Claims

1. A method for identifying one or more unauthorised routes used for the termination of application-to-person (A2P) short message service (SMS) messages to a mobile telecommunications network, the method comprising: providing a collection point arranged to receive SMS messages terminated to the network; stimulating an application service to send an SMS message to the collection point; after receiving the SMS message at the collection point, processing the message to obtain an identifier identifying a source of the SMS message; and determining whether the identifier corresponds to an authorised source of A2P SMS traffic to the network.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising, if the identifier does not identify an authorised source of A2P SMS traffic to the network, determining that the identifier identifies an unauthorised source of A2P SMS traffic to the network.

3. The method of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein stimulating the application service to send an SMS message comprises the steps of: authenticating to the application service; entering a functional element within the service that requires delivery of an SMS message to an end user; identifying the collection point to the service; and executing the service function.

4. The method of any preceding claim, wherein processing the message to obtain an identifier identifying a source of the SMS message comprises determining a unique network address associated with a network element used to route the message to the mobile telecommunications network.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein determining the unique address comprises extracting a global title for the source network element from the SMS message.

6. The method of any preceding claim, comprising identifying the source network used to route the message to the mobile telecommunications network.

7. The method of any preceding claim, further comprising providing a list of authorised sources of A2P SMS messages.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein determining whether the identifier corresponds to an authorised source of A2P SMS messages comprises determining whether the identifier corresponds to any of the sources included in the list.

9. The method of any preceding claim, further comprising notifying an operator for the telecommunications network of whether the source of the SMS message is an authorised source of A2P SMS traffic to the network.

10. The method of any of claims 1 to 8 further comprising, if the identifier does not correspond to an authorised source of A2P SMS traffic, notifying an operator for the telecommunications network that an unauthorised source has terminated an A2P SMS message to the telecommunications network.

11. The method of any preceding claim further comprising a step of, if the identifier does not correspond to an authorised source of A2P SMS traffic to the telecommunications network, preventing A2P SMS messages from the identified source from terminating to the telecommunications network.

12. A system for use in a method of identifying one or more unauthorised sources of application-to-person (A2P) short message service (SMS) messages terminating to a mobile telecommunications network, the system comprising: a collection point arranged to receive SMS messages terminated to the network; a stimulus generator configured to stimulate an application service to send an SMS message to the collection point; and means for processing the message to obtain an identifier identifying a source of the SMS message.

13. The system of claim 12, further comprising computing means arranged to determine whether the identifier corresponds to an authorised source of A2P SMS traffic to the network and, if the identifier does not correspond to an authorised source of A2P SMS traffic, to designate the source as an unauthorised source of A2P SMS traffic to the network.

14. The system of claim 12 or claim 13, wherein the stimulus generator is configured to authenticate to the application service; enter a functional element within the service that requires the delivery of an SMS message to an end user; identify the collection point to the service; and execute the service function.

15. The system of any of claims 12 to 13, wherein the means for processing the message to obtain an identifier identifying a source of the SMS message is configured to determine a unique address associated with the source.

16. The system of any of claims 12 to 15, wherein the collection point comprises GSM-enabled hardware attached to the mobile telecommunications network.

17. The system of any of claims 13 to 16, wherein the computing means is configured to notify an operator for the telecommunications network of whether the source of the SMS message is an authorised source of A2P SMS traffic to the network.

18. The system of any of claims 13 to 16 wherein the computing means is configured to, if the identifier does not correspond to an authorised source of A2P SMS traffic, notify an operator for the telecommunications network that an unauthorised source has terminated an A2P SMS message to the telecommunications network.

19. The system of any of claims 12 to 18, wherein the stimulus generator is configured to stimulate a plurality of application services to send respective SMS messages to the collection point.

20. The system of any of claims 12 to 19, comprising a plurality of collection points each arranged to receive SMS messages terminated to a respective mobile telecommunications network, wherein the stimulus generator is configured to stimulate one or more application services to send an SMS message to each collection point.