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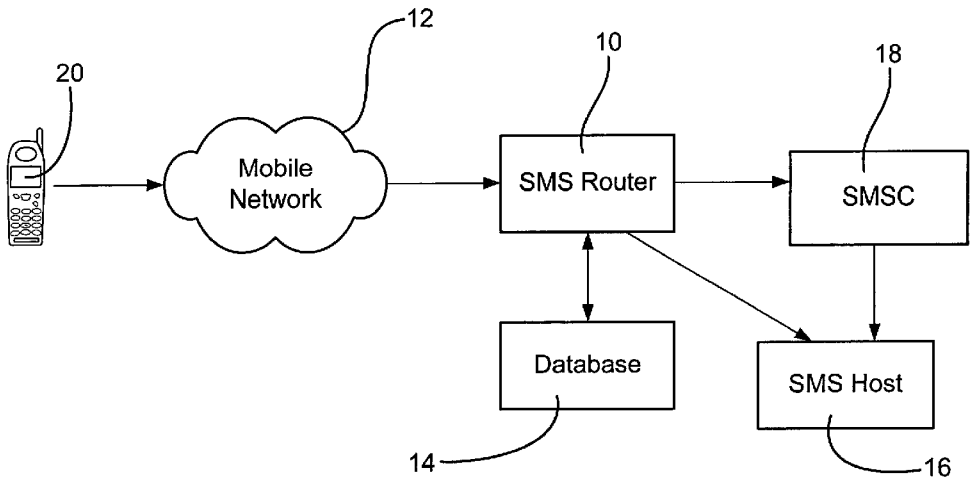
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(57) Abstract: In a telephone system. such as a mobile telephone system capable of handling text messages, address signals for telephone communication may be in one of first and second signal formats such as dialled numeric signals and alphanumeric signals. An SMS Router (10) can distinguish between the numeric and alphanumeric signals. and directs numeric address signals to a short message service centre SMSC (18). The alphanumeric address signals may instead be re-routed on the basis of stored information, such as in a database (14), for example directly to an SMS Host (16). Alternatively. the alphanumeric address signals can be converted by the SMS Router (10) to numeric signals. on the basis of the stored information. and then directed to the SMSC (18).

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