

CLAIMS

1. A method of providing a service, comprising the steps of
performing a communication to one of a plurality of server electronic
5 addresses from a first electronic address;
identifying, at the server electronic address, the first electronic address from
which the communication is made; and
providing a service based on a service definition depending on a combination
of the server electronic address and the first electronic address;
10 wherein the plurality of server electronic addresses are divided into one or
more groups such that server electronic addresses from one group, when combined
with the first electronic address, generate an identical service definition; and the
service definition comprises one or more second electronic addresses for execution
of the service.
- 15 2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein different server electronic
addresses from one group are associated with respective local servers, and the
local servers are coupled to a central server.
3. The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the electronic addresses
20 associated with the respective local servers are assigned on different respective
networks.
4. The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the different networks
reside in different respective countries.
- 25 5. The method as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 4, wherein the local
servers are coupled to the central server via the Internet.
6. The method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein
30 the service definition is set up by a person associated with the first electronic
address.
7. The method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein
the service definition comprises one or more of a group comprising: making a VoIP

call to the one or more second electronic addresses, making a voice call to the one or more second electronic addresses, leaving a message at the one or more second electronic addresses, sending an email to the one or more second electronic addresses, sending a fax to the one or more second electronic addresses, sending
5 an IM to the one or more second electronic addresses, sending an MMS to the one or more second electronic addresses, making a calling card call to the one or more second electronic addresses, making an access sequence call to the one or more second electronic addresses, sending audio data to the one or more second electronic addresses, sending video data to the one or more second electronic
10 addresses, and sending multi-media data to the one or more second electronic processes.

8. The method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the service definition comprises one or more of a group comprising: receiving a voice call
15 from the one or more second electronic addresses, recording a message from the one or more second electronic addresses, receiving an email from the one or more second electronic addresses, receiving an SMS from the one or more second electronic addresses, receiving a fax from the one or more second electronic addresses, receiving an IM from the one or more second electronic addresses, receiving an MMS from the
20 one or more second electronic addresses, receiving a calling card call from the one or more second electronic addresses, receiving an access sequence call from the one or more second electronic addresses, receiving audio data from the one or more second electronic addresses, receiving video data from the one or more second electronic addresses, and receiving multi-media data from the one or more second electronic
25 addresses.

9. The method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein performing the communication to the server electronic address from the first electronic address comprises one or more of a group comprising: making a voice call to the server electronic address, sending an email to the server electronic address, sending an SMS
30 to the server electronic address, sending a fax to the server electronic address, sending an IM to the server electronic address, sending an MMS to the server electronic address, making a calling card call to the server electronic address, making an access sequence call to the server electronic address, sending audio data to the server

electronic addresses, sending video data to the server electronic addresses, and sending multi-media data to the server electronic addresses.

10. The method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the service definition comprises conversion of communication from one communication
5 format into another communication format.

11. The method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the service definition comprises recording a communication to and/or from the one or more second electronic addresses.

10 12. The method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein providing the service based on a service definition depending on a combination of the server electronic address and the first electronic address comprises identifying a lead number associated with the same group as the server electronic address, and identifying the service definition based on the lead number and the first electronic
15 address.

13. A system providing a service, the system comprising
an electronic device having associated with it a first electronic address; and
a server system having plurality of server electronic addresses associated
20 therewith for receiving a communication from the first electronic address;

wherein the server system identifies the first electronic address from which the communication is made; and provides a service based on a service definition depending on a combination of the server electronic address and the first electronic address;

25 wherein the plurality of server electronic addresses are divided into one or more groups such that server electronic addresses from one group, when combined with the first electronic address, generate an identical service definition; and

the service definition comprises one or more second electronic addresses for execution of the service.

30 14. The system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the server system, comprises a plurality of local servers and a central server, and the different server

electronic addresses from one group are associated with respective one of the local servers, and the local servers are coupled to the central server.

15 15. The system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the electronic addresses associated with the respective local servers are assigned on different respective networks.

10 16. The system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the different networks reside in different respective countries.

17. The system as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 16, wherein the local servers are coupled to the central server via the Internet.

15 18. The system as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 17, wherein the service definition is set up by a person associated with the first electronic address.

20 19. The system as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 18, wherein the service definition comprises one or more of a group comprising: making a VoIP call to the one or more second electronic addresses, making a voice call to the one or more second electronic addresses, leaving a message at the one or more second electronic addresses, sending an email to the one or more second electronic addresses, sending a fax to the one or more second electronic addresses, sending an IM to the one or more second electronic addresses, sending an MMS to the one or more second electronic addresses, making a calling card call to the one or more second electronic addresses, making an access sequence call to the one or more second electronic addresses, sending audio data to the one or more second electronic addresses, sending video data to the one or more second electronic addresses, and sending multi-media data to the one or more second electronic processes.

30 20. The system as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 19, wherein the service definition comprises one or more of a group comprising: receiving a voice call from the one or more second electronic addresses, recording a message from the one or more second electronic addresses, receiving an email from the one or more second electronic

addresses, receiving an SMS from the one or more second electronic addresses, receiving a fax from the one or more second electronic addresses, receiving an IM from the one or more second electronic addresses, receiving an MMS from the one or more second electronic addresses, receiving a calling card call from the one or more second electronic addresses, receiving an access sequence call from the one or more second electronic addresses, receiving audio data from the one or more second electronic addresses, receiving video data from the one or more second electronic addresses, and receiving multi-media data from the one or more second electronic addresses.

10 21. The system as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 20, wherein receiving the communication from the first electronic address comprises one or more of a group comprising: making a voice call to the server electronic address, sending an email to the server electronic address, sending an SMS to the server electronic address, sending a fax to the server electronic address, sending an IM to the server electronic address, 15 sending an MMS to the server electronic address, making a calling card call to the server electronic address, making an access sequence call to the server electronic address, sending audio data to the server electronic addresses, sending video data to the server electronic addresses, and sending multi-media data to the server electronic addresses.

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22. The system as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 21, wherein the service definition comprises conversion of communication from one communication format into another communication format.

23. The system as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 22, wherein the service 25 definition comprises recording a communication to and/or from the one or more second electronic addresses.

24. The system as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 23, wherein the 30 server system provides the service based on a service definition depending on a combination of the server electronic address and the first electronic address by identifying a lead number associated with the same group as the server electronic

address, and identifying the service definition based on the lead number and the first electronic address.

25. A data medium having stored thereon computer code means for
5 instructing a computer to execute a method of providing a service, comprising the steps of

performing a communication to one of a plurality of server electronic
addresses from a first electronic address;

10 identifying, at the server electronic address, the first electronic address from
which the communication is made; and

providing a service based on a service definition depending on a combination
of the server electronic address and the first electronic address;

15 wherein the plurality of server electronic addresses are divided into one or
more groups such that server electronic addresses from one group, when combined
with the first electronic address, generate an identical service definition; and the
service definition comprises one or more second electronic addresses for execution
of the service.

CLAIMS

1. A first server apparatus for identifying a service to be provided, the first server apparatus being a first server of a plurality of servers, the plurality of servers being divided into one or more groups, each of the one or more groups having a group identifier, and each of the servers in a group having a server identifier comprising the group identifier, and wherein the service is defined by a service definition, the server being configured:

- to receive a communication from a first communication device having a first electronic address;

- to identify the first electronic address; and

- one of:

- to identify the service using a combination of the group identifier and the first electronic address; and

- to transmit, to a central server, the group identifier and the first electronic address for the central server to identify the service using a combination of the group identifier and the first electronic address; and;

- wherein

- the service definition comprises one or more second electronic addresses for execution of the service.

2. The server apparatus of claim 1 configured to identify the service using a combination of the first electronic address and the server identifier.

3. The server apparatus of claim 1 or claim 2 configured to allow a user of the first communication device to register with the server apparatus prior to the server apparatus receiving the communication.

4. The server apparatus of claim 3 configured to register a user of a second communication device responsive to the user of the second communication device registering with another server in a group with the first server.

5. A central server apparatus for identifying a service to be provided, the central server configured to receive transmissions from a plurality of servers, the plurality of

servers being divided into one or more groups, each of the one or more groups having a group identifier, and each of the servers in a group having a server identifier comprising the group identifier, and wherein the service is defined by a service definition, the server apparatus configured:

to receive, from a first server of the plurality of servers, a transmission comprising the group identifier and a first electronic address, the first electronic address having been identified by the first server upon receipt of a communication from a first communication device having the first electronic address; and

to identify the service using a combination of the group identifier and the first electronic address; wherein

the service definition comprises one or more second electronic addresses for execution of the service.

6. A method for identifying a service to be provided, the method implemented using a first server of a plurality of servers, the plurality of servers being divided into one or more groups, each of the one or more groups having a group identifier, and each of the servers in a group having a server identifier comprising the group identifier, and wherein the service is defined by a service definition, the method comprising:

receiving, at the first server, a communication from a first communication device having a first electronic address;

identifying, at the first server, the first electronic address; and

one of:

identifying, at the first server, the service using a combination of the group identifier and the first electronic address; and

transmitting, from the first server to a central server, the group identifier and the first electronic address for the central server to identify the service using a combination of the group identifier and the first electronic address; and; wherein

the service definition comprises one or more second electronic addresses for execution of the service.

7. A method for identifying a service to be provided, the method implemented using a central server configured to receive transmissions from a plurality of servers, the plurality of servers being divided into one or more groups, each of the one or

more groups having a group identifier, and each of the servers in a group having a server identifier comprising the group identifier, and wherein the service is defined by a service definition, the method comprising:

receiving, from a first server of the plurality of servers, a transmission comprising the group identifier and a first electronic address, the first electronic address having been identified by the first server upon receipt of a communication from a first communication device having the first electronic address; and

identifying the service using a combination of the group identifier and the first electronic address; wherein

the service definition comprises one or more second electronic addresses for execution of the service.

8. The method of claim 6 or claim 7, further comprising allowing the user of the first communication device to define the service definition.

9. A computer program product having stored thereon computer code means for instructing a computer to execute the method of any one of claims 6 to 8.