conference number at the desired time and typically by providing other identifying information such as a conference room identifier or a passcode/personal identification number (PIN).

[0005] Often a party will have difficulty attending a conference call on time or at all, as they will not have at-hand the required conference call number, conference room identifier and/or passcode/PIN. Normally these details are communicated by other means such email, software or physical calendars, etc. In a busy workday, parties are often unable to quickly access the details required to attend the conference, and time is lost as they search their email accounts, their physical desktop, or use computer devices or their mobile devices to access calendars. Further, individuals on-the-go, such as those driving motor vehicles, often have difficulty remembering and then entering a complex set of numbers into a keypad, without having to stop their primary task completely, or find themselves repeatedly consulting and then inputting these complex sequences of numbers as their connections fail and the process has to be started over.

[0006] Thus, there is a need for the ability to create conference calls that require no additional details from the host or participants to begin or join the conference call.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] The present invention provides a system and non-transitory computer-readable media for management of a conference call. The system comprises a call answering server configured to receive an unanswered call directed to a host device, wherein the unanswered call is from an attendee device that has been forwarded from the host device to the call answering server based on call answering configurations including a relationship between the host device and the attendee device, create conference call associated with the host device, answer the unanswered call by greeting the attendee device with a confirmation that the attendee device has correctly connected to the host device, provide an option to the attendee device to join the conference call with the host device without

attendees and a conference time being specified by the host device to the call answering server, receive a request from the attendee device to join the conference call, and connect the attendee device to the conference call.

[0008] According to one embodiment, the call answering server may be further configured to identify the multi-party real-time communication based on an identification of the attendee device. The call answering server may also be configured to identify the attendee device based on an address book associated with the host device. In another embodiment, the call answering server is configured to use the address book to provide information about participants in the multi-party real-time communication when the participants join or leave the multi-party real-time communication. The call answering server configured to identify the multi-party real-time communication based on a database of multi-party real-time communications or hosts. The call answering server may create a conference bridge between the host device and the attendee device.

[0009] In a certain embodiment, the call answering server is configured to greet the attendee device to inform the attendee device has correctly connected to the host device. The call answering server may also receive call answering configurations associated with the host device. The call answering server can handle the call from the attendee device based on the call answering configurations. The call answering configurations may include options for call greeting, voice message services, and conference joining. According to one embodiment, the call answering server is configured to receive a request from the attendee device to record a voicemail message. The call from the attendee device can be established using an Internet-based telephony connection or a public switched telephone network connection.

[0010] The non-transitory computer-readable media comprises computer program code for receiving an unanswered call directed to a host device, wherein the unanswered call is from an attendee device that has been forwarded from the host device to a call answering server based on call answering configurations including a relationship between the host device and the attendee device, computer program code for creating a conference call with the host

device, computer program code for answering the unanswered call by greeting the attendee device with a confirmation that the attendee device has correctly connected to the host device, computer program code for providing an option to the attendee device to join the conference call with the host device without attendees and a conference time being specified by the host device to the call answering server, computer program code for receiving a request from the attendee device to join the conference call, and

computer program code for connecting the attendee device to the conference call.

[0011] The non-transitory computer-readable media may further comprise computer program code for identifying the multi-party real-time communication based on an identification of the attendee device. In another embodiment, the non-transitory computer-readable media further comprises computer program code for identifying the attendee device based on an address book associated with the host device. The non-transitory computer-readable media may also comprise computer program code for using the address book to provide information about participants in the multi-party real-time communication when the participants join or leave the multi-party real-time communication. In yet another embodiment, the non-transitory computer-readable media further comprises computer program code for identifying the multi-party real-time communication based on a database of multi-party real-time communications or hosts. The call from the attendee device can be established using an Internet-based telephony connection or a public switched telephone network connection.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0012] The invention is illustrated in the figures of the accompanying drawings which are meant to be exemplary and not limiting, in which like references are intended to refer to like or corresponding parts.

[0013] Fig. 1 illustrates a system according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0014] Fig. 2 illustrates a flowchart of a method for establishing a conference call according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0015] Fig. 3 illustrates a block diagram of a method for routing a conference call according to an embodiment of the present invention.

CLAIMS

1. A system for managing a conference call, the system comprising:

a call answering server configured to:

receive an unanswered call directed to a host device, wherein the unanswered call is from an attendee device that has been forwarded from the host device to the call answering server based on call answering configurations including a relationship between the host device and the attendee device;

create a conference call with the host device;

answer the unanswered call by greeting the attendee device with a confirmation that the attendee device has correctly connected to the host device;

provide an option to the attendee device to join the conference call with the host device without attendees and a conference time being specified by the host device to the call answering server;

receive a request from the attendee device to join the conference call; and

connect the attendee device to the conference call.

2. The system of claim 1 further comprising the call answering server configured to provide the option to the attendee device to join the conference call based on an identification of the attendee device.

3. The system of claim 2 further comprising the call answering server configured to identify the attendee device based on an address book associated with the host device.

4. The system of claim 3 further comprising the call answering server configured to use the address book to provide information about participants in the conference call when the participants join or leave the conference call.

5. The system of claim 1 further comprising the call answering server configured to provide the option to the attendee device to join the conference call based on a database of conference calls or hosts.

6. The system of claim 1 further comprising the call answering server configured to create a conference bridge between the host device and the attendee device.

7. The system of claim 1 further comprising the call answering server configured to greet the attendee device to inform the attendee device has correctly connected to the host device.

8. The system of claim 1 further comprising the call answering server configured to receive the call answering configurations associated with the host device.

9. The system of claim 8 further comprising the call answering server configured to handle the unanswered call from the attendee device based on the call answering configurations.

10. The system of claim 8 wherein the call answering configurations include options for call greeting, voice message services, and conference joining.

11. The system of claim 1 further comprising the call answering server configured to receive a request from the attendee device to record a voicemail message.

12. The system of claim 1 wherein the unanswered call from the attendee device is established using an Internet-based telephony connection.

13. The system of claim 1 wherein the unanswered call from the attendee device is established using a public switched telephone network connection.

14. Non-transitory computer-readable media comprising program code that when executed by a programmable processor causes execution of a method for managing a conference call, the computer-readable media comprising:

computer program code for receiving an unanswered call directed to a host device, wherein the unanswered call is from an attendee device that has been forwarded from the host device to a call answering server based on call answering configurations including a relationship between the host device and the attendee device;

computer program code for creating a conference call with the host device;

computer program code for answering the unanswered call by greeting the attendee device with a confirmation that the attendee device has correctly connected to the host device;

computer program code for providing an option to the attendee device to join the conference call with the host device without attendees and a conference time being specified by the host device to the call answering server;

computer program code for receiving a request from the attendee device to join the conference call; and

computer program code for connecting the attendee device to the conference call.

15. The non-transitory computer-readable media of claim 14 further comprising computer program code for providing the option to the attendee device to join the conference call based on an identification of the attendee device.

16. The non-transitory computer-readable media of claim 15 further comprising computer program code for identifying the attendee device based on an address book associated with the host device.

17. The non-transitory computer-readable media of claim 16 further comprising computer program code for using the address book to provide information about participants in the conference call when the participants join or leave the conference call.

18. The non-transitory computer-readable media of claim 14 further comprising computer program code for providing the option to the attendee device to join the conference call based on a database of conference calls or hosts.

19. The non-transitory computer-readable media of claim 14 wherein the unanswered call from the attendee device is established using an Internet-based telephony connection.

20. The non-transitory computer-readable media of claim 14 wherein the unanswered call from the attendee device is established using a public switched telephone network connection.