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(54) **MOBILE COMMUNICATION APPARATUS  
HAVING ANTI-THEFT AND  
AUTO-NOTIFICATION FUNCTIONS**

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379/357.01; 370/235, 236

See application file for complete search history.

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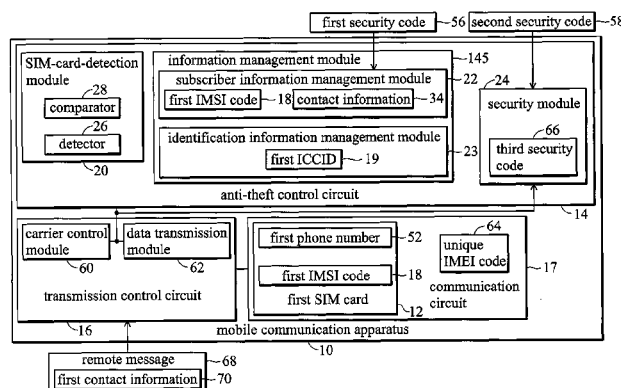
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A mobile communication apparatus comprises a first SIM card, an anti-theft control circuit, a transmission control circuit, and a security module. The first SIM card is engaged with the mobile communication apparatus and has corresponding first identification information. The anti-theft control circuit has a SIM-card-detection module and an information management module. The SIM-card-detection module is used for detecting whether the first SIM card is replaced by a second SIM card and generating a corresponding detection result. The information management module is used for storing the corresponding first identification information, predetermined contact information, and a user personal database. The transmission control circuit is used for transmitting data and/or signals. The security module provides a data security class. When the SIM-card-detection module generates the detection result, the transmission control circuit will send a notice signal according to the predetermined contact information, and when the security module receives the detection result, a data security procedure in the security module is enabled to protect the data in the user personal database according to the set data security class.

**12 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets**



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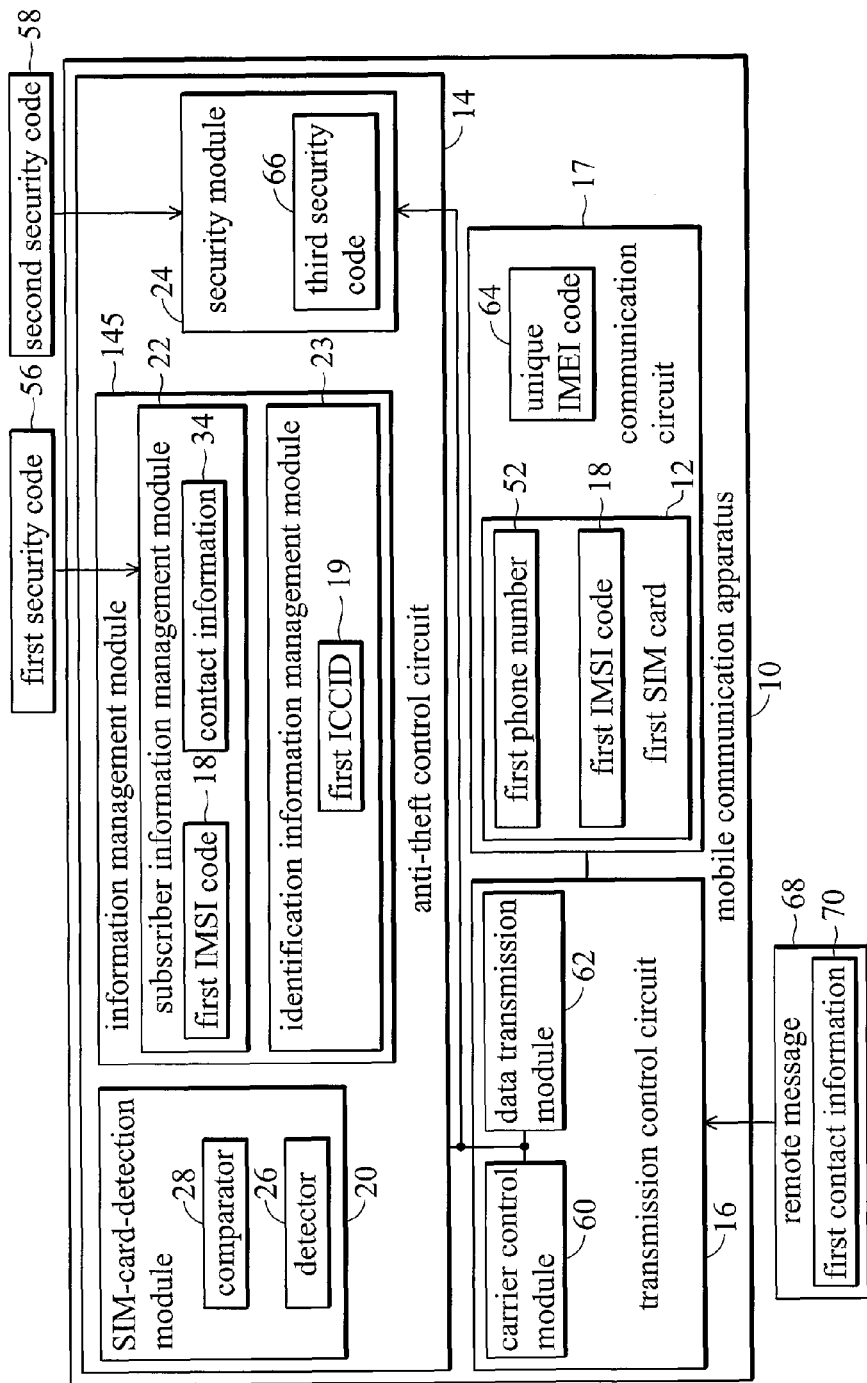


FIG. 1

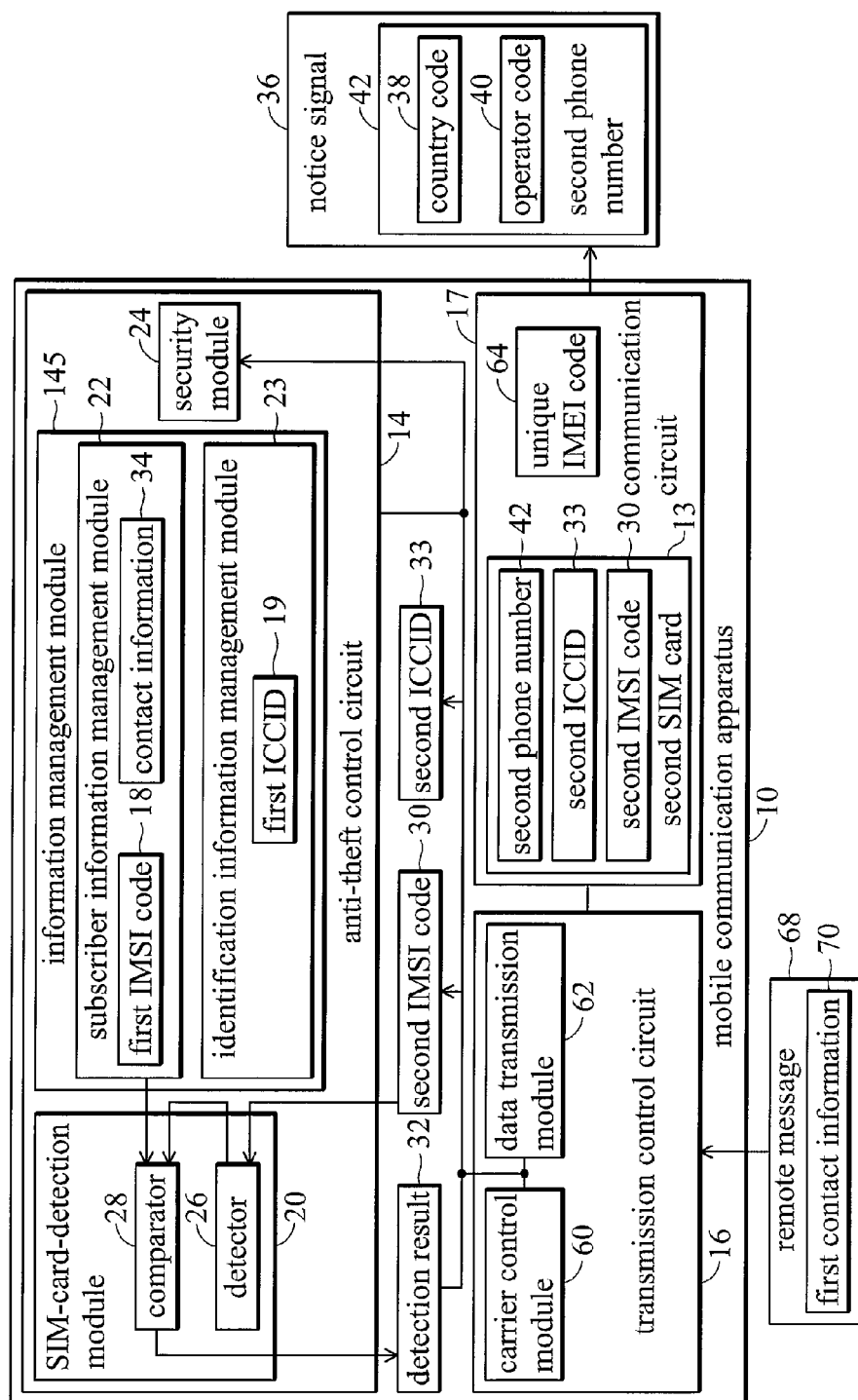


FIG. 2

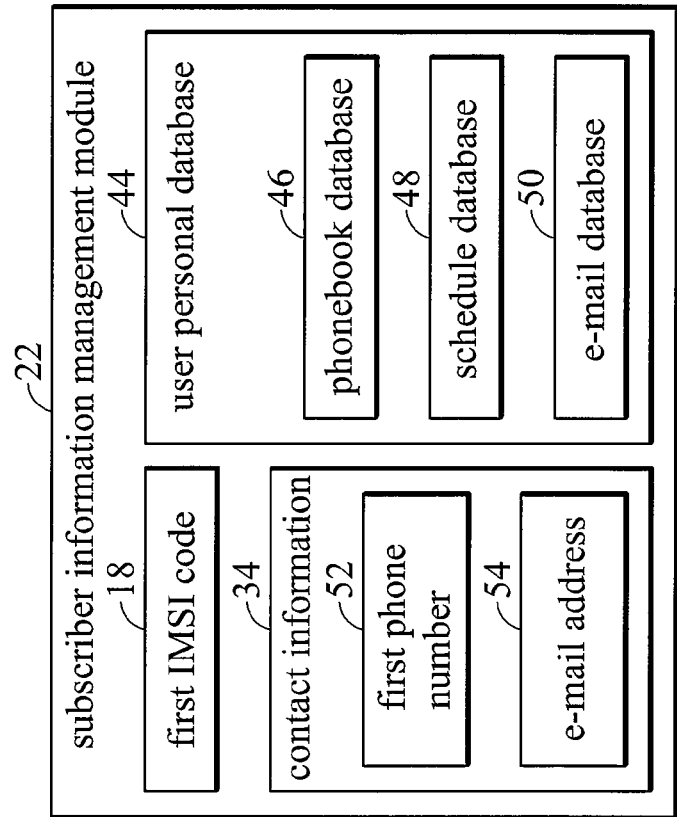


FIG. 3

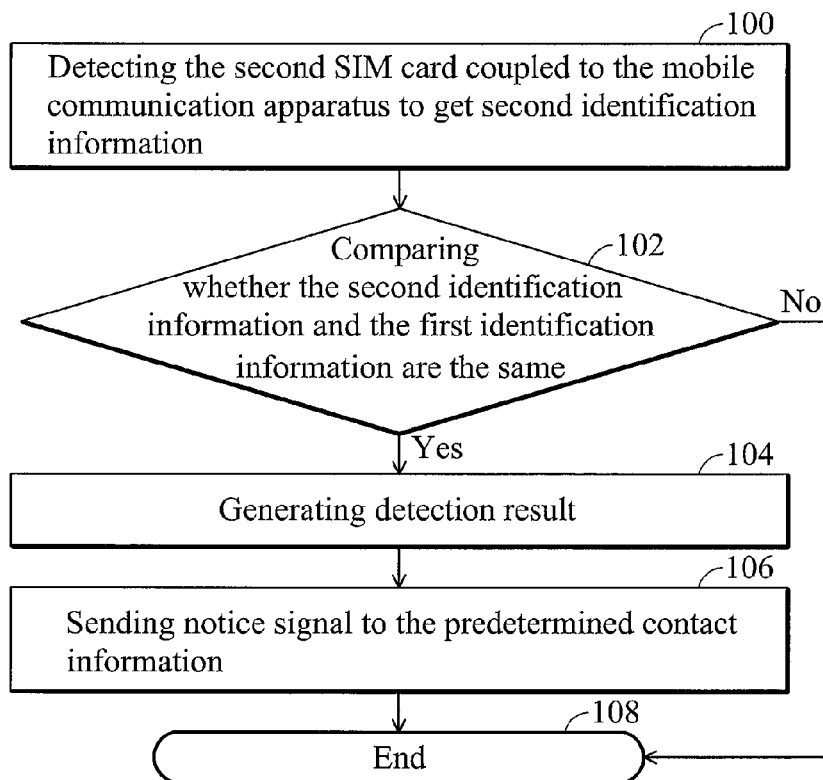


FIG. 4

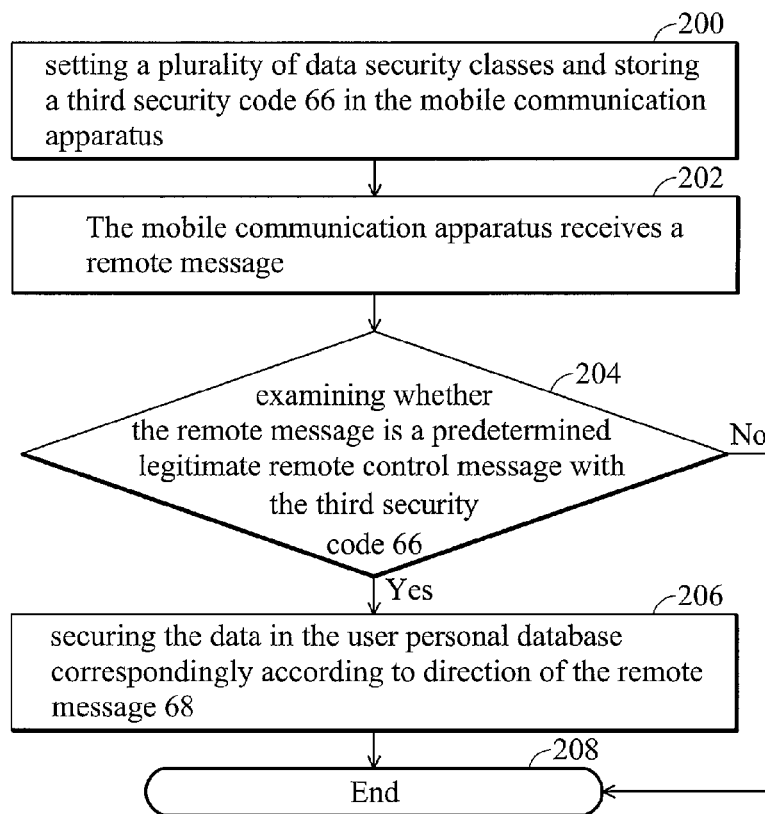


FIG. 5

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# MOBILE COMMUNICATION APPARATUS HAVING ANTI-THEFT AND AUTO-NOTIFICATION FUNCTIONS

## CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a continuation-in-part application of copending application Ser. No. 11/189,151 filed Jul. 25, 2005, entitled "Mobile communication apparatus having anti-theft and auto-notification function".

## BACKGROUND

### 1. Field of the Invention

The invention relates to a mobile communication apparatus and, more particularly, to a mobile communication apparatus having anti-theft and auto-notification functions.

### 2. Description of the Prior Art

As the continuous development of technology, mobile communication apparatuses have become more and more multi-functional and expensive. When users lose their mobile communication apparatuses, it will cause them a lot of inconvenience and financial loss.

The mobile communication apparatus has a unique international mobile equipment identity (IMEI) to identification. When the mobile communication apparatus is lost, the position of the lost mobile communication apparatus can be traced via the IMEI-trace procedure provided by the TSP (Telecom service provider). However, if the original SIM (Subscriber identification module) card of the lost mobile communication apparatus is replaced, the TSP for the original SIM card will not be able to trace the position of the mobile communication apparatus via the IMEI-trace procedure. The owner can still find the position of the mobile communication apparatus by asking all the TSPs to perform the IMEI-trace procedure, but it is too expensive. However, if the lost mobile communication apparatus is taken overseas, it is impossible to find it back.

Some well-known mobile communication apparatus has GPS (global position system) facility installed, and the position of the lost mobile communication apparatus can be traced via the GPS. However, the cost of installing GPS facility is too high to aim the GPS facility at finding the lost mobile communication apparatus.

Some mobile communication apparatus of the prior art has some security function. For example, each SIM card has a PIN (personal identification number) as a password, and each mobile communication apparatus has several kinds of security codes for preventing the lost mobile communication apparatus from being misused and/or preventing the important information stored inside from being stolen. However, it will be impossible for the owner to find the lost mobile communication apparatus via the mentioned security function.

In the mobile communication apparatus disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 6,662,023, if it is not normally started (e.g. the wrong security code is entered), it will display the information about the owner of the mobile communication apparatus on the interface. Besides, the owner can also use remote control, such as short messages, to control the security settings of the lost mobile communication apparatus. However, if the SIM card of the lost mobile communication apparatus is replaced, the owner will have no idea about the new phone number of the lost mobile communication apparatus so that it is impossible for the owner to send the short messages to the lost mobile communication apparatus for security settings. Namely, the remote control function cannot be performed.

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Hence, the main objective of the present invention is to provide a mobile communication apparatus which has anti-theft and auto-notification functions to solve the above problems.

## SUMMARY

One objective of the present invention is to provide a mobile communication apparatus that has anti-theft and auto-notification functions and a method of signal detection and notification for the apparatus that can help the owner find the lost mobile communication apparatus.

Another objective of the present invention is to provide a mobile communication apparatus that has anti-theft and auto-notification functions; it also provides a method of signal detection and notification for the apparatus that can retrieve and send information about the user of the new substitute SIM card to the original owner when the mobile communication apparatus is lost and the SIM card of the mobile communication apparatus is replaced. The original owner can use the new communication number to set and trace the lost mobile communication apparatus.

Another objective of the present invention is to provide a mobile communication apparatus that has anti-theft and auto-notification functions; it also provides a method of signal detection and notification for the apparatus that can start the security functions to protect the original owner's personal data and to further send that personal data to the original owner.

Another objective of the present invention is to provide a mobile communication apparatus that has anti-theft and auto-notification functions and a method for information security for the apparatus that can make the original owner remotely change the security setting when the mobile communication apparatus is lost.

The mobile communication apparatus of the present invention that has anti-theft and auto-notification functions comprises a first SIM card, a transmission control circuit, and an anti-theft control circuit. The first SIM card is configured to be engaged with the mobile communication apparatus, and it has corresponding first identification information. The transmission control circuit is used to send data or/and signal.

The anti-theft control circuit comprises a SIM-card-detection module and a subscriber information management module. The SIM-card-detection module is used to detect whether the first SIM card (i.e. the original SIM card) is replaced by a second SIM card (i.e. the substitute SIM card), and to generate a corresponding detection result. The subscriber information management module is used to store the corresponding first identification information of the first SIM card and contact information. When the SIM-card-detection module generates the detection result, the transmission control circuit will send a notice signal to the original owner according to the contact information stored in the subscriber information management module.

The mobile communication apparatus of the present invention that has anti-theft and auto-notification functions also comprises a security module. The security module comprises/provides a plurality of data security classes for setting and stores a third security code for protecting the data in the user's (original owner's) personal database correspondingly. When the transmission control circuit receives a remote message, the security module will determine whether the remote message is a predetermined legitimate remote control message according to the third security code. If YES, the data in the



user's personal database is protected correspondingly by performing a data security procedure according to the remote control message.

The method of the present invention for signal detection and notification applied in a mobile communication apparatus comprises the following steps. To begin with, a first SIM card is provided to be coupled to the mobile communication apparatus, and the first SIM card comprises corresponding first identification information. Next, the first identification information corresponding to the first SIM card and predetermined contact information are stored in the mobile communication apparatus. Then, it is detected whether the first SIM card is replaced by a second SIM card, and a corresponding detection result is generated. If a detection result is generated by the SIM-card-detection module, a notice signal will be sent to the user (the original owner) according to the predetermined contact information.

The method of the present invention applied in a mobile communication apparatus comprises the following steps. A plurality of data security classes are provided in the mobile communication apparatus for setting, and a third security code is provided for protecting the data in the user's (original owner's) personal database correspondingly. When a remote message is received by the mobile communication apparatus, the remote message is examined by using the third security code. After the remote message is confirmed to be the predetermined legitimate remote control message, the data in the user's personal database is protected correspondingly by performing a data security procedure according to the remote message.

Hence, the present invention is provided not only to effectively secure/protect the data stored in the mobile communication apparatus when the mobile communication is lost, but also to remotely control the setting of the lost mobile communication apparatus. Besides, when the original SIM card is replaced, user information of the substitute SIM card can be sent to the original owner via various transmission methods so that the original owner can continuously trace and set the lost mobile communication apparatus by using a new communication number provided in that user information. This helps the original owner to find back the lost mobile communication apparatus.

The advantage and spirit of the invention could be better understood by the following recitations together with the appended drawings.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention can be more fully understood by reading the subsequent detailed description and examples with references made to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a function block diagram illustrating a mobile communication apparatus according to a preferred embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 2 is a function block diagram illustrating the mobile communication apparatus of FIG. 1 when its original SIM card being replaced by a second SIM card.

FIG. 3 is a schematic diagram illustrating the subscriber information management module as illustrated in FIG. 1.

FIG. 4 is a flowchart illustrating the method of signal detection and notification for the mobile communication apparatus according to a preferred embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 5 is a flowchart illustrating the data security method for the mobile communication apparatus according to a preferred embodiment of the invention.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Please refer to FIG. 1 and FIG. 2. FIG. 1 is a function block diagram illustrating a mobile communication apparatus 10 according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 2 is a function block diagram illustrating the mobile communication apparatus 10 shown in FIG. 1 when its SIM card 12 being replaced by a second SIM card 13. As shown in FIG. 1, the mobile communication apparatus 10 of the invention comprises a first SIM card 12, an anti-theft control circuit 14, a transmission control circuit 16, and a communication circuit 17. The mobile communication apparatus 10 has a unique international mobile equipment identity (unique IMEI) 64 for identification. The anti-theft control circuit 14 comprises a SIM-card-detection module 20, an information management module 145, and a security module 24. The information management module 145 comprises a subscriber information management module 22 and an identification information management module 23.

The first SIM card 12 is coupled to the mobile communication apparatus 10, and it comprises a corresponding first international mobile subscriber identity (IMSI) code 18, a first Integrated Circuit Card Identification (ICCID) 19, and a corresponding first phone number 52. The first SIM card 12 is placed in the mobile communication apparatus 10 and is connected with the communication circuit 17.

The IMSI is a 15-digit, non-dialable number used to provide each digital cellular subscriber with a unique identification number. The IMSI is a unique number that is associated with mobile phone users within a network system such as GSM and UMTS (Universal Mobile Telecommunications System). The IMSI is sent by the mobile phone to the network and is also used to acquire other details of the mobile in the Home Location Register (HLR) or as locally copied in the Visitor Location Register.

The ICCID is a 19-digit number physically printed on the SIM card. Each SIM card is uniquely identified by its ICCID.

The communication circuit 17 is configured to form a communication linkage. The transmission control circuit 16 is configured to transfer data and/or signal.

The SIM-card-detection module 20 is configured to detect whether the first SIM card 12 is replaced by the second SIM card 13 according to the IMSI code 18 and/or the ICCID 19, and to generate a corresponding detection result. The SIM-card-detection module 20 comprises a detector 26 and a comparator 28. The subscriber information management module 22 is used to store the first international mobile subscriber identity (IMSI) code 18 corresponding to the first SIM card 12 and to store predetermined contact information 34.

The identification information management module 23 is used to store the first ICCID 19 corresponding to the first SIM card 12.

Please refer to FIG. 2. The detector 26 is used to detect the second SIM card 13 currently coupled to the mobile communication apparatus 10, so as to get a corresponding second IMSI code 30 and/or a second ICCID 33. The comparator 28 is used to compare the second IMSI 30 with the first IMSI code 18 stored in the subscriber information management module 22. The comparator 28 can also compares the second ICCID 33 with the first ICCID 19 stored in the identification information management module 23. If it is determined that the second IMSI 30 is different from the first IMSI 18, or the second ICCID 33 is different from the first ICCID 19, the SIM-card-detection module 20 will generate a corresponding detection result 32. In the mobile communication apparatus 10 shown in FIG. 2, because the first SIM card 12 is replaced by the second SIM card 13, the SIM-card-detection module

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20 will detect that replacement, and generate a corresponding detection result 32. When the SIM-card-detection module 20 generates the detection result 32, the transmission control circuit 16 will send a short message according to the predetermined contact information 34 in the subscriber management module 22. At this time, the TSP will automatically add a notice signal 36 into the short message. In other words, when the mobile communication apparatus 10 detects that the first SIM card 12 is replaced by the second SIM card 13, the mobile communication apparatus 10 will send a short message according to the predetermined contact information 34, and the TSP of the second SIM card 13 will add the phone number of the second SIM card 13 into the short message.

The second SIM card 13 has a corresponding second phone number 42, and the notice signal 36 comprises the corresponding second phone number 42 of the second SIM card 13, wherein the second telephone number 42 further comprises a country code 38 and an operator code 40. Suppose the second phone number 42 is "+886928xxxx", then the country code 38 is "+886" which represents Taiwan; the operator code 40 is "978" which represents Chung-Hwa Telecom, a communication service provider in Taiwan. Particularly, when the TSP of the second SIM card 13 and that of the first SIM card 12 are in the same country, the second phone number 42 may not show the country code 38.

Please refer to FIG. 3. FIG. 3 is a schematic diagram illustrating the subscriber information management module as illustrated in FIG. 1. In the mobile communication apparatus 10, the subscriber information management module 22 stores the first IMSI code 18 and contact information 34. According to a preferred embodiment of the invention, the contact information 34 may be an e-mail address 54 and/or a corresponding first phone number 52 to be stored in the subscriber information management module 22 in advance. The predetermined contact information 34 can comprise both of the e-mail address 54 and the first phone number 52, or one of them. According to different embodiments of the invention, the contact information 34 can be the e-mail address 54 or/and the first phone number 52, and the notice signal 36 is transmitted to the predetermined e-mail address 54 or/and the first phone number 52.

If the mobile communication apparatus 10 is lost and the first SIM card 12 is replaced by the second SIM card 13, the mobile communication apparatus 10 will send a short message having the notice signal 36 automatically added by the TSP of the second SIM card 13 to the original owner according to the predetermined contact information designated by the owner, such as a telephone number and/or an e-mail address. In other words, when the original owner receives the phone call and/or the e-mail, the owner will know the related information of the second SIM card 13. Therefore, the original owner can trace the mobile communication apparatus 10 by that information.

As shown in FIG. 3, the subscriber management module 22 also has a user personal database 44. According to the embodiment of the invention, the user's personal database 44 includes a phonebook database 46, a schedule database 48, an e-mail database 50, or other kinds of database. According to an embodiment of the invention, the predetermined contact information is the e-mail address 54. The transmission control circuit 16 will send an e-mail which includes the notice signal 36 to the e-mail address 54. If the substitute second SIM card 13 has the e-mail service provided by the TSP, the original owner can obtain the second phone number 42 via the sender of the e-mail. For example, the sender's address of the e-mail which includes the notice signal 36 will be presented as 0928xxxxxx@emomo.net.tw, wherein 0928xxxxxx is the

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second phone number 42. If the substitute second SIM card 13 does not use the e-mail service provided by the TSP, the notice signal 36 sent to the e-mail address 54 will only comprise the second IMSI code 30. However, the original owner can still obtain the country code 38 and the operator code 40 of the second SIM card 13 via the second IMSI code 30. According to the embodiment of the invention, the transmission control circuit 16 will further transmit the data in the user's personal database 44 to the e-mail address to be received by an electronic apparatus (not shown).

In some embodiment of the invention, when the mobile communication apparatus 10 is lost and the first SIM card 12 of the mobile communication apparatus 10 is replaced by the second SIM card 13, the SIM-card-detection module 20 will detect the replacement, and then the transmission control circuit 16 will send an e-mail according to the e-mail address 54 and will also transmit the data in the user's personal database 44 to the e-mail address 54 to be received by the computer system for storing. Therefore, even if the original owner cannot find back the lost mobile communication apparatus 10, the original owner can get back the phonebook records, schedule records etc in the user's personal database 44 stored in the lost mobile communication apparatus 10 via the mentioned data transmission.

In some embodiment of the invention, the predetermined contact information is the first phone number 52. When the SIM-card-detection module 20 generates the detection result 32 and transmits the detection result 32 to the security module 24, the security module 24 will notify the transmission control circuit 16. The transmission control circuit 16 will dial the first phone number 52 via the communication circuit 17, and the notice signal 36 will be automatically sent via the TSP. The notice signal 36 includes a second phone number 42. The second phone number 42 further comprises the country code 38 and the operator code 40. However, the user can disable the function of sending phone number for hiding the second phone number 42 while using the mobile communication apparatus 10. Under this situation, the security module 24 will enable/activate the function of sending phone number first, and then notify the transmission control circuit 16 to dial the first phone number 52 via the communication circuit 17, so as to send out the notice signal 36 that includes the second phone number 42.

When a subscriber (i.e. the original owner) wants to edit and/or to modify the predetermined contact information 34 in the subscriber information management module 22, a first security code must be correctly inputted. The first security code 56 is set by the subscriber and is stored in advance in the mobile communication apparatus 10. After the input first security code 56 is confirmed to be correct, the corresponding IMSI code of the SIM card currently coupled to the mobile communication apparatus 10 will be stored in the subscriber information management module 22.

The security module 24 has a plurality of data security classes for setting. When a subscriber (i.e. the original owner) wants to set and/or to modify the data security class of the mobile communication apparatus 10, a second security code 58 must be correctly inputted. Only when the input second security code is confirmed to be correct, the subscriber is allowed to set and/or to modify the data security class of the mobile communication apparatus 10. Besides, the user can disable the function of the anti-theft control circuit 14 by entering the second security code 58. In some embodiment of the present invention, the security module 24 provides four data security classes for user (i.e. subscriber) selection and setting. The four data security classes and their corresponding security actions are listed in table 1.

TABLE 1

| Data Security Class | Security Actions  |
|---------------------|---|
| Class 3             | Sending out the notice signal to the predetermined contact information, locking and encrypting all data in the user's personal database stored in the subscriber information management module, and sending all of that data to the predetermined contact information |
| Class 2             | Sending out the notice signal to the predetermined contact information, locking and encrypting all data in the user's personal database stored in the subscriber information management module  |
| Class 1             | Locking and encrypting all data in the user's personal database stored in the subscriber information management module  |
| Class 0             | Doing nothing relating to data security   |

In some embodiment of the present invention, when the data security class of the mobile communication apparatus **10** is set to be Class **3** and is activated, all of the data in the user's personal database will be transmitted to the original owner. The data in the phonebook database **46** is packaged in the form of a virtual business card (vCard) for transmission, while the data in the schedule database **48** is packaged in the form of a virtual calendar (vCalendar) for transmission. In other words, when the data security class **3** is activated, the owner will receive the data in the form of a vCard, a vCalendar and e-mails, and can easily store the vCard, the vCalendar, and the e-mails (i.e. the data) into another mobile communication apparatus, such as a mobile phone, or other electronic apparatus, such as a personal computer, a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA).

When the security module **24** receives the detection result **32**, a data security procedure in the data security module **24** is activated, and the user's personal database **44** is protected and secured according to the set data security class. After sending out the notice signal **36**, the security module **24** will wait for a confirmation signal for confirming that the notice signal **36** has been successfully transmitted to the predetermined contact information **34**. If the security module **24** does not receive the confirmation signal in a predetermined period, it will send out the notice signal **36** again until the confirmation signal is received.

During and after the transmission control circuit **16** transmits the data in the user's personal database **44** to the predetermined contact information **34**, the security module **24** will avoid displaying any information related to that data transmission. Furthermore, it will delete all of the records related to that data transmission. Similarly, no information related to the notice signal transmission and the confirmation signal reception will be displayed and recorded.

When the mobile communication apparatus **10** is lost, the data in the user's personal database **44** of the mobile communication apparatus **10** not only can be sent back to the original owner, but also any information related to that data transmission will not be displayed or recorded, neither the notice signal transmission and the confirmation signal reception. Namely, the data security procedure, including the notice signal transmission, data locking, encryption and transmis-

sion, is performed in secret. Therefore, even if the lost mobile communication apparatus **10** is taken by others, the performing of the data security procedure will not be known. Furthermore, by applying the functions of signal detection and notification mentioned above, it is more possible for the original owner to find back the lost mobile communication apparatus **10**.

As shown in FIG. **1**, the transmission control circuit **16** includes a carrier control module **60** and a data transmission module **62**. The carrier control module **60** will select one available carrier from a plurality of carriers according to the size of the data to be transmitted for data transmission. The transmission carrier is provided in a communication system, such as a Global System for Mobile communications (GSM), a general packet radio service (GPRS), Enhanced Data rates for GSM Evolution (EDGE), a wCDMA, and a CDMA2000.

The data transmission module **62** will select a corresponding data transmission application program according to the selected transmission carrier for the data transmission. In the embodiment shown in FIG. **4**, the data transmission application program may be an e-mail application, a short message service (SMS) application, and a multimedia message service (MMS) application.

The invention also provides a method for signal detection and notification to be applied in a mobile communication apparatus. The mobile communication apparatus is coupled to the first SIM card, and stores a first IMSI and first ICCID corresponding to the first SIM card and predetermined contact information. In the signal detection and notification method for the mobile communication apparatus of the invention, it will be detected whether the first SIM card is replaced by the second SIM card, and a corresponding detection result will be generated. Then, a short message having the notice signal automatically added by the TSP is sent to the predetermined contact information.

Please refer to FIG. **4**. FIG. **4** is a flowchart illustrating the method of signal detection and notification for the mobile communication apparatus according to a preferred embodiment of the invention. Please refer to FIG. **4**, FIG. **1** and FIG. **2**, the flowchart of the method for detecting whether the first SIM card **12** is replaced by the second SIM card **13** and the flowchart of sending the notice signal **36** are demonstrated. In the embodiment, the first IMSI **18** and/or ICCID **19** corresponding to the first SIM card **12** and the predetermined contact information **34** are pre-stored in the mobile communication apparatus **10**. According to the present invention, the method to detect whether the first SIM card is replaced by the second SIM card in the mobile communication apparatus **10** comprises the steps below:

Step **100**: Detecting the second SIM card **13** currently engaged with the mobile communication apparatus **10**, and then obtaining a corresponding second IMSI **30** and/or second ICCID **33**.

Step **102**: Comparing the second IMSI **30** with the first IMSI **18** stored in the subscriber information management module **22** to identify whether the second IMSI **30** and the first IMSI **18** are the same, and/or comparing the second ICCID **33** with the first ICCID **19** stored in the identification information management module **23** to identify whether the second ICCID **33** and the first ICCID **19** are the same. If yes, go to step **108**; if not, go to step **104**.

Step **104**: Generating detection result **32** which represents the second IMSI **30** is different from the IMSI **18** and/or second ICCID **33** is different from the ICCID **19**.

Step **106**: Sending the notice signal **36** to the predetermined contact information **34**.

Step **108**: End.

Please refer to FIG. **1**. The security mechanism of the mobile communication apparatus **10** is further described as follows. The security module **24** not only can achieve the

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above functions but also execute other security functions. The security module 24 not only has a plurality of data security classes for setting, but also stores a third security code 66 for protecting the data in the user's personal database 44. When the transmission control circuit 16 receives a remote message 68, the security module 24 examines whether the remote message 68 is a predetermined legitimate remote control message according to the third security code. If YES, the data in the user's personal database 44 is protected correspondingly according to the remote message 68.

The remote message 68 is sent by a remote electronic apparatus (not shown). The electronic apparatus comprises an interface program to receive an inputted fourth security code, and the electronic apparatus will use the fourth security code to compile and/or encode the remote message 68 to be the predetermined legitimate remote control message. After receiving the remote message 68, the security module 24 will use the stored third security code 66 to decompile/decode the remote message 68. If the fourth security code (not shown) and the third security code 66 are the same, the remote message 68 can be successfully decoded and be identified to be the predetermined legal remote control message. After recognizing the remote message as the predetermined legal remote control message, the data in the user's personal database 44 is secured according to the remote message 68.

In some embodiment of the invention, the electronic apparatus sending the remote message 68 is another mobile communication apparatus. In this embodiment of the invention, when the original owner of the mobile communication apparatus 10 loses the mobile communication apparatus 10, the original owner can use another mobile communication apparatus to send a short message as a remote message 68 for remotely controlling the lost apparatus 10. After the mobile communication apparatus 10 receives the remote message 68, it will use the stored third security code 66 to decode the remote message 68. After the remote message 68 is confirmed to be a predetermined legitimate remote control message, the data in the user's personal database 44 is correspondingly secured according to the remote message 68. In this embodiment, the following actions/operations for data security may be performed according to the remote message 68: changing/setting the security class, locking all of the personal data from being accessed/modified/detected, modifying the phone numbers and e-mail addresses stored in the contact information, and changing the security code(s).

The remote message 68 comprises a first contact information 70 inputted via the interface program of the electronic apparatus. The security module 24 will set/modify the security actions corresponding to each of the data security classes according to the first contact information 70, as shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2

| Data Security Class | Security Actions  |
|---------------------|---|
| Class 3             | Sending a notice signal to the first contact information, locking and encrypting all data in the user's personal database stored in the subscriber information management module, and sending all the data to the first contact information |

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TABLE 2-continued

| Data Security Class | Security Actions   |
|---------------------|--|
| Class 2             | Sending a notice signal to the first contact information, locking and encrypting all data in the user's personal database stored in the subscriber information management module |
| Class 1             | Locking and encrypting all data in the user's personal database stored in the subscriber information management module   |
| Class 0             | Doing nothing  |

The subscriber data management module 22 may further store other predetermined second contact information. In some embodiment, the second contact information is the predetermined contact information 34 pre-stored in the subscriber data management module 22. The security module 24 will then set/modify the security actions corresponding to each of the data security classes according to the second contact information, as shown in Table 3.

TABLE 3

| Data Security Class | Security Actions  |
|---------------------|---|
| Class 3             | Sending out the notice signal to the second contact information, locking and encrypting all data in the user's personal database stored in the subscriber information management module, and sending all the data to the second contact information |
| Class 2             | Sending out the notice signal to the second contact information, locking and encrypting all data in the user's personal database stored in the subscriber information management module   |
| Class 1             | Locking and encrypting all data in the user's personal database stored in the subscriber information management module  |
| Class 0             | Doing nothing   |

The mobile communication apparatus 10 comprises a display panel (not shown). According to some embodiment of the invention, the remote message 68 received by the transmission control circuit 16 is a short message. If the security module 24 recognizes the remote control short message as a predetermined legal remote control message, the remote control short message will not be displayed on the display panel, so as to prevent the current user, probably an illegal user, of the lost mobile communication apparatus from being aware of the existence of the remote control short message.

Please refer to FIG. 5. FIG. 5 is a flowchart illustrating the data security method for the mobile communication apparatus according to a preferred embodiment of the invention. The present invention also provides a data security method used in the mobile communication apparatus 10. Please also refer to FIG. 1. The data security method of the present invention is described by referring to the mobile communication apparatus

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tus 10 in FIG. 1. According to the present invention, the data security method for the mobile communication apparatus 10 comprises the following steps:

Step 200: A plurality of data security classes are provided and a third security code 66 is stored in the mobile communication apparatus 10.

Step 202: The mobile communication apparatus 10 receives a remote message 68.

Step 204: The mobile communication apparatus 10 examines whether the remote message 68 is a predetermined legitimate remote control message according to the third security code 66. If YES, go to step 206; if NOT, go to step 208.

Step 206: The data in the user's personal database 44 is protected correspondingly according to the remote message 68.

Step 208: End

In some embodiment of the invention, in the following scenario, the original owner loses his/her mobile communication apparatus 10, and the data security class of the lost mobile communication apparatus 10 is set to be Class 2. Then, the original first SIM card 12 of the lost mobile communication apparatus 10 is replaced by the second SIM card 13. The original owner will receive a notice signal 36 first. However, the data in the user's personal database 44 will not be sent back to the original owner since the data security class 2 provides no security action of that data transmission. The original owner can then further send a remote message 68 to the lost mobile communication apparatus 10 to change the data security class to be Class 3. Therefore, the lost mobile communication apparatus 10 will then perform the security action of sending all the data in the user's personal database 44 back to the original owner according to the predetermined contact information. In other words, no matter what the original setting of the security class and the contact information are, the original owner can easily change that via remote control.

Compared with the prior art, the present invention is provided not only to effectively secure/protect the data stored in the mobile communication apparatus when the mobile communication is lost, but also to remotely control the setting of the lost mobile communication apparatus. Besides, when the original SIM card is replaced, user information of the substitute SIM card can be sent to the original owner via various transmission methods so that the original owner can continuously trace and set the lost mobile communication apparatus by using a new communication number provided in that user information. This helps the original owner to find back the lost mobile communication apparatus.

With the example and explanations above, the features and spirits of the invention will be hopefully well described. Those skilled in the art will readily observe that numerous modifications and alterations of the device may be made while retaining the teaching of the invention. Accordingly, the above disclosure should be construed as limited only by the metes and bounds of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A mobile communication apparatus comprising:

an anti-theft control circuit comprising:

a SIM-card-detection module detecting whether a first SIM card is replaced by a second SIM card; and

an information management module storing a predetermined user contact information, and a user personal database comprising at least one of a phonebook database, a schedule database, and an e-mail database;

a transmission control circuit transmitting data and signal; wherein if the SIM-card-detection module detects that the first SIM card is replaced by the second SIM card, the

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transmission control circuit sends out, according to the predetermined user contact information, personal data of an original owner stored in the phonebook database, the schedule database, or the e-mail database of the information management module when the first SIM card is not yet replaced by the second SIM card,

thereby enabling the original owner to get back the personal data of the phonebook database, the schedule database, or the e-mail database stored in the information management module when the first SIM card is not yet replaced by the second SIM card, wherein the predetermined user contact information is contact information predetermined by the original owner; and

a security module, wherein after the personal data are sent out, the security module waits for a confirmation signal to confirm that the record or records have been transmitted according to the predetermined user contact information successfully.

2. The mobile communication apparatus of claim 1, wherein the user contact information is an e-mail address; and wherein the transmission control circuit sends out an e-mail comprising the record or records of the phonebook database, the schedule database, or the e-mail database to the e-mail address when detecting the first SIM card is replaced by a second SIM card by the SIM-card-detection module.

3. The mobile communication apparatus of claim 1, wherein the information management module stores first identification information corresponding to the first SIM card, and the SIM-card-detection module comprises:

a detector getting second identification information from the second SIM card; and

a comparator for comparing the second identification information with the prestored first identification information;

wherein the SIM-card-detection module detects that the first SIM card is replaced by the second SIM card when the second identification information is different from the first identification information.

4. The mobile communication apparatus of claim 1, wherein if the security module does not receive the confirmation signal in a predetermined period, the security module repetitiously sends out the record or records until the confirmation signal is received.

5. The mobile communication apparatus of claim 1, the transmission control circuit comprises: a carrier control module for selecting one available carrier from a plurality of carriers for transmitting the record or records; and a data transmission module for selecting a corresponding data transmission application program for transmitting the record or records according to the carrier that has been selected; wherein the carrier control module selects the carrier based upon the size of the record or records to be transmitted.

6. The mobile communication apparatus of claim 5, wherein the carriers are provided in a communication system, and the communication system is one of Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM), General Packet Radio Service (GPRS), Enhanced Data Rates for GSM Evolution (EDGE), WCDMA and CDMA2000; and wherein the data transmission application program is one of an e-mail application program, a short message service (SMS) application program, and a multimedia message service (MMS) application program.

7. The mobile communication apparatus of claim 3, wherein the first and second identification information is international mobile subscriber identity (IMSI) or Integrated Circuit Card Identification (ICCID) codes, wherein the international mobile subscriber identity (IMSI) is a unique num-

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ber associated with mobile communication apparatus within a communication system, and the Integrated Circuit Card Identification (ICCID) codes are digit numbers physically printed on a SIM card.

8. A method for protecting personal data applied in a mobile communication apparatus, the method comprising: 5  
 providing a predetermined user contact information, and a user personal database comprising at least one of a phonebook database, a schedule database, and an e-mail database, which are stored in the mobile communication apparatus; 10  
 detecting whether a first SIM card is replaced by a second SIM card; and  
 if it is detected that the first SIM card is replaced by the second SIM card, sending out, according to the predetermined user contact information, personal data of an original owner stored in the phonebook database, the schedule database, or the e-mail database of the mobile communication apparatus when the first SIM card is not yet replaced by the second SIM card, 20  
 thereby enabling the original owner to get back the personal data of the phonebook database, the schedule database, or the e-mail database stored in the mobile communication apparatus when the first SIM card is not yet replaced by the second SIM card, wherein the predetermined user contact information is contact information predetermined by the original owner, 25  
 waiting by a security module, after the personal data are sent out, for a confirmation signal to confirm that the personal data have been transmitted according to the predetermined user contact information successfully. 30

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9. The method of claim 8, wherein the detection step further comprises:

providing first identification information corresponding to the first SIM card, which is stored in the mobile communication apparatus;

getting second identification information from the second SIM card;

comparing the second identification information with the first identification information; and

detecting that the first SIM card is replaced by the second SIM card when the second identification information is different from the first identification information.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the first SIM card is associated with a phone number serving as the predetermined user contact information; and wherein the sending step further comprises when the detection result is generated, the mobile communication apparatus dial the phone number for sending out the record or records of the phonebook database, the schedule database, or the e-mail database to an electronic user-apparatus corresponding to the phone number automatically.

11. The method of claim 8, further comprising, when and after the record or records of the phonebook database, the schedule database, or the e-mail database are transmitted, deleting all record or records being transmitted.

12. The mobile communication apparatus of claim 1, wherein the information management module comprises an IMSI code, contact information, and a user personal database.

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