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10. A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the computer equipment at the called station is an IP (Internet protocol) node, and the call is set up using Voice-over-IP (VoIP) protocol.

11. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein if a voice message left by the caller is recorded, the method further comprises a step of relaying the voice message to the computer equipment in a User Datagram Protocol (UDP) packet stream.

12. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein if a voice message left by the caller is recorded, the method further comprises a step of relaying the voice message to the computer equipment as streaming audio.

13. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein if a voice message left by the caller is recorded, the method further comprises a step of forwarding as an audio file attachment to an electronic mail message sent to the subscriber, the voice message left by the caller.

14. A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the audio file is in .wav format.

15. A system for providing call screening capabilities to a subscriber whose telephone line is busy as a result of having established a data connection to a data network via an access server, comprising:

- a) at least one registration server for storing a complete copy of a subscriber profile for each subscriber to the system, the profiles defining subscriber pre-selected preferences for incoming call processing and call treatments options, and for registering the subscriber when the subscriber establishes the data connection to the data network via the access server;
- b) a plurality of application servers for accepting telephone calls placed to the subscriber by a caller when the subscriber's telephone line is busy, the application servers establish a data connection to the at least one registration server to retrieve a copy of the subscriber profile when a one of the telephone calls is accepted and for inspecting the subscriber profile to determine how incoming calls should be processed based upon pre-selected subscriber preferences; and
- c) a compatible client component on a computer operated by the subscriber to establish the data connection, the client component establishing a data connection to the

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at least one registration server to register the subscriber after the data connection to the data network is established.

16. A system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the application servers establish a second data connection to the client component when the telephone call is accepted, and the client component is further adapted to present the subscriber with a selection of call treatment options based upon the pre-selected subscriber preferences defined in the subscriber profile, and to accept the subscriber's selection of a one of the call treatment options and to relay the selection to the application server.

17. A system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the application server completes the call to the subscriber via a specified path stored in the subscriber profile, if the subscriber elects to answer the call.

18. A system as claimed in claim 13 wherein the profile stores a directory number for an alternate telephone connection as the specified path for completing the call.

19. A system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the profile stores the subscriber's directory number, and the client component is adapted to drop the connection to the data network and the application server is adapted to reroute the call to the subscriber's directory number if the subscriber elects to answer the call.

20. A system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the profile stores an option to establish a Voice-over-Internet Protocol (VoIP) connection to the client component, and the server component is adapted to bridge the call via the data connection to the client component, and the client component is adapted to provide a client side of the VoIP connection for the call to the subscriber.

21. A system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the application servers relay a voice message being left by the caller to the client component as streaming audio.

22. A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the application servers create an audio file containing a voice message left by the caller and to attach the audio file to an electronic mail message that is sent to the subscriber.

23. A method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the audio file is in .wav format.

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