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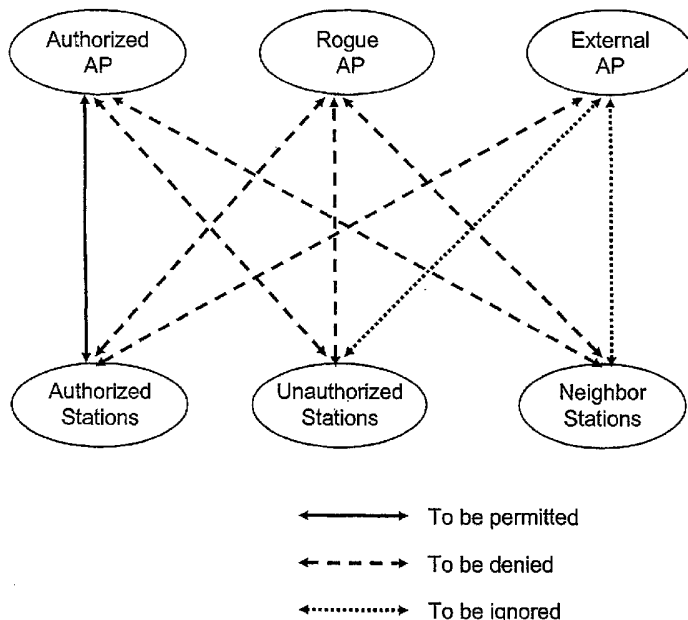
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(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MONITORING A SELECTED REGION OF AN AIRSPACE ASSOCIATED WITH LOCAL AREA NETWORKS OF COMPUTING DEVICES



(57) Abstract: A method for monitoring a selected region of an airspace associated with local area networks of computing devices is provided. The method includes providing one or more segments of a legacy local area network to be protected in a selected geographic region. The legacy local area network is characterized by an unsecured airspace within the selected geographic region. The method includes determining a security policy associated with the one or more segments of the legacy local area network. The security policy at least characterizes a type of wireless activity in the unsecured airspace to be permitted, denied, or ignored. Additionally, the method includes connecting one or more sniffer devices into the legacy local area network. The one or more sniffer devices are spatially disposed within the selected geographic region to cause at least a portion of the unsecured airspace to be secured according to the security policy. Moreover, the method includes coupling a security appliance to the legacy local area network. The method also includes determining if the one or more sniffer devices

substantially covers the portion of the unsecured airspace to be secured. The method additionally includes monitoring wireless activity in the airspace using the one or more sniffer devices, and automatically classifying, using a classification process, a portion of information associated with the monitoring of the wireless activity to at least determine if the wireless activity communicates to at least one of the one or more segments to be protected. Further, the method includes detecting a violation of the security policy based upon at least the classifying of the portion of the information from the monitoring of the wireless activity, and automatically processing an action associated with the violation in accordance to the security policy for the one or more segments in the legacy local area network to be protected.

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<p><b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>                  Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)                  U.S. : 370/235, 252, 255, 277, 278, 328, 338                  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)                  EAST</p>													
<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 2003/0217289 A1 (AMMON et al) 20 November 2003 (20.11.2003), see entire document.</td> <td>1-44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>US 2003/0217283 A1 (HRASTAR et al) 20 November 2003 (20.11.2003), see entire document.</td> <td>1-44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>US 2003/0135762 A1 (MACAULAY) 17 July 2003 (17.07.2003), see entire document.</td> <td>1-44</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.	A	US 2003/0217289 A1 (AMMON et al) 20 November 2003 (20.11.2003), see entire document.	1-44	A	US 2003/0217283 A1 (HRASTAR et al) 20 November 2003 (20.11.2003), see entire document.	1-44	A	US 2003/0135762 A1 (MACAULAY) 17 July 2003 (17.07.2003), see entire document.	1-44
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<p><input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.</p>													
<p>* Special categories of cited documents:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</td> <td>"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</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date</td> <td>"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</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</td> <td>"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</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</td> <td>"&amp;" document member of the same patent family</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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	"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"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	"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"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	"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family	"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed			
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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. (703) 305-3230</p>	<p>Authorized officer                  Chi Pham                  Telephone No. 571-272-3179</p> 