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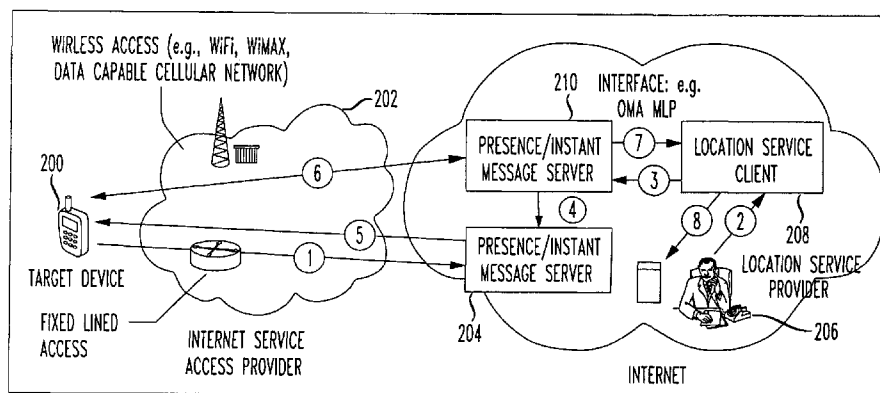
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(54) Title: USER PLANE LOCATION SERVICES OVER SESSION INITIATION PROTOCOL



BASIC CALL FLOW OF USER PLANE LOCATION SERVICE OVER SIP

(57) Abstract: A method and mechanism to allow a location server to initiate a user plane location service (e.g., SUPL defined by OMA) procedure to a user plane enabled device via Instant Messaging, or alternatively, via an existing SIP session if a multimedia session is already established. The location request is signaled to the user plane enabled device via a SIP INFO message. The location request uses SIP messaging to overcome firewall and other network security issues. Location using SUPL over SIP may be provided about a caller making an E911 emergency call. An Instant Message may be sent to the user plane enabled device, e.g., a VoIP wireless phone.

USER PLANE LOCATION SERVICES OVER SESSION INITIATION PROTOCOL (SIP)

The present application claims priority from U.S. Provisional
5 Application No. 60/861,267, entitled "User Plane Location Service over
Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)", filed November 28, 2006, the entirety of
which is expressly incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates generally to wireless and long distance
carriers, Internet Service Providers (ISPs), and information content
delivery services/providers and long distance carriers. More particularly, it
relates to location services for the wireless industry.

15

2. Background of Related Art

Location information regarding subscribers is becoming
increasingly available in a wireless network. Location information relates
to absolute coordinates of a wireless device.

20

Fig. 4 shows a conventional LoCation Services (LCS)
request.

In particular, as shown in Fig. 4, a location server **106**
requests location information regarding a particular mobile subscriber
(MS) from a core network node, e.g., from a Mobile Switch Center (MSC)
25 **110**. Requested information regarding a particular wireless device (MS)
may include, e.g., attach, detach, and location area update. The location
server **106** may also request information regarding the wireless device
such as attach, detach and/or location area update from a Packet Data
Node (e.g., SGSN, GGSN, or PDSN), or help the device calculate x/y
30 direction. Typically, location information regarding a particular wireless
device is requested of a home location register (HLR).

As shown in step 1 of Fig. 4, a locations services client **104** sends a message to a location server **106**.

In step 2, the location server **106** sends a Provide Subscriber Info message to a Home Location Register **108**, requesting
5 subscriber information regarding a particular subscriber.

In step 3, the carrier's Home Location Register (HLR) **108** provides the subscriber information for the requested subscriber back to the location server **106**.

In step 4, location information regarding the requested
10 subscriber is requested to either an MSC or Packet Data node **110**. The MSC or Packet Data Node preferably provides precise location information using, e.g., a global positioning satellite (GPS), triangulation techniques, or other relevant locating technology, or helps the device calculate X/Y direction.

15 In step 5, the location request is forwarded to the Radio Access Network (RAN) **112** if needed.

In step 6, precise, updated location information regarding the requested subscriber is sent to the location server (LS) **106**.

In step 7, an ultimate response to the original location
20 request is sent to the LCS client **104** that initially requested the location information.

Secure User Plane for Location (SUPL) is a standards-based protocol that has been developed to allow a mobile handset client to communicate with a location server, e.g., as shown in step 1 of Fig. 4.
25 The SUPL specification is defined by the Open Mobile Alliance (OMA) standards working group. Refer to OMA Secure User Plane Location Architecture document, OMA-AD-SUPL-V1_0-20060127-C for more details on OMA SUPL call flows; and OMA User Plane Location Protocol document, OMA-TS-ULP-V1_0-20060127-C. The OMA SUPL Version 1
30 specifies two basic types call flows: (1) a SUPL network initiated (NI) call flow, and (2) a SUPL set initiated (SI) call flow. According to the SUPL

standard, a session ID has a unique value consisting of server and handset portions.

Fig. 5 shows typical OMA mobile terminated call flow for a SUPL location request initiated by a SUPL agent.

5 In particular, as shown in Fig. 5, messages are passed between a SUPL agent **802** residing in the network, a sat reference server **804**, a SUPL server **806**, a PPG **808**, and a SUPL terminal (SET) **812**.

 The SUPL server (or SUPL location platform (SLP)) **806** comprises a SUPL location center (SLC) and SUPL positioning center (SPC). A mobile device is generalized in Fig. 5 as a SUPL enabled terminal (SET) **812**. The SLC coordinates operations of SUPL communications in the network, and controls the SPC component. The SPC Provides global positioning system (GPS) assistance data to the SUPL enabled terminal (SET) **812**, and performs precise position
10 calculation of a SET **812**.
15

 Network initiated location requests **820** arrive at the SUPL server **806** via an MLP interface. The SUPL server **806** processing this network initiated request is required to send a trigger message (SUPL INIT message) **822** to the SET **812** for validating and initiating a SUPL positioning session **828**. The trigger message **822** is sent to the SET **812**
20 as a push message **824** from the PPG **808** (or as an SMS message from an SMSC/MC). At that point, the SET **812** needs to establish a secure TCP/IP connection to the SUPL server **806** to respond to the SUPL positioning request.

25 For network initiated end-to-end IP based location services, when a location server needs to find out contact information (e.g. an IP address) of a given target, the location server sends a trigger to the target to allow the target to establish a session with the location server. Conventional IP based user plane location services (e.g., OMA SUPL) are
30 built upon WAP Push/SMS messaging and TCP as a transport protocol for initiating a mobile terminating positioning procedure.

There are some scenarios where conventional use of User Plane Location Services does not work or does not work well.

For example, in one scenario where a target device has Internet access via, e.g. WLAN, LAN, or DSL, it may not be possible for the location server to initiate location by use of an SMS, WAP Push. This is particularly true if the location server cannot determine the IP address of the target device, and the network to which the target device attaches does not support correct inter-working with SMS or WAP Push messaging.

A second example relates to Voice over IP (VoIP) based emergency calling (there are some variances in the wireless industry, e.g., IMS emergency in the 3GPP standard and MMD emergency in the 3GPP2 standard, referred to generally as a SIP call by the IETF.) This scenario depicts an emergency call which has already established a SIP session with the serving network. During the emergency call, the appropriate Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) may require updated location information relating to the emergency caller.

The present inventors appreciate that the existing mechanism of using WAP Push/SMS messaging may not be efficient and reliable, as WAP Push/SMS messaging is built upon store-and-forward mechanisms. In other words, there is no guarantee that the trigger of a location service request will be delivered to a target before the emergency call ends.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention introduces a method and a mechanism that allows a location server to initiate a user plane location service (e.g., SUPL) procedure to a user plane enabled device via Instant Messaging, or alternatively, via an existing SIP session if a multimedia session is already established.

In accordance with one aspect of the invention, a method and apparatus for obtaining a location of a caller comprises initiating a

user plane location service procedure. If a session initiation protocol (SIP) session already exists, a location request is signaled to a user plane enabled caller device via session initiation protocol (SIP).

5 A method and apparatus for obtaining a location of a caller in accordance with another aspect of the invention comprises determining if a multimedia session is already established with a caller. If a multimedia session is already established with the caller, updated location information of the caller is obtained via an existing session initiation protocol (SIP) session.

10

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the following description with reference to the drawings, in which:

15 Fig. 1 illustrates a high level message flow where User Plane Location Service uses SIP based signaling as the transport, in accordance with the principles of the present invention.

Fig. 2 illustrates a variance of the User Plane Location Service procedure where a location server acts as a watcher of the location service and initiates a location retrieval procedure only when the target device is on-line, in accordance with the principles of the present invention.

20 Fig. 3 illustrates another use case where the solution of User Plane Location Service over SIP is used to retrieve the updated location of a VoIP emergency caller, in accordance with the principles of the present invention.

Fig. 4 shows a conventional LoCation Services (LCS) request.

30 Fig. 5 shows typical OMA mobile terminated call flow for a SUPL location request initiated by a SUPL agent.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIVE EMBODIMENTS

The present invention introduces a method and a mechanism that allows a location server to initiate the user plane location service procedure to a user plane enabled device via Instant Messaging, or alternatively, via an existing SIP session if a multimedia session is already established.

Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) is an Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) standard protocol for initiating an interactive user session that involves multimedia elements such as video, voice, chat, gaming, virtual reality, etc. SIP is specified in IETF Request for Comments (RFC) 2543. Like HTTP or SMTP, SIP works in the application layer of the open systems interconnection (OSI) communications model. SIP can also be used to invite participants to sessions that do not necessarily involve the initiator. Because SIP supports name mapping and redirection services, it makes it possible for users to initiate and receive communications and services from any location, and for networks to identify the users wherever they are. SIP is a request-response protocol dealing with requests from clients and responses from servers. Participants are identified by SIP universal resource locators (URLs). Requests can be sent through any transport protocol, such as UDP, SCTP, or TCP. SIP determines the end system to be used for the session, the communication media and media partners, and the called party's desire to engage in the communication. Once these are assured, SIP establishes call parameters at either end of the communication, and handles call transfer and termination.

Fig. 1 illustrates a high level message flow where User Plane Location Service uses SIP based signaling as the transport, in accordance with the principles of the present invention.

In particular, as shown in Fig. 1, the general service description is described as follows:

In step 1 of Fig. 1, a location service enabled device **200** has

successfully granted Internet access from an Internet Service Access Provider **202**, via either fixed lined access (e.g., dial-up, DSL, cable or LAN) or wireless access using one of the following (but not limited): Wireless LAN (WLAN) that is built based on IEEE 802.11x; Wireless
5 personal area network (WPAN) that is built based on IEEE 802.15 (also referred to as BLUETOOTH™); Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access (WiMAX) or Wireless metropolitan area network (WMAN), which is built based on IEEE 802.16; Third generation (3G) packet data access technologies based on UMTS or 1xEVDO, or the enhanced technologies,
10 e.g. High Speed Downlink Packet Access (HSDPA); packet data access over satellite; or High speed packet data access over speed point-to-point optical link, e.g. built based on IEEE 802.17.

The location service enabled device **200** then initiates the necessary registration of presence service per RFC2778, 2779 and 3856.
15 Upon registration to the presence service, the device contact information including networking information (e.g. IP address) etc. is stored in a presence server **204**.

In step 2, a request for location information of the location service enabled device **200** is generated by a location service provider
20 **206**. The location request may be generated by an application in the network that uses the location information, e.g., a weather report based on location; or by an application that resides in the end user terminal.

In step 3, the corresponding location service client **208** sends a location request to a location server **210** for the target device **200**
25 specified by one of the following identifiers, together with other criteria: MSISDN; IMSI; MSN; MIN; IP address; SIP URI; TEL URI; or XMPP URI.

In step 4, upon receiving the location request, the location server **210** examines the identifier(s) of the target device **200** and
30 determines that the target device **200** is not in a conventional mobile network (e.g., packet data enabled cellular network). The location server

210 then initiates an Instant Message containing the information needed to trigger the user plane location service procedure to the presence/Instant Message server **204**. The location server **210** may retrieve the SIP URI, XMPP URI or TEL URI of the target device **200** based on the received
5 identifier other than SIP URI, XMPP URI or TEL URI from other network entities, e.g., HLR/HSS in the cellular networks.

In step 5, based on the registration information, the presence/Instant Message server **204** forwards the Instant Message to the target device **200** via SIP. In the disclosed embodiments, the Instant
10 Message can be sent over the existing SIP session if there is an existing SIP session established between the target device **200** and the presence/Instant Message server **204**.

In step 6, upon receipt of the Instant Message containing information necessary for triggering the User Plane Location Service
15 procedure, the target device **200** initiates a User Plane Location Service session with the location server **210**. The User Plane Location Service signaling can either use standard TCP/IP or UDP/IP, or use standard SIP signaling as the transport. Using SIP signaling as the transport has some advantage when there are security entities (e.g. firewalls) involved in the
20 networks, where direct IP connectivity with certain ports is not accessible. Upon completion of the User Plane Location Service procedure, the location server **210** retrieves a location fix of the target device **200**.

In step 7, the location server **210** returns the retrieved location fix to the location service client **208**.

25 In step 8, the location service client **208** sends the location information back to the location service application.

Fig. 2 illustrates a variance of the User Plane Location Service procedure where a location server **210** acts as a watcher of the location service **210** and initiates a location retrieval procedure only when
30 the target device **200** is on-line, in accordance with the principles of the present invention.

The procedure shown and described with respect to Fig. 2 may be implemented as the primary procedure for a User Plane Location Service. Alternatively, it can be implemented as a fallback procedure to the call flow shown and described with respect to Fig. 1.

5 The general service description shown in Fig. 2 is described as follows:

 In step 1, a request for location information of the location service enabled device **200** is generated by a location service provider **206**. The location request may be generated by an application in the
10 network that uses the location information, e.g., a weather report based on location; or by an application that resides in the end user terminal.

 In step 2, the corresponding location service client **208** sends a location request to a location server **210** for the target device **200** specified by one of the following identifiers, together with other criteria:
15 MSISDN; IMSI; MSN; MIN; IP address; SIP URI; TEL URI; or XMPP URI.

 In step 3, upon receipt of the location request message, the location server **210** examines the identifier(s) of the target device **200** and determines that the target device **200** is not being served by a
20 conventional mobile network (e.g., packet data enabled cellular network). The location server **210** then initiates a request to the presence/Instant Message server **204**, to obtain presence related information of the target device **200**.

 In step 4, the target device **200** becomes available and
25 sends a status update to the presence/Instant Message server **204**.

 In step 5, the presence/Instant Message server **204** sends a notification containing the contact information for the target device **200**. The contact information may include, e.g., an IP address of the target device **200**.

30 In step 6, optionally, the location server **210** initiates an Instant Message containing the information needed to trigger the user

plane location service procedure to the presence/Instant Message server **204**.

In step 7, based on the registration information, the presence/Instant Message server **204** forwards the Instant Message to the target device **200** via SIP. In the disclosed embodiments, the Instant Message can be sent over the existing SIP session if there is an existing SIP session established between the target device **200** and the presence/Instant Message server **204**.

In step 8, upon receipt of the Instant Message containing information necessary for triggering the User Plane Location Service procedure, the target device **200** initiates a User Plane Location Service session with the location server **210**. The User Plane Location Service signaling can either use standard TCP/IP or UDP/IP, or use standard SIP signaling as the transport. Using SIP signaling as the transport has some advantage when there are security entities (e.g. firewalls) involved in the networks, where direct IP connectivity with certain ports is not accessible. Upon completion of the User Plane Location Service procedure, the location server **210** retrieves a location fix of the target device **200**.

In step 9, the location server **210** returns the retrieved location fix to the location service client **208**.

In step 10, the location service client **208** sends the location information back to the location service application.

Fig. 3 illustrates another use case where a User Plane Location Service over SIP is used to retrieve updated location information regarding a voice over Internet protocol (VoIP) emergency caller, in accordance with the principles of the present invention.

The general service description shown in Fig. 3 is described as follows:

In step 1 of Fig. 3, a VoIP based emergency call is initiated from a VoIP terminal **300**, via either fixed line access (e.g., dial-up, digital subscriber loop (DSL), cable or local area network (LAN)), or wireless

access using one of the following (but not limited): Wireless LAN (WLAN) that is built based on IEEE 802.11x; Wireless personal area network (WPAN) that is built based on IEEE 802.15 (also referred to as BLUETOOTH™); Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access (WiMAX) or Wireless metropolitan area network (WMAN), which is built based on IEEE 802.16; Third generation (3G) packet data access technologies based on UMTS or 1xEVDO, or the enhanced technologies, e.g. High Speed Downlink Packet Access (HSDPA); packet data access over satellite; or High speed packet data access over speed point-to-point optical link, e.g. built based on IEEE 802.17.

The VoIP emergency call is established with an appropriate Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) 310 through the public switched telephone network (PSTN) 320, selective router network 330, or direct session Internet Protocol (SIP) based network from the emergency 911 call server 304.

In step 2, during the VoIP emergency call, the PSAP 310 requests an updated location of the VoIP emergency caller 300.

In step 3, if the location server 210 is in the SIP call signaling path, it initiates a trigger message using the User Plane Location Service embedded in a SIP INFO message to the E911 call server 304.

In step 4, the SIP INFO message is forwarded to the VoIP emergency caller 300.

In step 5, upon receipt of the trigger message using a User Plane Location Service, the VoIP terminal 300 from which the VoIP emergency call was initiated starts a User Plane Location Service procedure with the location server 306.

In step 6, the location server 306 returns retrieved location information to the PSAP 310.

While the invention has been described with reference to the exemplary embodiments thereof, those skilled in the art will be able to

make various modifications to the described embodiments of the invention without departing from the true spirit and scope of the invention.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for obtaining a location of a caller, comprising:
initiating a user plane location service procedure; and
5 if a session initiation protocol (SIP) session already exists,
signaling a location request to a user plane enabled caller device via
session initiation protocol (SIP).
2. The method for obtaining a location of a caller according
10 to claim 1, wherein:
said location request is signaled to said user plane enabled
caller device via a SIP INFO message.
3. The method for obtaining a location of a caller according
15 to claim 1, wherein:
said location request uses SIP messaging as a transport
message of said user plane location service procedure to overcome an
issue otherwise introduced by network security.
- 20 4. The method for obtaining a location of a caller according
to claim 3, wherein:
said issue otherwise introduced by network security is a
firewall.
- 25 5. The method for obtaining a location of a caller according
to claim 1, wherein:
a call relating to said caller is an emergency call.

6. The method for obtaining a location of a caller according to claim 1, wherein said initiating comprises:

 sending an Instant Message to said user plane enabled caller device.

5

7. The method for obtaining a location of a caller according to claim 1, wherein:

 said user plane enabled caller device is a voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone.

10

8. The method for obtaining a location of a caller according to claim 7, wherein:

 said VoIP phone is a wireless VoIP phone.

15

9. The method for obtaining a location of a caller according to claim 1, wherein:

 said user plane location service procedure complies with a secure user plane for location (SUPL) standard defined by Open Mobile Alliance (OMA).

20

10. Apparatus for obtaining a location of a caller, comprising:

 means for initiating a user plane location service procedure;

and

25

 means for signaling a location request, if a session initiation protocol (SIP) session already exists, to a user plane enabled caller device via session initiation protocol (SIP).

11. The apparatus for obtaining a location of a caller according to claim 10, wherein:

said means for signaling said location request signals to said user plane enabled caller device via a SIP INFO message.

5

12. The apparatus for obtaining a location of a caller according to claim 10 wherein:

said means for signaling said location request uses SIP messaging as a transport message of said user plane location service procedure to overcome an issue otherwise introduced by network security.

10

13. The apparatus for obtaining a location of a caller according to claim 12, wherein:

said issue otherwise introduced by network security is a firewall.

15

14. The apparatus for obtaining a location of a caller according to claim 10, wherein:

a call relating to said caller is an emergency call.

20

15. The apparatus for obtaining a location of a caller according to claim 10, wherein said means for initiating comprises:

means for sending an Instant Message to said user plane enabled caller device.

25

16. The apparatus for obtaining a location of a caller according to claim 10, wherein:

said user plane enabled caller device is a voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone.

30

17. The apparatus for obtaining a location of a caller according to claim 16, wherein:

said VoIP phone is a wireless VoIP phone.

5 18. The apparatus for obtaining a location of a caller according to claim 10, wherein:

said user plane location service procedure complies with a secure user plane for location (SUPL) standard defined by Open Mobile Alliance (OMA).

10 19. A method for obtaining a location of a caller, comprising:
determining if a multimedia session is already established with a caller; and

obtaining updated location information of said caller via an
15 existing session initiation protocol (SIP) session if a multimedia session is already established with said caller.

20. Apparatus for obtaining a location of a caller, comprising:

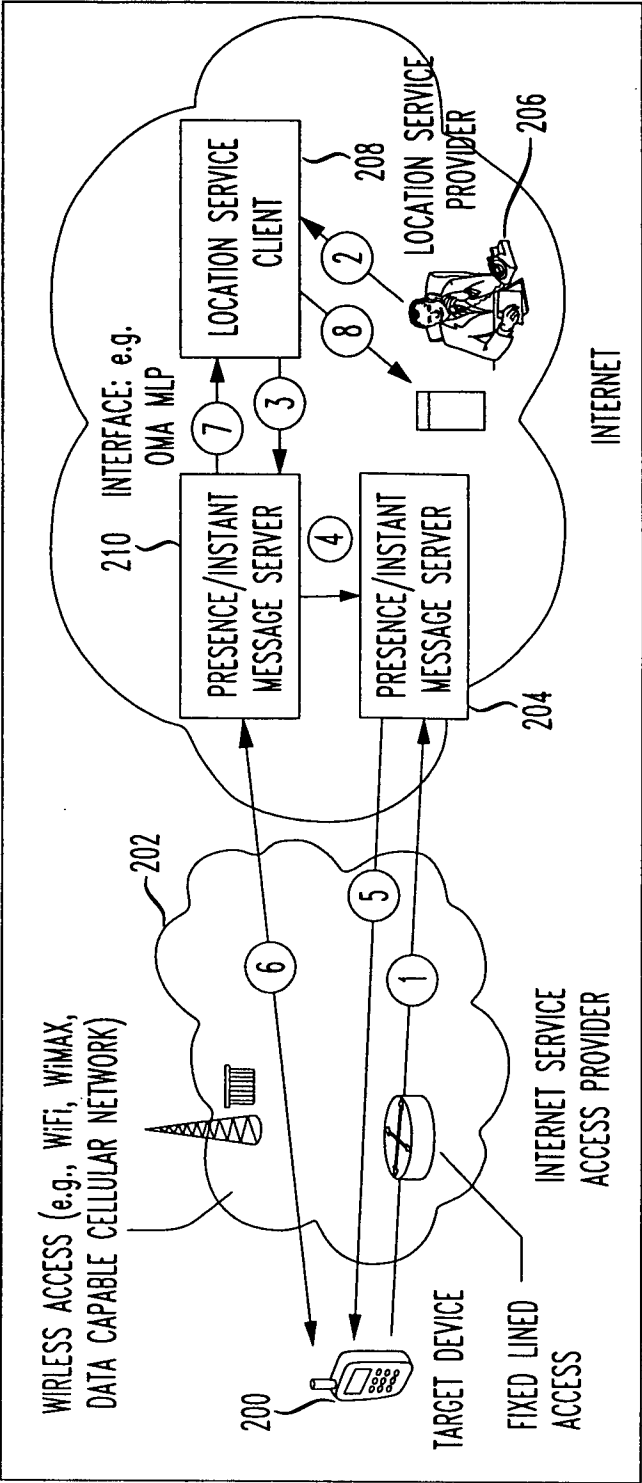
20 means for determining if a multimedia session is already established with a caller; and

means for obtaining updated location information of said caller via an existing session initiation protocol (SIP) session if a multimedia session is already established with said caller.

25

30

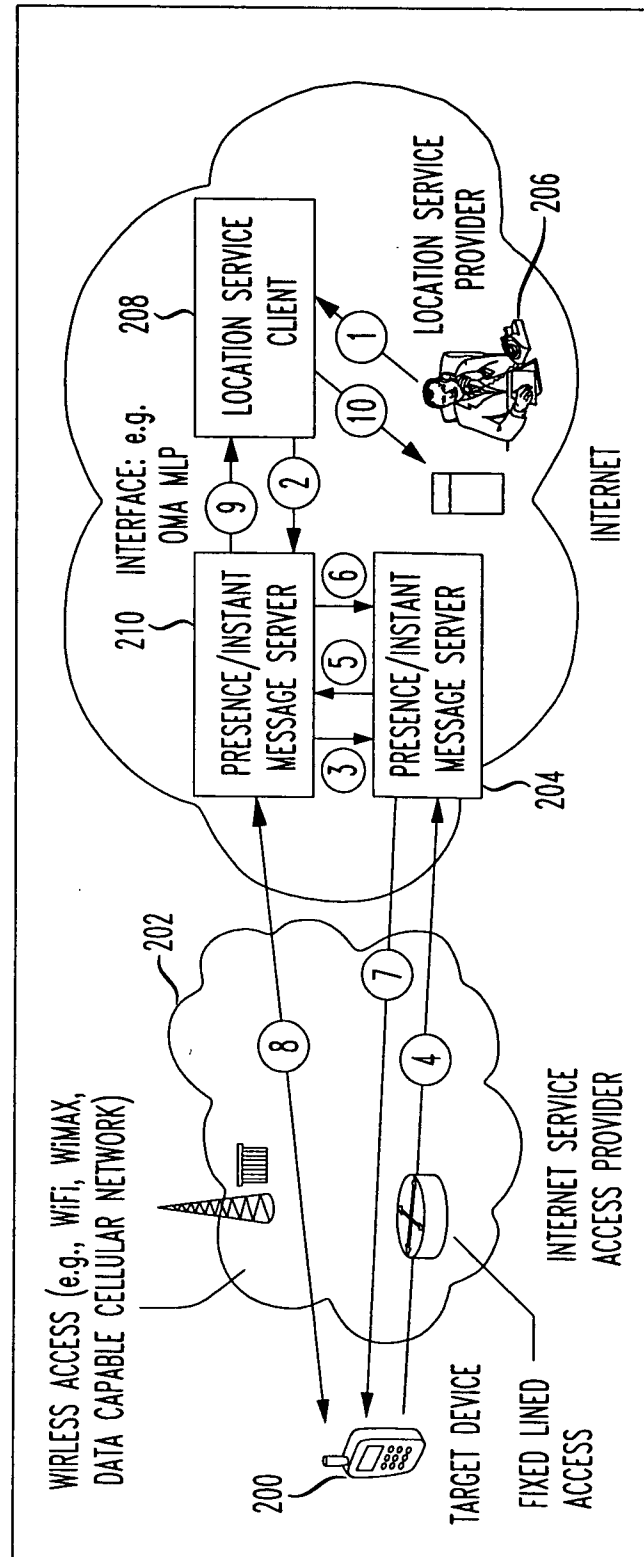
FIG. 1



BASIC CALL FLOW OF USER PLANE LOCATION SERVICE OVER SIP

2/5

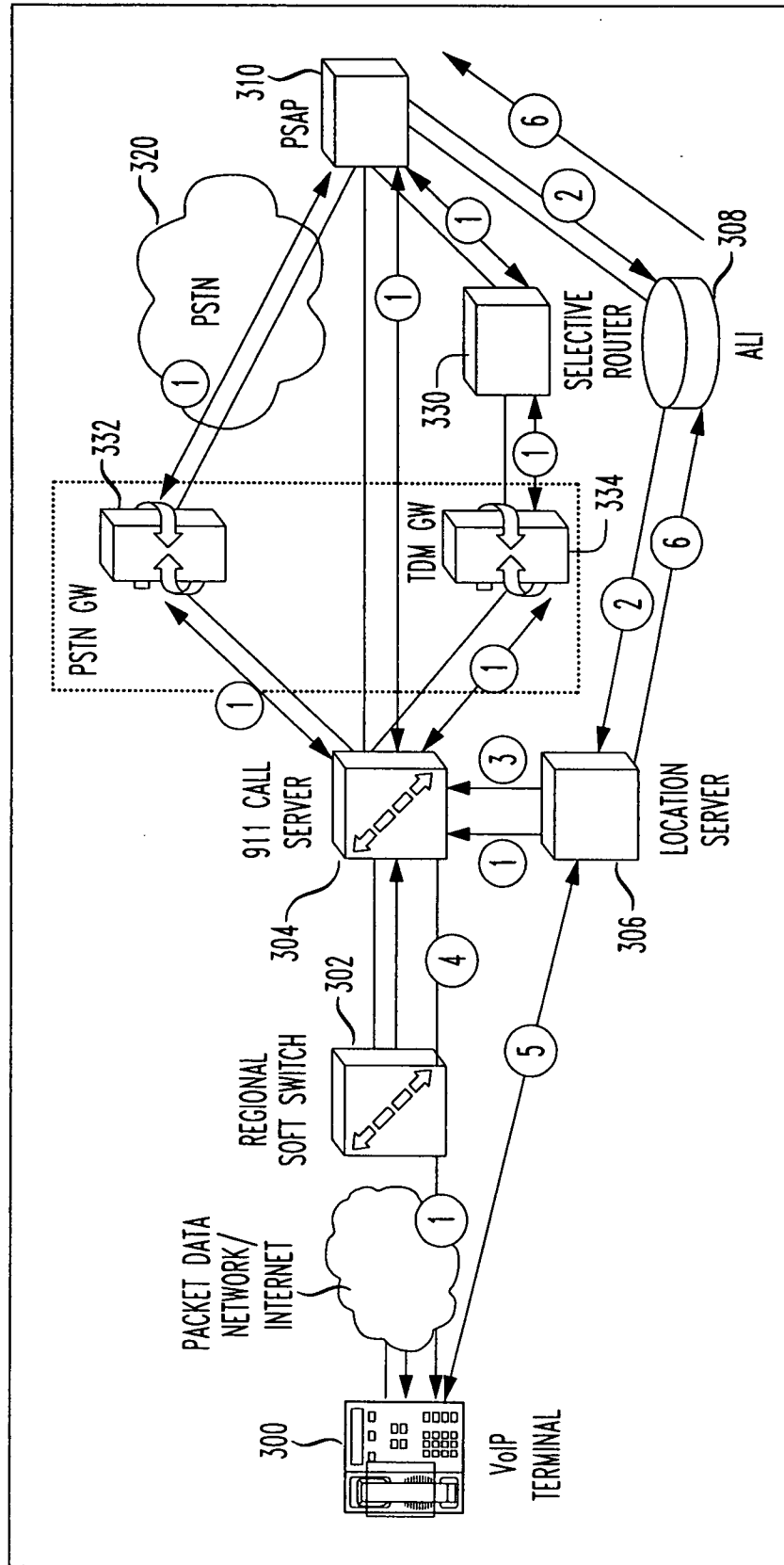
FIG. 2



LOCATION SERVER INITIATES LOCATION RETRIEVAL PROCEDURE
WHEN TARGET BECOMES AVAILABLE

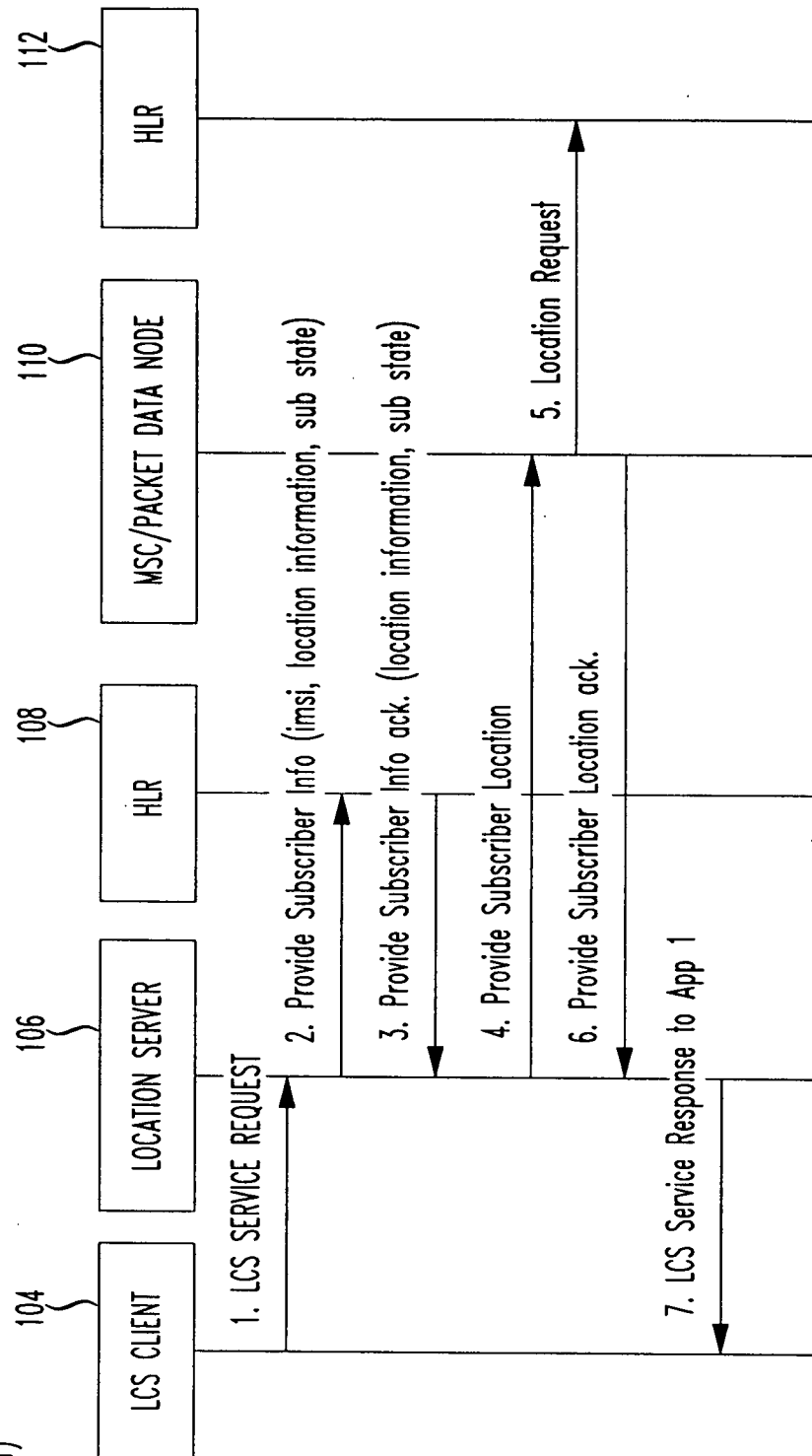
3/5

FIG. 3



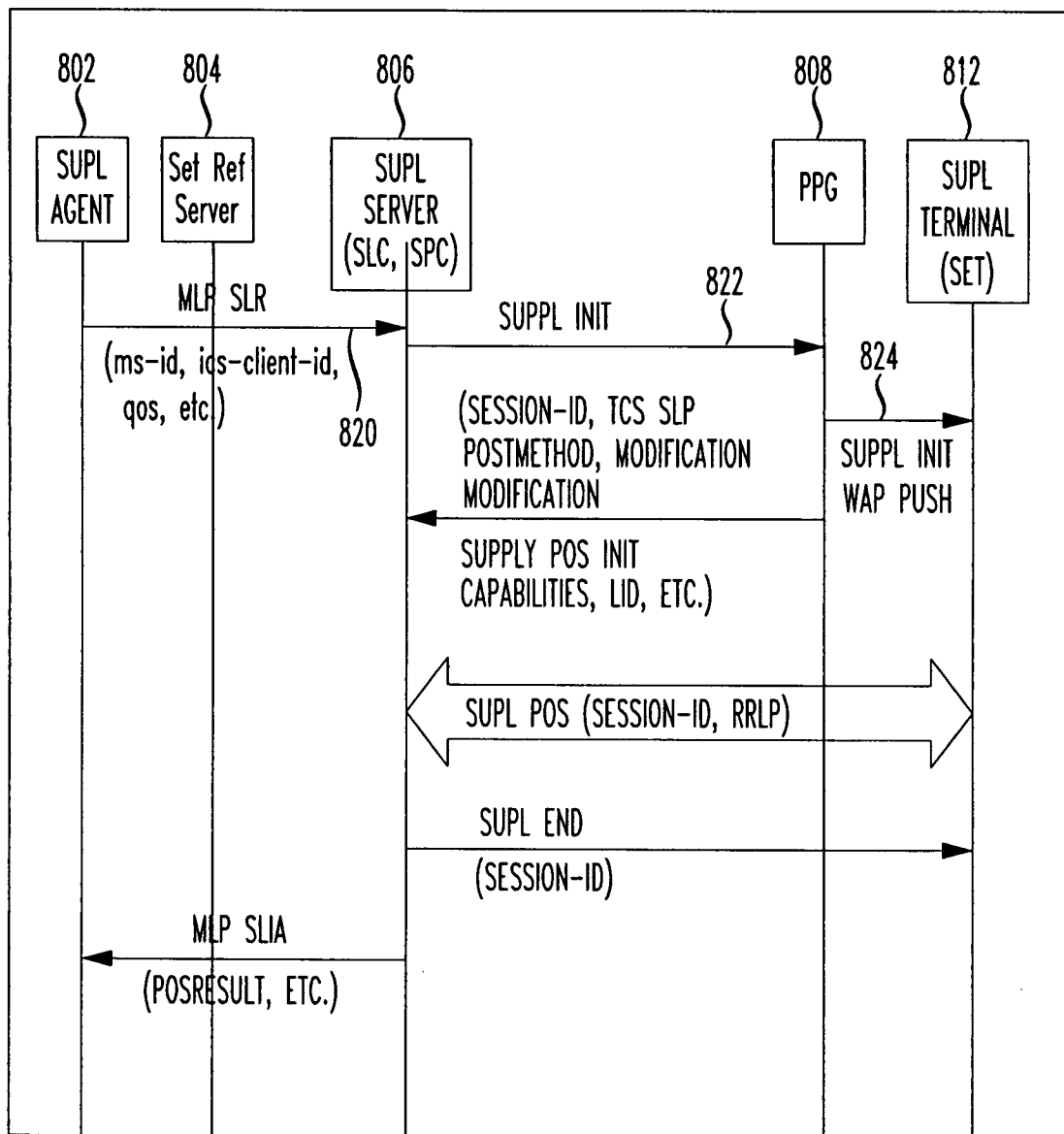
USE CASE - SUPPORT FOR MID-CALL LOCATION
UPDATE DURING AN EMERGENCY CALL

FIG. 4
(PRIOR ART)



5/5

FIG. 5
(PRIOR ART)



TYPICAL OMA SUPL CALL FLOW

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US07/24405

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - H04M 11/04 (2008.04)

USPC - 379/45

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)

IPC(8) - H04M 11/04 (2008.04)

USPC - 379/45

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)

MicroPatent

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 2005/0213716 A1 (ZHU et al) 29 September 2005 (29.09.2005) entire document	1-20
Y	US 2006/0246919 A1 (PARK et al) 02 November 2006 (02.11.2006) entire document	1-20
Y	US 2002/0103898 A1 (MOYER et al) 01 August 2002 (01.08.2002) entire document	3-4, 6, 12-13, 15

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

14 April 2008

Date of mailing of the international search report

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