Claims

1. A portable device capable of storing information and which may be placed in a locked condition, the portable device comprising:

a man-machine interface;

an information repository for storing at least emergency information; and

an access module for providing user access only to the emergency information in the information repository in response to a predetermined operation on the man-machine interface even if the portable device is in the locked condition.

2. The portable device of claim 1, wherein the information repository is implemented in a computer readable memory stored on the portable device.

3. The portable device of claim 2, wherein the computer readable memory is a subscriber information module.

4. The portable device of claim 1, wherein the information repository is a computer readable memory coupled to a wireless network accessible by a wireless device.

5. The portable device of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the emergency information is in case of emergency 'ICE' information.

6. The portable device of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the predetermined operation is a stroke of a predetermined key.

7. The portable device of claim 6, wherein the stroke is any one of:

a continuous hold of the predetermined key; or

a repeated pressing of the predetermined key.

8. The portable device of claim 6, wherein the predetermined keystroke is a star or an asterisk key pressed three times.

9. The portable device of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the access module is arranged to provide access to emergency information in the information repository by by-passing or over-riding a lock condition associated with the man-machine interface and/or information stored in the information repository.

10. The portable device of any one of claims 1 to 9, comprising:

a display; and

a processor coupled to the display and to the man-machine interface and comprising the access module.

11. The portable device of any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the man-machine interface comprises a keyboard having a key bearing a predetermined indicia.

12. The portable device of claim 11, wherein the predetermined indicia comprises a star or asterisk.

13. The portable device of claim 12, wherein the predetermined operation comprises pressing the key bearing the star or asterisk.

14. The portable device of any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein the information repository is implemented in a subscriber information module 'SIM'.

15. The portable device of any one of claims 1 to 14, wherein the access module is arranged to provide user access to the emergency information regardless of whether or not a SIM personal identification number 'PIN' is locked and whether or not the portable device is locked.

16. The portable device of claim 14, wherein ICE information is stored in a dedicated file.

17. The portable device of claim 16, wherein the dedicated file comprises an ICE User elemental file and an ICE contact elemental file.

18. The portable device of any one of claims 1 to 17, wherein the emergency information comprises user information comprising one or more of Name, Address, Country, Time Zone, Language(s), Phone number, Mobile number, Traveller's group info, Blood type, and Comment.

19. The portable device of any one of claim 1 to 17, wherein the emergency information comprises contact information comprising one or more of Name, Relationship, Address, Time Zone, Country, Language(s), Home Phone number, Work Phone number, Mobile number, Comments, and "Travelling with user?".

20. The portable device of any one of claims 1 to 19, wherein the portable device is one of a cell phone, a wireless device, a personal information assistant, an MP3 player, and a multifunction portable electronic device.

21. The portable device of any one of claims 1 to 20, wherein the portable device comprises an ICE state in an access procedure of the portable device.

22. The portable device of claim 21, wherein the ICE state is a state in which ICE information is made available in response to the predetermined operation.

23. The portable device of claim 22, wherein while in the ice state only the ICE information is available if the portable device had been locked in a previous state.

24. The portable device of claim 21, wherein an ICE unlock function causes the portable device to enter the ICE state from a previous state.

25. The portable device of claim 21, wherein an end key function causes the portable device to enter a wait state from the ICE state.

26. A method of providing access to emergency information in a portable device having a man-machine interface, the portable device being capable of storing information and which may be placed in a locked condition, the method comprising:

storing at least emergency information in an information repository; and

providing user access only to the emergency information in the information repository in response to a predetermined operation on the man-machine interface even if the portable device is in the locked condition.

27. A computer program product for providing in case of emergency 'ICE' information on a portable device, the computer program product comprising a computer readable medium embodying program code means for implementing on the portable device the method of claim 26.

Claims

1. A portable device (140) capable of storing information and which may be placed in a locked condition, the portable device comprising:

a man-machine interface (149);

a subscriber information module 'SIM' (152) for storing at least emergency information comprising a plurality of ICE entries;

a display (142); and

a processor (150) coupled to the display (142) and to the man-machine interface (149), and comprising an access module (28) for providing a user with access only to the emergency information in the SIM (152) in response to a repeated pressing of a predetermined key by the user even if the portable device is in the locked condition, wherein the processor is adapted to cause, in response to the repeated pressing of the predetermined key by the user even if the portable device is in the locked condition, the display (142) to display the plurality of ICE entries upon the user's access to the emergency information;

wherein during the user's access to the emergency information while the portable device (140) is in the locked condition, other information stored on the portable device (140) remains protected.

2. The portable device (140) of claim 1, wherein the repeated pressing of the predetermined key is a repeated pressing of a star or an asterisk key (132, 136).

3. The portable device (140) of claim 1 or 2, wherein the repeated pressing of the predetermined key is a star or the asterisk key (132, 136) pressed three times.

4. The portable device (140) of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the access module (28) is arranged to provide access to emergency information in the SIM (152) by by-passing or over-riding a lock condition associated with the man-machine interface (149).

5. The portable device (140) of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the access module is arranged to provide access to emergency information in the SIM (152) by by-passing or over-riding a lock condition associated with information stored in the SIM (152).

6. The portable device (140) of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the man-machine interface (149) comprises a keyboard (130, 144) having a key bearing a predetermined indicia (132, 146).

7. The portable device (140) of claim 6, wherein the predetermined indicia comprises a star or asterisk.

8. The portable device (140) of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the access module (28) is arranged to provide user access to the emergency information regardless of whether or not a SIM personal identification number 'PIN' is locked and whether or not the portable device (140) is locked.

9. The portable device (140) of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the emergency information is stored in a dedicated file.

10. The portable device (140) of claim 9, wherein the dedicated file comprises an in case of emergency User elemental file and an in case of emergency contact elemental file.

11. The portable device (140) of claim 10, wherein the User elemental file comprises user information comprising one or more of Name, Address, Country, Time Zone, Language(s), Phone number, Mobile number, Travel information, Medical information, and Comment.

12. The portable device (140) of claim 10, wherein the contact elemental file comprises contact information comprising one or more of Name, Relationship, Address, Time Zone, Country, Language(s), Home Phone number, Work Phone number, Mobile number, Comments, Travel Information, and Medical Information.

13. The portable device (140) of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the portable device is one of a cell phone, a wireless device, a personal information assistant, an MP3 player, and a multifunction portable electronic device.

14. The portable device (140) of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the emergency information is provided in two or more languages.

15. The portable device (140) of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the portable device (140) comprises an in case of emergency state in an access procedure of the portable device.

16. The portable device (140) of claim 15, wherein the in case of emergency state is a state in which emergency information is made available in response to the repeated pressing of the predetermined key.

17. The portable device (140) of claim 16, wherein while in the in case of emergency state only the emergency information is available if the portable device had been locked in a previous state.

18. The portable device (140) of claim 15, wherein the repeated pressing of the predetermined key causes the portable device to enter the in case of emergency state from a previous state.

19. The portable device of claim 15, wherein an end key function causes the handset to enter a wait state from the in case of emergency state.

20. The portable device of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the emergency information is in case of emergency ICE' information.

21. A method of providing access to emergency information in a portable device (140) having a subscriber information module 'SIM' (152), the portable device (140) being capable of storing information and which may be placed in a locked condition, the method comprising:

storing at least emergency information comprising a plurality of ICE entries in the SIM (152); and

providing a user with access only to the emergency information in the SIM (152) in response to a repeated pressing of a predetermined key by the user even if the portable device (140) is in the locked condition;

in response to the repeated pressing of the predetermined key by the user even if the portable device is in the locked condition displaying the plurality of ICE entries upon the user's access to the emergency information;

wherein during the user's access to the emergency information while the portable device (140) is in the locked condition, other information stored on the portable device (140) remains protected.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the repeated pressing of the predetermined key is a repeated pressing of a star or an asterisk key (132, 136).

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the repeated pressing of the predetermined key is three presses on the star or the asterisk key (132, 136).

24. The method of any one claims 21 to 23, wherein the portable device (140) is one of a cell phone, a wireless device, a personal information assistant, an MP3 player, and a multifunction portable electronic device.

25. The method of any one of claims 21 to 24, wherein the emergency information is provided in two or more languages.

26. The method of any one of claims 21 to 25, further comprising:

providing access to emergency information in the SIM (152) by by-passing or over-riding a lock condition associated with a man-machine interface (149).

27. The method of any one of claims 21 to 26, further comprising:

providing access to emergency information in the SIM (152) by by-passing or over-riding a lock condition associated with information stored in the SIM (152).

28. The method of any one of claims 21 to 27, wherein the man-machine interface (149) comprises a keyboard having a key bearing a predetermined indicia (132, 136).

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the predetermined indicia comprises a star or asterisk.

30. The method of any one of claims 21 to 28, wherein the user is provided with access to the emergency information regardless of whether or not a SIM personal identification number 'PIN' is locked and whether or not the portable device is locked.

31. The method of any one of claims 21 to 30. wherein the emergency information is stored in a dedicated file.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the dedicated file comprises an in case of emergency User elemental file and an in case of emergency contact elemental file.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein the User elemental file comprises user information comprising one or more of Name, Address, Country, Time Zone, Language(s), Phone number, Mobile number, Travel Information, Medical Information, and Comment.

34. The method of claim 32, wherein the contact elemental file comprises contact information comprising one or more of Name, Relationship, Address, Time Zone, Country, Language(s), Home Phone number, Work Phone number, Mobile number, Comments, Travel Information, and Medical Information.

35. The method of any one of claims 21 to 34, wherein the portable device (140) comprises an in case of emergency state in an access procedure of the portable device (140).

36. The method of claim 35, wherein the in case of emergency state is a state in which emergency information is made available in response to the repeated pressing of the predetermined key.

37. The method of claim 35 or 36, further comprising making only the emergency information available while in the in case of emergency state if the portable device (140) had been locked in a previous state.

38. The method of claim 37, further comprising causing the portable device (140) to enter the in case of emergency state (8), from a previous state.

39. The method of claim 38, further comprising causing the portable device (140) to enter a wait state (2) from the in case of emergency state (8).

40. The method of any one of claims 21 to 39, wherein the emergency information is in case of emergency 'ICE' information stored in the portable device (140).

41. A computer program product for providing emergency information on a portable device, the computer program product comprising a computer readable medium embodying program code means for implementing on the portable device (140) the method of any one of claims 21 to 40.