI Schweiz und Liechtenstein / Switzerland and Liechtenstein / Suisse et Liechtenstein, CY Zypern / Cyprus / Chypre, CZ Tschechische Republik / Czech Republic / République tchèque, DE Deutschland / Germany / Allemagne, DK Dänemark / Denmark / Danemark, EE Estland / Estonia / Estonie, ES Spanien / Spain / Espagne, FI Finnland / Finland / Finlande, FR Frankreich / France / France, GB Vereinigtes Königreich / United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni, GR Griechenland / Greece / Grèce, HU Ungarn / Hungary / Hongrie, IE Irland / Ireland / Irlande, IT Italien / Italy / Italie, LU Luxemburg / Luxembourg / Luxembourg, MC Monaco / Monaco / Monaco, NL Niederlande / Netherlands / Pays-Bas, PT Portugal / Portugal / Portugal, RO Rumänien / Romania / Roumanie, SE Schweden / Sweden / Suède, SI Slowenien / Slovenia / Slovénie, SK Slowakische Republik / Slovak Republic / République slovaque, TR Türkei / Turkey / Turquie

² Für folgende Staaten nur möglich, falls in der internationalen Anmeldung am oder nach folgendem Tag bestimmt: Slowakische Republik, Bulgarien, Tschechische Republik und Estland: 1. Juli 2002, Slowenien: 1. Dezember 2002, Ungarn: 1. Januar 2003 und Rumänien: 1. März 2003. / For the following states this is possible only if they are designated in the international application on or after the stated date: Slovak Republic, Bulgaria, Czech Republic and Estonia: 1 July 2002, Slovenia: 1 December 2002, Hungary: 1 January 2003 and Romania: 1 March 2003. / En ce qui concerne les Etats suivants seulement si la désignation a été effectuée dans la demande internationale à la date suivante ou à une date ultérieure: République slovaque, Bulgarie, République tchèque et Estonie: 1^{er} juillet 2002, Slovénie: 1^{er} décembre 2002, Hongrie: 1^{er} janvier 2003 et Roumanie: 1^{er} mars 2003.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11. Erstreckung des europäischen Patents Bei Zahlung der Erstreckungsgebühr(en) gilt diese Anmeldung auch als wirksamer Erstreckungsantrag für die in der internationalen Anmeldung bestimmten »Erstreckungsstaaten«. Es ist beabsichtigt, diese Gebühr(en) für folgende Staaten zu entrichten:	11. Extension of the European patent On payment of the extension fee(s) this application is also deemed to be a request for extension to all the "extension states" designated in the international application. It is intended to pay the fee(s) for the following states:	11. Extension des effets du brevet européen La taxe (Les taxes) d'extension payée(s), la présente demande est également réputée être une demande d'extension à tous les «États autorisant l'extension» désignés dans la demande internationale. Il est envisagé de payer la taxe (les taxes) d'extension pour les États suivants:
<input type="checkbox"/>	SI Slowenien ¹⁾	Slovenia ¹⁾	Slovénie ¹⁾
<input type="checkbox"/>	LT Litauen	Lithuania	Lituanie
<input type="checkbox"/>	LV Lettland	Latvia	Lettonie
<input type="checkbox"/>	AL Albanien	Albania	Albanie
<input type="checkbox"/>	RO Rumänien ¹⁾	Romania ¹⁾	Roumanie ¹⁾
<input type="checkbox"/>	MK Ehemalige jugoslawische Republik Mazedonien	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Ex-République yougoslave de Macédoine
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____ ²⁾	_____ ²⁾	_____ ²⁾

1) Für Slowenien und Rumänien nur möglich, falls in der internationalen Anmeldung bis 30. November 2002 (Slowenien) oder bis 28. Februar 2003 (Rumänien) bestimmt. / For Slovenia and Romania this is possible only if they are designated in the international application up to 30 November 2002 (Slovenia) or 28 February 2003 (Romania). / En ce qui concerne la Slovaquie et la Roumanie, seulement si la désignation a été effectuée dans la demande internationale jusqu'au 30 novembre 2002 (Slovénie) ou jusqu'au 28 février 2003 (Roumanie).

2) Platz für Staaten, mit denen »Erstreckungsabkommen« nach Drucklegung dieses Formblatts in Kraft treten und die in der internationalen Anmeldung bestimmt waren. / Space for States with which "extension agreements" enter into force after this form has been printed and which were designated in the international application. / Prévü pour des États à l'égard desquels des «accords d'extension» entreront en vigueur après l'impression du présent formulaire et qui ont été désignés dans la demande internationale.

<input type="checkbox"/>	12. Automatischer Abbuchungsauftrag (Nur möglich für Inhaber von beim EPA geführten laufenden Konten) Das EPA wird beauftragt, nach Maßgabe der Vorschriften über das automatische Abbuchungsverfahren fällige Gebühren und Auslagen vom untenstehenden laufenden Konto abzubuchen. In Bezug auf die Benennungsgebühren wird auf Feld 10.3 verwiesen. Das EPA wird ferner beauftragt, die Erstreckungsgebühren für jeden in Feld 11 angekreuzten »Erstreckungsstaat« bei Ablauf der Grundfrist zu ihrer Zahlung abzubuchen, sofern ihm nicht bis dahin ein anderslautender Auftrag zugeht. Nummer und Kontoinhaber	12. Automatic debit order (for EPO deposit account holders only) The EPO is hereby authorised, under the Arrangements for the automatic debiting procedure, to debit from the deposit account below any fees and costs falling due. For designation fees , see Section 10.3. The EPO is also authorised, on expiry of the basic period for paying the extension fees , to debit those fees for each of the "extension states" marked with a cross in Section 11, unless instructed otherwise before the said period expires. Number and account holder	12. Ordre de prélèvement automatique (uniquement possible pour les titulaires de comptes courants ouverts auprès de l'OEB) Par la présente, il est demandé à l'OEB de prélever du compte courant ci-dessous les taxes et frais venant à échéance, conformément à la réglementation relative au prélèvement automatique. Pour les taxes de désignation , se reporter à la rubrique 10.3. Il est en outre demandé à l'OEB de prélever, à l'expiration du délai normal prévu pour leur paiement, les taxes d'extension pour chaque «État autorisant l'extension» coché à la rubrique 11, sauf instruction contraire reçue avant l'expiration de ce délai. Numéro et titulaire du compte
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<input type="checkbox"/>	13. Eventuelle Rückzahlungen auf das beim EPA geführte laufende Konto Nummer und Kontoinhaber	13. Any reimbursement to EPO deposit account Number and account holder 28050204 Kilburn & Strode	13. Remboursements éventuels à effectuer sur le compte courant ouvert auprès de l'OEB Numéro et titulaire du compte
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14. Unterschrift(en) des (der) Anmelders(s) oder Vertreters Ort / Datum Für Angestellte (Art. 133(3) EPÜ) mit allgemeiner Vollmacht: Nr. Name(n) des (der) Unterzeichneten bitte in Druckschrift wiederholen. Bei juristischen Personen bitte auch die Stellung des (der) Unterzeichneten innerhalb der Gesellschaft in Druckschrift angeben.	14. Signature(s) of applicant(s) or representative  HIBBERT, Juliet Jane Grace Authorised Representative Place / Date London 10.04.06 For employees (Art. 133(3) EPC) having a general authorisation: No. Please print name(s) under signature(s). In the case of legal persons, the position of the signatory within the company should also be printed.	14. Signature(s) du (des) demandeur(s) ou du mandataire Lieu / Date Pour les employés (art. 133(3) CBE) disposant d'un pouvoir général : N° Le ou les noms des signataires doivent être indiqués en caractères d'imprimerie. S'il s'agit d'une personne morale, la position occupée au sein de celle-ci par le ou les signataires doit également être indiquée en caractères d'imprimerie.
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ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATIVES SHEET

The Representatives, including the aforementioned representative and additional representatives, are as follows:

ASHMEAD,	Richard John
JENNINGS,	Nigel Robin
REES,	David Christopher
MAGGS,	Michael Norman
HALE,	Peter
CHAPMAN,	Paul William
MILLER,	James Lionel Woolverton
ROBERTS,	Gwilym Vaughan
CORNISH,	Kristina Victoria Joy
GOLD,	Tibor Zoltán
HEDLEY,	Nicholas James Matthew
LEE,	Nicholas John
BASSIL,	Nicholas Charles
COPSEY,	Timothy Graham
ADDISON,	Ann Bridget
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PACE-Antrag an das Europäische Patentamt
PACE request to the European Patent Office
Requête PACE à l'Office européen des brevets

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Unter Bezugnahme auf das Programm zur beschleunigten Bearbeitung europäischer Patentanmeldungen ("PACE")¹ wird für die europäische Patentanmeldung

Under the programme for accelerated prosecution of European patent applications ("PACE")¹, I/we hereby request that European patent application

Nous référant au Programme de traitement accéléré des demandes de brevet européen («PACE»)¹, nous demandons que la demande de brevet européen

04786633.0 our ref: P40430EP-K/JJH

(Aktenzeichen) / (application number) / (numéro d'enregistrement)

beantragt / undergo / fasse l'objet :

- 1. beschleunigte Recherche / accelerated search / d'une recherche accélérée
- 2. beschleunigte Prüfung / accelerated examination / d'un examen accéléré.

London, GB

Ort / Place / Lieu

12 April 2006

Datum / Date

Unterschrift des (der) Anmelder(s) oder Vertreter(s) / Signature of applicant(s) or representative(s) /
Signature(s) du (des) demandeur(s) ou du (des) mandataire(s)

HIBBERT, Juliet Jane Grace
Authorised Representative

Name(n) des (der) Unterzeichneten bitte in Druckschrift wiederholen. Bei juristischen Personen bitte die Stellung des (der) Unterzeichneten innerhalb der Gesellschaft in Druckschrift angeben.

Please print name(s) under signature(s). In the case of legal persons, the position of the signatory within the company should also be printed.

Le ou les noms des signataires doivent être indiqués en caractères d'imprimerie. S'il s'agit d'une personne morale, la position occupée au sein de celle-ci par le ou les signataires doit également être indiquée en caractères d'imprimerie.

¹ Siehe ABI. EPA 2001, 459.
See OJ EPO 2001, 459.
Cf. JO OEB 2001, 459.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of providing an output on at least one of a first electronic device and a second electronic device, the first electronic device being adapted to be in electronic communication with the second electronic device, the method comprising:

determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device;

outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication;

determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device; and

responsive to said determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed, outputting a first time stamp representative of the first time.

2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent the first indication.

3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising determining that a second messaging communication has occurred at a second time between the first device and the second device, outputting a second indication that is representative of at least a portion of the second messaging communication, and outputting a second time stamp representative of the second time.

4. The method of Claim 3, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent the first indication, and outputting as the second time stamp a second time stamp disposed adjacent the second indication, one of the first time stamp and the second time stamp being disposed substantially between the first indication and the second indication, one of the first indication and the second indication being disposed substantially between the first time stamp and the second time stamp.

5. The method of Claim 3, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent the first indication, and outputting as the second time stamp a

second time stamp disposed adjacent the second indication, the first time stamp and the second time stamp being disposed substantially between the first indication and the second indication.

6. The method of Claim 3, further comprising outputting as the first indication a first linguistic output, outputting as the second indication a second linguistic output, outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent one of the beginning and the ending of the first linguistic output, and outputting as the second time stamp a second time stamp disposed adjacent the one of the beginning and the ending of the second linguistic output.

7. The method of Claim 3, further comprising outputting as the first indication a first linguistic output, outputting as the second indication a second linguistic output, outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent one of the beginning and the ending of the first linguistic output, and outputting as the second time stamp a second time stamp disposed adjacent the other of the beginning and the ending of the second linguistic output.

8. The method of Claim 1, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a time of day representative of the first time, detecting a change in date and, responsive to said detecting a change in date, outputting as the first time stamp a time of day and a date representative of the first time.

9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a relative time stamp representative of an elapsed time.

10. A method of providing an output on at least one of a first electronic device and a second electronic device, the first electronic device being adapted to be in electronic communication with the second electronic device, the method comprising:

determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device;

outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication;

detecting a predetermined input; and
responsive to said detecting a predetermined input, outputting a first time stamp representative of the first time.

11. The method of Claim 10, further comprising detecting as the predetermined input a predetermined input to the first electronic device, and outputting as the first indication a first indication on the second electronic device.

12. The method of Claim 10, further comprising detecting as the predetermined input a movement of a cursor to a location one of adjacent and overlapping the first indication.

13. The method of Claim 12, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent the first indication.

14. The method of Claim 12, further comprising detecting another input and, responsive to said detecting another input, removing the first time stamp.

15. The method of Claim 12, further comprising detecting an expiration of a predetermined duration of time and, responsive to said detecting an expiration of a predetermined duration of time, removing the first time stamp.

16. The method of Claim 10, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a time of day representative of the first time, detecting a change in date and, responsive to said detecting a change in date, outputting as the first time stamp a time of day and a date representative of the first time.

17. The method of Claim 10, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a relative time stamp representative of an elapsed time.

18. A method of providing an output on at least one of a first electronic device and a second electronic device, the first electronic device being adapted to be in electronic communication with the second electronic device, the method comprising:

determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device;

outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication;

determining that a first period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device; and

responsive to said determining that a first period of time has elapsed, outputting a first time stamp representative of the first period of time.

19. The method of Claim 18, further comprising determining that a second period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device, the second period of time being of a greater magnitude than the first period of time; and

responsive to said determining that a second period of time has elapsed, outputting a second time stamp representative of the second period of time.

20. A handheld electronic device adapted to be in electronic communication with another electronic device, the handheld electronic device comprising:

a processor apparatus including a processor and a memory;

an input apparatus; and

an output apparatus;

the processor apparatus being adapted to receive input from the input apparatus and to provide output to the output apparatus;

the processor apparatus being adapted to determine that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the handheld electronic device and the another electronic device;

the output apparatus being adapted to output a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication;

the processor apparatus being adapted to determine that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the handheld electronic device and the another electronic device; and

responsive to a determination that a predetermined period of time has elapsed, the output apparatus being adapted to output a first time stamp representative of the first time.

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Celebrating 100 years in 2006

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Our Ref: P40430EP-K/JJH/ct
Your Ref:

12 April 2006

Dear Sirs

European Patent Application No. 04786633.0
In the name of Research In Motion Limited

In order to effect entry of International Patent Application no. PCT/CA2004/001712 into the European regional phase before the European Patent Office, we file herewith the following documents:

- Front cover of the international application as published;
- EPO Form 1200;
- A list of additional representatives;
- A copy of amended claims; and
- EPO Form 1005.

Further proceedings before the EPO are to be based on the following documents:

the application documents as amended in accordance with Article 19 PCT.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Applicant reserves the right to reintroduce any subject matter that may have been deleted at any stage or to file a divisional patent application to any such subject matter.

Separate arrangements have been made for payment of the appropriate fees as follows:

CONFIDENTIALITY: The information in this communication is confidential and may be privileged. If you are not the intended recipient referred to above you should not disclose any of the contents to anyone, make copies or take any action in reliance upon it. If you have received this communication in error please contact the sender. We will make arrangements for it to be collected. Thank you.

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Page 2

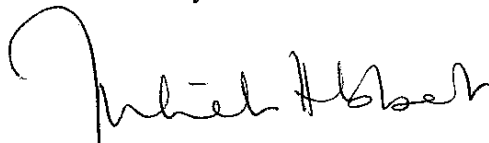
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However, if the payment is not received or is in any way insufficient, please debit our account no. 28050204 to make up the shortfall.

We file herewith a Form 1005 to request accelerated search and examination of the application under the PACE provision.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter by returning the attached form 1037.

Yours faithfully



Hibbert, Juliet Jane Grace
Authorised Representative
Kilburn & Strode

Encs.

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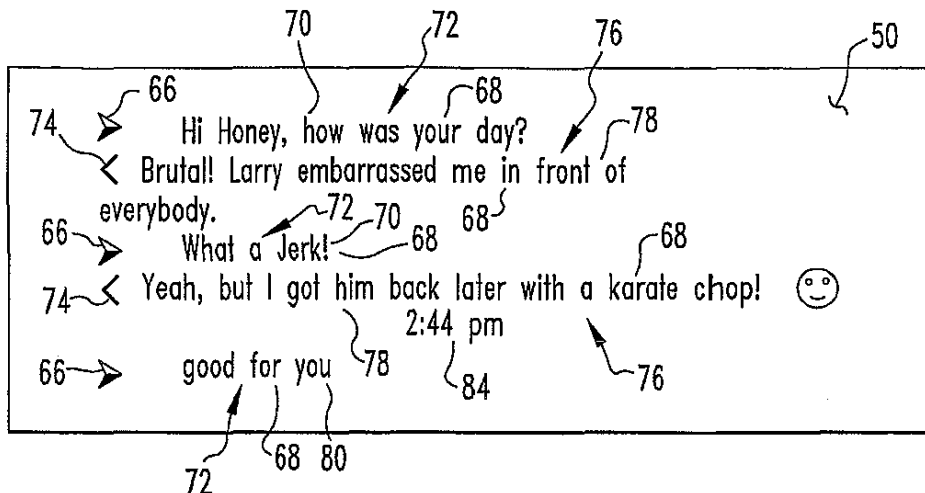
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: HANDHELD ELECTRONIC DEVICE AND ASSOCIATED METHOD PROVIDING TIME DATA IN A MESSAGING ENVIRONMENT



(57) Abstract: An improved handheld electronic device and an associated method are provided in which time data regarding certain aspects of a messaging conversation on a handheld electronic device are made available to a user. Such time data is provided, for instance, in situations where an interruption has occurred during a messaging conversation. Time data can also be provided to a user on demand in certain circumstances.

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An das Europäische Patentamt

To the European Patent Office

A l'Office européen des brevets 1

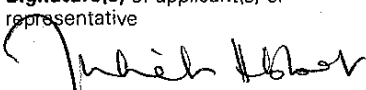
**Eintritt in die
europäische Phase
(EPA als Bestimmungsamt
oder ausgewähltes Amt)**
**Entry into the
European phase
(EPO as designated or
elected Office)**
**Entrée dans la
phase européenne
(l'OEB agissant en qualité
d'office désigné ou élu)**

Europäische Anmeldenummer oder, falls nicht bekannt, PCT-Aktenzeichen oder PCT-Veröffentlichungsnummer	European application number, or, if not known, PCT application or publication number PCT/CA2004/001712 04786633.0	Numéro de dépôt de la demande de brevet européen ou, à défaut, numéro de dépôt PCT ou de publication PCT
Zeichen des Anmelders oder Vertreters (max. 15 Positionen)	Applicant's or representative's reference (max. 15 spaces) P40430EP-K/JJH	Référence du demandeur ou du mandataire (15 caractères ou espaces au maximum)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. Anmelder Die Angaben über den (die) Anmelder sind in der internationalen Veröffentlichung enthalten oder vom Internationalen Büro nach der internationalen Veröffentlichung vermerkt worden. <input type="checkbox"/> Änderungen, die das Internationale Büro noch nicht vermerkt hat, sind auf einem Zusatzblatt angegeben. Zustellanschrift (siehe Merkblatt II, 1)	1. Applicant Indications concerning the applicant(s) are contained in the international publication or recorded by the International Bureau after the international publication. Changes which have not yet been recorded by the International Bureau are set out on an additional sheet. Address for correspondence (see Notes II, 1)	1. Demandeur Les indications concernant le(s) demandeur(s) figurent dans la publication internationale ou ont été enregistrées par le Bureau international après la publication internationale. Les changements qui n'ont pas encore été enregistrés par le Bureau international sont indiqués sur une feuille additionnelle. Adresse pour la correspondance (voir notice II, 1)
2. Vertreter Name (Nur einen Vertreter angeben, der in das europäische Patentregister eingetragen und an den zugestellt wird) Geschäftsanschrift Telefon Telefax Telex	2. Representative Name (Name only one representative who will be listed in the Register of European Patents and to whom notification will be made) HIBBERT, Juliet Jane Grace Address of place of business Kilburn & Strode 20 Red Lion Street London WC1R 4JP Telephone 020 7539 4200 Fax Telex 020 7539 4299	2. Mandataire Nom (N'indiquer qu' un seul mandataire, qui sera inscrit au Registre européen des brevets et auquel signification sera faite) Adresse professionnelle Téléphone Téléfax Télex
<input type="checkbox"/> Weitere(r) Vertreter auf Zusatzblatt	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional representative(s) on additional sheet	<input type="checkbox"/> Autre(s) mandataire(s) sur une feuille additionnelle
3. Vollmacht <input type="checkbox"/> Einzenvollmacht ist beigefügt. <input type="checkbox"/> Allgemeine Vollmacht ist registriert unter Nummer: <input type="checkbox"/> Allgemeine Vollmacht ist eingereicht, aber noch nicht registriert. <input type="checkbox"/> Die beim EPA als PCT-Anmeldeamt eingereichte Vollmacht schließt ausdrücklich die europäische Phase ein.	3. Authorisation Individual authorisation is attached. General authorisation has been registered under No: A general authorisation has been filed, but not yet registered. The authorisation filed with the EPO as PCT receiving Office expressly includes the European phase.	3. Pouvoir Un pouvoir spécial est joint. Un pouvoir général a été enregistré sous le n° : Un pouvoir général a été déposé, mais n'est pas encore enregistré. Le pouvoir général déposé à l'OEB agissant en qualité d'office récepteur au titre du PCT s'applique expressément à la phase européenne.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. Prüfungsantrag Hiermit wird die Prüfung der Anmeldung gemäß Art. 94 EPU beantragt. Die Prüfungsgebühr wird (wurde) entrichtet. Prüfungsantrag in einer zugelassenen Nichtamtssprache (siehe Merkblatt III, 5.2) :	4. Request for examination Examination of the application under Art. 94 EPC is hereby requested. The examination fee is being (has been, will be) paid. Request for examination in an admissible non-EPO language (see Notes III, 5.2) :	4. Requête en examen Il est demandé que soit examinée la demande de brevet conformément à l'art. 94 CBE. Il est (a été, sera) procédé au paiement de la taxe d'examen. Requête en examen dans une langue non officielle autorisée (voir notice III, 5.2) :
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5. Abschriften Zusätzliche Abschrift(en) der im ergänzenden europäischen Recherchenbericht angeführten Schriftstücke wird (werden) beantragt. Anzahl der zusätzlichen Sätze von Abschriften	5. Copies Additional copy (copies) of the documents cited in the supplementary European search report is (are) requested. Number of additional sets of copies	5. Copies Prière de fournir une ou plusieurs copies supplémentaires des documents cités dans le rapport complémentaire de recherche européenne. Nombre de jeux supplémentaires de copies
2		
6. Für das Verfahren vor dem EPA bestimmte Unterlagen 6.1 Dem Verfahren vor dem EPA als Bestimmungsamt (PCT I) sind folgende Unterlagen zugrunde zu legen: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> die vom Internationalen Büro veröffentlichten Anmeldeunterlagen (mit allen Ansprüchen, Beschreibung und Zeichnungen), gegebenenfalls mit den geänderten Ansprüchen nach Art. 19 PCT <input type="checkbox"/> soweit sie nicht ersetzt werden durch die beigefügten Änderungen . <i>Falls nötig, sind Klarstellungen auf einem Zusatzblatt einzureichen!</i> 6.2 Dem Verfahren vor dem EPA als ausgewähltem Amt (PCT II) sind folgende Unterlagen zugrunde zu legen: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> die dem internationalen vorläufigen Prüfungsbericht zugrunde gelegten Unterlagen , einschließlich seiner eventuellen Anlagen (Solche Anlagen müssen immer beigefügt werden) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> soweit sie nicht ersetzt werden durch die beigefügten Änderungen . <i>Falls nötig, sind Klarstellungen auf einem Zusatzblatt einzureichen!</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sind dem EPA als mit der internationalen vorläufigen Prüfung beauftragten Behörde Versuchsberichte zugegangen, dürfen diese dem Verfahren vor dem EPA zugrunde gelegt werden.	6. Documents intended for proceedings before the EPO 6.1 Proceedings before the EPO as designated Office (PCT I) are to be based on the following documents: the application documents published by the International Bureau (with all claims, description and drawings), where applicable with amended claims under Art. 19 PCT unless replaced by the amendments enclosed. <i>Where necessary, clarifications must be submitted on a separate sheet!</i> 6.2 Proceedings before the EPO as elected Office (PCT II) are to be based on the following documents: the documents on which the international preliminary examination report is based , including its possible annexes (Such annexes must always be filed) unless replaced by the amendments enclosed. <i>Where necessary, clarifications must be submitted on a separate sheet!</i> If the EPO as International Preliminary Examining Authority has received test reports , these may be used as the basis of proceedings before the EPO.	6. Pièces destinées à la procédure devant l'OEB 6.1 La procédure devant l'OEB agissant en qualité d'office désigné (PCT I) doit se fonder sur les pièces suivantes : les pièces de la demande publiée par le Bureau international (avec toutes les revendications, la description et les dessins), éventuellement avec les revendications modifiées conformément à l'article 19 du PCT dans la mesure où elles ne sont pas remplacées par les modifications jointes. <i>Le cas échéant, des explications doivent être jointes sur une feuille additionnelle!</i> 6.2 La procédure devant l'OEB agissant en qualité d'office élu (PCT II) doit se fonder sur les pièces suivantes : les pièces sur lesquelles se fonde le rapport d'examen préliminaire international , y compris ses annexes éventuelles (De telles annexes sont toujours à joindre) dans la mesure où elles ne sont pas remplacées par les modifications jointes. <i>Le cas échéant, des explications doivent être jointes sur une feuille additionnelle!</i> Si l'OEB, agissant en qualité d'administration chargée de l'examen préliminaire international, a reçu des rapports d'essais , ceux-ci peuvent constituer la base de la procédure devant l'OEB.

<p>7. Übersetzungen Beigefügt sind die nachfolgend angekreuzten Übersetzungen in einer der Amtssprachen des EPA (Deutsch, Englisch, Französisch):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Im Verfahren vor dem EPA als Bestimmungsamt oder ausgewähltem Amt (PCT I + II): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Übersetzung der ursprünglich eingereichten internationalen Anmeldung (Beschreibung, Ansprüche, etwaige Textbestandteile in den Zeichnungen), der veröffentlichten Zusammenfassung, und etwaiger Angaben über biologisches Material nach Regel 13^{bis}.3 und 13^{bis}.4 PCT <input type="checkbox"/> Übersetzung der prioritätsbegründenden Anmeldung(en) <input type="checkbox"/> Es wird hiermit erklärt, daß die internationale Anmeldung in ihrer ursprünglich eingereichten Fassung eine vollständige Übersetzung der früheren Anmeldung ist (Regel 38(5) EPÜ) <input type="checkbox"/> Zusätzlich im Verfahren vor dem EPA als Bestimmungsamt (PCT I): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Übersetzung der nach Art. 19 PCT geänderten Ansprüche nebst Erklärung, falls diese dem Verfahren vor dem EPA zugrunde gelegt werden sollen (siehe Feld 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Zusätzlich im Verfahren vor dem EPA als ausgewähltem Amt (PCT II): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Übersetzung der Anlagen zum internationalen vorläufigen Prüfungsbericht 	<p>7. Translations Translations in one of the official languages of the EPO (English, French, German) are enclosed as crossed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> In proceedings before the EPO as designated or elected Office (PCT I + II): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translation of the international application (description, claims, any text in the drawings) as originally filed, of the abstract as published and of any indication under Rule 13^{bis}.3 and 13^{bis}.4 PCT regarding biological material Translation of the priority application(s) It is hereby declared that the international application as originally filed is a complete translation of the previous application (Rule 38(5) EPC) <input type="checkbox"/> In addition, in proceedings before the EPO as designated Office (PCT I): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translation of amended claims and any statement under Art. 19 PCT, if the claims as amended are to form the basis for the proceedings before the EPO (see Section 6) <input type="checkbox"/> In addition, in proceedings before the EPO as elected Office (PCT II): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report 	<p>7. Traductions Vous trouverez, ci-joint, les traductions cochées ci-après dans l'une des langues officielles de l'OEB (allemand, anglais, français) :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Dans la procédure devant l'OEB agissant en qualité d'office désigné ou élu (PCT I + II): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traduction de la demande internationale telle que déposée initialement (description, revendications, textes figurant éventuellement dans les dessins), de l'abrégé publié, et de toutes indications visées aux règles 13^{bis}.3 et 13^{bis}.4 du PCT concernant le matériel biologique Traduction de la (des) demande(s) ouvrant le droit de priorité Il est déclaré par la présente que la demande internationale telle que déposée initialement est une traduction intégrale de la demande antérieure (règle 38(5) CBE) <input type="checkbox"/> De plus, dans la procédure devant l'OEB agissant en qualité d'office désigné (PCT I) : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traduction des revendications modifiées et de la déclaration faite conformément à l'article 19 du PCT, si la procédure devant l'OEB doit être fondée sur les revendications modifiées (voir la rubrique 6) <input type="checkbox"/> De plus, dans la procédure devant l'OEB agissant en qualité d'office élu (PCT II) : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traduction des annexes du rapport d'examen préliminaire international
<p><input type="checkbox"/> 8. Biologisches Material Die Erfindung bezieht sich auf bzw. verwendet biologisches Material, das nach Regel 28 EPÜ hinterlegt worden ist.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Die Angaben nach Regel 28(1)c) EPÜ (falls noch nicht bekannt, die Hinterlegungsstelle und das (die) Bezugszeichen [Nummer, Symbole usw.] des Hinterlegers) sind in der internationalen Veröffentlichung oder in der gemäß Feld 7 eingereichten Übersetzung enthalten auf:</p> <p>Seite(n) / Zeile(n)</p> <p>Die Empfangsbescheinigung(en) der Hinterlegungsstelle</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ist (sind) beigefügt</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> wird (werden) nachgereicht</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Verzicht auf die Verpflichtung des Antragstellers nach Regel 28(3) EPÜ auf gesondertem Schriftstück</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> 8. Biological material The invention relates to and/or uses biological material deposited under Rule 28 EPC.</p> <p>The particulars referred to in Rule 28(1)(c) EPC (if not yet known, the depository institution and the identification reference(s) [number, symbols etc.] of the depositor) are given in the international publication or in the translation submitted under Section 7 on:</p> <p>page(s) / line(s)</p> <p>The receipt(s) of deposit issued by the depository institution</p> <p>is (are) enclosed</p> <p>will be filed at a later date</p> <p>Waiver of the right to an undertaking from the requester pursuant to Rule 28(3) EPC attached.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> 8. Matière biologique L'invention concerne et/ou utilise de la matière biologique, déposée conformément à la règle 28 CBE.</p> <p>Les indications visées à la règle 28(1)c) CBE (si non encore connues, l'autorité de dépôt et la (les) référence(s) d'identification [numéro ou symboles etc.] du déposant) figurent dans la publication internationale ou dans une traduction produite conformément à la rubrique 7 à la / aux:</p> <p>page(s) / ligne(s)</p> <p>Le(s) récépissé(s) de dépôt délivré(s) par l'autorité de dépôt</p> <p>est (sont) joint(s)</p> <p>sera (seront) produit(s) ultérieurement</p> <p>Renonciation, sur document distinct, à l'engagement du requérant au titre de la règle 28(3) CBE.</p>

<p>9. Nucleotid- und Aminosäuresequenzen</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Die nach Regeln 5.2 und 13^{ter} PCT sowie Regel 111(3) EPÜ erforderlichen Unterlagen liegen dem EPA bereits vor.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Das schriftliche Sequenzprotokoll wird anliegend nachgereicht.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Das Sequenzprotokoll geht nicht über den Inhalt der Anmeldung in der ursprünglich eingereichten Fassung hinaus.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Der vorgeschriebene Datenträger ist beigelegt.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Die auf dem Datenträger gespeicherte Information stimmt mit dem schriftlichen Sequenzprotokoll überein.</p>	<p>9. Nucleotide and amino acid sequences</p> <p>The items necessary in accordance with Rules 5.2 and 13^{ter} PCT and Rule 111(3) EPC have already been furnished to the EPO.</p> <p>The written sequence listing is furnished herewith.</p> <p>The sequence listing does not include matter which goes beyond the content of the application as filed.</p> <p>The prescribed data carrier is enclosed.</p> <p>The information recorded on the data carrier is identical to the written sequence listing.</p>	<p>9. Séquences de nucléotides et d'acides aminés</p> <p>Les pièces requises selon les règles 5.2 et 13^{ter} PCT et la règle 111(3) CBE ont déjà été déposées auprès de l'OEB.</p> <p>La liste de séquences écrite est produite ci-joint.</p> <p>La liste de séquences ne contient pas d'éléments s'étendant au-delà du contenu de la demande telle qu'elle a été déposée.</p> <p>Le support de données prescrit est joint.</p> <p>L'information figurant sur le support de données est identique à celle que contient la liste de séquences écrite.</p>
<p>10. Benennungsgebühren</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10.1 Es ist derzeit beabsichtigt, den siebenfachen Betrag einer Benennungsgebühr zu entrichten. Damit gelten die Benennungsgebühren für alle Vertragsstaaten des EPÜ¹ als entrichtet (Art. 2 Nr. 3 GebO), soweit sie in der internationalen Anmeldung bestimmt sind².</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 10.2 Abweichend von der Erklärung in Nr. 10.1 ist derzeit beabsichtigt, weniger als sieben Benennungsgebühren für folgende in der internationalen Anmeldung bestimmte Vertragsstaaten des EPÜ² zu entrichten:</p> <p>(1) <input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p>(2) <input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p>(3) <input type="checkbox"/> _____</p>	<p>10. Designation fees</p> <p>10.1 It is currently intended to pay seven times the amount of the designation fee. The designation fees for all the EPC contracting states¹ designated in the international application² are thereby deemed to have been paid (Art. 2 No. 3 RFees).</p> <p>10.2 The declaration in No. 10.1 does not apply. Instead, it is currently intended to pay fewer than seven designation fees for the following EPC contracting states² designated in the international application:</p> <p>(4) <input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p>(5) <input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p>(6) <input type="checkbox"/> _____</p>	<p>10. Taxes de désignation</p> <p>10.1 Il est actuellement envisagé de payer un montant correspondant à sept fois la taxe de désignation. Les taxes de désignation sont ainsi réputées payées pour tous les Etats contractants de la CBE¹ désignés dans la demande internationale² (art. 2, point 3 du RRT).</p> <p>10.2 Contrairement à ce qui est indiqué au n° 10.1, il est actuellement envisagé de payer moins de sept taxes de désignation pour les Etats contractants de la CBE² suivants désignés dans la demande internationale :</p>
<p>Soweit unter Nr. 10.2 Vertragsstaaten aufgeführt sind, wird beantragt, für die dort nicht aufgeführten Vertragsstaaten von der Zustellung einer Mitteilung nach Regel 108(3) EPÜ abzusehen.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10.3 Wird ein automatischer Abbuchungsauftrag erteilt (Feld 12), so wird das EPA beauftragt, bei Ablauf der Grundfrist nach Regel 107(1)d) EPÜ den siebenfachen Betrag einer Benennungsgebühr abzubuchen. Ist eine Erklärung nach Nr. 10.2 abgegeben worden, so sollen die Benennungsgebühren nur für die dort angegebenen Vertragsstaaten abgebucht werden, sofern dem EPA nicht bis zum Ablauf der Grundfrist ein anderslautender Auftrag zugeht.</p>	<p>If contracting states are indicated under No. 10.2, it is requested that no communication under Rule 108(3) EPC be issued for contracting states not thus indicated.</p> <p>10.3 If an automatic debit order has been issued (Section 12), the EPO is authorised, on expiry of the basic period under Rule 107(1)(d) EPC, to debit seven times the amount of the designation fee. If states are indicated under No. 10.2, the EPO will debit designation fees only for those states, unless instructed otherwise before the basic period expires.</p>	<p>Si des Etats contractants sont mentionnés au n° 10.2, prière de ne pas procéder à la signification d'une notification prévue par la règle 108(3) CBE pour les Etats contractants n'y étant pas mentionnés.</p> <p>10.3 Si un ordre de prélèvement automatique est donné (rubrique 12), il est demandé à l'OEB de prélever, à l'expiration du délai normal visé à la règle 107(1)d) CBE, un montant correspondant à sept fois la taxe de désignation. Si une déclaration a été faite au n° 10.2, les taxes de désignation ne sont à prélever que pour les Etats contractants qui y sont indiqués, sauf instruction contraire reçue par l'OEB avant l'expiration du délai normal.</p>
<p>¹ Stand bei Drucklegung: 27 Vertragsstaaten, und zwar: / Status when this form was printed: 27 contracting states, namely / Situation à la date d'impression: 27 Etats contractants, à savoir: AT Österreich / Austria / Autriche, BE Belgien / Belgium / Belgique, BG Bulgarien / Bulgaria / Bulgarie, CH / LI Schweiz und Liechtenstein / Switzerland and Liechtenstein / Suisse et Liechtenstein, CY Zypern / Cyprus / Chypre, CZ Tschechische Republik / Czech Republic / République tchèque, DE Deutschland / Germany / Allemagne, DK Dänemark / Denmark / Danemark, EE Estland / Estonia / Estonie, ES Spanien / Spain / Espagne, FI Finnland / Finland / Finlande, FR Frankreich / France / France, GB Vereinigtes Königreich / United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni, GR Griechenland / Greece / Grèce, HU Ungarn / Hungary / Hongrie, IE Irland / Ireland / Irlande, IT Italien / Italy / Italie, LU Luxemburg / Luxembourg / Luxembourg, MC Monaco / Monaco / Monaco, NL Niederlande / Netherlands / Pays-Bas, PT Portugal / Portugal / Portugal, RO Rumänien / Romania / Roumanie, SE Schweden / Sweden / Suède, SI Slowenien / Slovenia / Slovénie, SK Slowakische Republik / Slovak Republic / République slovaque, TR Türkei / Turkey / Turquie</p> <p>² Für folgende Staaten nur möglich, falls in der internationalen Anmeldung am oder nach folgendem Tag bestimmt: Slowakische Republik, Bulgarien, Tschechische Republik und Estland: 1. Juli 2002, Slowenien: 1. Dezember 2002, Ungarn: 1. Januar 2003 und Rumänien: 1. März 2003. / For the following states this is possible only if they are designated in the international application on or after the stated date: Slovak Republic, Bulgaria, Czech Republic and Estonia: 1 July 2002, Slovenia: 1 December 2002, Hungary: 1 January 2003 and Romania: 1 March 2003. / En ce qui concerne les Etats suivants seulement si la désignation a été effectuée dans la demande internationale à la date suivante ou à une date ultérieure: République slovaque, Bulgarie, République tchèque et Estonie: 1^{er} juillet 2002, Slovénie: 1^{er} décembre 2002, Hongrie: 1^{er} janvier 2003 et Roumanie: 1^{er} mars 2003.</p>		

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 11. Erstreckung des europäischen Patents Bei Zahlung der Erstreckungsgebühr(en) gilt diese Anmeldung auch als wirksamer Erstreckungsantrag für die in der internationalen Anmeldung bestimmten »Erstreckungsstaaten«. Es ist beabsichtigt, diese Gebühr(en) für folgende Staaten zu entrichten: <input type="checkbox"/> SI Slowenien ¹⁾ <input type="checkbox"/> LT Litauen <input type="checkbox"/> LV Lettland <input type="checkbox"/> AL Albanien <input type="checkbox"/> RO Rumänien ¹⁾ <input type="checkbox"/> MK Ehemalige jugoslawische Republik Mazedonien <input type="checkbox"/> _____ ²⁾	11. Extension of the European patent On payment of the extension fee(s) this application is also deemed to be a request for extension to all the "extension states" designated in the international application. It is intended to pay the fee(s) for the following states: Slovenia ¹⁾ Lithuania Latvia Albania Romania ¹⁾ Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ²⁾	11. Extension des effets du brevet européen La taxe (Les taxes) d'extension payée(s), la présente demande est également réputée être une demande d'extension à tous les «Etats autorisant l'extension» désignés dans la demande internationale. Il est envisagé de payer la taxe (les taxes) d'extension pour les Etats suivants: Slovénie ¹⁾ Lituanie Lettonie Albanie Roumanie ¹⁾ Ex-République yougoslave de Macédoine ²⁾
<p>1) Für Slowenien und Rumänien nur möglich, falls in der internationalen Anmeldung bis 30. November 2002 (Slowenien) oder bis 28. Februar 2003 (Rumänien) bestimmt. / For Slovenia and Romania this is possible only if they are designated in the international application up to 30 November 2002 (Slovenia) or 28 February 2003 (Romania). / En ce qui concerne la Slovénie et la Roumanie, seulement si la désignation a été effectuée dans la demande internationale jusqu'au 30 novembre 2002 (Slovénie) ou jusqu'au 28 février 2003 (Roumanie).</p> <p>2) Platz für Staaten, mit denen »Erstreckungsabkommen« nach Drucklegung dieses Formblatts in Kraft treten und die in der internationalen Anmeldung bestimmt waren. / Space for States with which "extension agreements" enter into force after this form has been printed and which were designated in the international application. / Prévu pour des Etats à l'égard desquels des "accords d'extension" entreront en vigueur après l'impression du présent formulaire et qui ont été désignés dans la demande internationale.</p>		
<input type="checkbox"/> 12. Automatischer Abbuchungsauftrag (Nur möglich für Inhaber von beim EPA geführten laufenden Konten) Das EPA wird beauftragt, nach Maßgabe der Vorschriften über das automatische Abbuchungsverfahren fällige Gebühren und Auslagen vom untenstehenden laufenden Konto abzubuchen. In Bezug auf die Benennungsgebühren wird auf Feld 10.3 verwiesen. Das EPA wird ferner beauftragt, die Erstreckungsgebühren für jeden in Feld 11 angekreuzten »Erstreckungsstaat« bei Ablauf der Grundfrist zu ihrer Zahlung abzubuchen, sofern ihm nicht bis dahin ein anderslautender Auftrag zugeht. Nummer und Kontoinhaber	12. Automatic debit order (for EPO deposit account holders only) The EPO is hereby authorised, under the Arrangements for the automatic debiting procedure, to debit from the deposit account below any fees and costs falling due. For designation fees , see Section 10.3. The EPO is also authorised, on expiry of the basic period for paying the extension fees , to debit those fees for each of the "extension states" marked with a cross in Section 11, unless instructed otherwise before the said period expires. Number and account holder	12. Ordre de prélèvement automatique (uniquement possible pour les titulaires de comptes courants ouverts auprès de l'OEB) Par la présente, il est demandé à l'OEB de prélever du compte courant ci-dessous les taxes et frais venant à échéance, conformément à la réglementation relative au prélèvement automatique. Pour les taxes de désignation , se reporter à la rubrique 10.3. Il est en outre demandé à l'OEB de prélever, à l'expiration du délai normal prévu pour leur paiement, les taxes d'extension pour chaque «Etat autorisant l'extension» coché à la rubrique 11, sauf instruction contraire reçue avant l'expiration de ce délai. Numéro et titulaire du compte
<input type="checkbox"/> 13. Eventuelle Rückzahlungen auf das beim EPA geführte laufende Konto Nummer und Kontoinhaber	13. Any reimbursement to EPO deposit account Number and account holder 28050204 Kilburn & Strode	13. Remboursements éventuels à effectuer sur le compte courant ouvert auprès de l'OEB Numéro et titulaire du compte
14. Unterschrift(en) des (der) Anmelder(s) oder Vertreters Ort / Datum Für Angestellte (Art. 133(3) EPÜ) mit allgemeiner Vollmacht: Nr. Name(n) des (der) Unterzeichneten bitte in Druckschrift wiederholen. Bei juristischen Personen bitte auch die Stellung des (der) Unterzeichneten innerhalb der Gesellschaft in Druckschrift angeben.	14. Signature(s) of applicant(s) or representative  HIBBERT, Juliet Jane Grace Authorised Representative Place / Date London 10.04.06 For employees (Art. 133(3) EPC) having a general authorisation: No. Please print name(s) under signature(s). In the case of legal persons, the position of the signatory within the company should also be printed.	14. Signature(s) du (des) demandeur(s) ou du mandataire Lieu / Date Pour les employés (art. 133(3) CBE) disposant d'un pouvoir général : N° Le ou les noms des signataires doivent être indiqués en caractères d'imprimerie. S'il s'agit d'une personne morale, la position occupée au sein de celle-ci par le ou les signataires doit également être indiquée en caractères d'imprimerie.

ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATIVES SHEET

The Representatives, including the aforementioned representative and additional representatives, are as follows:

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PACE-Antrag an das Europäische Patentamt
PACE request to the European Patent Office
Requête PACE à l'Office européen des brevets

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Unter Bezugnahme auf das Programm zur beschleunigten Bearbeitung europäischer Patentanmeldungen ("PACE")¹ wird für die europäische Patentanmeldung

Under the programme for accelerated prosecution of European patent applications ("PACE")¹, I/we hereby request that European patent application

Nous référant au Programme de traitement accéléré des demandes de brevet européen («PACE»)¹, nous demandons que la demande de brevet européen

04786633.0 our ref: P40430EP-K/JJH

(Aktenzeichen) / (application number) / (numéro d'enregistrement)

beantragt / undergo / fasse l'objet :

- 1. beschleunigte Recherche / accelerated search / d'une recherche accélérée
- 2. beschleunigte Prüfung / accelerated examination / d'un examen accéléré.

London. GB

Ort / Place / Lieu

12 April 2006

Datum / Date

Unterschrift des (der) Anmelder(s) oder Vertreter(s) / Signature of applicant(s) or representative(s) /
Signature(s) du (des) demandeur(s) ou du (des) mandataire(s)

HIBBERT, Juliet Jane Grace
Authorised Representative

Name(n) des (der) Unterzeichneten bitte in Druckschrift wiederholen. Bei juristischen Personen bitte die Stellung des (der) Unterzeichneten innerhalb der Gesellschaft in Druckschrift angeben.

Please print name(s) under signature(s). In the case of legal persons, the position of the signatory within the company should also be printed.

Le ou les noms des signataires doivent être indiqués en caractères d'imprimerie. S'il s'agit d'une personne morale, la position occupée au sein de celle-ci par le ou les signataires doit également être indiquée en caractères d'imprimerie.

¹ Siehe ABl. EPA 2001, 459.
See OJ EPO 2001, 459.
Cf. JO OEB 2001, 459.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of providing an output on at least one of a first electronic device and a second electronic device, the first electronic device being adapted to be in electronic communication with the second electronic device, the method comprising:

determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device;

outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication;

determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device; and

responsive to said determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed, outputting a first time stamp representative of the first time.

2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent the first indication.

3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising determining that a second messaging communication has occurred at a second time between the first device and the second device, outputting a second indication that is representative of at least a portion of the second messaging communication, and outputting a second time stamp representative of the second time.

4. The method of Claim 3, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent the first indication, and outputting as the second time stamp a second time stamp disposed adjacent the second indication, one of the first time stamp and the second time stamp being disposed substantially between the first indication and the second indication, one of the first indication and the second indication being disposed substantially between the first time stamp and the second time stamp.

5. The method of Claim 3, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent the first indication, and outputting as the second time stamp a

second time stamp disposed adjacent the second indication, the first time stamp and the second time stamp being disposed substantially between the first indication and the second indication.

6. The method of Claim 3, further comprising outputting as the first indication a first linguistic output, outputting as the second indication a second linguistic output, outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent one of the beginning and the ending of the first linguistic output, and outputting as the second time stamp a second time stamp disposed adjacent the one of the beginning and the ending of the second linguistic output.

7. The method of Claim 3, further comprising outputting as the first indication a first linguistic output, outputting as the second indication a second linguistic output, outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent one of the beginning and the ending of the first linguistic output, and outputting as the second time stamp a second time stamp disposed adjacent the other of the beginning and the ending of the second linguistic output.

8. The method of Claim 1, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a time of day representative of the first time, detecting a change in date and, responsive to said detecting a change in date, outputting as the first time stamp a time of day and a date representative of the first time.

9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a relative time stamp representative of an elapsed time.

10. A method of providing an output on at least one of a first electronic device and a second electronic device, the first electronic device being adapted to be in electronic communication with the second electronic device, the method comprising:

determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device;

outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication;

detecting a predetermined input; and
responsive to said detecting a predetermined input, outputting a first time stamp representative of the first time.

11. The method of Claim 10, further comprising detecting as the predetermined input a predetermined input to the first electronic device, and outputting as the first indication a first indication on the second electronic device.

12. The method of Claim 10, further comprising detecting as the predetermined input a movement of a cursor to a location one of adjacent and overlapping the first indication.

13. The method of Claim 12, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent the first indication.

14. The method of Claim 12, further comprising detecting another input and, responsive to said detecting another input, removing the first time stamp.

15. The method of Claim 12, further comprising detecting an expiration of a predetermined duration of time and, responsive to said detecting an expiration of a predetermined duration of time, removing the first time stamp.

16. The method of Claim 10, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a time of day representative of the first time, detecting a change in date and, responsive to said detecting a change in date, outputting as the first time stamp a time of day and a date representative of the first time.

17. The method of Claim 10, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a relative time stamp representative of an elapsed time.

18. A method of providing an output on at least one of a first electronic device and a second electronic device, the first electronic device being adapted to be in electronic communication with the second electronic device, the method comprising:

determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device;

outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication;

determining that a first period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device; and

responsive to said determining that a first period of time has elapsed, outputting a first time stamp representative of the first period of time.

19. The method of Claim 18, further comprising determining that a second period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device, the second period of time being of a greater magnitude than the first period of time; and

responsive to said determining that a second period of time has elapsed, outputting a second time stamp representative of the second period of time.

20. A handheld electronic device adapted to be in electronic communication with another electronic device, the handheld electronic device comprising:

a processor apparatus including a processor and a memory;

an input apparatus; and

an output apparatus;

the processor apparatus being adapted to receive input from the input apparatus and to provide output to the output apparatus;

the processor apparatus being adapted to determine that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the handheld electronic device and the another electronic device;

the output apparatus being adapted to output a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first messaging communication;

the processor apparatus being adapted to determine that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the handheld electronic device and the another electronic device; and

responsive to a determination that a predetermined period of time has elapsed, the output apparatus being adapted to output a first time stamp representative of the first time.

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FAX TRANSMISSION Page 1 of 1

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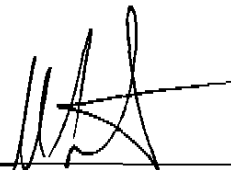
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Re: European Patent Application No. 04786633.0
Applicant: Research In Motion Limited
Our Ref: P40430EP-K

Please debit our deposit account number **28050204** with the following fees totalling **Euros**, **Euros** in respect of the above application and designating the following countries: AT, BE, BG, CH/LI, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR, if applicable.

Description	Code	Currency	Amount
Filing fee	001	EURO	170.00
Search fee	002	EURO	720.00
Designation fee(s)	005	EURO	560.00
Claims fee(s) (Rule 31 (1) EPC)	015	EURO	450.00
Additional copy	055	EURO	50.00
Examination fee	006	EURO	1490.00
Fee for grant including fee for printing (up to 35 pages)	007	EURO	
Additional fee for printing (more than 35 pages)	008	EURO	
Renewal fee for the 3 rd year	033	EURO	
Renewal fee for the 4 th year	034	EURO	
Extension fee(s) for: AL, HKR, LT, LV & MK		EURO	510.00
		EURO	
TOTAL		EURO	3950.00

Signature  Kilburn & Strode Place, Date: London - 12 April 2006

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PAT 57519W-90	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See item 4 below
International application No. PCT/CA2004/001712	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 20 September 2004 (20.09.2004)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 19 September 2003 (19.09.2003)
International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237		
Applicant RESEARCH IN MOTION LIMITED		

<p>1. This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 bis.1(a).</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 8 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.</p>																								
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <table> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. I</td> <td>Basis of the report</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. II</td> <td>Priority</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. III</td> <td>Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. IV</td> <td>Lack of unity of invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. V</td> <td>Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VI</td> <td>Certain documents cited</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VII</td> <td>Certain defects in the international application</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VIII</td> <td>Certain observations on the international application</td> </tr> </table> <p>4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2).</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application																						

	Date of issuance of this report 21 March 2006 (21.03.2006)
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Form PCT/IB/373 (January 2004)

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From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:
BORDEN LADNER GERVAIS LLP
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3/3

PCT

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing (date/month/year) 14 February 2005 (14-02-2005)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PAT 57519W-90		FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below
International application no PCT/CA2004/001712	International filing date (date/month/year) 20 September 2004 (20-09-2004)	Priority date (date/month/year) 19 September 2003 (19-09-2003)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC IPC: H04L 12/24, H04L 12/54		
Applicant RESEARCH IN MOTION LIMITED		

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items :

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(I) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Commissioner of Patents Canadian Patent Office Box PCT, Ottawa/Gatineau K1A 0C9	Authorized officer Suchita Varma Tel: (819) 934-4549
Facsimile No. (819) 953-9538	

Form PCT/ISA/237 (cover sheet) (January 2004)

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/CA2004/001712

Box No. I **Basis of this opinion**

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

- This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language __, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).

2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of :

a. type of material

- a sequence listing
 table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

- in written format
 in computer readable form

c. time of filing/furnishing

- contained in the international application as filed.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments :

Description pages 1 - 12, as originally filed;
Claims pages 1 - 4, as originally filed;
Drawings pages 1 - 7, as originally filed;

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/CA2004/001712

Box No. II Priority

- 1 The following document has not yet been furnished :
- copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43*bis*.1 and 66.7(a)).
- translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (rule 43*bis*.1 and 66.7(b)).
- Consequently it has not been possible to consider the validity of the priority claim. This opinion has nevertheless been established on the assumption that the relevant date is the claimed priority date.
- 2 This opinion has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid (Rules 43*bis*.1 and 64.1). Thus for the purpose of this opinion, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.
3. Additional observations, if necessary :

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/CA2004/001712

Box No. V reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(I) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-20	YES
	Claims	None	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	7, 11	YES
	Claims	1-6, 8-10, 12-20	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-20	YES
	Claims	None	NO

2. Citations and explanations :

The claimed invention relates to an improved handheld electronic device and an associated method in which time data pertaining to certain aspects of a messaging conversation on a handheld electronic device are made available to a user. This method proposes to overcome the problem of not being able to display certain timing aspects of a conversation on a handheld electronic device due to the limited space available on the display of the handheld electronic device.

The solution to being able to display time data pertaining to certain aspects of a messaging conversation on a handheld device that is limited in space (for display and storage) according to the claimed invention is to have time data displayed on the screen in locations such as beside an input/output message on the screen or the time data could be hidden off the screen until the user moves a cursor to see the hidden time data so that minimal space is consumed by the time data on the handheld electronic device. This time data could be displayed after a predetermined period of time or on demand and it could represent the last time a message was exchanged (input/output) from or to the electronic device, the current date/time, or the elapsed conversation time. This information could be displayed in various languages. Furthermore, the time data could be deleted or overridden whenever desired by the user.

This opinion is formed based on the originally filed claims 1-20.

The following relevant documents appear in the International Search Report.

D1: US 6590529 B2
D2: GB 2384150 A

D1 discloses an individualized, location specific weather forecasting system in which weather data is transmitted to an electronic handheld device as a function of location and time so that subscribers receive weather forecast data specific to their current location. This information could be displayed by the handheld device periodically or on demand if desired by the user.

D2 discloses a method for displaying time-stamp associated data. This data is displayed with a display mode such as background colour which is varied to indicate timing variations in the current time and the time-stamp of the associated time data to be displayed. The method can be applied to a mobile telephone or to a personal digital assistant (PDA).

The following observations are made:

Novelty:

Claims 1-20 are considered to be novel (PCT Article 33(2)) as no single piece of prior art discloses explicitly the solution of having time data displayed in minimal space by having various ways of displaying the information and also be able to display the time and date information either on demand, or after a predetermined period of time based on an idle period in a conversation occurring on a handheld electronic device. Furthermore, no single prior art discloses the ability to delete or override the time data whenever desired by the user.

(continued on supplemental sheet)

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/CA2004/001712

Box No. VIII

Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made :

Claim 1:

The term "a second electronic device" (line 5) is repeated even though it is previously defined in the preamble of claim 1, which results in double inclusion.

The inclusion of the term "substantially" (line 11) causes ambiguity because it is unclear as to how long is considered to be a substantial amount of idle communication time. The same objection applies to claim 18 (line 3), claim 19 (line 9), and claim (28).

The term "a predetermined period of time" (line 13) is repeated in claim 1 for a second time which results in double inclusion.

Claim 4:

The term "the second indication" (line 25) is missing an antecedent.

Claim 6:

The term "the one" (line 8) is missing an antecedent and should perhaps be "one of the".

Claim 8:

The term "a change in date" (line 20) is repeated in claim 8 for a second time which results in double inclusion.

The term "a time of day" (line 20) is repeated in claim 8 for a second time which results in double inclusion.

Claim 10:

The term "a second electronic device" (line 28) is repeated in claim 10 for a second time which results in double inclusion.

The term "a predetermined input" (line 1) is repeated in claim 10 for a second time which results in double inclusion.

Claim 15:

The term "an expiration of a predetermined duration of time" (lines 18-19) is repeated in claim 15 for a second time which results in double inclusion.

Claim 16:

The term "a change in date" (line 23) is repeated in claim 16 for a second time which results in double inclusion.

The term "a time of day" (line 23) is repeated in claim 16 for a second time which results in double inclusion.

Claim 18:

The term "a second electronic device" (line 31) is repeated even though it is previously defined in the preamble of claim 18, which results in double inclusion.

The term "a first period of time" (line 5) is repeated in claim 18 for a second time which results in double inclusion.

Claim 19:

The term "a second period of time" is repeated in claim 19 for a second time which results in double inclusion.

Claim 20:

The term "a predetermined period of time" is repeated in claim 20 for a second time which results in double inclusion.

Therefore, the aforementioned claims do not meet the requirements of PCT Article 6 since they are not clear and concise due to the reasons indicated above.

Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of : V

Inventive Step:

What is stated in claim 1 and claim 18 is considered to define an equivalent method as that described in D1. Claim 1 recites, "a method of providing an output on at least one of a first electronic device and a second electronic device, the first electronic device being adapted to be in electronic communication with a second electronic device, the method comprising: determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device; outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first communication; determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device; and responsive to said determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed, outputting a first time-stamp representative of the first time." Claim 18 is equivalent to claim 1, but uses a first period of time instead of predetermined period of time. The weather forecasting system in D1 communicates with an electronic device to send it weather information, which is displayed on the small display of the electronic device (column 15, claim 1). The weather information includes information as a function of location and time (column 2, line 48). This weather information could be setup to be displayed periodically after a predetermined period of time has elapsed, i.e. every seven minutes (column 2, lines 48-50). The information is not limited to only being displayed if there is no further communication between the electronic device and the weather forecasting system, instead, it is displayed periodically regardless of the communication status. However, it is merely a design consideration to display the information regularly or only when no further communication is available.

D2 discloses that time-stamps are displayed on an electronic device (page 2, lines 4-6). This time-stamp could be in the form of the current time and date requested by the user (page 3, lines 7-23). The time-stamp is stored in memory and may be displayed by the user on the electronic device whenever desired. Furthermore, each time desired, a new time-stamp can be displayed on the electronic device. The electronic device would use a change in the background colour to indicate the most recent time-stamps and the elder time-stamps (page 6, lines 13-24). Therefore, claim 1, claim 3, claim 14, and claim 18 are found to lack an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)) in view of D1 and D2.

Dependent claims 2, 4-6, and 13 merely indicate a design preference of how the time-stamp(s) can be displayed on the screen and are not considered to involve any inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

Dependent claim 7 indicates outputting information on the display in different languages. This is considered to involve an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

Dependent claim 8 indicates displaying the date and time on the display of an electronic device when the device detects a change in the date. This is equivalently found in D2 which indicates that the current date and time is stored and displayed on the electronic device. Time-stamps of current date and times can be stored and displayed all together (Figure 2; Figure 6). Therefore, as the date changes, the time-stamp showing this change will inherently be displayed on the screen. The same applies to claim 16. Therefore, claim 8 and claim 16 are considered to lack an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

Dependent claims 9 and 17 indicate displaying a time-stamp indicating an elapsed time. This is indicated in D1 which can display a time-stamp indicating the elapsed time since the last time-stamp indicating the weather condition was displayed on the screen (Figure 4). Therefore, claim 9 and claim 17 are considered to lack an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

Independent claim 10 indicates outputting a time-stamp based on a predetermined input. This is equivalently disclosed in D1, which states that "with a simple press of a button on the cellular telephone, the arrival time of rain and/or possibly severe weather would be displayed and described" (column 5, lines 10-12). Therefore, claim 10 is considered to lack an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

Dependent claim 11 discloses displaying a time-stamp that is entered on a first electronic device on a second electronic device. This is considered to involve an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

Dependent claim 12 indicates detecting the movement of a cursor as a predetermined input to a location so that the hidden time-stamp can be displayed. This is equivalent to having any method that hides information on the display until a user input indicates to show the hidden information. This is shown in D1, which utilizes a menu icon to display hidden weather information. Only when this icon is selected by the user, is the information displayed on the screen (column 2, lines 5-7). Therefore, claim 12 is not considered to involve an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

(continued on supplemental sheet)

..../

Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.
Continuation of : V

Dependent claim 14 discloses detecting an input and responsive to the input, removing the first time-stamp. This is included in the scenario of updating a time-stamp to a newer time-stamp based on an input, as indicated in D1 (column 7, lines 43-45). The same applies to claim 15. Therefore, claims 14 and 15 are considered to lack an inventive concept (PCT Article 33(3)).

Dependent claim 19 discloses displaying a second time-stamp if a second period of idle communication time is larger than the first idle communication time on the handheld electronic device. This is equivalently disclosed in D2 (Figure 2; Figure 6; Figure 7; Figure 8), however, the second time-stamp is not restricted to only being displayed if it is larger than the first time-stamp. This is considered to be a design preference and therefore, claim 19 is considered to lack an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

What is stated in independent claim 20 is a handheld electronic device that includes a processor, input apparatus, output apparatus, and a display means. This is equivalently disclosed in D1 (column 2, lines 44-50; column 5, lines 10-12; column 7, lines 43-45; column 10, 24-27) and D2 (column 3, lines 7-23) which contain all the same essential components in their electronic devices. Therefore, claim 20 is considered to lack an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

Industrial Applicability:

The subject-matter of claims 1-20 is considered to have industrial applicability (PCT Article 33(4)).



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Date

03.02.06

Reference	Application No./Patent No. 04786633.0 - 2416 PCT/CA2004001712
Applicant/Proprietor Research In Motion Limited	

Entry into the European phase before the European Patent Office

These notes describe the procedural steps required for entry into the European phase before the European Patent Office (EPO). You are advised to read them carefully: failure to take the necessary action in time can lead to your application being deemed withdrawn.

1. The above-mentioned international patent application has been given European application No. **04786633.0**.
2. Applicants **without** a residence or their principal place of business in an EPC contracting state may themselves initiate European processing of their international applications, provided they do so before expiry of the 31st month from the priority date (see also point 6 below).

During the European phase before the EPO as designated or elected Office, however, such applicants must be represented by a professional representative (Arts. 133(2) and 134(1), (7) EPC).

Procedural acts performed after expiry of the 31st month by a professional representative who acted during the international phase but is not authorised to act before the EPO have no legal effect and therefore lead to loss of rights.

Please note that a professional representative authorised to act before the EPO and who acted for the applicant during the international phase does not automatically become the representative for the European phase. Applicants are therefore strongly advised to appoint in good time any representative they wish to initiate the European phase for them; otherwise, the EPO has to send all communications direct to the applicant.

3. Applicants **with** a residence or their principal place of business in an EPC contracting state are not obliged to appoint, for the European phase before the EPO as designated or elected Office, a professional representative authorised to act before the EPO.
However, in view of the complexity of the procedure it is recommended that they do so.
4. Applicants and professional representatives are also strongly advised to initiate the European phase using EPO Form 1200 (available free of charge from the EPO). This however is not compulsory.



5. **To enter the European phase before the EPO**, the following acts must be performed.
(N.B.: Failure validly to do so will entail loss of rights or other adverse legal consequences.)
- 5.1 If the EPO is acting as **designated** or **elected** Office (Arts. 22(1)(3) and 39(1) PCT respectively), applicants must, within 31 months from the date of filing or (where applicable) the earliest priority date:
- Supply a translation of the international application into an EPO official language, if the International Bureau did not publish the application in such a language (Art. 22(1) PCT and Rule 107(1)(a) EPC).
If the translation is not filed in time, the international application is deemed withdrawn before the EPO (Rule 108(1) EPC).
This loss of rights is deemed not to have occurred if the translation is then filed within a two-month grace period as from notification of an EPO communication, provided a surcharge is paid at the same time (Rule 108(3) EPC).
 - Pay the national basic fee (EUR 160,00) and, where a supplementary European search report has to be drawn up, the search fee (EUR 960,00 ; Rule 107(1)(c) and (e) EPC).
 - If the time limit under Article 79(2) EPC expires before the 31-month time limit, pay the designation fee (EUR 75,00) for each contracting state designated (Rule 107(1)(d) EPC).
 - If the time limit under Article 94(2) EPC expires before the 31-month time limit, file the written request for examination **and** pay the examination fee (EUR 1430,00 ; Rule 107(1)(f) EPC).
 - Pay the third-year renewal fee (EUR 380,00) if it falls due before expiry of the 31-month time limit (Rule 107(1)(g) EPC).
- If the fees under (b) to (d) above are not paid in time, or the written request for examination is not filed in time, the international application is deemed withdrawn before the EPO, or the contracting-state designation(s) in question is (are) deemed withdrawn (Rule 108(1) and (2) EPC). However, the fees may still be validly paid within a two-month grace period as from notification of an EPO communication, provided the necessary surcharges are paid at the same time (Rule 108(3) EPC). For the renewal fee under (e) above, the grace period is **six** months from the fee's due date (Article 86(2) EPC).
- 5.2 If the application documents on which the European grant procedure is to be based comprise more than ten claims, a claims fee is payable within the 31-month time limit under Rule 107(1) EPC for the eleventh and each subsequent claim (Rule 110(1) EPC). The fee can however still be paid within a one-month grace period as from notification of an EPO communication pointing out the failure to pay (Rule 110(2) EPC).
6. If the applicant had a representative during the application's international phase, the present notes will be sent to the representative, asking him to inform the applicant accordingly.

All subsequent communications will be sent to the applicant, or - if the EPO is informed of his appointment in time - to the applicant's European representative.



7. For more details about time limits and procedural acts before the EPO as designated and elected Office, see the EPO brochure

How to get a European patent
Guide for applicants - Part 2
PCT procedure before the EPO - "Euro-PCT"

This brochure, the list of professional representatives before the EPO, Form 1200 and details of the latest fees are now all available on the Internet under

<http://www.european-patent-office.org>

RECEIVING SECTION



Document made available under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)

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Date of receipt at the International Bureau: 12 January 2005 (12.01.2005)

Remark: Priority document submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b)



World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) - Geneva, Switzerland
Organisation Mondiale de la Propriété Intellectuelle (OMPI) - Genève, Suisse

PCT/CA 2004/001712

16 DECEMBER 2004 16.12.04

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THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

August 24, 2004

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT ANNEXED HERETO IS A TRUE COPY FROM THE RECORDS OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE OF THOSE PAPERS OF THE BELOW IDENTIFIED PATENT APPLICATION THAT MET THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE GRANTED A FILING DATE UNDER 35 USC 111.

APPLICATION NUMBER: 60/504,379

FILING DATE: *September 19, 2003*

Certified by



Jon W Dudas


Acting Under Secretary of Commerce
for Intellectual Property
and Acting Director of the U.S.
Patent and Trademark Office



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17302 U.S. PTO
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 091903

PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET

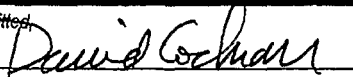
This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT under 37 CFR 1.53(c).

Express Mail Label No. EV 243780525 US

INVENTOR(S)					
Given Name (first and middle [if any])	Family Name or Surname	Residence (City and either State or Foreign Country)			
Gerhard D.	Klassen	Waterloo, CANADA			
Christopher R.	Wormald	Waterloo, CANADA			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional inventors are being named on the <u>1</u> separately numbered sheets attached hereto					
TITLE OF THE INVENTION (280 characters max)					
Insertion of Date and Time Separators in an ongoing conversation					
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OR Type Customer Number here					
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Insertion of Date and Time Separators in an ongoing conversation

– Inventors Gerhard D. Klassen, Christopher R. Wormald, Larry Kuhl and Craig Dunk

Background to Invention

The invention solves the problem of optimizing Instant Messaging type discussions for small screen devices without consuming too much screen real estate with header type information. In most desktop Instant Messaging applications, each message sent or received gets a time stamp as well as a user ID heading. This information can consume 70% of the information on a screen. Screens are large enough, however to be able to capture a significant amount of messaging text and to allow a user to receive a sense of how the conversation has flowed (as well as when). On a wireless device, there are two rules that could be applied, neither of which is optimal:

- A) Put date/time information in front of every message
- B) Don't insert any date/time information.

The problem with A is that it will consume a significant amount of screen real estate. B suffers from losing the ability to get a sense of flow or to refer back to the time that something was written or sent. The message, "I'll be there in 1 hour" loses meaning unless the user writes down exactly when it was sent. This system will intelligently and locally insert date and time indicators at natural pauses in a conversation.

Summary of the Invention

We claim a local mobile station intelligent method for inserting helpful date/time separators into IM conversations. There are several embodiments of these rules but they all the same effect of marking a specific duration or gap in an Instant Messaging or Quick Messaging conversation.

The following are one embodiment for the rules to follow when inserting time/date separators in a Quick Messaging conversation:

- A) no conversation for 10 minutes inserts the time that the last message was sent
- B) Resumption of conversation after A results in an indicator when the conversation restarts.
- C) User can choose to manually insert a separator to "stamp" a time sensitive message.
- D) Sporadic conversations that don't qualify for A after a longer period of time, say 1 hour get a time stamp inserted.

In another embodiment the sender can manually request that a time stamp appear on another person's wireless device. This might be helpful when trying to make a point about time, e.g. meet me in 10 minutes at the coffee shop.

Note that separators are designed to be unobtrusive and intelligent. When a conversation I'm having today gets 3:05 inserted in it, if the conversation continues to tomorrow, the stamp recognizes this and changes itself to say 3:05pm Sept 5, 2003

Figures

Figure 1 illustrates the existing method of displaying Instant Messaging conversation between two parties.

Figure 2 is an illustration of how a pause in the conversation is handled using the invention.

Figure 3 is an illustration of several time stamps entered into a conversation stream.

Figure 4 is an illustration of manual insertion of a time stamp into the conversation stream.

Figure 5 is an illustration of alternative embodiment for inserting stamps into the conversation stream.

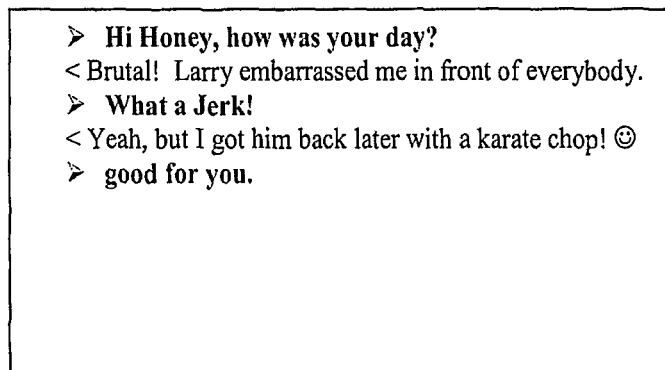
Figure 6 is an illustration of alternative embodiments for inserting stamps into the conversation stream that preserves more screen space.

Figure 7 is an illustration of alternative embodiment for displaying timestamps during a conversation stream that preserves more screen space.

Detailed Description

Turning to Figure 1 there is an illustration of the existing of displaying Instant Messaging conversation between two parties.

This Instant Message conversation took place between 2:41 and 2:44pm on Friday September 5, 2003



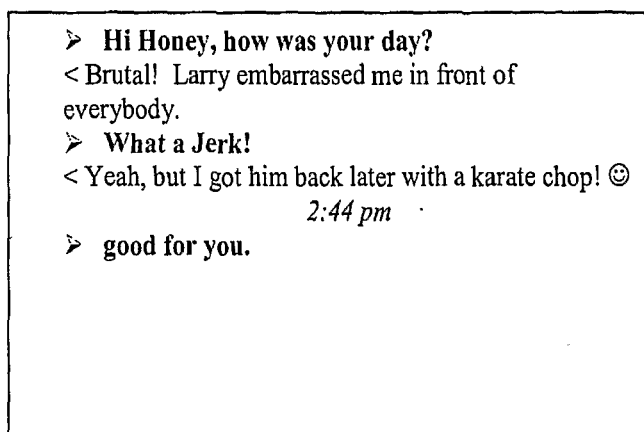
> **Hi Honey, how was your day?**
< Brutal! Larry embarrassed me in front of everybody.
> **What a Jerk!**
< Yeah, but I got him back later with a karate chop! ☺
> good for you.

Figure 1

In most Quick Messaging conversations the transmission and reception of short, chatty messages are displayed in a continuous stream of messages. In this illustration messages arriving have a greater than '>' math symbol, and outgoing messages have a less than '<' symbol. If the conversation continues quickly without interruption then the continuous display of messages does not need a time stamp on every message. This would take up unnecessary room on a small handheld mobile device.

Turning now to Figure 2 there is an illustration of how a pause in the conversation is handled using the invention.

At 2:44 the conversation is automatically modified with a time stamp placed before the final message corresponding to the receipt time of the final message. This time stamp will stay in place to let the user know that a significant pause in the conversation has taken place. This also assists both users to know that time sensitive comments like 'in ten minutes', or '5 minutes from my last message' should not be used.



➤ **Hi Honey, how was your day?**
< Brutal! Larry embarrassed me in front of everybody.
➤ **What a Jerk!**
< Yeah, but I got him back later with a karate chop! ☺
2:44 pm
➤ good for you.

Figure 2

When using Instant Messaging in a wireless environment this is much more common as interruption are more likely. For example the user takes a phone call in the middle of the conversation, or an urgent e-mail arrives in during the conversation. In these situations once the pre-defined pause rules have been reached, a time stamp is inserted into the conversation. This allows both parties in the conversation understand a pause has taken place. In this illustration after the time delay a message is received on the mobile device.

Turning now to Figure 3 there is an illustration of several time stamps entered into a conversation stream. In this illustration it is assumed that after a long break the conversation is resumed. Note that it's not relevant who resumes the conversation. Upon resumption, another time stamp is placed before the message automatically

➤ **Hi Honey, how was your day?**
< Brutal! Larry embarrassed me in front of everybody.
➤ **What a Jerk!**
< Yeah, but I got him back later with a karate chop! ☺
2:44 pm
➤ **good for you.**
4:56 pm
➤ **Hey, want to go out tonight?**

Figure 3

In this illustration the mobile device user has now received two messages and they have not been responding. The receiver can now see that the sender has send a message at 2:44 and at 4:56 with no response whatsoever. The sender can assume the receiver is busy, and the receiver knows the sender understands they can't respond right now.

Turning now to Figure 4 there is an illustration of manual insertion of a time stamp into the conversation stream. In Figure 4a the receiver gets an Instant Message that includes a relative time. However, they decide to invoke a menu and select **Insert Time** from the menu, using whatever means available on the mobile device to invoke a menu item.

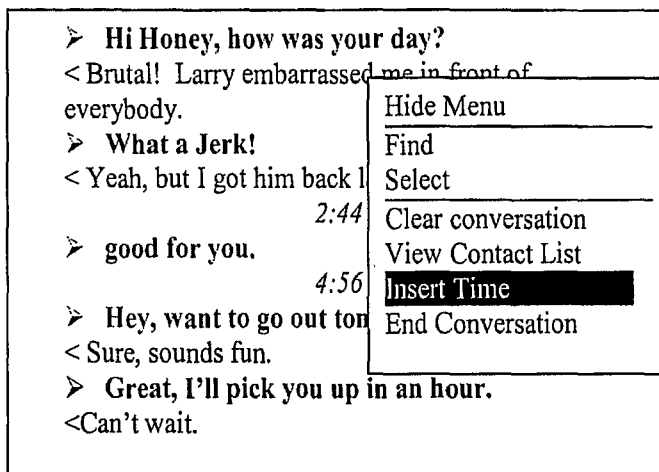


Figure 4a

In Figure 5b the time stamp is then inserted at the request of the user. The inserted time stamp provides exact confirmation on when the last message was received and the exact time of the next transmission. This allows the conversation to move into a direct chat more easily.

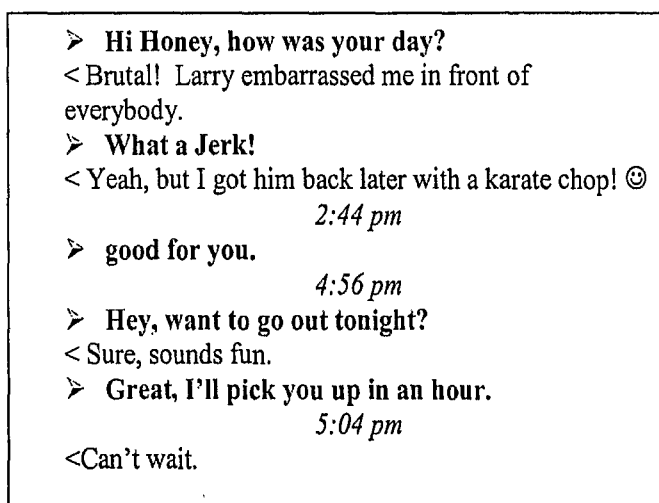


Figure 4b

Turning now to Figure 5 there is an illustration of alternative embodiment for inserting stamps into the conversation stream. In this embodiment the gap between the termination of the conversation and the restarting of the conversation are both marked by the Instant Message application.

➤ **Hi Honey, how was your day?**
< Brutal! Larry embarrassed me in front of everybody.
➤ **What a Jerk!**
< Yeah, but I got him back later with a karate chop! ☺
➤ **Hey, want to go out tonight?**
2:44 pm
4:56 pm
< Sure, sounds fun.
➤ **Great, I'll pick you up in an hour.**
< Can't wait.

Figure 5

In this embodiment the pause in the conversation causes a timestamp to be inserted at the end of the last message – in this illustration the last message received. Then another timestamp is inserted in front of the next message sent or received; in this example the next sent message. This automatic insertion of two timestamps eliminates the need to manually insert the timestamp as shown in Figure 4a and 4b. The advantage of this is that both the end of the conversation and the starting back up of the conversation can be very quickly noted and used for the remaining part of the conversation. Comments like, where did you go for 30 minutes, or let's met in 20 minutes all can make more sense with the timestamps shown.

Turning now to Figure 6 there is an illustration of alternative embodiments for inserting stamps into the conversation stream that preserves more screen space. In this embodiment an attempt is made to preserve the screen space on the small wireless handheld device so that more of the conversation can be seen. For one skilled in the art there are many ways this could be accomplished, for example the timestamps could be inserted at the end of certain messages, or they could appear at the beginning, or they could alternatively be placed at the end of one message and the beginning of the next. The following two figures 6a and 6b shown just two alternatives but many others are possible.

➤ **Hi Honey, how was your day?**
 < Brutal! Larry embarrassed me in front of everybody.
 ➤ **What a Jerk!**
 < Yeah, but I got him back later with a karate chop! ☺
 ➤ **[2:44 pm] Hey, want to go out tonight?**
 < [4:56 pm] Sure, sounds fun.
 ➤ **Great, I'll pick you up in an hour.**
 <Can't wait.

Figure 6a

In figure 6a the timestamps have been placed in consistent locations at the start of the message so the user can see the gap in the conversation. To do this the software has reached a long pause threshold and has inserted a timestamp in front of the message received. Then when the conversation starts up again a timestamp is inserted before the message sent.

➤ **Hi Honey, how was your day?**
 < Brutal! Larry embarrassed me in front of everybody.
 ➤ **What a Jerk!**
 < Yeah, but I got him back later with a karate chop! ☺
 ➤ **Hey, want to go out tonight? [2:44 pm]**
 < [4:56 pm] Sure, sounds fun.
 ➤ **Great, I'll pick you up in an hour.**
 <Can't wait.

Figure 6b

In figure 6b the timestamps are placed at the end of the last message, sent or received, when the pause reaches the configured threshold, and at the beginning of the next message, sent or received.

Turning now to Figure 7 there is an illustration of alternative embodiment for displaying timestamps during a conversation stream that preserves more screen space. In this embodiment an attempt is made to preserve the screen space on the handheld mobile device by using a pop-up technique to display timestamps. Timestamps are not shown as part of Instant Messaging or Quick Messaging. This document describes several methods for inserting timestamps directly into the conversation stream seem by each user in the conversation. In this alternative embodiment the user can simply move their cursor over a given message leave it there for a few seconds for a popup window to appear showing the timestamp information. The cursor could be moved by a mouse movement, by a roller wheel, by a touch screen or through some other input mechanism available on a handheld mobile device. In Figure 7 the cursor is represented by the underlined text portion of the conversation with a hand pointing at it.

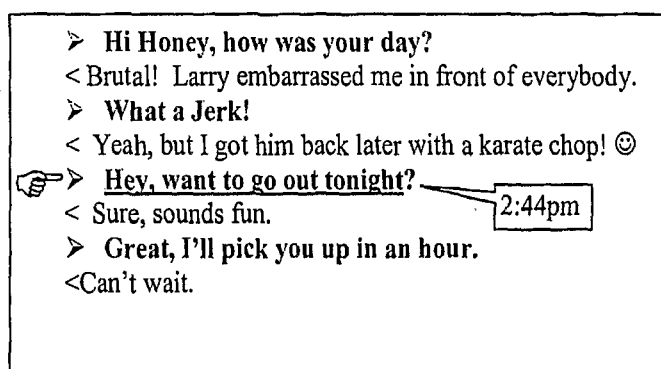


Figure 7

Once the user moves the cursor away from the spot, presses a key, presses a roller wheel or performs some form of input, the popup box is removed from the screen. The length of time the user must leave the cursor in one spot would normally be configurable, or it could be fixed to avoid added complexity for the user. In this embodiment it is not necessary for a pause or gap to appear in the conversation, as the user can get the timestamp from any message as they require. The natural tendency however would be for the user to use this feature when gaps do appear in the conversation, and they will to remove any confusion or ambiguity that might exist about timing of the message exchange.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/CA2004/001712

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC ⁷ : H04L 12/24, H04L 12/54 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) IPC ⁷ : H04L 12* (all subclasses, keywords)		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 6590529 B2 (SCHWOEGLER et al.), 8 July 2003 (8.07.2003), column 2, lines 44-50, column 2, line 65-column 3, line 3, column 5, lines 10-12, lines 24-27, lines 42-46, column 6, lines 12-15, lines 21-23, lines 47-50, column 10, lines 13-16, lines 22-26, column 12, lines 38-40, lines 61-63, column 16, claim 18	1-20
Y	GB 2384150 A (YAMAMOTO et al.), 16 July 2003 (16.07.2003), abstract, page 1, lines 7-10, page 2, lines 4-6, page 3, lines 7-23, page 6, lines 13-24, Figure 2, Figure 6, Figure 7, Figure 8	1-20
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A, P	WO 2004/064362 A1 (BODLEY et al.), 29 July 2004 (29.07.2004), abstract, page 1, lines 21-25, page 5, lines 10-13, page 6, lines 3-10, line 17-20, page 7, lines 10-23, page 7, line 26-page 8, line 1, page 8, lines 9-12, page 9, lines 12-15, page 10, claim 1, page 11, claim 11, page 12, claim 18, claim 21	1-20
X	Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	X
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/CA2004/001712

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A, P	US 6727930 B2 (CURRANS et al.), 27 April 2004 (27.04.2004), abstract, column 1, lines 11-37, column 1, line 66-column 2, line 9, column 2, lines 15-20, lines 62-66, column 4, lines 22-31, lines 42-55, column 5, lines 47-59, column 6, lines 56-65, column 7, lines 61-65, column 8, lines 7-14, claim 1, column 9, claim4, claim 5	1-20
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A, P	US 6721651 B1 (MINELLI et al.), 13 April 2004 (13.04.2004), abstract, column 2, lines 2-7, lines 51-54, column 4, lines 38-41, column 5, line 57-column 6, line 11, column 9, lines 37-39, column 12, lines 33-40, column 13, lines 42-45, column 14, lines 32-35, column 15, lines 15-21	1-20
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A, P	WO 2004/038603 A1(MACKAY et al.), 6 May 2004 (6.05.2004), abstract	1-20

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.
PCT/CA2004/001712

Patent Document Cited in Search Report	Publication Date	Patent Family Member(s)	Publication Date
US2004137967	15-07-2004	US2004137967 A1 WO2004064362 A1	15-07-2004 29-07-2004
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WO2004038603	06-05-2004	FR2846439 A1 WO2004038603 A1	30-04-2004 06-05-2004

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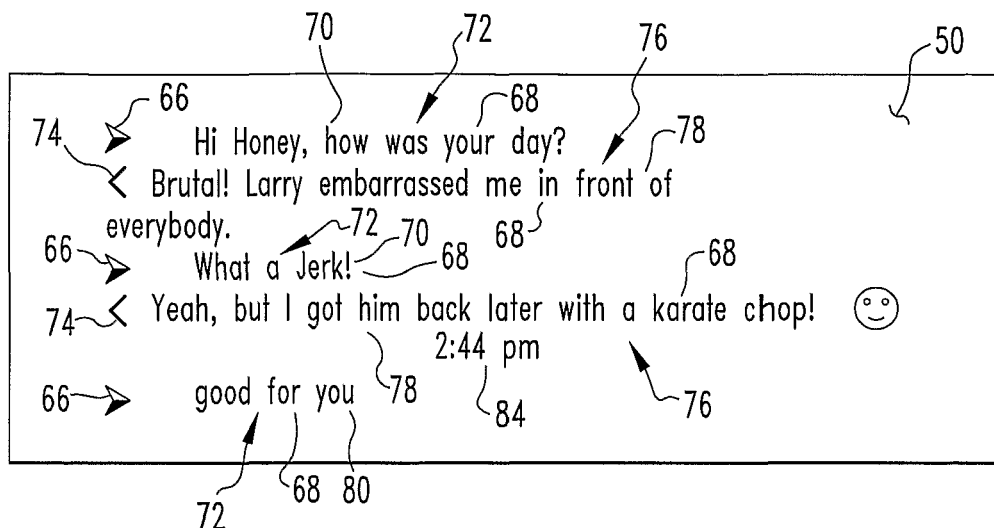
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(54) Title: HANDHELD ELECTRONIC DEVICE AND ASSOCIATED METHOD PROVIDING TIME DATA IN A MESSAGING ENVIRONMENT



(57) Abstract: An improved handheld electronic device and an associated method are provided in which time data regarding certain aspects of a messaging conversation on a handheld electronic device are made available to a user. Such time data is provided, for instance, in situations where an interruption has occurred during a messaging conversation. Time data can also be provided to a user on demand in certain circumstances.

WO 2005/029771 A1

HANDHELD ELECTRONIC DEVICE AND ASSOCIATED METHOD PROVIDING TIME DATA IN A MESSAGING ENVIRONMENT

TECHNICAL FIELD

The invention relates generally to handheld electronic devices and, more particularly, to a handheld electronic device and a method for providing information representative of the times of certain communications in a messaging environment.

BACKGROUND ART

Numerous types of handheld electronic devices are known. Examples of such handheld electronic devices include, for instance, personal data assistants (PDAs), handheld computers, two-way pagers, cellular telephones, and the like. Such handheld electronic devices are generally intended to be portable, and thus are relatively small. Many handheld electronic devices also features wireless communication capability, although many such handheld electronic devices are stand-alone devices that are functional without communication with other devices. With advances in technology, handheld electronic devices are being configured to include greater numbers of features while having relatively smaller form factors.

Electronic devices, including handheld electronic devices, are capable of numerous types of communication. One type of communication is "messaging", and one type of messaging is "instant messaging" which enables a first device to send a message on a more or less instantaneous basis to a second device. With most all instant messaging, a given electronic device is provided with an interface that outputs the various communications that have occurred between the electronic device and another electronic device during a messaging "conversation". A sample output on an electronic device that is representative of the various communications that have occurred during a conversation may be as follows:

➤ **Hi Honey, how was your day?**
< Brutal! Larry embarrassed me in front of everybody.
➤ **What a Jerk!**
< Yeah, but I got him back later with a karate chop! ☺
➤ **good for you.**

In this example, incoming messages are indicated by a greater than ">" mathematical symbol, and outgoing messages are indicated by a less than "<" mathematical symbol. If the conversation continues quickly, i.e., substantially without interruption, the messages do not need a time stamp on them. In the environment of a handheld electronic device, it would be desirable to avoid unnecessary time stamps and other unnecessary output since it occupies too much valuable space on the limited display of the handheld electronic device.

In some messaging circumstances, however, it may be desirable for information regarding certain timing aspects of conversation to be available to a user. Nevertheless, the limited space available on a display of a handheld electronic device has made a solution difficult. It thus would be desirable to provide an improved handheld electronic device and an associated method that provide time data in a messaging environment.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

An improved handheld electronic device and an associated method are provided in which time data regarding certain aspects of a messaging conversation on a handheld electronic device are made available to a user. Such time data is provided, for instance, in situations where an interruption has occurred during a messaging conversation. Time data can also be provided to a user on demand in certain circumstances.

Accordingly, an aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device and a method in which data regarding the times at which certain communications have occurred in a messaging environment are made available to a user.

Another aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device and a method that enable a user to be made aware of certain timing aspects of a conversation in a messaging environment.

Another aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device and a method in which data regarding the times at which certain communications have occurred are made available to a user while limiting the amount of display area that is occupied by such data.

Another aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device and a method in which data can be provided regarding the elapsed time since a communication.

Accordingly, an aspect of the invention is to provide an improved method of providing an output on at least one of a first electronic device and a second electronic device, with the first electronic device being adapted to be in electronic communication with a second electronic device. The general nature of the method can be stated as including determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device, outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first communication, determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device and, responsive to determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed, outputting a first time stamp representative of the first time.

Another aspect of the invention is to provide an improved method of providing an output on at least one of a first electronic device and a second electronic device, with the first electronic device being adapted to be in electronic communication with a second electronic device. The general nature of the method can be stated as including determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device, outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first communication, detecting a predetermined input and, responsive to detecting a predetermined input, outputting a first time stamp representative of the first time.

Another aspect of the invention is to provide an improved method of providing an output on at least one of a first electronic device and a second electronic device, with the first electronic device being adapted to be in electronic communication with a second electronic device. The general nature of the method can be stated as including determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device, outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first communication, determining that a first period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device and, responsive to determining that a first period of time has elapsed, outputting a first time stamp representative of the first period of time.

Another aspect of the invention is to provide an improved handheld electronic device of a type that is adapted to be in electronic communication with another electronic device. The general nature of the handheld electronic device can be stated as including a

processor apparatus, an input apparatus, and an output apparatus. The processor apparatus includes a processor and a memory and is adapted to receive input from the input apparatus and to provide output to the output apparatus. The processor apparatus also is adapted to determine that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time
5 between the handheld electronic device and the other electronic device. The output apparatus is adapted to output a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first communication. The processor apparatus is adapted to determine that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the handheld electronic device and the other electronic device.
10 Responsive to a determination that a predetermined period of time has elapsed, the output apparatus is adapted to output a first time stamp representative of the first time.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A full understanding of the invention can be gained from the following Description
15 of the Preferred Embodiments when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is an exemplary top plan view of a handheld electronic device in accordance with the invention which can be used in conjunction with an improved method in accordance with the invention;

20 Fig. 2 is a schematic view of the handheld electronic device of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a schematic view of the handheld electronic device of Fig. 1 and another device in a messaging environment;

Fig. 4 is an exemplary view of an output provided in accordance an aspect of the method of the invention;

25 Fig. 5 is another exemplary view of an output provided in accordance an aspect of the method of the invention;

Fig. 6a is another exemplary view of an output provided in accordance an aspect of the method of the invention;

30 Fig. 6b is another exemplary view of an output provided in accordance an aspect of the method of the invention;

Fig. 7 is another exemplary view of an output provided in accordance an aspect of the method of the invention;

Fig. 8a is another exemplary view of an output provided in accordance an aspect of the method of the invention;

Fig. 8b is another exemplary view of an output provided in accordance an aspect of the method of the invention;

5 Fig. 9 is another exemplary view of an output provided in accordance an aspect of the method of the invention; and

Fig. 10 is another exemplary view of an output provided in accordance an aspect of the method of the invention.

Similar numerals refer to similar parts to the specification.

10

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

An improved handheld electronic device 4 in accordance with the invention is indicated generally in Fig. 1 and is depicted schematically in Fig. 2. The exemplary handheld electronic device 4 includes a housing 8 upon which are disposed an input apparatus 12, an output apparatus 16 and a processor apparatus 20. The input apparatus 12 includes a keypad 24 that can be said to include a plurality of keys 28.

The output apparatus 16 includes a display 50. The output apparatus 16 can additionally include, for instance, additional indicators such as lights, and the like, and can additionally include an audible output such as a speaker as well as other output devices.

The processor apparatus 20 includes a processor 52 that can be, for instance, and without limitation, a microprocessor (μ P), and it is responsive to inputs from the input apparatus 12 and provides output signals to the output apparatus 16. The processor apparatus 20 further includes a memory 56 that includes a routine 60 stored therein. The exemplary routine 60 is a messaging routine that can provide a messaging capability on the device 4. It is understood that the memory 56 likely includes a number of other routines that are not expressly mentioned herein. As employed herein, the expression "a number of" and variations thereof shall refer broadly to any nonzero quantity including a quantity of one. The processor 52 interfaces with the memory 56, and the routine 60 is executable on the processor 52.

20 The device 4 further includes a wireless communication system. As can be seen in Fig. 3, the device 4 with the routine 60 can interface with a messaging service 62 to wirelessly provide the messaging capability on the device 4. In the depicted exemplary

embodiment, the messaging service 62 provides an instant messaging capability on the device 4 and on the other electronic devices having routines that are subscribers to the messaging service 62. The messaging service 62 is schematically depicted as including a server, although the teachings herein are not limited to messaging services that employ a server. For instance, the messaging service could, for example, provide a point-to-point communication capability such as is provided with the Bluetooth protocol, or may provide some other type of communication capability, whether or not wireless.

Fig. 3 further depicts another device 104 as being a device having a routine that is another subscriber to the messaging service 62. Specifically, the device 104 is an electronic device having a routine 160 thereon which can communicate with the messaging service 62 to provide a messaging capability on the device 104. While the exemplary devices 4 and 104 are depicted as having a wireless connection with the messaging service 62, it is understood that either or both of the devices 4 and 104 may employ a non-wireless communication capability and still not depart from the concept of the invention. It is further understood that while only the two devices 4 and 104 are depicted in Fig. 3 as being subscribers to the messaging service 62, many more subscribers to the messaging service 62 may exist but are not expressly depicted in Fig. 3.

During the course of an electronic conversation, such as depicted in Fig. 4 between, for instance, the devices 4 and 104, a number of messages 68 are communicated between the devices 4 and 104. An incoming message 72 received on, for instance, the device 4, provides a visual indication of a communication that has been transmitted from, for instance, the device 104 to the device 4. As can be seen in Fig. 4, an incoming message 72 includes an incoming symbol 66 and an incoming text portion 70. In the exemplary output depicted herein, the incoming symbol 66 is a mathematical greater than “>” symbol. The text portion 70 is an exemplary linguistic output that could be of numerous types of forms, such as in different languages, and also can include, for instance, symbols and the like that need not necessarily be a part of any particular language.

An outgoing message 76 is depicted as including an outgoing symbol 74 and an outgoing text portion 78. In the exemplary output depicted herein, the outgoing symbol 74 is a mathematical less than “<” symbol. The text portion 78 is an exemplary linguistic output that could be of numerous types of forms.

As can be further seen from Fig. 4, the exemplary conversation depicted therein includes a plurality of incoming messages 72 and a plurality of outgoing messages 76 that are transmitted between the devices 4 and 104 at a conversational speed, i.e., at a speed in which back-to-back communications between the devices 4 and 104 occur without a meaningful delay therebetween. Due to the conversational speed of the back-to-back communications, the messages 68 do not include an indications of the times at which such messages 68 were transmitted, it being assumed as a general matter that in such circumstances the specific time at which a given message within such a conversation occurred may not be of significance to a user.

At a certain point in the exemplary conversation, though, an exemplary message 68 which, for example, may be an outgoing message 76, may also become a non-responded to message 80, meaning that subsequent to its transmission substantially no additional communication occurs between the device 4 and 104 within a predetermined duration of time. More specifically, as the conversation transpires, the back-to-back incoming messages 72 and outgoing messages 76 are displayed adjacent one another. However, after the expiration of a predetermined duration of time after the transmission of a message 68, for instance ten minutes, in which substantially no additional communication occurs between the device 4 and 104, the message 68 is determined in accordance with the invention to be a non-responded to message 80, and responsive to such determination a first time stamp 84 is output adjacent the non-responded to message 80. For instance, if the non-responded to message 80 was transmitted at 2:44 PM, and if substantially no additional communication between the device 4 and 104 occurs between 2:44 PM and 2:54 PM, at 2:54 PM the first time stamp 84 "2:44 pm" is output to provide to the users of the devices 4 and 104 an indication that the conversation was interrupted at 2:44 PM. Such selective outputting of the first time stamp 84 generally only in response to a message 68 of some significance, such as the terminal message of a conversation, saves space on the display 50. It is noted that the display of the first time stamp 84 typically will occur on both the device 4 and the device 104.

It is understood, however, that the time duration of ten minutes is completely exemplary and that the time duration could be set at any duration. It is also understood that the first time stamp 84 can be output in response to the occurrence of additional and/or other predetermined events. Moreover, it is noted that the predetermined time duration may be variable depending upon the characteristics of the conversation. For

instance, if messages are being exchanged on a more infrequent basis, such as every nine minutes, the predetermined duration of time after which the first time stamp 84 is output may be adjusted to be twenty minutes, for example.

By way of further example, and as is depicted generally in Fig. 5, another message 68 may subsequently be communicated between the devices 4 and 104. Since the message 68 corresponds with a resumption of communication between the devices 4 and 104 after a period of interruption, the message 68 is determined to be a resumption message 88, and a second time stamp 92 is output adjacent the resumption message 88. A user thus can determine from the output on the display 50 the period of time during which the conversation was suspended, i.e., the time between transmission of the non-responded to message 80 and transmission of the resumption message 88. Selective outputting of the second time stamp 92 saves space on the display 50. In this depicted example, the first time stamp 84 is disposed, for example, adjacent the non-responded to message 80, and the second time stamp 92 is disposed, for example, adjacent the resumption message 88. It is also noted that the second time stamp 92 is disposed, for example, between the non-responded to message 80 and the resumption message 88.

As the conversation continues after transmission of the resumption message 88, one of the users of the devices 4 and 104 may determine that a time stamp would desirably be displayed in association with a message 68, such as if the user wished to emphasize to himself or herself, or to the other user, the time at which the message 68 was transmitted. If such a time stamp is desired, the user may active a user interface 96, such as the exemplary user interface 96 of Fig. 6a, which can manually cause the output of an inserted time stamp 98 adjacent the message 68, as in Fig. 6b. As mentioned above, the inserted time stamp 98 can be made to appear on both the device 4 and the device 104, and it is also noted that, if desired, the inserted time stamp 98 could be made to appear on only one or the other of the devices 4 and 104.

As can be seen in Fig. 7, the output could provide a non-responded to message 180 and a resumption message 188, with a first time stamp 184 being disposed adjacent the non-responded to message 180, and with a second time stamp 192 being disposed adjacent the resumption message 188. However, in the exemplary output of Fig. 7 the first time stamp 184 and the second time stamp 192 are disposed adjacent one another and are both disposed between the non-responded to message 180 and the resumption message 188. Such an exemplary display of the first and second time stamps 184 and 192 illustrates the

gap in the conversation that occurred between transmission of the non-responded to message 180 and transmission of the resumption message 188. It is noted that the first time stamp 184 and the second time stamp 192 may have been generated in a fashion similar to the generation of the first time stamp 84 and the second time stamp 92.

5 As can be seen in Figs. 8a and 8b, the time stamps can be output in other places. For instance, a text portion of a non-responded to message 280 may have a beginning 282 and an ending 286. Similarly, a text portion of a resumption message 288 may have a beginning 290 and an ending 294. In accordance with another aspect of the invention, a first time stamp 284 can be output at either the beginning 282 or the ending 286 of the text
10 portion of the non-responded to message 280, and in the example of Fig. 8a the exemplary first time stamp 284 is output at the beginning 282. Also, a second time stamp 292 can be output at either the beginning 290 or the ending 294 of the text portion of the resumption message 288, and in the example of Fig. 8a the exemplary second time stamp 292 is output at the beginning 290. Other positioning of the first time stamp 284 and the second
15 time stamp 292 are possible within the concept of the invention.

For instance, and as another example, Fig. 8b depicts the exemplary first time stamp 284 as being output at the ending 286 while the exemplary second time stamp 292 is output at the beginning 290. Figs. 8a and 8b depict different exemplary ways in which the first and second time stamps 284 and 292 can be output to provide time data to a user.
20 In Fig. 8a the first and second time stamps 284 and 292 are disposed at a consistent location, i.e., at the beginnings 282 and 290 of the text portions of the non-responded to message 280 and the resumption message 288. Fig. 8b disposes the first and second time stamps 284 and 292 generally between the ending 286 of the non-responded to message 280 and the beginning 290 of the resumption message 288, which focuses the attention of
25 the user on the interval during which the conversation was interrupted. Other ways of outputting the first and second time stamps 284 and 292 will be apparent.

Another way of providing time stamps in a fashion that saves space on the display
50 is depicted in Fig. 9. Specifically, the messages 368 are output without displayed time stamps, but upon moving a cursor 374 or other pointing device or other device in
30 proximity to a given message 368 a corresponding requested time stamp is output adjacent the message 368. In this way, the messages 368 can be provided without also displaying time stamps, but if a time stamp is desired as to any of the messages 368 a requested time stamp 378 can be readily output. In this regard, the requested time stamp 378 may be

output for only a predetermined duration of time, for instance a few seconds, and/or the requested time stamp 378 may be deleted from the display 50 upon a detection of another input, such as from the input apparatus 12 or otherwise. In this regard, all of the messages 368 can have time stamps associated therewith that are not displayed until requested.

5 It is also noted that the requested time stamp 378 need not be requested by the cursor 374, and rather could be requested with virtually any other type of input desired, such as with a stylus and a touch sensitive screen, by an actuation of a key, or by the use of alternate pointing or other devices. Other ways of managing the output of the requested time stamp 378 as to any of the messages 368 will be apparent.

10 It is noted that the appearances of the various time stamps herein is completely exemplary, and that the time stamps could be provided in any format without departing from the concept of the invention. In this regard, and in accordance with another aspect of the invention, a given time stamp may be a smart time stamp and provide additional information depending upon the prevailing circumstances. For instance, if the first time stamp 84 of Fig. 4 was output as indicated above, and if the conversation was not resumed until the following day, the first time stamp 84 potentially could be configured to automatically change from being displayed as "2:44 pm" on the day of communication of the non-responded to message 80 to being displayed as, for instance, "2:44 pm Thursday" or, for instance, "2:44 PM September 17, 2004" or, for instance, "2:44 pm yesterday" on the following day, although other configurations will be apparent and will be within the concept of the invention.

15 Further in this regard, the time stamps can be configured to depict relative times, i.e., elapsed times, rather than absolute times. For instance, and as is depicted generally in Fig. 10, a time stamp 478 associated with a message 468 can be output to say, for example, "less than one minute ago", meaning that the message 468 that has been activated by the cursor 474 has been transmitted less than one minute prior to the current time.

25 Such a time stamp 478 could be configured to be an active time stamp, meaning that it would change as time progressed. For instance, the time stamp 478 could progressively change from saying "less than one minute ago" to saying "one minute ago", "two minutes ago", "forty-five minutes ago", and the like as time progressed. Such a time stamp also could be configured, for instance, to revert back to displaying an absolute time after the expiration of a given time duration. For example, once the message 468 is one

hour old, for instance, the time stamp 478 might be configured to no longer output a relative time such as “fifty-nine minutes ago”, and rather to output an absolute time such as “2:54 pm”. Other variations can be provided without departing from the concept of the invention.

5 If it is desired to provide such time stamps that output relative times, it might also be desirable to output such time stamps in any of the fashions set forth above, and such time stamps potentially could be configured to be output without first detecting a delay or a break in the “conversation”. For instance, the time stamp “less than a minute ago” could be displayed immediately upon receiving a message on the handheld electronic device 4, if
10 such a configuration is desired. In such a configuration, and order to save space on the display 50, the handheld electronic device 4 may be configured to provide such a relative time stamp only for the most recently transmitted message. That is, responsive to detecting the transmission of a message, the handheld electronic device may be configured to substantially immediately output a time stamp such as “less than a minute ago”. After
15 one minute the time stamp may be altered to say “one minute ago”, and the like. However, upon the transmission of an additional message, the time stamp for the prior message can be deleted and a new time stamp such as “less than a minute ago” can be provided with respect to the new message.

Such relative time stamps provide to the user an expedited understanding of the
20 timing aspects of the message. That is, the user can understand an aspect of the time of transmission without having to refer to the current time. This advantageously saves effort by the user because it eliminates the mental step of determining the current time and subtracting therefrom an absolute time displayed by a time stamp to determine the elapsed time since transmission of the message.

25 The different fashions of selectively providing intelligent time data in the form of selectively output time stamps advantageously saves valuable space on the display 50. Moreover, such selective outputting of time stamps advantageously avoids unnecessary visual clutter on the display 50.

While specific embodiments of the invention have been described in detail, it will
30 be appreciated by those skilled in the art that various modifications and alternatives to those details could be developed in light of the overall teachings of the disclosure. Accordingly, the particular arrangements disclosed are meant to be illustrative only and

not limiting as to the scope of the invention which is to be given the full breadth of the claims appended and any and all equivalents thereof.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

- 5 The present invention is directed at handheld electronic device and a method for providing information representative of the times of certain communications in a messaging environment.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of providing an output on at least one of a first electronic device and a second electronic device, the first electronic device being adapted to be in electronic communication with a second electronic device, the method comprising:
- 5 determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device;
- outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first communication;
- 10 determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device; and
- responsive to said determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed, outputting a first time stamp representative of the first time.
- 15
2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent the first indication.
3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising determining that a second messaging communication has occurred at a second time between the first device and the second device, and outputting a second time stamp representative of the second time.
- 20
4. The method of Claim 3, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent the first indication, and outputting as the second time stamp a second time stamp disposed adjacent the second indication, one of the first time stamp and the second time stamp being disposed substantially between the first indication and the second indication, one of the first indication and the second indication being disposed substantially between the first time stamp and the second time stamp.
- 25
5. The method of Claim 3, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent the first indication, and outputting as the second time stamp a second time stamp disposed adjacent the second indication, the first time stamp and the
- 30

second time stamp being disposed substantially between the first indication and the second indication.

5 6. The method of Claim 3, further comprising outputting as the first indication a first linguistic output, outputting as the second indication a second linguistic output, outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent one of the beginning and the ending of the first linguistic output, and outputting as the second time stamp a second time stamp disposed adjacent the one of the beginning and the ending of the second linguistic output.

10

7. The method of Claim 3, further comprising outputting as the first indication a first linguistic output, outputting as the second indication a second linguistic output, outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent one of the beginning and the ending of the first linguistic output, and outputting as the second time stamp a second time stamp disposed adjacent the other of the beginning and the ending of the second linguistic output.

15

8. The method of Claim 1, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a time of day representative of the first time, detecting a change in date and, responsive to said detecting a change in date, outputting as the first time stamp a time of day and a date representative of the first time.

20

9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a relative time stamp representative of an elapsed time.

25

10. A method of providing an output on at least one of a first electronic device and a second electronic device, the first electronic device being adapted to be in electronic communication with a second electronic device, the method comprising:

30 determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device;

outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first communication;

detecting a predetermined input; and

responsive to said detecting a predetermined input, outputting a first time stamp representative of the first time.

11. The method of Claim 10, further comprising detecting as the predetermined input a
5 predetermined input to the first electronic device, and outputting as the first indication a first indication on the second electronic device.

12. The method of Claim 10, further comprising detecting as the predetermined input a
10 movement of a cursor to a location one of adjacent and overlapping the first indication.

13. The method of Claim 12, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a first time stamp disposed adjacent the first indication.

14. The method of Claim 12, further comprising detecting another input and,
15 responsive to said detecting another input, removing the first time stamp.

15. The method of Claim 12, further comprising detecting an expiration of a predetermined duration of time and, responsive to said detecting an expiration of a predetermined duration of time, removing the first time stamp.

20 16. The method of Claim 10, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a time of day representative of the first time, detecting a change in date and, responsive to said detecting a change in date, outputting as the first time stamp a time of day and a date representative of the first time.

25 17. The method of Claim 10, further comprising outputting as the first time stamp a relative time stamp representative of an elapsed time.

30 18. A method of providing an output on at least one of a first electronic device and a second electronic device, the first electronic device being adapted to be in electronic communication with a second electronic device, the method comprising:

determining that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the first device and the second device;

outputting a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first communication;

determining that a first period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the first device and the second device; and

5 responsive to said determining that a first period of time has elapsed, outputting a first time stamp representative of the first period of time.

19. The method of Claim 18, further comprising determining that a second period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between
10 the first device and the second device, the second period of time being of a greater magnitude than the first period of time; and

responsive to said determining that a second period of time has elapsed, outputting a second time stamp representative of the second period of time.

15 20. A handheld electronic device adapted to be in electronic communication with another electronic device, the handheld electronic device comprising:

a processor apparatus including a processor and a memory;

an input apparatus; and

an output apparatus;

20 the processor apparatus being adapted to receive input from the input apparatus and to provide output to the output apparatus;

the processor apparatus being adapted to determine that a first messaging communication has occurred at a first time between the handheld electronic device and the another electronic device;

25 the output apparatus being adapted to output a first indication that is representative of at least a portion of the first communication;

the processor apparatus being adapted to determine that a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the first time substantially without further communication between the handheld electronic device and the another electronic device; and

30 responsive to a determination that a predetermined period of time has elapsed, the output apparatus being adapted to output a first time stamp representative of the first time.

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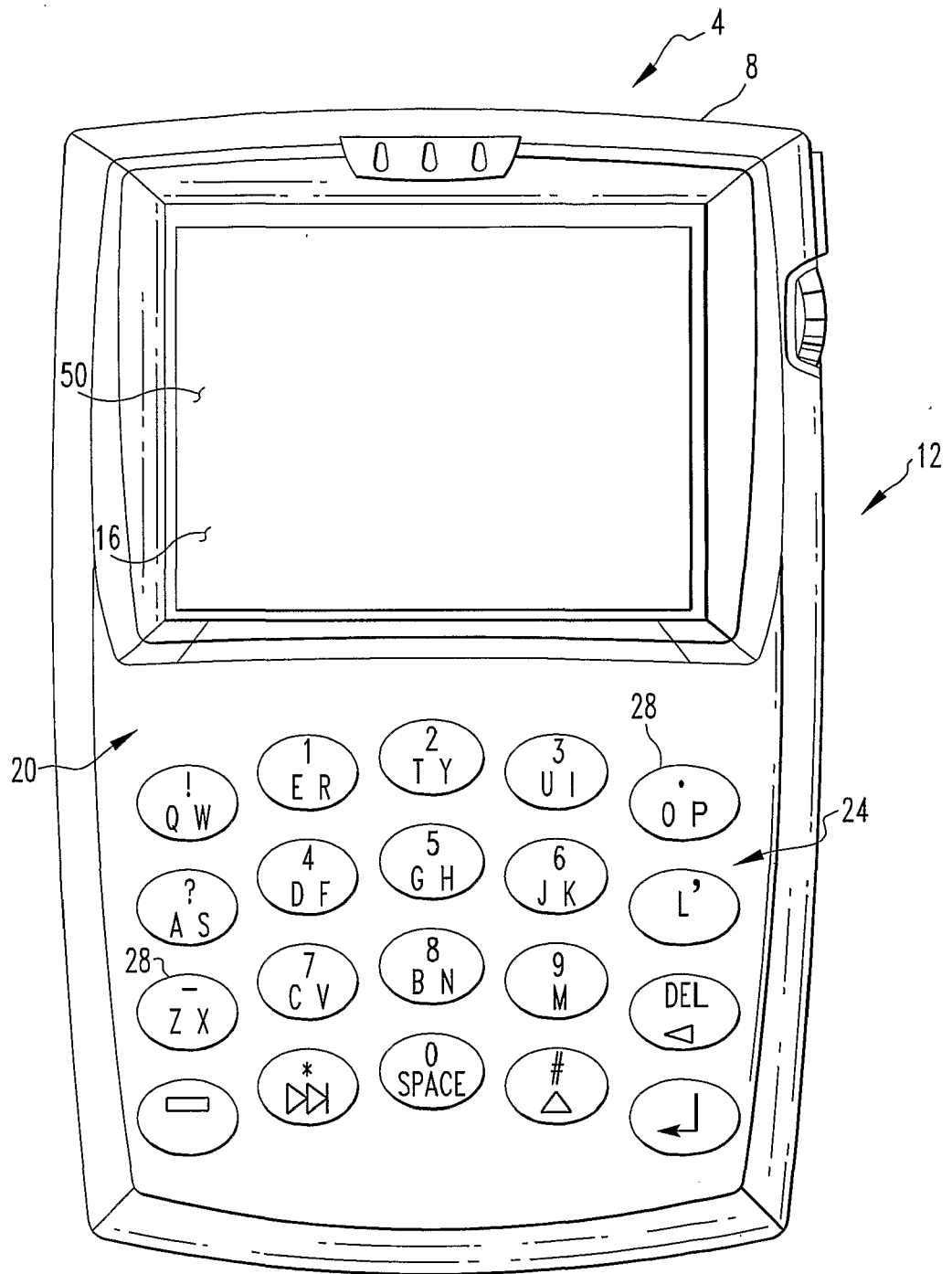


FIG. 1

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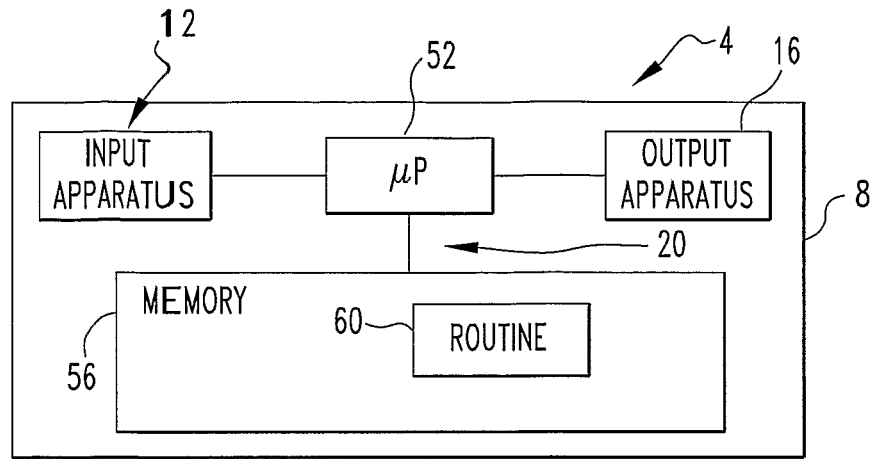


FIG. 2

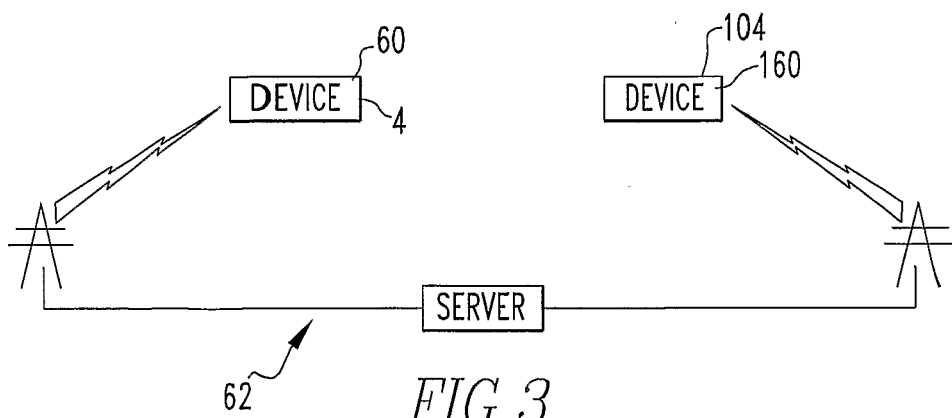


FIG. 3

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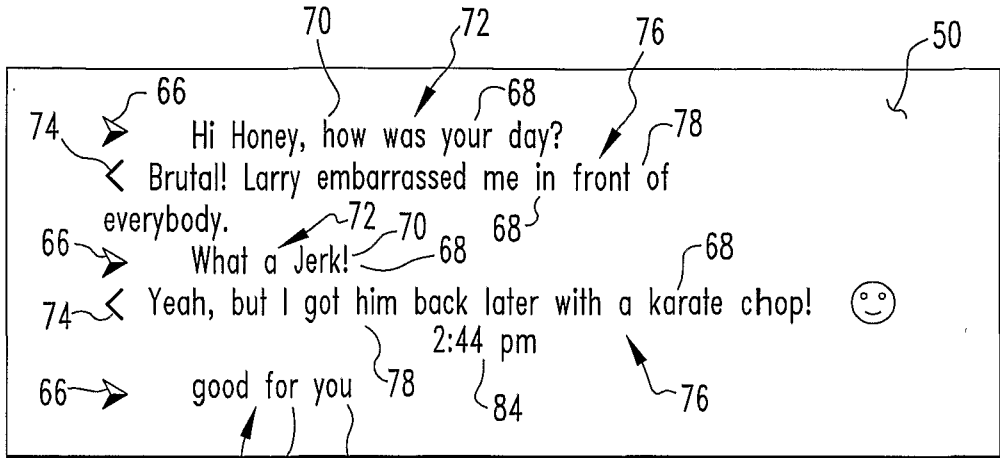


FIG. 4

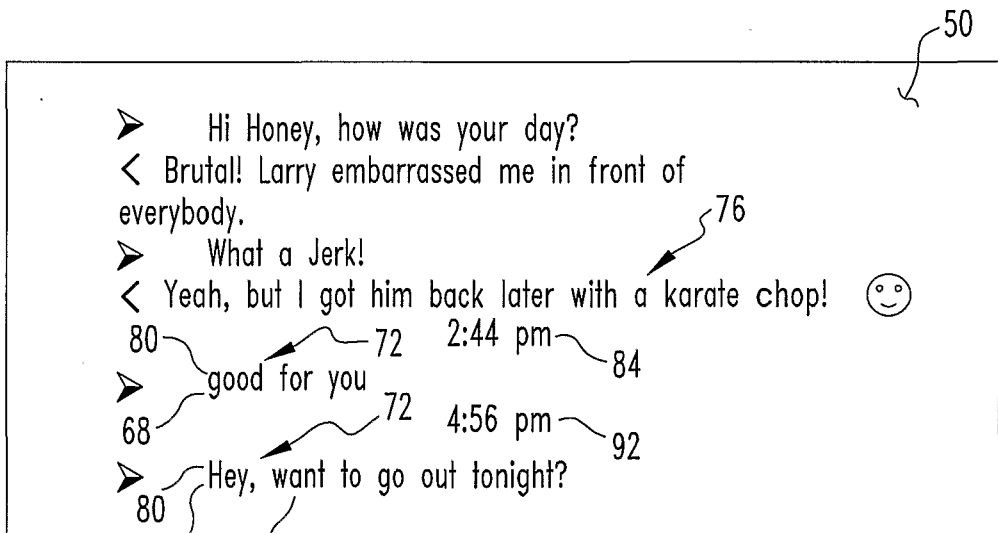


FIG. 5

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50

96

➤ Hi Honey, how was your day?
 < Brutal! Larry embarrassed me in front of everybody.

➤ What a Jerk!
 < Yeah, but I got him back later with
 84 ~ 2:44 pm

➤ good for you
 92 ~ 4:56 pm

➤ Hey, want to go out tonight?
 < Sure, sounds fun.

➤ Great, I'll pick you up in an hour.

< Can't wait ~ 68

Hide Menu
Find
Select
Clear conversation
View Contact List
Insert Time
End Conversation

FIG. 6a

50

➤ Hi Honey, how was your day?
 < Brutal! Larry embarrassed me in front of everybody.

➤ What a Jerk!
 < Yeah, but I got him back later with a karate chop! 😊
 2:44 pm ~ 84

➤ good for you
 4:56 pm ~ 92

➤ Hey, want to go out tonight?
 < Sure, sounds fun.

➤ Great, I'll pick you up in an hour.
 5:04 pm ~ 98

< Can't wait ~ 68

FIG. 6b

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50

➤ Hi Honey, how was your day?

< Brutal! Larry embarrassed me in front of everybody.

➤ What a Jerk!

< Yeah, but I got him back later with a karate chop! 😊

➤ Hey, want to go out tonight? — 180

188 2:44 pm — 184

4:56 pm — 192

< Sure, sounds fun.

➤ Great, I'll pick you up in an hour.

< Can't wait

FIG. 7

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50

➤ Hi Honey, how was your day?
 < Brutal! Larry embarrassed me in front of everybody.
 ➤ What a Jerk! 282
 284 < Yeah, but I got him back later with a karate chop! 😊
 ➤ [2:44 pm] Hey, want to go out tonight? 286
 292 < [4:56 pm] Sure, sounds fun. 294 280
 ➤ Great, I'll pick you up in an hour.
 < Can't wait 290 288

FIG. 8a

50

➤ Hi Honey, how was your day?
 < Brutal! Larry embarrassed me in front of everybody.
 ➤ What a Jerk! 280 286
 282 < Yeah, but I got him back later with a karate chop! 😊
 ➤ Hey, want to go out tonight? [2:44 pm] 284
 292 < [4:56 pm] Sure, sounds fun. 294
 ➤ Great, I'll pick you up in an hour.
 < Can't wait 290 288

FIG. 8b

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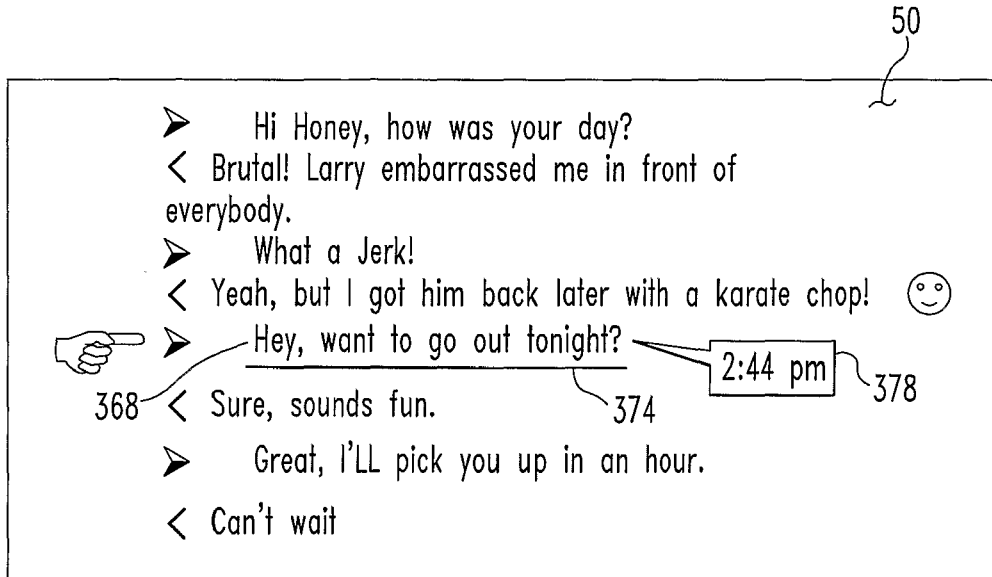


FIG. 9

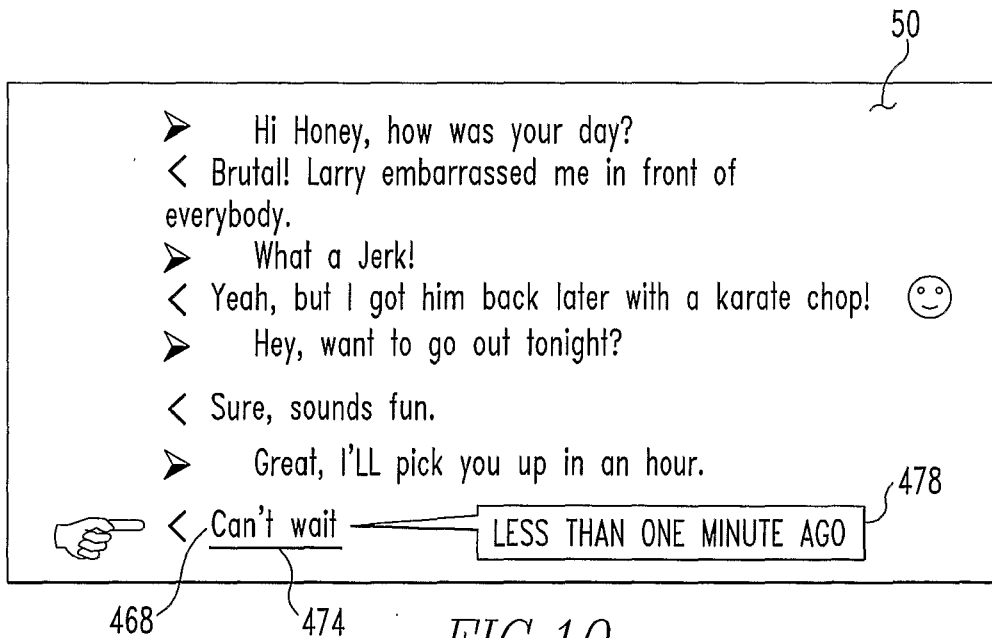


FIG. 10