

THIS SHEET HAS BEEN  
REPLACED

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**TECHNIQUE FOR EFFICIENTLY  
ACCESSING TELEPHONE MESSAGES**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5 In a telephone answering system, announcements  
are pre-recorded to elicit from a caller one or more  
attributes and details of a message. Such attributes may  
include the identity of the caller, the purpose of the  
call, etc. Information concerning each attribute of the  
message is stored in the system separate from the message  
10 details. By reviewing at least one attribute of each  
message saved on the system, the called party is able to  
identify any messages of interest before listening to any  
message details. The called party may then retrieve the  
message details of each identified message.

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