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Jeyhan		Karaoguz	Irvine	CA	US
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Title of Invention		POSITION-BASED CONTROL OF ACCESS TO ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION NETWORKS			
Attorney Docket Number (if applicable)		19916US01			
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Entity Status

Applicant claims small entity status under 37 CFR 1.27

- ☐ Yes, applicant qualifies for small entity status under 37 CFR 1.27
- ☒ No

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Signature	/Shawn L. Peterson/			Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2008-08-25
First Name	Shawn L.	Last Name	Peterson	Registration Number (If appropriate)	44286

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Date of Deposit: August 25, 2008

Attorney Docket No. 19916US01

**POSITION-BASED CONTROL OF ACCESS TO
ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION NETWORKS**

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS/INCORPORATION BY
REFERENCE**

[01] [Not Applicable]

FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

[02] [Not Applicable]

[SEQUENCE LISTING]

[03] [Not Applicable]

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[04] [Not Applicable]

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[05] In a modern communication system, communication service providers generally obtain revenue from the sale of communication network bandwidth. Often, such providers subsidize the initial purchase of various communication devices and plan to recuperate such up-front costs by selling communication bandwidth in the future.

[06] Further limitations and disadvantages of conventional and traditional approaches will become apparent to one of skill in the art, through comparison of such systems with the present invention as set forth in the remainder of the present application with reference to the drawings.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[07] Various aspects of the present invention provide a system and method for determining, based at least in part on communication device position, whether access to an alternative communication network is authorized.

[08] These and other advantages, aspects and novel features of the present invention, as well as details of illustrative aspects thereof, will be more fully understood from the following description and drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

[09] Figure 1 is a diagram illustrating a non-exemplary communication environment into which various aspects of the present invention may be incorporated.

[10] Figure 2 is a diagram illustrating a communication system and/or device in accordance with various aspects of the present invention.

[11] Figure 3 is a diagram illustrating a method for implementation in a communication device in accordance with various aspects of the present invention.

[12] Figure 4 is a diagram illustrating a method for implementation in a communication system in accordance with various aspects of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF VARIOUS NON-LIMITING ASPECTS

1) General

- a) Communication service providers (*e.g.*, operators of one or more communication networks) have a financial stake in selling communication bandwidth.
- b) Often, communication service providers (CSPs) are involved in subsidizing the purchase of communication devices (*e.g.*, portable or mobile communication devices like cellular phones, personal digital assistants (PDAs), multimedia presentation devices, portable computers, handheld computers, portable email devices, etc.) with the goal of receiving a return on their investment through the sale of communication bandwidth (*e.g.*, by selling service plans).
- c) As an example of selling communication bandwidth, CSPs often sell service plans along with the portable communication devices, where such service plans include a cost/minute aspect (*e.g.*, either a flat cost per minute or a graduated cost plan)
- d) At least a portion of mobile communication devices (MCDs) have multimode communication capability (*i.e.*, the capability to communicate through a plurality of different types of communication networks).
 - i) Such networks may, for example, include cellular communication networks (*e.g.*, various GSM and/or CDMA-based cellular networks), computer communication networks (*e.g.*, WLAN, WPAN, WMAN, etc.), satellite communication networks, terrestrial television and/or telephone communication networks, etc.
 - ii) As a non-limiting example, a mobile communication device may comprise the capability to communicate with cellular communication networks and wireless LAN networks.
- e) For example, a CSP that has a financial interest in selling bandwidth on a cellular communication network might lose potential revenue if a subscriber utilizes a wireless LAN for communication rather than the cellular communication network.
 - i) For example, rather than utilize relative costly cellular communication bandwidth for voice communication, a subscriber might establish a communication link with a WLAN and utilize the WLAN (*e.g.*, in conjunction

with the Internet) to conduct voice communication (*e.g.*, utilizing Voice-Over-IP (VoIP) technology). In such a scenario, a cellular CSP might lose potential revenue that would have been realized had the voice communication been conducted through the cellular communication network.

- ii) The above-mentioned scenario may also apply to a multi-media providing service (*e.g.*, music, movies, television, etc.), other audio and/or video multi-way communication service, web browsing service, etc.
- f) In another example, a CSP that has a financial interest in selling bandwidth on one or more “native” cellular and/or computer network might lose potential revenue if a subscriber utilizes a “non-native” network (*e.g.*, a WLAN, WMAN, cellular network, etc.) that is not under the control (*e.g.*, either directly or indirectly through agreements) of the CSP.
 - i) For example, rather than utilize the native one or more networks, a subscriber may choose to utilize a communication network (*e.g.*, a different WLAN or WMAN) that is different from the native communication network(s) under the control (explicitly or by agreement) of the CSP.
- g) There are, however, situations where providing a mobile communication device access to alternative (*e.g.*, non-native) communication pathways (*e.g.*, through non-cellular networks or non-cellular networks operated by entities other than the CSP) is beneficial.
 - i) For example, a cell (or other coverage area) associated with the CSP might be overloaded or at risk of becoming overloaded.
 - (1) Thus, the CSP (*e.g.*, network operator or equipment thereof) may allow the MCD to freely access other networks and/or access other networks at various costs to the user (*e.g.*, at normal cost, higher cost than normal or lower cost than normal, depending on the particular situation).
 - (2) As an example, a CSP, through processing positioning information for the mobile communication device might determine that too many mobile communication devices serviced by the operator are in a particular location. In such a scenario, the CSP (*e.g.*, to prevent future overloading of the network) might enable the MCD to utilize non-native computer

network resources instead of native cellular telecommunication network resources. In other words, the CSP (network operator or various equipment thereof) may proactively anticipate an overload situation of the network and set the stage for offloading bandwidth before the need for such bandwidth is affirmatively requested.

- (3) In another example, the native network might be operating in an overloaded (or nearly overloaded) condition already. An MCD might enter the overloaded region, and prior to the MCD requesting communication bandwidth (or while the MCD requests communication bandwidth), the CSP may authorize the MCD to utilize the bandwidth of other networks.

- (a) The CSP may even go a step further and assist the MCD in establishing communication with the other network(s).

- (4) In still another example, the CSP (*e.g.*, communication network equipment) might operate to authorize the MCD to communicate with other non-native networks at all times when the MCD is within a geographic region associated with operation in the home, while inhibiting or controlling such access when the MCD is being operated away from home.

- (5) In general, based on the determined geographic position of the MCD, the CSP (or network operator or equipment thereof) may determine whether the MCD is allowed to access alternative communication networks.

- h) A communication service provider (or equipment thereof) may utilize positioning information corresponding to one or more mobile communication devices to determine whether to allow (authorize) access to particular networks.

2) Exemplary Implementation

- a) The position of a mobile communication device may be determined.
 - i) A mobile communication device may comprise apparatus and/or operate to perform a method that provides position information of the portable communication device.

- (1) Note that positioning may be determined by other devices (e.g., a network) external to the mobile communication device.
- (2) Examples of such positioning apparatus and/or capability include GPS, other forms of triangulation (terrestrial and/or satellite-based, cellular communication system-base, etc.), UWB, 60 GHz positioning systems, etc.
- (3) As another example, the fact that the MCD is able to detect and/or communicate with particular networks (or access points) can be utilized to determine the general position of the MCD.
- (4) Information of determined position may be communicated to a controller.
 - (a) The controller may, for example, be network infrastructure apparatus, subscriber account managing equipment, etc.
 - (b) The positioning information may be communicated to the controller in any of a variety of manners, depending on where the position determination is made (e.g., from the MCD, from communication infrastructure equipment, etc.)
- ii) Other characteristics related to position, such as velocity, may be used also (e.g., to anticipate the entry of an MCD to a particular area or exit from a particular area).
- b) A CSP (e.g., network infrastructure controller or other type of central controller) may then operate to, based at least in part on the determined positional characteristics of the MCD, determine whether the MCD should have access to particular communication networks and/or associated communication pathways.
 - i) Such determination may be based on any of variety of types of information, in addition to MCD position (location) information. For example:
 - (1) Estimated or actual communication quality
 - (2) Number of subscribers and/or other users present in a particular area. For example, the CSP (controller or other network equipment) may track the number of subscribers and/or other users in a particular area (e.g., coverage area, venue, intersection, building, etc.).

- (3) Number of subscribers and/or other users communicating in a particular area.
- (4) Amount of available bandwidth
- (5) Time, day, date, type-of-day, etc.
 - (a) *E.g.*, MCD's at a particular venue may be treated differently at different times/days.
- (6) Type of communication service requested (*e.g.*, connection-oriented, connectionless, guaranteed bandwidth, real-time, non-real-time, QoS requirements, etc.)
- (7) Owner or controller of the other communication pathways/networks.
- (8) Predicted utilization of network communication resources by particular users or groups of users.
- (9) Quality requirements of the user(s)
- (10) Whether a proposed communication is real-time critical or not
- (11) Whether desired information (*e.g.*, particular streaming audio and/or video is already being communicated on the native network and/or an alternative network and is thus already conveniently available)
- c) If the CSP (or network operator or various components thereof) determines that the MCD should have access to such other network(s), then the controller authorizes the MCD to access such other networks.
 - i) Such authorization may, for example, include communicating authorization information to the MCD and/or the other communication networks.
 - ii) In one scenario, for example, the MCD may operate to receive such authorization information (which may also include various authorization, authentication and/or secure access information) and to utilize such authorization information to initiate and/or perform access procedures associated with such authorized networks.
 - iii) Authorization activities may be automatic (*i.e.*, performed without direct user interaction) or may be performed by, at least in part, interfacing with the user of the MCD and/or a human network controller.

- (1) In a non-limiting exemplary scenario, the CSP (or controller, network operator, network equipment, etc.) may interact with the MCD, which in turn notifies a user that the user is better off presently utilizing an alternative communication pathway (*e.g.*, through a non-native network). Such information may be provided to the user through any of a variety of user interface features.
 - (2) Such notification may, for example, identify particular networks to which the CSP knows are (or should be) presently available to the MCD.
 - (3) Such notification may also include an indication of a particular incentive or disincentive being offered by the CSP for operation on the native communication network(s) and/or alternative communication network(s).
- d) If the CSP (or equipment thereof) determines that the MCD should not have access to such other network(s), then the CSP might communicate a message to the MCD or other network(s) indicating that such access is denied.
 - e) Such access to alternative communication pathways (and/or associated networks) might be associated with different billing mechanisms.
 - i) For example, in various scenarios where it is desirable from the CSP's viewpoint for the MCD to access such other communication pathways and/or networks (*e.g.*, communication resources are running low and/or predicted to run low; or actual or predicted quality is relatively low on the present pathways), the controller (or other equipment) might provide an incentive (*e.g.*, a monetary incentive, quality incentive, etc.) to encourage such activity (*e.g.*, charging nothing or less than the normal amount for communication minutes using such pathways and/or networks, elevate status of the MCD to that of a "preferred user" for higher priority bandwidth allocation, etc.).
 - ii) In another exemplary scenario where it is not desirable from the CSP's viewpoint for the MCD to access such other pathways and/or networks (*e.g.*, when there are adequate or predicted amounts of communication resources available), the CSP (controller, network operator, network equipment, etc.) might disallow such activity or might provide a monetary disincentive to

discourage such activity (*e.g.*, charging more than the normal amount for communication minutes using such pathways and/or networks).

- iii) Incentives may also be quality-based, speed-based, priority-based, coupon-based, etc.
- f) The determination may also be based on type-of-service
 - i) For example, a CSP might authorize generic web browsing access to a WLAN, but not for voice communications (*e.g.*, using various known applications that provide VoIP service, using known hardware associated with voice communication, etc.).
 - ii) In another example, a CSP might authorize music streaming operation in a particular geographical area only when the one or more networks associated with the CSP are loaded to at least a particular threshold.
- g) Another aspect may comprise tracking utilization of various communication networks and/or media types and/or applications by the MCD.
 - i) For example, the MCD might comprise one or more modules (*e.g.*, hardware and/or software modules) that operate to monitor voice communication minutes of the MCD associated with various networks.
 - (1) For example, X voice minutes over cellular, Y voice minutes over WLAN1 using VoIP, Z voice minutes over WLAN2 using VoIP and M minutes over MAN using VoIP.
 - ii) Such tracking may be performed in any of a variety of manners
 - (1) For example, utilization of particular applications and/or utilization of particular applications in conjunction with access to various networks might be monitored (*e.g.*, VoIP applications, multi-media applications, file download applications, mobile TV applications, etc.).
 - (2) Also for example, utilization of particular MCD components (hardware and/or software components) may be monitored (*e.g.*, utilization of vocoders, audio and/or video compressors/decompressors, voice and/or video-related filters, protocol subroutines, etc.).

- iii) Such tracked utilization may then be used by the controller for any of a variety of functions (*e.g.*, billing, load management, network design and/or resource allocation, etc.).
- h) The determination of authorization and/or the communication of information regarding such authorization may be performed at any of a variety of times and in response to any of a variety of causes and/or conditions. For example:
 - i) As the MCD moves into a region or is detected in a particular coverage area.
 - ii) As the MCD initializes
 - iii) As the MCD detects user interaction with the MCD
 - iv) As the MCD requests access to a particular network
 - v) As the MCD executes a particular application
 - vi) In mid-communication
 - vii) As communication quality between the MCD and a network associated with the CSP degrades to a particular point or such communication becomes impossible.
 - viii) As a particular number of users (uses in general or users associated with the CSP and associated network(s)) are detected in an area.
 - ix) In response to an explicit user request for such a determination.
 - x) In response to time/date/day/type-of-day.
- i) Non-limiting exemplary environments.
 - i) Figures 1 and 2 provide a non-limiting exemplary communication Environment into which various aspects may be incorporated.
 - (1) The various operations discussed previously may be performed in a communication device (*e.g.*, a mobile communication device), by communication network infrastructure equipment (*e.g.*, access points or base stations, central controllers, switching centers, base station controllers, network routers and/or managers), by central control apparatus associated with the CSP, etc., or any combination thereof. Figure 2 provides a non-limiting illustration of various components that may be incorporated into such devices and/or equipment.

- j) Figures 3 and 4 show exemplary block diagrams of a communication device (*e.g.*, a MCD and/or communication network access point).
- i) Various components of Figures 3 and 4 might be incorporated and/or removed in accordance with the particular communication scenario at hand.
- ii) In addition, Figures 3 and 4 may similarly be representative of a central controller (*e.g.*, of a CSP and/or communication network), where as explained previously, any or all aspects discussed previously may be performed in such a controller (*e.g.*, by explicit hardware, by a processor executing software instructions, etc.).
- iii) For example, Figures 3 and 4 provide non-limiting exemplary illustrations of various PHY interfaces (in accordance with various communication media and/or associated communication protocols), audio and/or video encoders/decoders, compressors/decompressors, signal processors, signal processing modules, user interface features, etc.
- k) Figure 5 provides a flow diagram illustrating a non-exemplary method, in a communication device.
- l) Figure 6 provides a flow diagram illustrating a non-exemplary method, in a communication system.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A mobile communication device comprising at least one module that operates to, at least:
 - determine position of the mobile communication device;
 - communicate information of the determined position to a communication network; and
 - receive, from a primary communication network, information of authorization to use an alternative communication network, said received information based, at least in part, on the determined position.
2. A primary communication system comprising at least one module that operates to, at least:
 - determine position of a mobile communication device;
 - based, at least in part, on the determined position of the mobile communication device, determine whether the mobile communication device is authorized to access an alternative communication network; and
 - communicate information regarding said determined authorization to the mobile communication device.
3. A method, in a mobile communication device, substantially as shown and described with respect to at least the previous description, for determining whether access to an alternative communication network is authorized.
4. A mobile communication device, substantially as shown and described with respect to at least the previous description, for determining whether access to an alternative communication network is authorized.
5. A method, in a communication system, substantially as shown and described with respect to at least the previous description, for determining whether access to an alternative communication network is authorized.

6. A communication system, substantially as shown and described with respect to at least the previous description, for determining whether access to an alternative communication network is authorized.

POSITION-BASED CONTROL OF ACCESS TO ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION NETWORKS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and method for determining, based at least in part on communication device position, whether access to an alternative communication network is authorized.

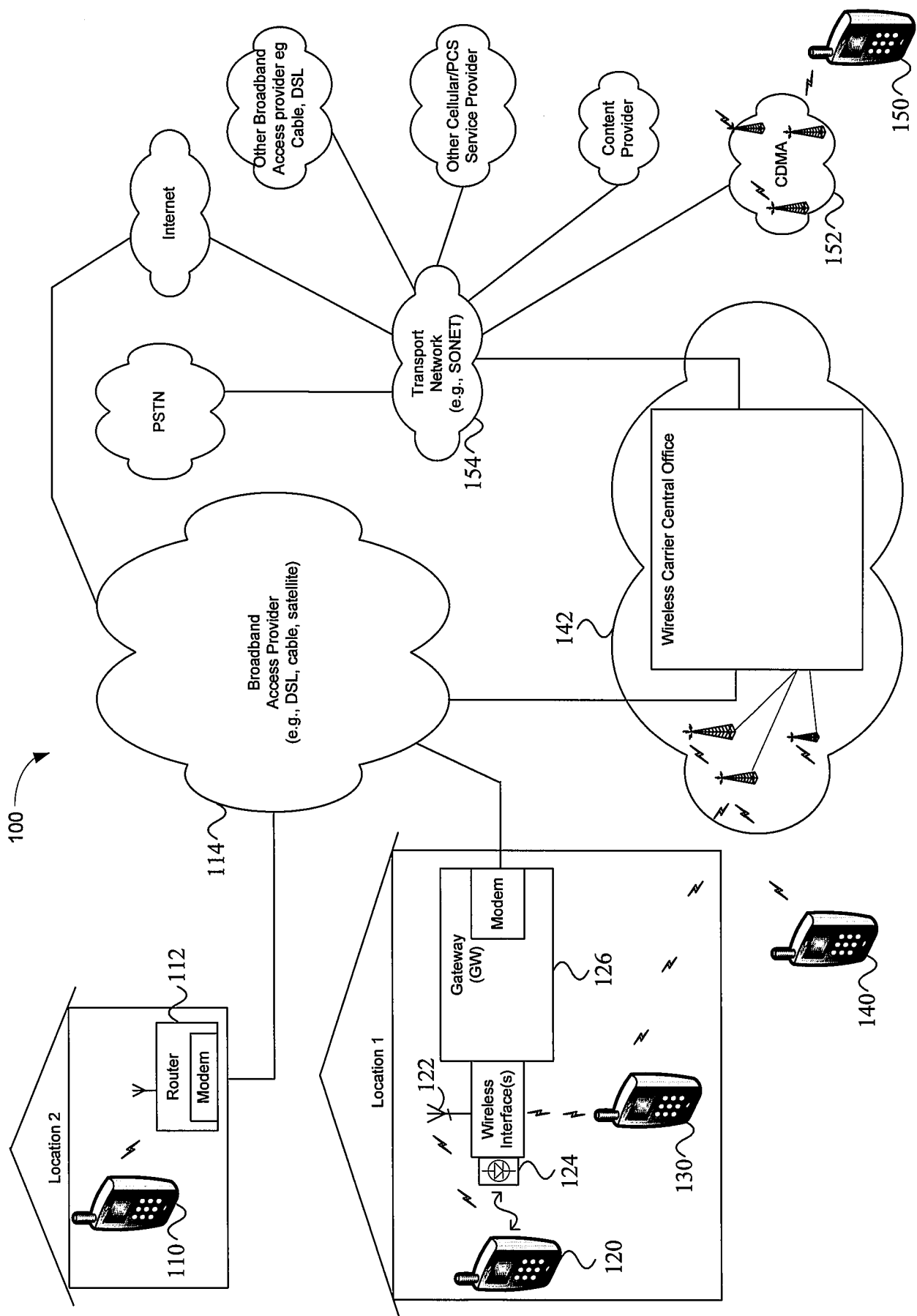


Figure 1

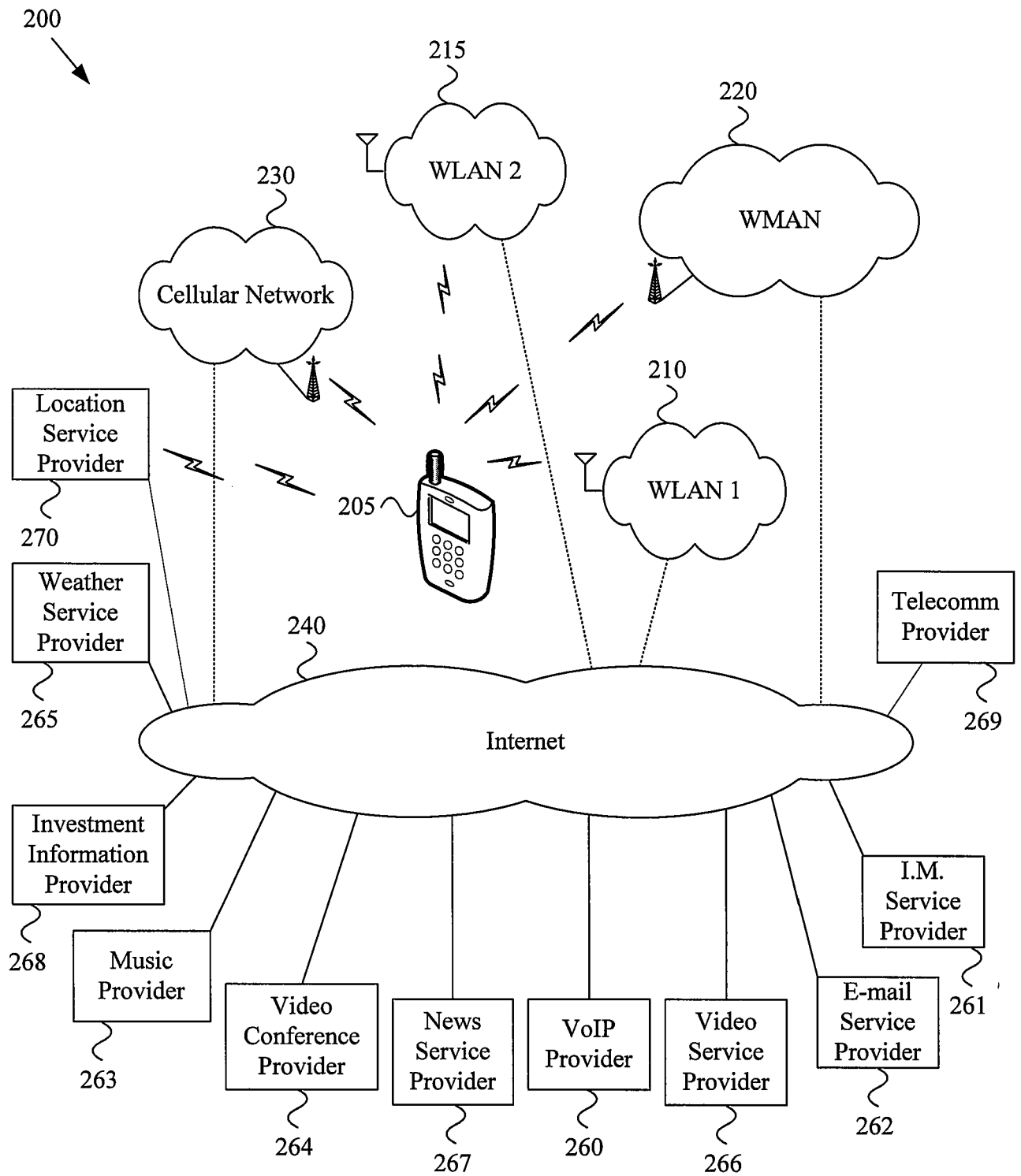


Figure 2

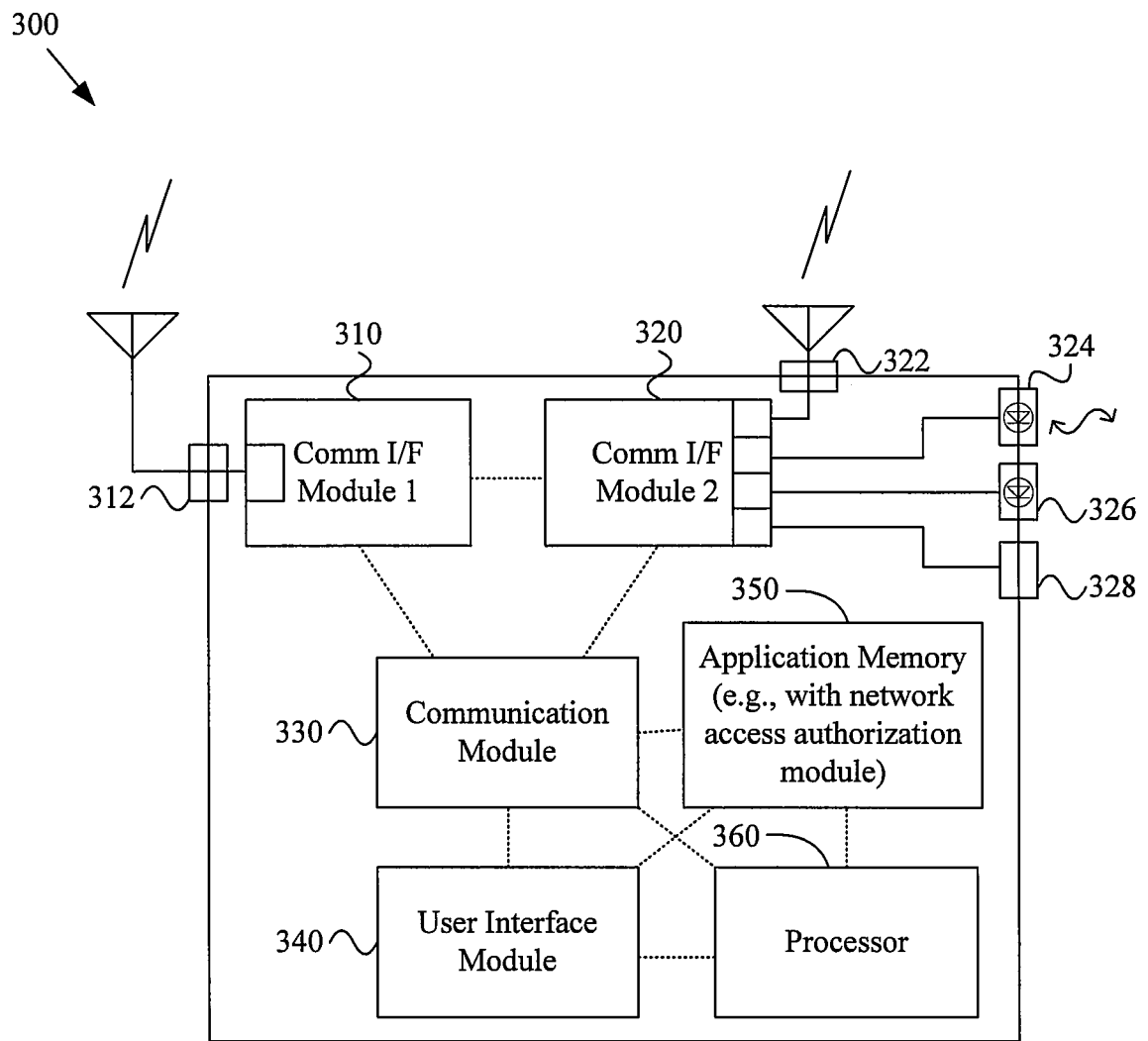


Figure 3

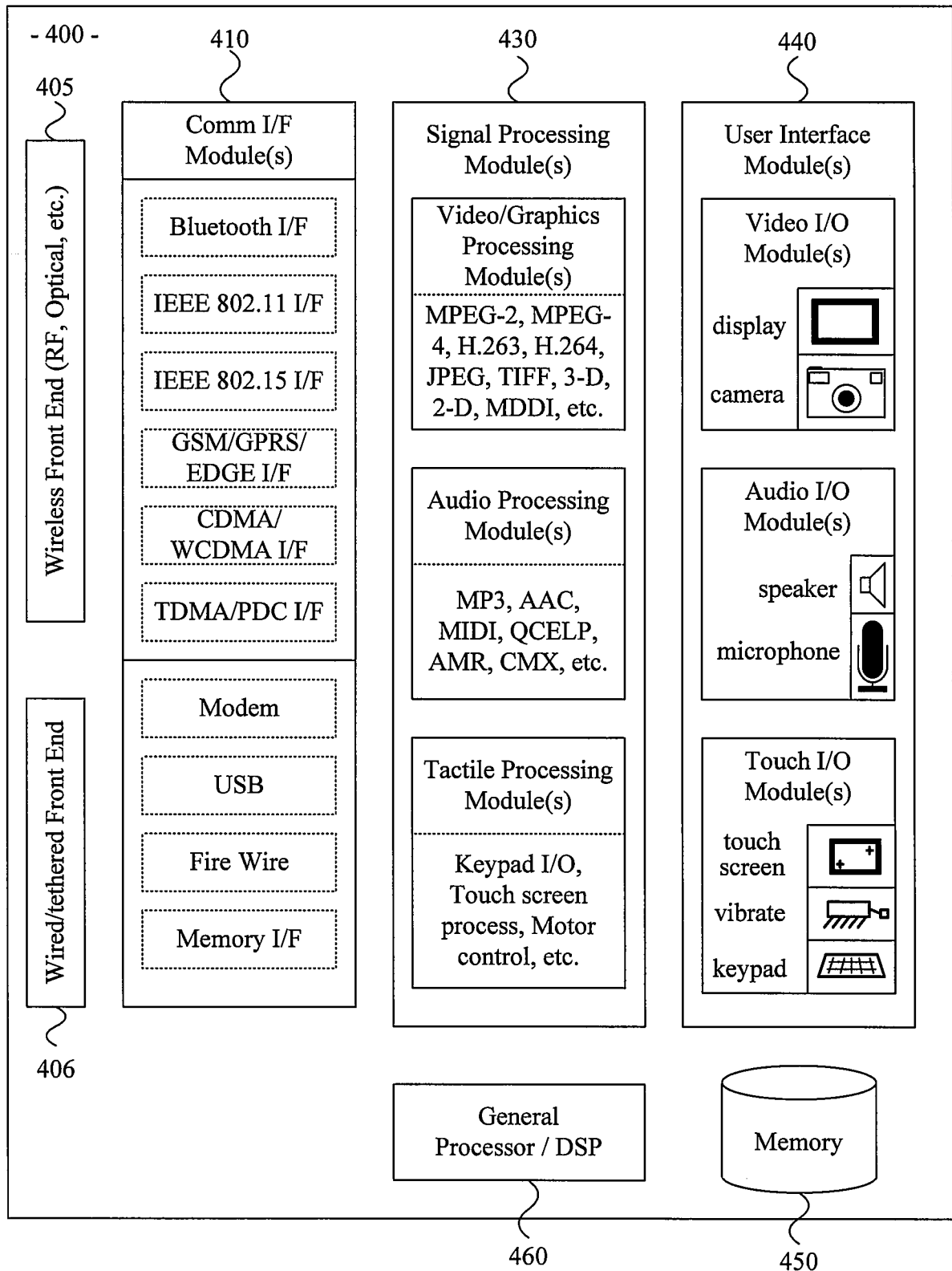


Figure 4

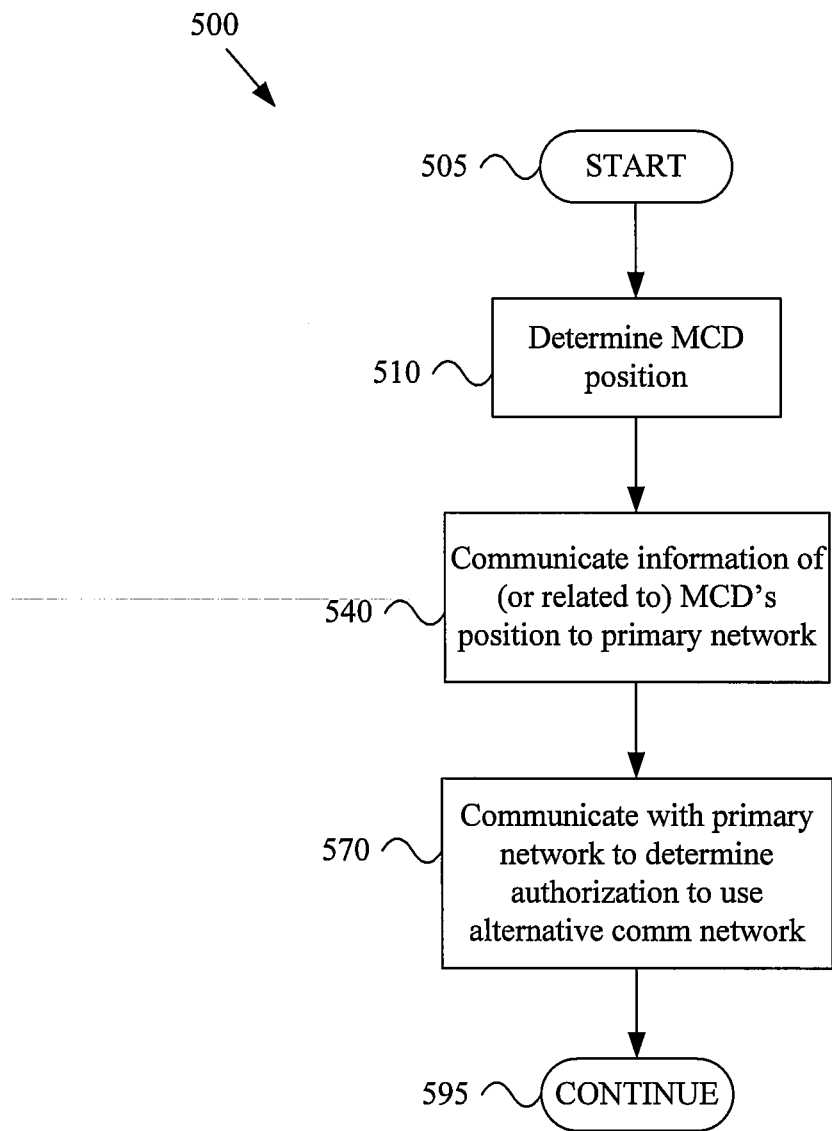


Figure 5

600

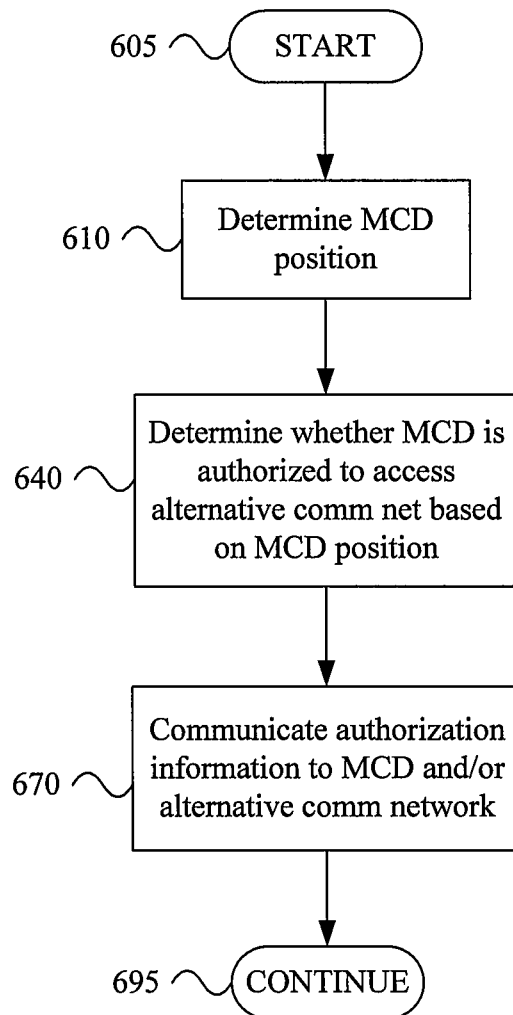


Figure 6

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal				
Application Number:				
Filing Date:				
Title of Invention:		POSITION-BASED CONTROL OF ACCESS TO ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION NETWORKS		
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:		Jeyhan Karaoguz		
Filer:		Shawn Leonard Peterson/Darlene Long		
Attorney Docket Number:		19916US01		
Filed as Large Entity				
Provisional Filing Fees				
Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
Provisional application filing	1005	1	210	210
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Miscellaneous:				
Total in USD (\$)				210

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

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First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Jeyhan Karaoguz
Customer Number:	23446
Filer:	Shawn Leonard Peterson/Darlene Long
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RAM confirmation Number	131
Deposit Account	130017
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File Listing:					
Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Provisional Cover Sheet (SB16)	19916US01_Provisional_Cover_Sheet.pdf	1000272	no	3
			be3e9fa402159381c3e88bc8ae7d4453a50427ec		
Warnings:					
Information:					
2		19916US01_Application.pdf	1146481	yes	16
			a1deb520fe277837379d584e267b12563608e0fd		
	Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description				
	Document Description		Start	End	
	Specification		1	13	
	Claims		14	15	
	Abstract		16	16	
Warnings:					
Information:					
3	Drawings-only black and white line drawings	19916US01_FIGS.pdf	343654	no	6
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Warnings:					
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4	Fee Worksheet (PTO-06)	fee-info.pdf	29780	no	2
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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING or 371(c) DATE	GRP ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY. DOCKET NO	TOT CLAIMS	IND CLAIMS
61/091,523	08/25/2008		210	19916US01		

CONFIRMATION NO. 2478

23446
MCANDREWS HELD & MALLOY, LTD
500 WEST MADISON STREET
SUITE 3400
CHICAGO, IL 60661

FILING RECEIPT



OC000000031905393

Date Mailed: 09/08/2008

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Applicant(s)

Jeyhan Karaoguz, Irvine, CA;

Power of Attorney:

Shawn Peterson--44286

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted: 09/04/2008

The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is **US 61/091,523**

Projected Publication Date: None, application is not eligible for pre-grant publication

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No

Title

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