

Alternatively, the system administrator could define a call routing scheme of “best signal strength first, least expensive network second,” in which case the MMS system could automatically connect to the network with the best signal strength at the time of the call and, if there were more than one network with equally good signal strength, then to the least expensive (e.g., in terms of cost per minute) of those networks.

[0061] The MMS system can be further configured to transparently switch between multiple available networks as more preferred networks become available. For example, when a user is away from a work location the MMS client device 316 can be configured to connect via the cheapest cellular network available, then, when the user returns to a work location, transparently switch its connection to the local area network of the MMS server 300 (e.g., an 802.11 network).

[0062] According to certain embodiments of the present invention, the MMS system and HipVoice in particular can be configured to integrate with other applications on a particular handheld device as well as integrate with applications already on the system.

[0063] While certain embodiments of the inventions have been described above, it will be understood that the embodiments described are by way of example only. Accordingly, the inventions should not be limited based on the described embodiments. Rather, the scope of the inventions described herein should only be limited in light of the claims that follow when taken in conjunction with the above description and accompanying drawings.

What is claimed is:

1. A handheld multimedia communications system, comprising:

- a first handheld device comprising a barcode scanner; and
- a second handheld device, wherein the first and second handheld devices are configured to provide real-time voice communication between them.

2. A handheld multimedia communications system of claim 1, wherein the first and second handheld devices are configured to provide push-to-talk capabilities.

3. A handheld multimedia communications system of claim 1, further comprising:

- a server configured to receive a first multimedia message from the second handheld device, store the first multimedia message, and, when the first handheld device connects to the server or immediately if the first handheld is already connected to the server, deliver the first multimedia message to the first handheld device.

4. A handheld multimedia communications system of claim 3, wherein the first multimedia message is an audio message, and wherein the first handheld device is further configured to automatically play the first multimedia message upon delivery.

5. A handheld multimedia communications system, comprising:

- a first handheld device comprising the Windows CE operating system; and
- a second handheld device, wherein the first and second handheld devices are configured to provide real-time voice communication between them.

6. A handheld multimedia communications system of claim 5, wherein the second handheld device comprises the Windows CE operating system.

7. A handheld multimedia communications system of claim 5, wherein the second handheld device comprises the Pocket PC operating system.

8. A handheld multimedia communications system of claim 5, wherein the second handheld device comprises the Symbian operating system.

9. A handheld multimedia communications device, comprising:

- a barcode scanner;
- an image capture component configured to capture a first image;
- an image markup component configured to modify the first image; and
- a network component configured to transmit the modified first image.

10. A handheld communications device, comprising:

- a barcode scanner; and
- a voice communications component configured to provide half-duplex voice communications.

11. A handheld communications device of claim 10, wherein the voice communications component is further configured to provide push-to-talk capabilities.

12. A handheld communications device of claim 10, further comprising:

- an electronic mail component configured to provide electronic mail capabilities.

13. A handheld communications device of claim 10, wherein the voice communications component is further configured to provide full-duplex voice communications.

14. A handheld communications device of claim 13, wherein the voice communications component is further configured to provide push-to-talk capabilities.

15. A handheld communications device of claim 13, further comprising:

- an image capture component configured to capture a first image;
- an image markup component configured to modify the first image, and

wherein the electronic mail component is further configured to transmit the modified first image.

16. A handheld communications device of claim 13, further comprising:

- an electronic mail component configured to provide electronic mail capabilities.

17. A handheld communications device of claim 16, further comprising:

- an instant messaging component configured to provide instant messaging capabilities.

18. A handheld communications device, comprising:

- a voice communications component configured to provide half-duplex voice communications over a data network.

19. A handheld communications device of claim 18, wherein the voice communications component is further configured to provide push-to-talk capabilities over a data network.