

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A credit status checking system capable of examining credit status of a customer immediately and easily, by utilizing a telephone number recorded regarding the customer through a computer system performing the examining procedure automatically is disclosed. A telephone number examining apparatus connected with ISDN as a subscriber terminal processes circuit-switched call control procedures defined in the ITU-T recommendation Q.931 as a calling terminal. A database manager searches a customer file corresponding to a customer ID input by a customer through an automated transaction machine, retrieves a telephone number contained in the customer file, and transmits the number to the telephone number examining apparatus. The telephone number examining apparatus sends a SETUP message including an unrestricted or a restricted digital information in a bearer capability information element to the network where the telephone number received from the database manager defined as a called party number. When the network does not receive the SETUP message sent and transfers a DISCONNECT message, the examining apparatus performs a clear sequence immediately and obtains a cause in an information element of the DISCONNECT message from the network. When the cause indicates one of the predetermined set of causes, e.g., "Unallocated (Unassigned) number", the examining apparatus determines the number null, and notifies of the credit information manager that the telephone number is null.

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