

then processed by Producer **115** using predetermined scope or predetermined expanded-scope applied to both area codes and exchanges.

[**0051**] In preferred embodiments, Producer **115** is responsive to dialing rules and calling party dialing list contained in Database **120** as described below, and to calling party identification information. In preferred embodiments, when the calling party initiates a call to a called party whose telephone number is on the calling party dialing list, for example by using the speed dial feature on a mobile phone, Producer **115** evaluates the geographical area of the called party and the current geographical area of the calling party, and formulates one or more telephone numbers that include the appropriate dialing codes, in accordance with the applicable dialing rules. As described above, the geographical area of the calling party can be determined for example, from identification information transmitted by the cell that is currently serving the mobile telephone. In preferred embodiments, telephone numbers on the calling party dialing list are stored in forms that facilitate the determination of the geographical area of the called party by Producer **115**. For example, telephone numbers on the calling party dialing list may be stored in a uniform format that includes a complete telephone number and country information. In another example, telephone numbers on the calling party dialing list may be stored in formats that are appropriate for use from a predetermined home location. Producer **115** would then adjust the telephone numbers for use in locations other than the home location as apparent to one of skill in the art in view of this specification and the appended claims.

[**0052**] In an example of an embodiments of the present invention, a calling party uses a mobile phone that implements the present invention. The calling party is located and has a home location in Portland, Me., and stores certain telephone numbers on a speed dial list within the mobile phone. Thus, the speed dial list contains the telephone number of a local called party as 780-9999 in compliance with local dialing rules in effect at the time of the call. If the geographical location of the mobile phone is determined to be at the home location, then Producer **115**, if it is invoked for this call, would formulate the called party's number as 780-9999. If the geographical location of the mobile phone is determined to be within the Maine area code of 207 but outside of the local calling area, then Producer **115** would formulate the called party's number as 207-780-9999. Continuing this example, if the geographical location of the mobile phone is determined to be in a particular foreign country, then Producer **115** would formulate the called party's number as, for example, 001-207-780-9999, where 001 is the international call prefix for the United States from that foreign country.

[**0053**] In the preferred embodiments depicted in **FIG. 1**, the call generator is Call Generator **160**. In a preferred embodiment, Call Generator **160** is in communication with Caller Interface **140** and Telecommunications Network **190**. As is known in the art, Call Generator **160** may be implemented in hardware, in software, or in a combination of hardware and software. In a preferred embodiment, Calling Party **180** is a wireless mobile phone user and Call Generator **160** is implemented on hardware and/or software contained within the mobile phone handset. In another preferred embodiment, Calling Party **180** is a mobile phone user and Call Generator **160** is implemented on hardware and/or

software contained at the mobile telephone carrier's transmission tower, the mobile telephone switching center, or elsewhere in a telecommunications network as would be apparent to one of skill in the art in view of this specification and the appended claims. In a preferred embodiment, Telecommunications Network **190** is a public switched telephone network. In an alternative preferred embodiment, Telecommunications Network **190** is the Internet. In preferred embodiments, and as is known in the art, Telecommunications Network **190** may be a public or private network, implemented using circuit switched, packet switched, or point-to-point communications techniques and technologies, and accessed through conventional wires, cable-TV lines, or wireless modes.

[**0054**] In a preferred embodiment depicted in **FIG. 1**, the means for initiating a call to the target telephone number of Call Generator **160** is Initiator **165**. In this preferred embodiment, Initiator **165** is responsive to Selector **155**. As described above, Selector **155** selects a target telephone number through interaction with Calling Party **180** and provides the target telephone number to Call Generator **160**. Initiator **165** then, as is known in the art, initiates a telephone call to the target telephone number. In preferred embodiments, Calling Party **180** may, through interaction with Selector **155**, direct Initiator **165** to abort the telephone call or to dial the telephone number, provided by Calling Party **180** as part of the called party information, exactly as provided. In a preferred embodiment, whenever the list of telephone numbers contains only a single telephone number, Selector **155** automatically designates the single telephone number as the target telephone number and provides that number to Call Generator **160** for initiation of a telephone call without consulting Calling Party **180**.

[**0055**] **FIG. 2** depicts a flowchart of a preferred embodiment of a method for processing telephone numbers. This method includes the steps of monitoring call initiation signals from a calling party; receiving called party information in response to the monitoring step; producing a list of telephone numbers in response to the called party information; and selecting a target telephone number from the list of telephone numbers in response to the producing step. Preferred embodiments of the method for processing telephone numbers of the present invention may be implemented in hardware, in software on general or special-purpose computer systems, or in a combination of hardware and software. Integration of these preferred embodiments into subscriber telephone units, personal computers, or other devices, or into telecommunications networks, may be performed as described above in reference to **FIG. 1**.

[**0056**] In the preferred embodiment depicted in **FIG. 2**, the step of monitoring call initiation signals from a calling party is accomplished by Monitor Call Initiation Signals step **210**. As is known in the art, Monitor Call Initiation Signals step **210** monitors call initiation signals emitted by a calling party. Additional information concerning the monitoring function and call initiation signals is provided above in reference to Monitor **145** and Calling Party **180** depicted in **FIG. 1**. In a preferred embodiment, the call initiation signals contain an activation sequence. In a further preferred embodiment, the activation sequence includes a code character selected from the group consisting of # and *. Additional information concerning activation sequences is also provided in reference to Monitor **145** depicted in **FIG. 1**.