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15 May 2002



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Method And Apparatus For A Pre-Paid Return Call

Abstract

A method and apparatus for allowing a caller to leave a message for an unreachable called party. The method and apparatus provides the caller with an option for a pre-paid return call that is billed to the caller. When the intended recipient of the call is unreachable, the call is transferred to a message server that gives the caller the option for a pre-paid return call for the recipient. The recipient is then notified of the available pre-paid return call through periodic callbacks to the intended recipient or by alerting the recipient the next time the recipient makes a call. The receiver of the message has the option of returning the call immediately or at a later time within a time duration set by the caller.