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

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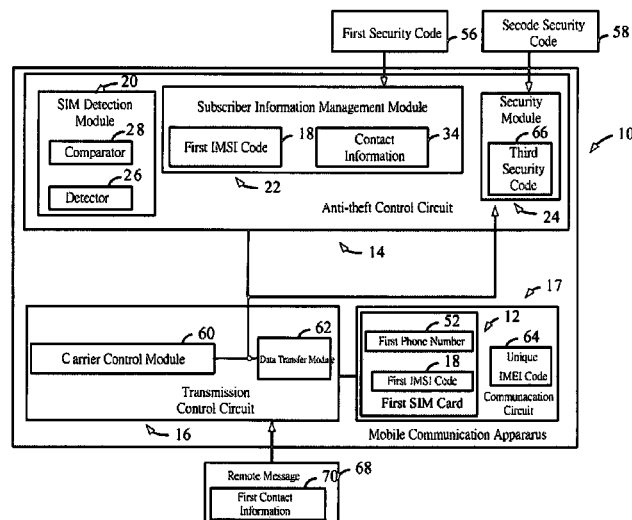
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A mobile communication apparatus comprises a first SIM card, an anti-theft control circuit, and a transmission control circuit. The first SIM card is engaged with the mobile communication apparatus and has a corresponding first IMSI code. The anti-theft control circuit has a SIM-card-detection module and a subscriber 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 subscriber information management module is used for storing the corresponding first IMSI code and predetermined contact information. The transmission control circuit is used for transmitting data and/or signals. 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.

**39 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets**



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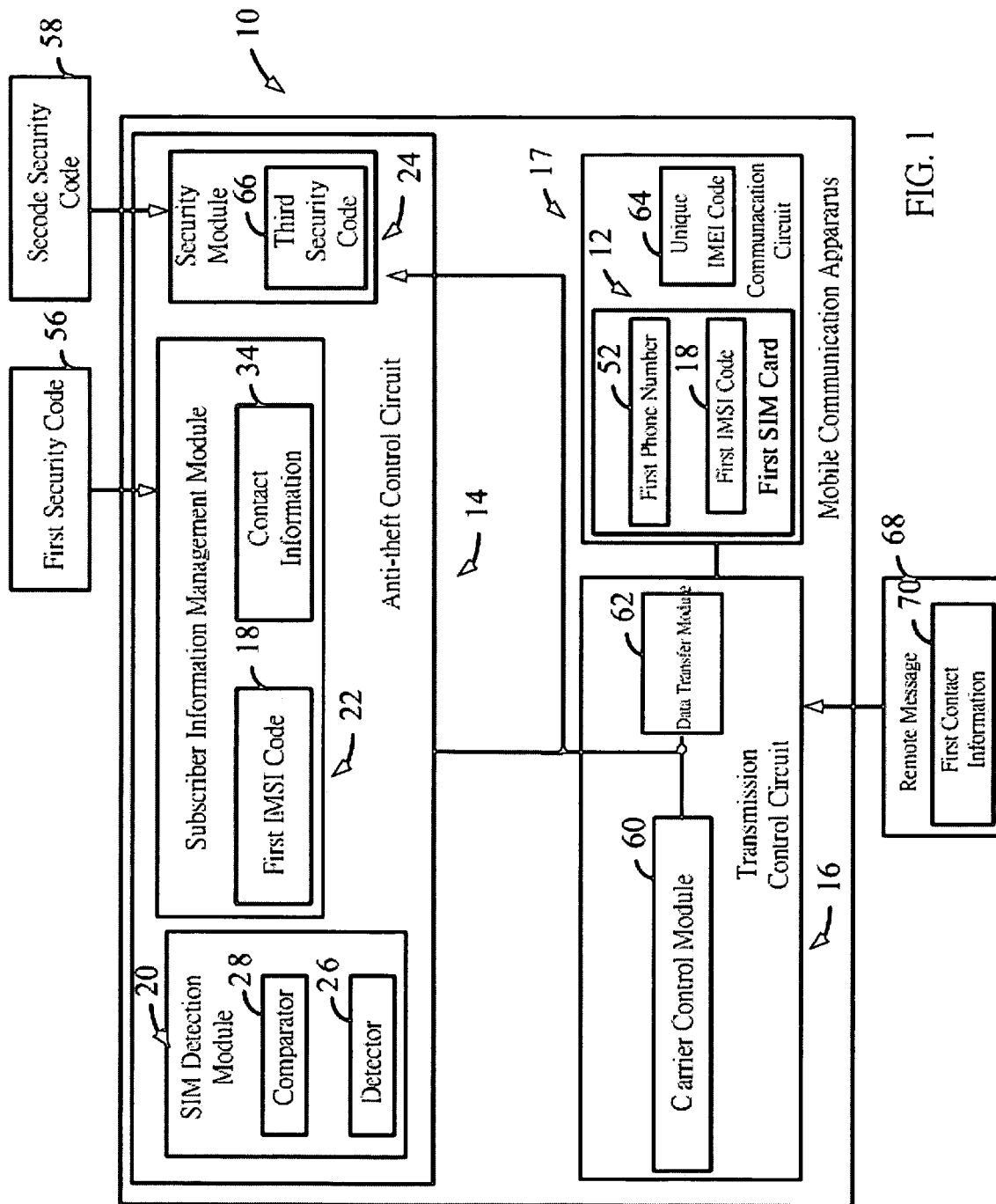


FIG. 1

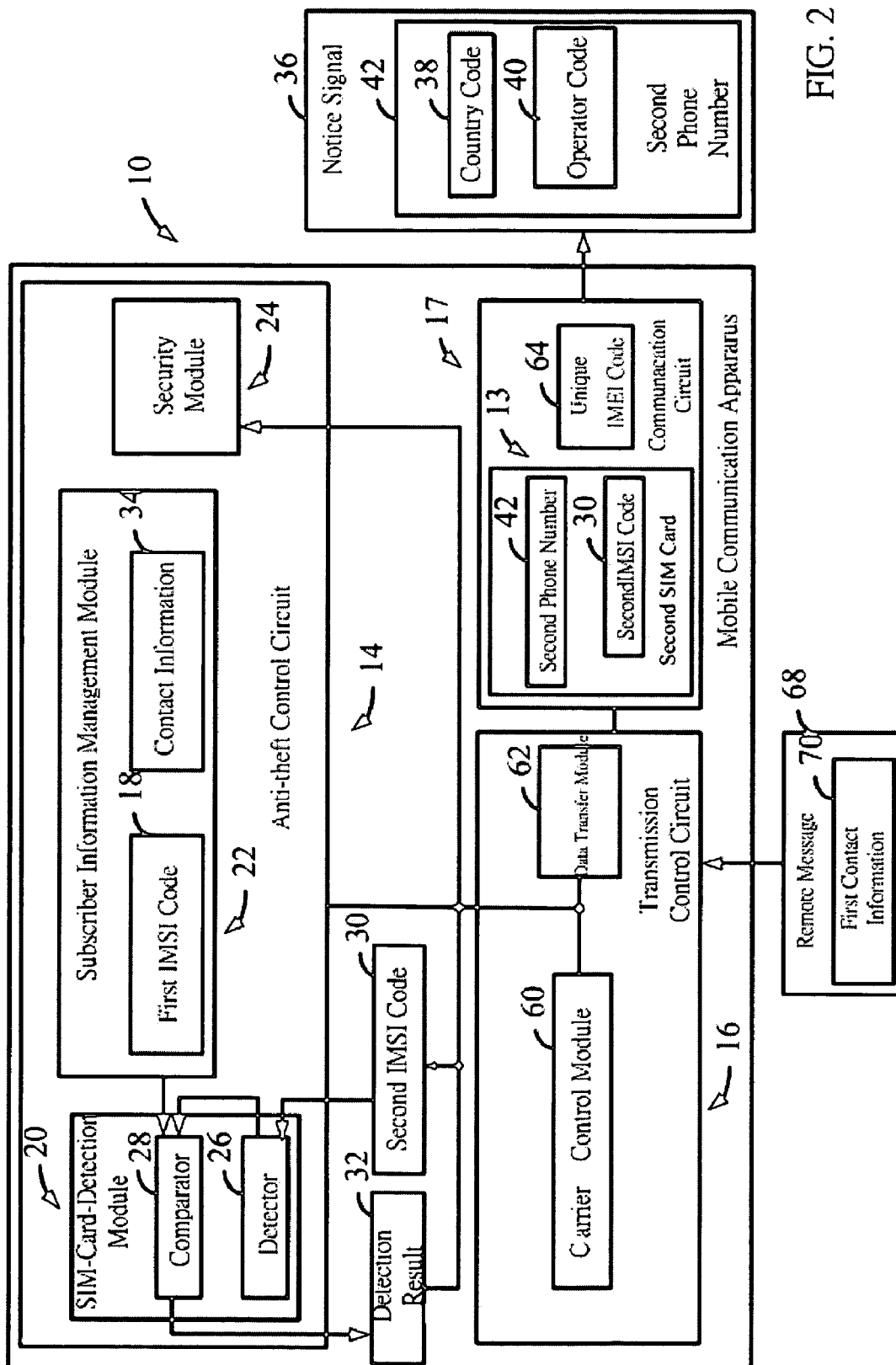


FIG. 2

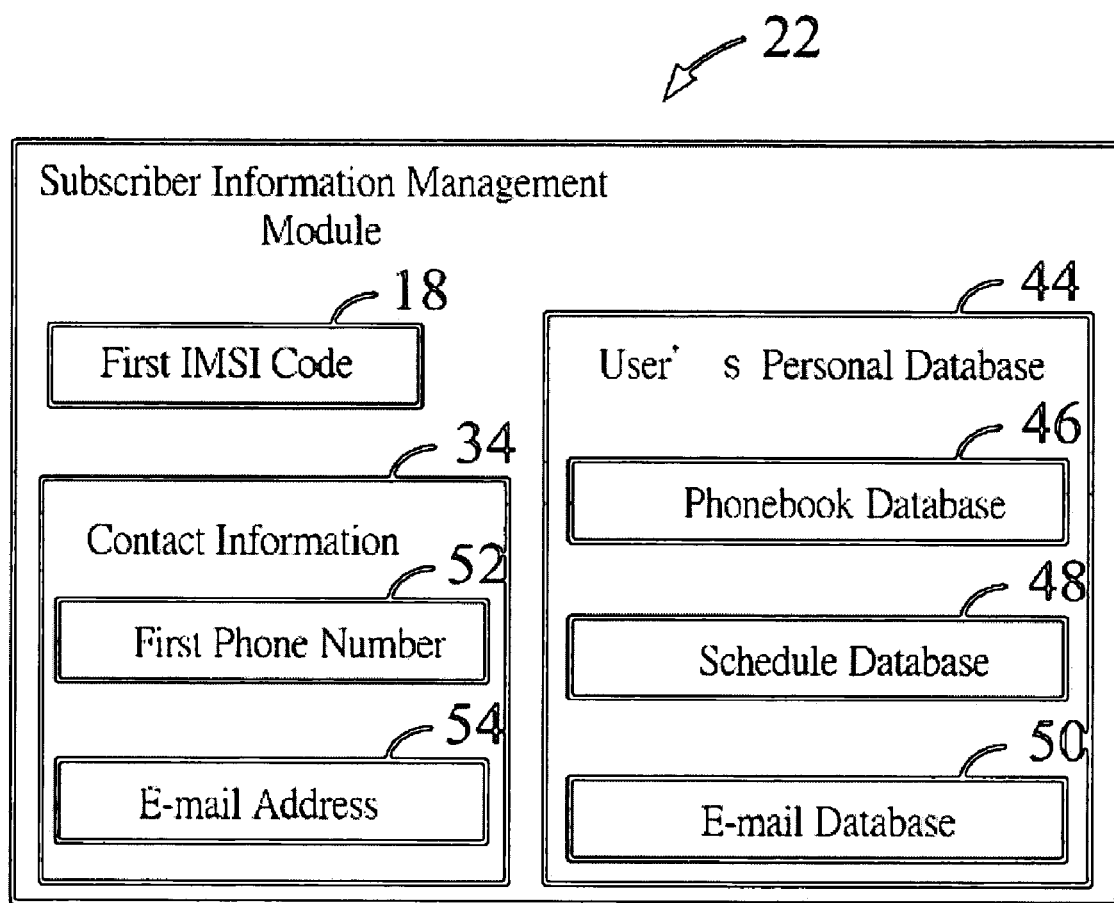


FIG. 3

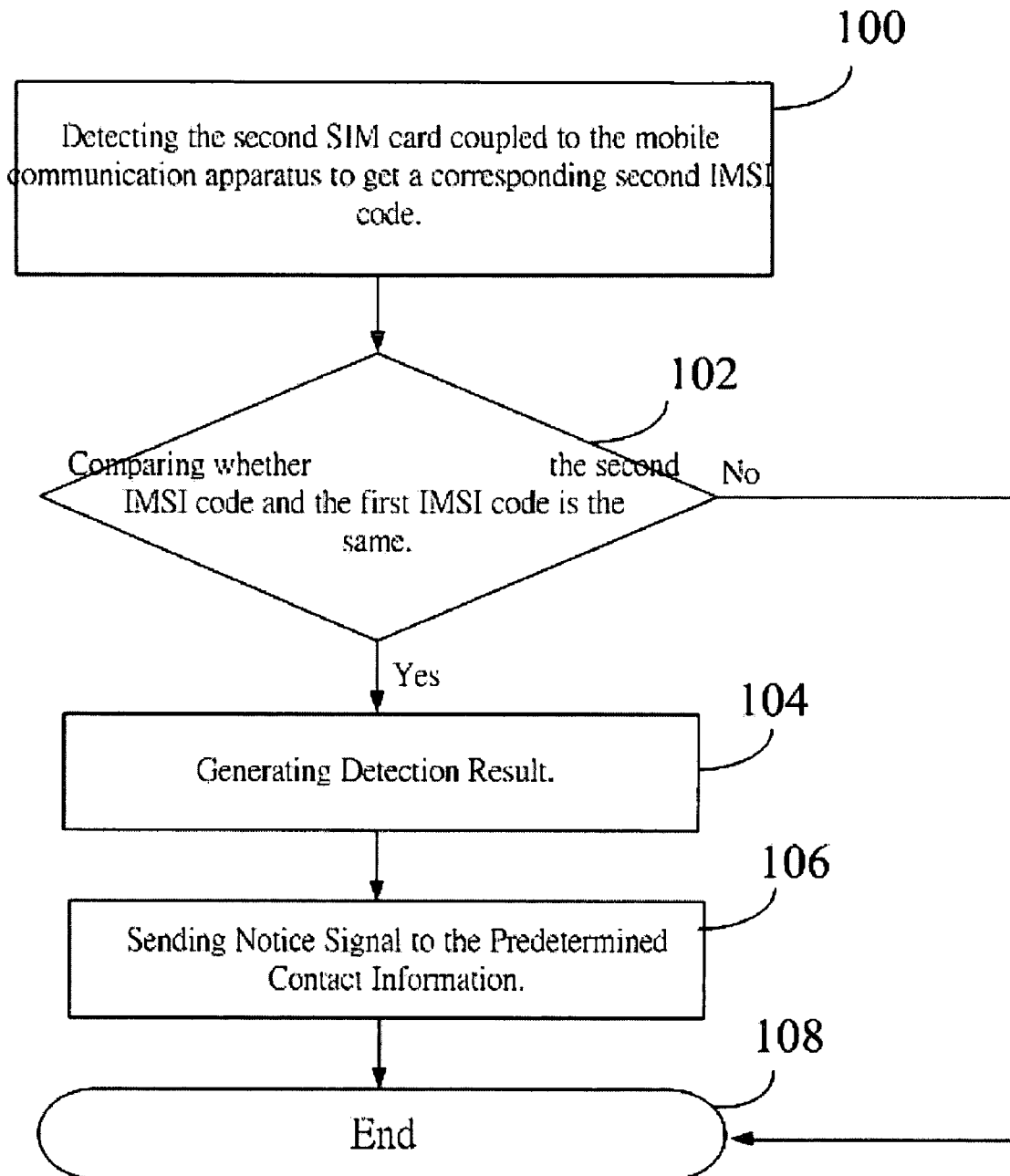


FIG. 4

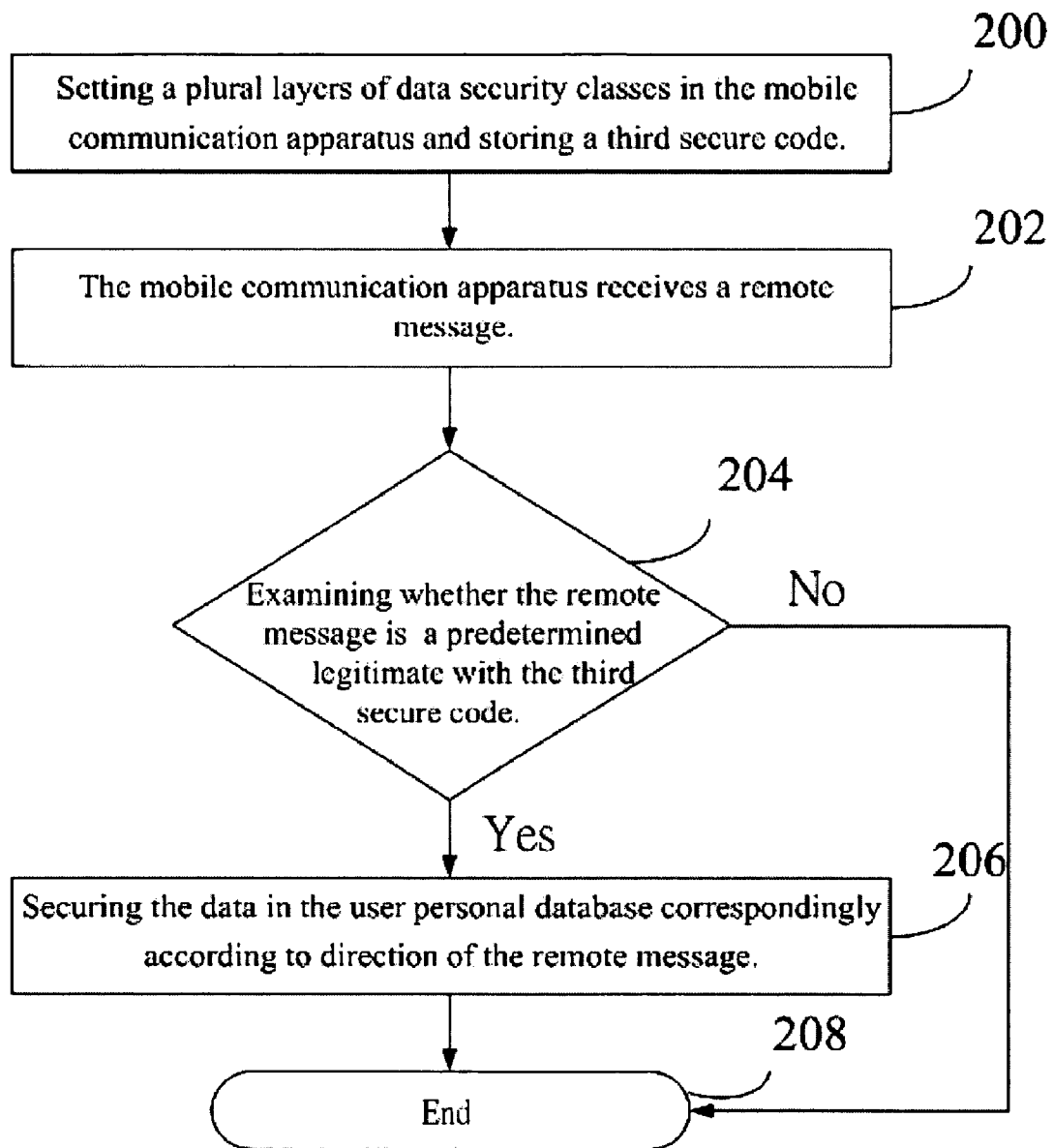


FIG. 5

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

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

### 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.

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 OF THE INVENTION

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 a corresponding first international mobile subscriber identity (IMSI). 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 IMSI code 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



3

card is provided to be coupled to the mobile communication apparatus, and the first SIM card comprises a corresponding first international mobile subscriber identity (IMSI) code. Next, the first IMSI code 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.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE APPENDED DRAWINGS

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. 1a 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 OF THE INVENTION

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

4

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, a subscriber information management module 22, and a security module 24.

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 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 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, 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 is used to store the first international mobile subscriber identity (IMSI) code 18 corresponding to the first SIM card 12 and to store a predetermined contact information 34.

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. 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. If it is determined that the second IMSI 30 is different from the first IMSI 18, 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 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 "928" 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.

5

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's 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 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

6

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 communi-

cation 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 I 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 transmission, 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 Wideband Code Division Multiple Access (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 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 **13** card and the flowchart of sending the notice signal **36** are demonstrated. In the embodiment, the first IMSI **18** 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**.

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. 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**.

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 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 embodi-

ment, 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 Classes	Security Action
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
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 another 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 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:

a first Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) card, comprising a corresponding first international mobile subscriber identity (IMSI) code, being coupled to the mobile communication apparatus;

## 11

an anti-theft control circuit comprising:

- a SIM-card-detection module for detecting whether the first SIM card is replaced by a second SIM card comprising a corresponding second IMSI code, and for generating a corresponding detection result if the second IMSI code is compared to be different from the first IMSI code; and
- a subscriber information management module for storing the corresponding first IMSI code and a predetermined contact information wherein the subscriber information management module comprises a user's personal database;
- a security module providing a plurality of data security classes for setting, wherein a subscriber needs to input a second security code before setting and/or modifying the data security class, and only after the inputted 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; and
- a transmission control circuit for transmitting data and/or signal;

wherein when the SIM-card-detection module generates the detection result, the transmission control circuit sends out a notice signal and transmits at least a portion of data in the user's personal database to a designated electronic apparatus according to the predetermined contact information stored in the subscriber information management module.

2. The mobile communication apparatus of claim 1, wherein a subscriber needs to input a first security code before storing and/or modifying the predetermined contact information defined by an end-user and stored in the subscriber information management module; and wherein after the inputted first security code is confirmed to be correct, the corresponding IMSI code of the SIM card currently coupled to the mobile communication apparatus will be stored and/or modified in the subscriber information management module.

3. The mobile communication apparatus of claim 1, wherein the user's personal database comprises a phonebook database, a schedule database, and an e-mail database.

4. The mobile communication apparatus of claim 3, wherein the contact information is an e-mail address stored in the subscriber information management module in advance; and wherein the transmission control circuit sends out an e-mail to be the notice signal according to the e-mail address and transmits the data in the user's personal database to the electronic apparatus which receives the e-mail.

5. The mobile communication apparatus of claim 1, the SIM-card-detection module comprising:

- a detector for detecting a second SIM card currently coupled to the mobile communication apparatus to get a corresponding second IMSI code; and
- a comparator for comparing the second IMSI code with the first IMSI code stored in the subscriber information management module;
- a transmission control circuit for transmitting data and/or signal;

wherein the SIM-card-detection module generates the corresponding detection result if the second IMSI code is different from the first IMSI code.

6. The mobile communication apparatus of claim 5, wherein the second SIM card has a corresponding second phone number which comprises a country code and an operator code, and the notice signal comprises the second phone number.

## 12

7. The mobile communication apparatus of claim 1, wherein the subscriber is able to disable the function of the anti-theft control circuit through inputting the second security code.

8. The mobile communication apparatus of claim 1, wherein 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's personal database of the subscriber information management module according to the set data security class.

9. The mobile communication apparatus of claim 1, wherein the security module comprises four data security classes for setting and the data security classes comprises:

- a data security class 3: sending out the notice signal according to the predetermined end-user contact information, locking up and encrypting all data in the user's personal database stored in the subscriber information management module, and sending all of the data according to the predetermined end-user contact information;
- a data security class 2: sending out the notice signal according to the predetermined end-user contact information, locking up and encrypting all data in the user's personal database stored in the subscriber information management module;
- a data security class 1: locking up and encrypting all data in the user's personal database stored in the subscriber information management module; and
- a data security class 0: doing nothing.

10. The mobile communication apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mobile communication apparatus further comprises a communication circuit for establishing a communication linkage, and the first SIM card has a corresponding first phone number serving as the predetermined end-user contact information; and wherein when the SIM-card-detection module generates the detection result and transmits the detection result to the security module; the security module informs the transmission control circuit to dial the first phone number via the communication circuit for sending out the notice signal automatically.

11. The mobile communication apparatus of claim 1, wherein after the notice signal is sent out, the security module waits for a confirmation signal to confirm that the notice signal has been transmitted according to the predetermined end-user contact information successfully, and wherein if the security module does not receive the confirmation signal in a predetermined period, the security module repetitiously sends the notice signal until the confirmation signal is received.

12. The mobile communication apparatus of claim 4, wherein when and/or after the transmission control circuit sends out the data in the user's personal database according to the predetermined end-user contact information, the security module avoids the showing of information related to that data transmission or/and deletes all corresponding records of that data transmission.

13. The mobile communication apparatus of claim 11, wherein when and/or after the notice signal is transmitted, the security module avoids the showing of information related to that notice signal transmission or/and deletes all corresponding records of that notice signal transmission; and wherein when and/or after the confirmation signal is received, the security module avoids the showing of information related to that confirmation signal reception or/and deletes all corresponding records of that confirmation signal reception.

13

14. The mobile communication apparatus of claim 1, the transmission control circuit comprising:

- a carrier control module for selecting one available carrier from a plurality of carriers for transmitting data; and
  - a data transmission module for selecting a corresponding data transmission application program for transmitting data according to the carrier that has been selected;
- wherein the carrier control module selects the carrier based upon the size of the data to be transmitted.

15. The mobile communication apparatus of claim 13, 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), Wideband Code Division Multiple Access (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.

16. The mobile communication apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mobile communication apparatus comprises a unique international mobile equipment identity (IMEI) for identification.

17. A mobile communication apparatus comprising:

- an anti-theft control circuit comprising:
  - a subscriber information management module for storing a user's personal database; and
  - a security module providing a plurality of data security classes for setting and having a third security code to perform one of a corresponding plurality of data security procedures on the data in the user's personal database, wherein the corresponding data security procedure is determined according to the set data security class; and

a transmission control circuit for transmitting data and/or signals;

wherein when the transmission control circuit receives a remote message with compiled and/or encoded content, the security module examines whether the remote message is a predetermined legitimate remote control message by decoding the content of the remote message according to the third security code stored on the mobile communication apparatus; wherein if the remote control message is legitimate, the corresponding data security procedure is performed on the data in the user's personal database according to the decoded content of the remote message.

18. The mobile communication apparatus of claim 17, wherein the remote message is sent from a remote electronic apparatus, comprising an interface program for receiving an inputted fourth security code, and the remote message is compiled and/or encoded by the remote electronic apparatus to be the predetermined legitimate remote control message based upon the fourth security code; wherein when the security module receives the remote message, the content of the remote message is decoded based upon the third security code stored in the security module; wherein if the fourth security code is same as the third security code, the content of the remote message is decoded successfully, and then the remote message is confirmed to be the predetermined legitimate remote control message.

19. The mobile communication apparatus of claim 18, wherein the security module comprises four data security classes for setting, and the data security procedure is determined according to the set data security class, the data security classes comprises:

14

- a data security class 3: sending a notice signal according to the contact information, locking up and encrypting all data in the user's personal database stored in the subscriber information management module, and transmitting all of the data according to the contact information;
- a data security class 2: sending the notice signal according to the first contact information, locking up and encrypting all data in the user's personal database stored in the subscriber information management module;

a data security class 1: locking up and encrypting all data in the user's personal database stored in the subscriber information management module; and

a data security class 0: doing nothing;

wherein the contact information is one of a first contact information included in the remote message and a second contact information stored in the subscriber information management module.

20. The mobile communication apparatus of claim 17, wherein the mobile communication apparatus further comprises a display panel, and the remote message received by the transmission control circuit is a remote control short message; wherein if the security module confirms that the remote control short message is the predetermined legitimate remote control message, the security module will prevent the remote control short message from being displayed on the display panel so as to keep the user currently using the mobile communication apparatus from being aware of the existence of the remote control short message.

21. A method for signal detection and notification applied in a mobile communication apparatus, the mobile communication apparatus comprising a user's personal database, the method comprising:

- (a) providing a first Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) card to be coupled to the mobile communication apparatus, the first SIM card comprising a corresponding first international mobile subscriber identity (IMSI) code;
- (b) storing in the mobile communication apparatus the first IMSI code corresponding to the first SIM card and a predetermined contact information, wherein the mobile communication apparatus provides a plurality of data security classes for setting;
- (c) detecting whether the first SIM card is replaced by a second SIM card comprising a corresponding second IMSI code, and generating a corresponding detection result if the second IMSI code is compared to be different from the first IMSI code; and
- (d) when the detection result is generated, performing a data security procedure on the data stored in the mobile communication apparatus according to the set data security class and sending out a notice signal and transmitting at least a portion of data in the user's personal database to a designated electronic apparatus according to the predetermined contact information.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein a subscriber needs to input a first security code before storing or/and modifying the predetermined contact information defined by an end-user; and wherein after the inputted first security code is confirmed to be correct, the corresponding IMSI code of the SIM card currently coupled to the mobile communication apparatus is stored or/and modified.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein the contact information is an e-mail address, and an e-mail is sent out according to the e-mail address to be the notice signal, and the data stored in the user's personal database in the mobile communication apparatus is transmitted to the electronic apparatus which receives that e-mail.

15

24. The method of claim 22, the step (c) further comprising:

- (c1) detecting a second SIM card presently coupled to the mobile communication apparatus to get a corresponding second IMSI code;
- (c2) comparing the second IMSI code with the first IMSI code stored in the mobile communication apparatus; and
- (c3) generating the corresponding detection result when the second IMSI code is different from the first IMSI code.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the second SIM card has a corresponding second phone number which comprises a country code and an operator code, and the notice signal comprises the second phone number.

26. The method of claim 24, wherein a subscriber needs to input a second security code before setting or/and modifying the data security class, and only after the inputted second security code is confirmed to be correct, the subscriber is allowed to set or/and to modify the data security class of the mobile communication apparatus.

27. The method of claim 22, wherein the mobile communication apparatus provides four data security classes for setting, and the data security classes comprises:

- a data security class 3: sending out the notice signal according to the predetermined end-user contact information, locking up and encrypting the data stored in the mobile communication apparatus, and transmitting the data according to the predetermined end-user contact information;
- a data security class 2: sending out the notice signal according to the predetermined end-user contact information, locking up and encrypting the data stored in the mobile communication apparatus;
- a data security class 1: locking up and encrypting the data stored in the mobile communication apparatus; and
- a data security class 0: doing nothing.

28. The method of claim 21, wherein after the notice signal is sent out, the mobile communication apparatus waits for an confirmation signal to confirm that the notice signal has been transmitted according to the predetermined end-user contact information successfully; and wherein if the mobile communication apparatus does not receive the confirmation signal in a predetermined period, the mobile communication apparatus repetitiously sends the notice signal until the confirmation signal is received.

29. The method of claim 21, wherein the first SIM card has a corresponding first phone number serving as the predetermined end-user contact information; and wherein when the detection result is generated, the mobile communication apparatus will dial the first phone number for sending out the notice signal automatically.

30. The method of claim 23, wherein when and/or after the data stored in the mobile communication apparatus is transmitted according to the predetermined end-user contact information, the information related to that data transmission will be prevented from being shown and all records related to that data transmission will be deleted.

31. The method of claim 29, wherein when and/or after the notice signal is transmitted, the information related to that notice signal transmission is prevented from being shown and all corresponding records of that notice signal transmission will be deleted; and wherein when and/or after the confirmation signal is received, the information related to that confirmation signal reception will be prevented from being shown and all corresponding records of that confirmation signal reception will be deleted.

16

32. The method of claim 30, wherein the mobile communication apparatus will select one available carrier from a plurality of carriers for data transmission, and will select a corresponding data transmission application program according to the selected carrier; wherein the mobile communication apparatus selects the carrier based upon the size of the data to be transmitted.

33. The method of claim 30, 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), Wideband Code Division Multiple Access (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.

34. A method for data security applied in a mobile communication apparatus, the method comprising:

- setting one of a plurality of data security classes and storing a third security code;
- receiving a remote message with compiled and/or encoded content, and examining the remote message by applying the third security code;
- confirming the remote message to be a predetermined legitimate remote control message by decoding the content of the remote message according to the third security code stored on the mobile communication apparatus; and
- performing a data security procedure on the data stored in the mobile communication apparatus according to the decoded content of the remote message and corresponding to the set data security class.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein the remote message is sent out from a remote electronic apparatus, comprising an interface program for receiving a fourth security code, and the remote message is compiled and/or encoded by the remote electronic apparatus to be the predetermined legitimate remote control message based upon the fourth security code; wherein when the remote message is received by the mobile communication apparatus, the content of the remote message will be decoded based upon the third security code stored in the mobile communication apparatus; wherein if the fourth security code is same as the third security code, the content of the remote message will be decoded successfully, and the remote message is confirmed to be the predetermined legitimate remote control message by the mobile communication apparatus.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein the mobile communication apparatus comprises four data security classes for setting, and the data security classes comprises:

- a data security class 3: sending a notice signal according to the contact information, locking up and encrypting all data stored in the mobile communication apparatus, and transmitting all of the data according to the contact information;
  - a data security class 2: sending the notice signal according to the first contact information, locking up and encrypting all data stored in the mobile communication apparatus;
  - a data security class 1: locking up and encrypting all data stored in the mobile communication apparatus; and
  - a data security class 0: doing nothing;
- wherein the contact information is one of a first contact information included in the remote message and a second contact information stored in the mobile communication apparatus.

17

37. The method of claim 34, wherein the mobile communication apparatus further comprises a display panel, and the remote message received by the mobile communication apparatus is a remote control short message; and wherein if the remote control short message is confirmed to be the predetermined legitimate remote control message, the remote control short message will be prevented from be displayed on the display panel so as to keep the user currently using the mobile communication apparatus from being aware of the existence of the remote control short message.

18

38. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said predetermined contact information is defined by an end-user and comprises a mobile telephone number and/or an e-mail address.

39. The method of claim 21, wherein said predetermined contact information is defined by an end-user and comprises a mobile telephone number and/or an e-mail address.

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