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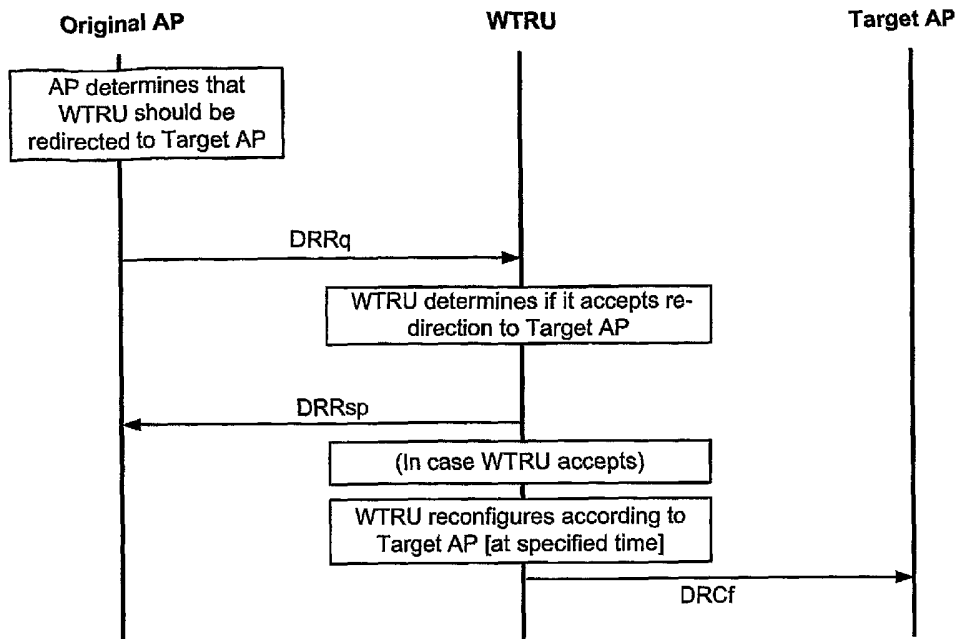
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(54) Title: WIRELESS COMMUNICATION METHODS AND COMPONENTS THAT IMPLEMENT HANDOFF IN WIRELESS LOCAL AREA NETWORKS



(57) Abstract: This invention relates to wireless local area networks, and particularly to the IEEE 802.11 family of standards. It consists of a method and apparatus that can be implemented in access points (APs) and subscriber wireless transmit/receive units (WTRUs), in order to allow an AP to initiate re-association of a WTRU to itself or a different AP. The invention improves the robustness of the network by enabling more efficient load balancing, congestion control, and roaming, without compromising the user experience.

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FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT,  
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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USPC - 370/331

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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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, IEEE Xplore, Ei Compendex, INSPEC, NTIS: National Technical Information Service, JICST-EPlus - Japanese Science & Technology, PASCAL, Current Contents Search

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X ----- Y	US 6,360,264 B1 (ROM) 19 March 2002 (19.03.2002) abstract; figure 3a; column 1, lines 38-40; column 2, lines 5-17; column 3, lines 10-22; column 4, lines 52-67; column 5, lines 1-4; column 5, lines 18-25; column 5, lines 51-54; column 5, lines 62-67	1, 5, 11, 15, 21, 25, 31, 35 ----- 2-4, 6-10, 12-14, 16-20, 22-24, 26-30, 32-34, 36-40
Y	US 6,580,700 B1 (PINARD et al) 17 June 2003 (17.06.2003) figure 3; column 2, lines 26-32	2, 4, 6, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 19, 20, 22, 24, 26, 29, 30, 32, 34, 36, 39, 40
Y	US 2004/0076136 A1 (BEACH) 22 April 2004 (22.04.2004) paragraph 12	3, 4, 7-10, 13, 14, 17-20, 23, 24, 27-30, 33, 34, 37-40
Y	US 2003/0156558 A1 (CROMER et al) 21 August 2003 (21.08.2003) paragraph 14	3, 4, 13, 14, 23, 24, 33, 34
A	US 2003/0185172 A1 (RUE) 02 October 2003 (02.10.2003) see entire document	1-40
A	US 2004/0121772 A1 (RUE) 24 June 2004 (24.06.2004) see entire document	1-40
A	US 2004/0066759 A1 (MOLTENI et al) 08 April 2004 (08.04.2004) see entire document	1-40
A, P	GB 2 409 377 A (APOSTOLIS) 22 June 2005 (22.06.2005) see entire document	1-40

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