

PHONE MANAGEMENT SERVER FOR USE WITH A PERSONAL COMPUTER LAN

Abstract

The present invention relates to a technique for providing phone
5 management (PM) services to personal computers (PCs) (11), which are end
users of a PC-only Local Area Network (LAN) (10), by logically associating
voice terminals of a separate voice and data Network (20), e.g., a Private
Branch Exchange (PBX), with the PCs. To provide the PM services, a PM
server device (21) is provided as an interface between the PC and PBX
10 Networks onto which are bridged appearances of the logically associated
voice terminals. The PM server device includes hardware and PM server
application software that perform routing and translations between (1) PM
messages of the PC-LAN which use a first PM signaling protocol, and (2)
PM messages of the PBX which use a second signaling protocol. Each end
15 user PC of the PC-LAN that is logically associated with a voice terminal on
a PBX network includes PM user application software that provides a PM
user interface and terminates the first PM signaling protocol. Typical PM
services that can be performed at the PC are displaying calling/called party
identification, retrieving and displaying messages on the PC screen, and
20 placing voice calls from a PC-based directory. (FIG. 1)

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