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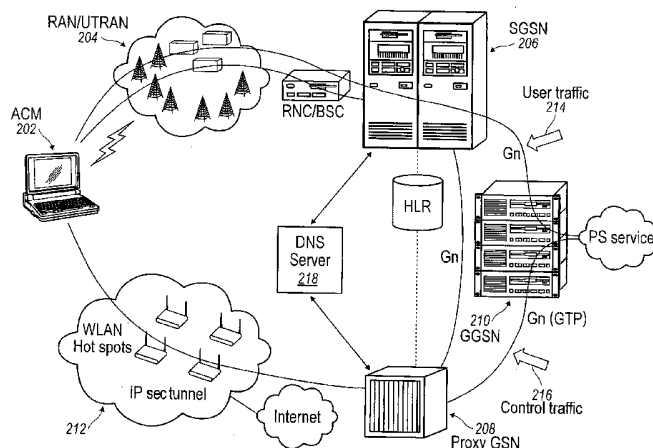
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(54) Title: MAINTAINING CONSISTENT NETWORK CONNECTIONS WHILE MOVING THROUGH WIRELESS NETWORKS



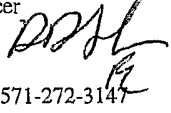
(57) Abstract: A proxy server (208) provides an anchor point for access network changes in a wireless environment. One example embodiment uses the concept of proxy server in order to preserve a uniform connectivity to a gateway service node while roaming across different networks through a handover mechanism. In one embodiment, the client connects to a proxy server through one access network (204), and the proxy server manages and keeps track of the user session toward the gateway service node. The client then connects to any packet service network, including Internet, through the proxy. When the client moves from one network to another, it indicates the change to the proxy and proxy, using a handover mechanism, switches the access network while maintaining the user session toward the gateway service node. The handover mechanism involved is efficient, with minimal messaging overhead, and preserves the application layer IP address of the client. Therefore, the data connections do not suffer from interruptions due to roaming through different networks and the service is seamlessly continued.

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**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

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<p><b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b></p> <p>IPC:        <b>H04L 12/28</b>( 2006.01)                        H04L 12/26( 2006.01)</p> <p>USPC:        370/392,338,352</p> <p>According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC</p>												
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<p><b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category *</th> <th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th> <th>Relevant to claim No.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>US 2005/0007984 A1 (SHAHEEN et al.) 13 January 05 (13.01.2005), entire document.</td> <td>1-28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>2002/0150091 A1 (LOPPONEN et al.) 17 October 2002 (17.10.2002), entire document.</td> <td>1-28</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.	A	US 2005/0007984 A1 (SHAHEEN et al.) 13 January 05 (13.01.2005), entire document.	1-28	A	2002/0150091 A1 (LOPPONEN et al.) 17 October 2002 (17.10.2002), entire document.	1-28	
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<p>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</p>		<p>Authorized officer          Duc Ho           Telephone No. 571-272-3147</p>										