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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): DIGI-MARC CORPORATION [US/US]; 9405 Southwest Gemini Drive, Beaverton, OR 97008 (US).

(72) Inventors: SHARMA, Ravi, K.; 4247 Northwest 125th Avenue, Portland, OR 97229 (US). RODRIGUEZ, Tony, F.; 4436 Southwest Eleanor Lane, Portland, OR 97221 (US).

(74) Agent: MEYER, Joel, R.; Digimarc Corporation, 9405 Southwest Gemini Drive, Beaverton, OR 97008 (US).

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(54) Title: FAST SIGNAL DETECTION AND DISTRIBUTED COMPUTING IN PORTABLE COMPUTING DEVICES

(57) Abstract: This disclosure describes a distributed reader architecture for a mobile computing device such as cellular telephone handset. This architecture includes a reader library that reads device capabilities and business model parameters in the device, and in response, for selects an appropriate configuration of reader modules for identifying a content item. The reader modules each perform a function used in identifying a content item. The modules are selected so that the resources available on the device and in remote devices are used optimally, depending on available computing resources on the device and network bandwidth. One example of a reader module is a fast watermark detection module that quickly detects the presence of a watermark, enabling resources to be focused on portions of content that are most likely going to lead to successful content identification. A watermark signal structure for fast watermark detection is comprised of a dense array of impulse functions in a form of a circle in a Fourier magnitude domain, and the impulse functions having pseudorandom phase. Alternative structures are possible.



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