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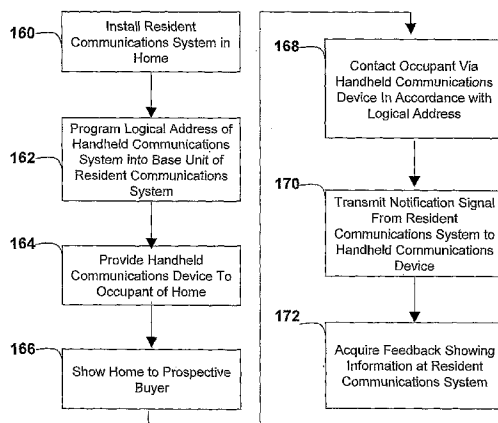
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(54) Title: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR NOTIFYING OCCUPANT OF COMPLETION OF HOME SHOWING

Fig. 7



(57) Abstract: Methods and systems for facilitating sale of a home in which an occupant is absent are provided. A resident communications system is installed at the home. Upon completion of a showing at the home by a real estate agent, a signal is transmitted from the resident communication system. The signal can be a home identifier that is subsequently received by a centralized showing system, which correlates the home identifier with a logical address of a handheld communications device carried by the occupant, and contacts and informs the occupant via the handheld communications device that the home showing has been completed. Or the signal can be a notification signal that is transmitted directly to the handheld communications device for notifying the occupant that the home showing has been completed.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US05/40858

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: **G06Q 10/00**(2006.01);**G05B 19/00**(2006.01)

USPC: 705/1;340/5.73

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 705/1; 340/5.73

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 6,624,742 B1 (ROMANO et al.) 23 September 2003 (23.09.2003)	1-168
Y	EP 1369321 A2 (RE, Gianpaolo) 13 December 2002 (13.12.2002)	1-168
Y	US 6,684,196 B1 (MINI et al.) 27 January 2004 (27.01.2004)	44-168

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:		
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search 22 June 2008 (22.06.2008)	Date of mailing of the international search report 30 OCT 2008
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201	Authorized officer NARESH VIG Telephone No. 571.272.3600

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
Please See Continuation Sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fees.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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BOX III. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING

Group 1, claim(s) 1 – 43 and 73 – 102, drawn to method and apparatus for showing a home from to a potential home buyer by using a resident communications system comprising a base unit and a remote unit (located at an ingress/egress of the home) wherein upon completion of the home showing transmission of an activation signal from the remote unit to the base unit, wherein, in response to the activation signal the home identifier is transmitted from the base unit to a centralized showing system.

Group 2, claim(s) 44 – 60 , and 61-72 and 122 – 137, drawn to method and apparatus for sales of homes by showing a home to a potential home buyer, wherein occupants carrying a handheld device, after a predetermined period of time has expired after receipt of the respective home identifiers, occupants are contacted (manually or automatically) via the respective handheld communications device in accordance with the correlated home identifiers; and informing the occupants that the showings of the respective homes have been completed. Resident communications system are installed at the homes, wherein the resident communications systems are configured for transmitting the home identifiers upon completion of the respective home showings. A look-up table for storing the home identifiers and corresponding logical addresses for the handheld communications devices, wherein the processor accesses the look-up table to perform the correlation function.

Group 3, claim(s) 103 – 113 , 114 – 121, 138 – 149, 150 – 154, 155 – 160 and 161 – 168, drawn to method and apparatus for performance of tasks at homes, wherein the home having a resident communications system (comprises a base unit and a remote unit located at an ingress/egress of the home) storing a home identifier correlatable to a handheld communications device carried by the occupant; upon completion of the task transmitting an activation signal from the remote unit to the base unit, in response to the mechanical actuation of a single switch transmitting the stored home identifier from the resident communications system to a centralized showing system..