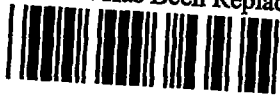


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ABSTRACT

A subscriber having a PC1 and a telephone 2 is connected to a just Internet Service Provider 4 in the internet network 3, and to a telephone exchange 12 in the telephone network. When a second internet user 10 sends an e-mail message to the address of PC1 it is stored by ISP4 in a mailbox 5 allocated to the PC1. Mailbox monitoring means 6 detects the presence of a message in mailbox 5 and mail notifier 7 transmits a message from the internet to the telephone network which modifies the user profile 14 to signal to the user via the telephone 2 that an internet message is waiting, eg, by a distinctive dial tone, or by lighting a LED on the phone. In this way the user can be alerted to the presence of mail in the mailbox without having to log on to the PC1.