Claims

1. Method for obtaining mobile station information of a mobile station (110), said mobile station information being status information of said mobile station, the method comprising:
   - receiving a request for mobile station information at a query server (120);
   - defining one or more subqueries in the query server (120) to access the mobile station information, wherein the query server needs to be aware of a priority status of said request when generating the one or more subqueries;
   - transmitting said subqueries to locations storing said mobile station information;
   - returning responses to said subqueries to the query server (120);
   - returning mobile station information generated from said responses in the query server, wherein the mobile station information is cross-network accessible information about the mobile station.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the mobile station information includes one of a home network operator information about a home network operator of the mobile station and of location information about a location of the mobile station.

3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, the mobile station information being home network operator information, wherein the returned responses comprise a routing envelope.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the routing envelope is a SS7 SCCP routing envelope.

5. The method according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the routing envelope comprises an address.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the address includes a global title component of the home network operator.

7. The method according to any one of claims 2 to 4, wherein the method further comprises the step of determining a new home network operator in dependence of the routing envelope.

8. The method according to any one of the claims 1 to 7, wherein the analyzing said returned responses comprises a look-up in a database (124).

9. Method according to claim 2, the mobile station information being location information about a location of the mobile station (110), comprising
   - a step of using the returned responses to look up in a location database the location information.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the returned responses comprise details of an MSC area of the mobile station.

11. The method according to one of claim 9 to 10, wherein the request comprises the MSISDN number of the mobile station (110).

12. The method according to one of claims 9 to 11, wherein the look up in a location database comprises looking up the cell location.

13. A query server (120) for the determination of mobile station information of a mobile station, said mobile station information being status information of said mobile station, the method the query server (120) comprising:
   - a query receiver for accepting a request for the mobile station information;
   - one or more subquery generators (126) for generating one or more subqueries from the query;
   - one or more subquery transmitters (126) for submitting the one or more subqueries to one or more networks (50);
   - one or more subquery receivers (127) for receiving one or more subquery responses from the one or more networks (50); and
   - a response generator (128) for analyzing the one or more subquery responses to determine the mobile station information,

   characterized in that

the mobile station information is cross-network accessible information about the mobile station, and wherein the query server needs to be aware of a priority status of said request when generating the one or more subqueries.

14. A query server (120) according to claim 13, wherein the mobile station information is one of home network operator information about a home network of the mobile station and of location information about the location of the mobile station the query server (120).

15. The query server (120) of claim 14, the mobile station further comprising a look-up table storing MSC areas and corresponding locations.

16. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instruction for a program comprising code means adapted to perform the steps of a method according to claims 1 to 12.

17. An application server (130) for accessing the query server (120) of one of claims 13 to 15 for passing a request about information relating to a mobile station (110) to the query server (120) and for receiving a request response from the query server (120) concerning the information relating to the mobile station (110).

18. A first application program interface embodied on a computer-readable medium for execution on a computer in conjunction with the application server (130) of claim 17, the first application program interface comprising:

- a request interface for accepting a request;
- a request response interface for returning a request response, the request response being generated from one or more subqueries received from one or more second networks in response to the submission of one or more subqueries to one or more networks.

19. The first application program interface of claim 18, wherein the request interface is an interface for accepting a request about the network login status of a mobile station (110) and

the request response interface is an interface for returning a response about the network login status of the mobile station (110).

Claims

1. Method for obtaining mobile station information of a mobile station (110), said mobile station information being status information of said mobile station, the method comprising:

   - receiving a request for mobile station information at a query server (120);
   - defining one or more subqueries in the query server (120) to access the mobile station information, wherein the query server needs to be aware of a priority status of said request when generating the one or more subqueries;
   - transmitting said subqueries to locations storing said mobile station information;
   - returning responses to said subqueries to the query server (120);
   - returning mobile station information generated from said responses in the query server, wherein the mobile station information is cross-network accessible information about the mobile station.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the mobile station information includes one of a home network operator information about a home network operator of the mobile station and of location information about a location of the mobile station.

3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, the mobile station information being home network operator information, wherein the returned responses comprise a routing envelope.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the routing envelope is a SS7 SCCP routing envelope.

5. The method according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the routing envelope comprises an address.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the address includes a global title component of the home network operator.

7. The method according to any one of claims 2 to 4, wherein the method further comprises the step of determining a new home network operator in dependence of the routing envelope.

8. The method according to any one of the claims 1 to 7, wherein the analyzing said returned responses comprises a look-up in a database (124).

9. Method according to claim 2, the mobile station information being location information about a location of the mobile station (110), comprising
   a step of using the returned responses to look up in a location database the location information.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the returned responses comprise details of an MSC area of the mobile station.

11. The method according to one of claim 9 to 10, wherein the request comprises the MSISDN number of the mobile station (110).

12. The method according to one of claims 9 to 11, wherein the look up in a location database comprises looking up the cell location.

13. A query server (120) for the determination of mobile station information of a mobile station, said mobile station information being status information of said mobile station, the query server (120) comprising:

    - a query receiver for accepting a request for the mobile station information;
    - one or more subquery generators (126) for generating one or more subqueries from the query;
    - one or more subquery transmitters (126) for submitting the one or more subqueries to one or more networks (50);
    - one or more subquery receivers (127) for receiving one or more subquery responses from the one or more networks (50); and
    - a response generator (128) for analyzing the one or more subquery responses to determine the mobile station information, **characterized in that** the mobile station information is cross-network accessible information about the mobile station, and wherein the query server needs to be aware of a priority status of said request when generating the one or more subqueries.

14. A query server (120) according to claim 13, wherein the mobile station information is one of home network operator information about a home network of the mobile station and of location information about the location of the mobile station.

15. The query server (120) of claim 14, the mobile station further comprising a look-up table storing MSC areas and corresponding locations.

16. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instruction for a program comprising code means adapted to perform the steps of a method according to claims 1 to 12.

17. An application server (130) for accessing the query server (120) of one of claims 13 to 15 adapted for passing a request about information relating to a mobile station (110) to the query server (120) and for receiving a request response from the query server (120) concerning the information relating to the mobile station (110).

18. An application program interface embodied on a computer-readable medium comprising code means adapted for execution on a computer in conjunction with the application server (130) of claim 17, the application program interface comprising:

    - a request interface for accepting a request;
    - a request response interface for returning a request response, the request response being generated from one or more subqueries received from one or more second networks in response to the submission of one or more subqueries to one or more networks.

19. The application program interface of claim 18, wherein the request interface is an interface for accepting a request about the network login status of a mobile station (110) and the request response interface is an interface for returning a response about the network login status of the mobile station (110).