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(71) Applicant: SENTINEL WIRELESS, LLC [US/US]; 12 Haskell Road, Andover, MA 01810 (US).

(72) Inventor: DEMPSEY, Michael, K.; 21 April Lane, Westford, MA 01886 (US).

(74) Agents: LAURENTANO, Anthony, A. et al.; Lahive & Cockfield, LLP, 28 State Street, Boston, MA 02109 (US).

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(54) Title: A SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PERFORMING OBJECT ASSOCIATION USING A LOCATION TRACKING SYSTEM

(57) Abstract: The illustrative embodiment of the present invention provides a method of recording object associations using a location system. Object locations are determined based on signals generated from object identifiers linked to the objects and forwarded to an electronic device interfaced with a network. The origin of the signal is calculated by a location determining module based on a variety of factors including the known position of the receivers receiving the signal, the historical recorded position of the object, the characteristics of the receivers receiving the signal (i.e. the range), the strength of the received signal, the type of signal, and whether or not the signal was repeated. Once the location of the object has been determined, the locating determining module consults a database to determine associations between the located object and other objects or specified locations based on the other objects proximity to the located object. Once an association is determined, it is stored and the duration of the association is subsequently recorded. The data from the identified associations may then be leveraged in a number of ways as input data for a variety of applications, such as billing software, equipment utilization software, asset management software, and automatic event generation software.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US02/07386

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) :G06F 17/00
US CL : 707/104.1
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. : 707/1-206

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)

WEST search terms: object identifier, database, network, device

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5,956,725 A (BURROUGHS ET AL.) 21 SEPTEMBER 1999, ABSTRACT	1-38
A	US 5,991,771 A (FALLS ET AL.) 23 NOVEMBER 1999, ABSTRACT	1-38
A	US 5,929,848 A (ALBUKERK ET AL.) 27 JULY 1999, ABSTRACT	1-38

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

*	Special categories of cited documents:	"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
"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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
"E"	earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"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
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"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
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