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ABSTRACT

MESSAGE MANAGEMENT METHODS AND APPARATUS

Message management methods and apparatus for the storage and selective playback, erase and other manipulation of messages such as voice messages in a voice message system are disclosed. The devices of the invention include analog signal sample and analog storage capabilities whereby messages may be stored in one or more message segment storage locations. A register stack in each device keeps track of the message number associated with the message segment stored in the respective message segment location so that message segments associated with a particular message may be located in sequence for seamless playback of the entire message. Message segment storage locations available for storing new messages may be identified by a flag identifying the same, such as by an otherwise unused message number stored in the associated stack register. Each device includes the capability of cascading with identical devices so as to extend the total record and playback time available. Other aspects of the invention, including other features and capabilities of the devices and details of the method are disclosed.