TEMPORARY STORAGE OF AUTHENTICATION INFORMATION THROUGHOUT A PERSONAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Abstract

Allowing multiple copies of authentication information for a mobile telephone to exist in switching nodes of a distributed switching system. The mobile telephone is only registered on one switching node at a time. One copy is maintained on the resident switching node, and another copy is maintained on the switching node on which the mobile telephone was last registered other than the resident switching node. If the mobile telephone normal only registers on the resident switching node and one other switching node, the authentication information is present on both switching nodes, and both always have the authentication information to register the mobile telephone stored internally which speeds up the registration process. Further, the authentication information does not have to be repeatly communicated through the distributed switching system. If the switching nodes are arranged into an authentication hierarchical structure, the authentication information remains stored on a switching node that last used the authentication information within the authentication hierarchical structure, so that all switching nodes in that authentication hierarchical structure can access the authentication information.

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