

MULTI-COMMUNITY INSTANT MESSAGING SYSTEM AND DEVICE

ABSTRACT

A multi-community instant messaging system, device and method are provided.
5 The system includes a plurality of instant messaging communities, a network, and
at least one mobile instant messaging device. The mobile instant messaging de-
vice provides a user interface for displaying a plurality community-specific icons,
each community-specific icon providing an identification of one of the instant
message communities. The mobile device also provides a plurality of configura-
10 tion data files are stored on the device, each configuration data file being associ-
ated with one of the community-specific icons, and a common instant messaging
application. Upon selecting one of the community-specific icons, the common
instant messaging application is configured for use as a community-specific in-
stant messaging application using the associated configuration data file, and may
15 communicate instant messages over the network to the selected instant messaging
community.

(Fig. 1)