



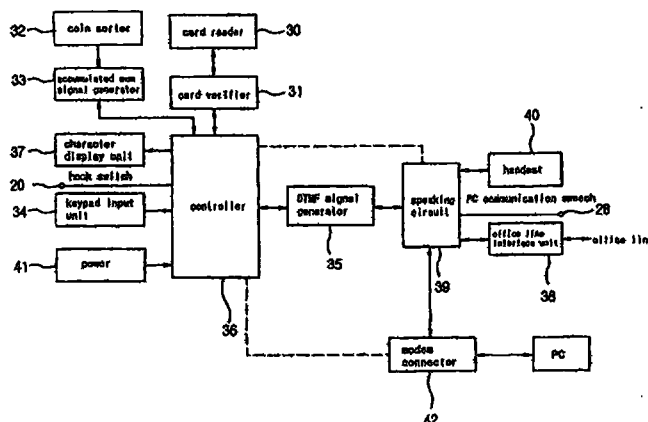
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(54) Title: PUBLIC TELEPHONE HAVING PORTABLE COMPUTER INTERFACE FUNCTION AND METHOD FOR CONTROLLING THE SAME



(57) Abstract

A public telephone having a portable computer interface function and a method for controlling the same. The public telephone comprises a hook switch (20), a card reader (30) for reading information recorded on a card, a card verifier (31) for checking the read information, a coin sorter (32) for sorting dropped coins, a keypad input unit (34) for generating key signals under the condition that the card or coins are valid, a DTMF signal generator (35) for generating a DTMF signal in response to the key signals generated by the keypad input unit, a controller (36) being initialized in response to an off-hook state of the hookswitch, the controller combining and analyzing output signals from peripheral devices and controlling the entire operation of the public telephone in accordance with the analyzed result, a character display unit (37) for outputting a guidance character message about the use of the public telephone to the user, an office line interface unit (38) for performing an interface operation with the office line, a speaking circuit (39) connected to the office line interface unit for amplifying a signal to be transmitted and a received signal, a PC communication switch (28) for starting a PC communication mode, and a modem connector (42) for connecting the speaking circuit to a modem of a PC.