What is claimed is:

1. A method for multi-modal communication via a communication controller operating in a computer network architecture, said controller associated with a user and responsive to the user's preference for a modality-specific user interface for communications, comprising:

receiving, from a first user from a first modality-specific user interface adapted to transmit and receive communications only in the first modality across a computer network, a first communication in a first modality, the first communication directed at a second user, wherein the first modality comprises email;

upon receiving the first communication in the first modality from the first modality-specific user interface across the computer network, converting the first communication into a second modality adapted to transmit and receive communications only in the second modality based on a preference set by the second user, wherein the second modality comprises chat or short message services (SMS); and

upon converting the first communication into the second modality, providing the first communication to a second modality-specific user interface across the computer network, the first modality-specific user interface capable of presenting communications in the first modality but not capable of presenting communications in the second modality and the second modality-specific user interface capable of presenting communications in the second modality but not capable of presenting communications in the first modality,

wherein an incoming communication into the second modality-specific user interface is converted into the second modality of chat when the second user is online and into the other second modality of SMS when the second user is offline,

wherein the incoming communication is converted to provide for the ability of the second-modality user interface to present the communication to the second user so that the first communication from the first modality-specific user interface appears to originate in the second modality and the first modality-specific user interface presents a second communication originating from the second user from the second modality-specific user interface in response to the first communication,

wherein the second communication is converted to provide for the ability of the first modality-specific interface to present the second communication so that the second communication appears to the first user to originate in the first modality. ~~interface (106A) across a computer network (418), a communication (204) in a first modality;~~

~~converting the communication (204) into a second modality; and~~

~~upon converting the communication (204) into the second modality, providing the communication (204) to a second interface (106B) across the computer network (418).~~

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving, from the second modality-specific user interface across the computer network, the second communication in the second modality;

~~providing the first interface to a first user, the first interface being a first modal-specific~~

converting the second communication into the first modality; and

upon converting the second communication into the first modality, providing to the first modality-specific user interface across the computer network, the second communication. ~~interface associated with the first modality; and~~

~~providing the second interface to a second user, the second interface being a second modal-specific interface associated with the second modality.~~

3. ~~The~~ A method for multi-modal communication via a communication controller operating in a computer network architecture, said controller associated with a user and responsive to the user's preference for a modality-specific user interface for communications, comprising :

receiving from a first user from a first modality-specific user interface adapted to transmit and receive communications only in the first modality across a computer network, a first communication in a first modality from the first user, the first communication directed at a second user, wherein the first modality comprises chat or short message service (SMS);

upon receiving the first communication in the first modality from the first modality-specific user interface across the computer network, determining that the second user is associated with a second modality adapted to transmit and receive communications only in the second modality, wherein the second modality comprises email or SMS;

upon determining that the second user is associated with the second modality, converting the first communication into the second modality based on a second preference set by the second user when the second user is online and converting the first communication into the other second modality of SMS when the second user is offline,

upon converting the first communication into the second modality, providing the first communication to a second modality-specific user interface across the computer network;

receiving, from the second modality-specific user interface across the computer network, a second communication in the second modality from the second user, the second communication directed at the first user;

upon receiving the second communication in the second modality from the second modality-specific user interface across the computer network, determining that the first user is associated with the first modality;

upon determining that the first user is associated with the first modality, converting the second communication into the first modality based on a first preference set by the first user; and

upon converting the second communication into the first modality, providing the second communication to the first modality-specific user interface across the computer network, the first modality-specific user interface capable of presenting communications in the first modality but not capable of presenting communications in the second modality, the second modality-specific user interface capable of presenting communications in the second modality but not capable of presenting communications in the first modality,

wherein the incoming communication is converted to provide for the ability of the second-modality user interface, to present the communication to the second user so that the first communication from the first modality-specific user interface appears to originate in the second modality and the first modality-specific user interface presents a response communication originating from the second user from the second modality-specific user interface in response to the first communication,

wherein the response communication is converted to provide for the ability of the first modality-specific interface to present the response communication so that the response communication appears to the first user to originate in the first modality. ~~of claim 1, wherein the first modality comprises one of email, chat, short message service (SMS), or voicemail.~~

4. The method of claim ~~1~~3, wherein the second modality-specific interface displays notification of receiving the first communication in an inbox.~~further comprising:~~

~~receiving, from the second interface across a computer network, a second communication in the second modality;~~

~~converting the second communication into the first modality; and~~

~~upon converting the second communication into the first modality, providing to the first interface across the computer network, the second communication.~~

5. A computer-readable storage device having computer-executable instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to :

receive from a first user from a first modality-specific user interface operating on a first computer across a computer network, a first communication in a first modality from a first user, the first communication directed at a second user, the first modality-specific user interface capable of presenting communications in the first modality but not capable of presenting communications in a second modality, wherein the first modality-specific user interface is adapted to transmit and receive communications only in the first modality, and wherein the second modality-specific user interface is adapted to transmit and receive communications only in the second modality, wherein the first modality comprises email and the second modality comprises chat or short message service (SMS);

upon receiving the first communication in the first modality from the first modality-specific user interface across the computer network, determine that the second user is associated with the second modality-specific user interface;

upon determining that the second user is associated with the second modality-specific user interface, convert the first communication into the second modality based on a second preference set by the second user when the second user is online and convert the first communication into the other second modality of SMS when the second user is offline;

upon converting the first communication into the second modality, provide the first communication to the second modality-specific user interface operating on a second computer across the computer network;

receive, from the second modality-specific user interface operating on the second computer across the computer network, a second communication in the second modality from the second user, the second communication directed at the first user, the second modality-specific user interface not capable of presenting communications in the first modality;

upon receiving the second communication in the second modality from the second modality-specific user interface across the computer network, determine that the first user is associated with the first modality,

upon determining that the first user is associated with the first modality, convert the second communication into the first modality based on a first preference set by the first user; and

upon converting the second communication into the first modality, provide the second communication to the first modality-specific user interface operating on the first computer across the computer network,

wherein the second communication is converted to provide for the ability of the second-modality user interface to present the second communication so that the second communication from the first modality-specific user interface appears to the second user to originate in the second modality and the first-modality user interface presents a response communication,

wherein the response communication is converted to provide for the ability of the first-modality specific interface to present the response communication so that the response communication appears to the first user to originate in the first modality. ~~The method of claim 1, wherein the first interface is adapted to transmit and receive communications only in the first modality, and wherein the second interface is adapted to transmit and receive communications only in the second modality.~~

~~6. The method of claim 1, wherein incoming communications into the second interface are converted into the second modality upon on a given condition being met.~~

~~7. The method of claim 6, wherein the given condition is based on presence information.~~

~~8. A method for multi-modal communication, comprising:~~

~~receiving, from a first interface (106A) across a computer network (418), a first communication (204) in a first modality;~~

~~converting the first communication (204) into a second modality;~~

~~upon converting the first communication (204) into the second modality, providing the first communication (204) to a second interface (106B) across the computer network (418);~~

~~receiving, from the second interface (106B) across the computer network (418), a second communication (216) in the second modality;~~

~~converting the second communication (216) into the first modality; and~~

upon converting the second communication (216) into the first modality, providing the second communication (216) to the first interface (106A) across the computer network (418).

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising:

providing the first interface to a first user, the first interface being a first modal-specific interface associated with the first modality; and

providing the second interface to a second user, the second interface being a second modal-specific interface associated with the second modality.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the first modality comprises one of email, chat, short message service (SMS), or voicemail.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein the first modality is chat, wherein the second modality is email, and wherein the second interface displays notification of receiving the first communication in an inbox.

12. The method of claim 8, wherein the first interface is adapted to transmit and receive communications only in the first modality, and wherein the second interface is adapted to transmit and receive communications only in the second modality.

13. The method of claim 8, wherein incoming communications into the second interface are converted into the second modality upon on a given condition being met.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the given condition is based on presence information.

15. A computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to:

receive, from a first interface (106A) operating on a first computer (104A) across a computer network (418), a first communication (204) in a first modality;

convert the first communication (204) into a second modality;

upon converting the first communication (204) into the second modality, provide the first communication (204) to a second interface (106B) operating on a second computer (104B) across the computer network (418);

receive, from the second interface (106B) operating on the second computer (104B) across the computer network (418), a second communication (216) in the second modality;

convert the second communication (216) into the first modality; and

upon converting the second communication (216) into the first modality, provide the second communication (216) to the first interface (106A) operating on the first computer (104A) across the computer network (418).

16. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 15, having further computer-executable instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to:

provide the first interface to a first user, the first interface being a first modal-specific interface associated with the first modality; and

provide the second interface to a second user, the second interface being a second modal-specific interface associated with the second modality.

17. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 15, wherein the first modality comprises one of email, chat, short message service (SMS), or voicemail.

18. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 15, wherein the first interface is adapted to transmit and receive communications only in the first modality, and wherein the second interface is adapted to transmit and receive communications only in the second modality.

19. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 15, wherein incoming communications into the second interface are converted into the second modality upon on a given condition being met.

20. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the given condition is based on presence information.