CLAIMS

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method of identifying a new end-user device connected within a network, the method comprising:

monitoring a plurality of remote outlets;

detecting a new end-user device upon connection thereof to the network at a first remote outlet;

determining data/information associated with the new end-user device by electronically communicating through some but not all of the remote outlets.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein each remote outlet is operatively associated with one of a plurality of patch panels ports within the network and the determining step includes electronically communicating through only a patch panel port interconnected to the first remote outlet to which the new end-user device is connected.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein each remote outlet is operatively associated with one of a plurality of patch panels ports within the network and the determining step includes electronically communicating through some but not all of the patch panel ports.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first remote outlet is interconnected to a first patch panel having patch panel ports and the determining step includes electronically communicating through only patch panel ports of the first patch panel.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first remote outlet is operatively associated with a switch, and the determining step includes electronically communicating through only remote outlets operatively associated with the switch.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the determining step includes directing a polling activity through some but not all of the network outlets.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the determining step includes determining a unique identifier of the new end-user device.

8. The method of Claim 7, wherein the determining step includes determining a MAC address of the new end-user device.

9. The method of Claim 7, wherein the determining step includes determining at least one of the following with respect to the new end-user device:

a. MAC address;
b. IP address;
c. computer name;
d. amount of toner available;
e. amount of drive space available; and
f. information regarding operating system used by the end-user device.

10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the determining step includes a computing device electronically communicating with a switch, and the switch requesting the data operatively associated with the new end-user device.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein the data associated with the new end-user device is a unique identifier and further including the step of matching the unique identifier with a network map to identify a specific physical location and identity of the new end-user device.

12. The method of Claim 11, further including the step of providing the specific physical location and identity of the new end-user device to a network management system.

13. The method of Claim 1, wherein the monitoring step occurs electronically between a scanner and a patch panel to which the first remote outlet is operatively associated.

14. The method of Claim 1, wherein the detecting step occurs electronically between a scanner and a patch panel to which the first remote outlet is operatively associated.

15. The method of Claim 1, wherein the detecting step occurs electronically as change in electrical signature between a scanner and a patch panel to which the first remote outlet is operatively associated

16. The method of Claim 15, further including the step of electronically communicating to a computing device the presence of the new end-user device as well as a specific port associated with a switch to which the new end-user device is operatively connected.

17. The method of Claim 16, further including identifying physical locations of each port and remote outlet of the network and storing the physical locations in the computing device, electronically mapping each port and remote outlet and matching each physical location to an electronic map created by the electronic mapping.

18. A system for use with a network having a plurality of end-user devices connected thereto comprising:

a plurality of patch panels, each having a plurality of patch panel ports;

a plurality of remote outlets, each being operatively associated with a patch panel port, each remote outlet being configured for interconnection to an end-user device;

sensing circuitry for electronically determining whether a new end-user device has been connected to any of the remote outlets;

a computing device configured to perform event driven polling by communicating through some but not all of the remote outlets to determine data associated with the new end-user device in response to the new end-user device being connected to one of the remote outlets.

19. The system of Claim 18, further including a scanner communicating with each of the patch panels to monitor an addition of a new end-user device connected to one of the remote outlets.

20. The system of Claim 19, wherein the scanner and each of the patch panels include a portion of the sensing circuitry.

21. The system of Claim 18, wherein the computing system includes a switch and each remote outlet is operatively associated with the switch through a patch panel port, the switch being configured to perform event driven polling only through a patch panel port operatively associated with the remote outlet to which the new end-user device is connected.

22. The system of Claim 18, wherein the computing system includes a switch and each remote outlet is operatively associated with the switch through a patch panel port, the switch being configured to perform event driven polling only through patch panel ports of a patch panel operatively associated with the remote outlet to which the new end-user device is connected.

23. The system of Claim 18, wherein the computing system includes a plurality of switches and each remote outlet is operatively associated with one of the switches through a patch panel port, the computing device being configured to perform event driven polling only through patch panel ports operatively associated with the switch to which the new end-user device is connected.

24. The system of Claim 18, further including a switch, a plurality of cross-connect panels, each cross-connect panel having a plurality of cross-connect ports, each remote outlet being operatively associated with the switch through a patch panel port and a cross-connect port.

25. The system of Claim 18, further including a plurality of cables, each cable extending from one of the patch panel ports to one of the remote outlets in order to facilitate connection of the end-user devices to the network.

26. The system of Claim 18, wherein the computing device stores data incorporating the physical locations of each port and remote outlet as well as an electronic map of each port and remote outlet.

27. The system of Claim 18, further including monitoring circuitry embedded within the patch panel and operatively associated with each port to monitor a change in electrical signature of a network channel.

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1. A method of identifying a new end-user device connected within a network, the method comprising:

monitoring a plurality of remote outlets;

detecting a new end-user device upon connection thereof to the network at a first remote outlet;

determining data/information associated with the new end-user device by electronically communicating through some but not all of the remote outlets;

wherein the determining step includes determining a unique identifier of the new end-user device;

and wherein the determining step includes determining at least one of the following with respect to the new end-user device:

a. MAC address;

b. IP address;

c. computer name;

d. amount of toner available;

e. amount of drive space available; and

f. information regarding operating system used by the end-user

2. A method of identifying a new end-user device connected within a network, the method comprising:

monitoring a plurality of remote outlets;

detecting a new end-user device upon connection thereof to the network at a first remote outlet;

determining data/information associated with the new end-user device by electronically communicating through some but not all of the remote outlets;

wherein the determining step includes a computing device electronically communicating with a switch, and the switch requesting the data operatively associated with the new end-user device;

and wherein the data associated with the new end-user device is a unique identifier and further including the step of matching the unique identifier with a

network map to identify a specific physical location and identity of the new end-user device.

3. A system for use with a network having a plurality of end-user devices connected thereto comprising:

a plurality of patch panels, each having a plurality of patch panel ports;

a plurality of remote outlets, each being operatively associated with a patch panel port, each remote outlet being configured for interconnection to an end-user device;

sensing circuitry for electronically determining whether a new end-user device has been connected to any of the remote outlets;

a computing device configured to perform event driven polling by communicating through some but not all of the remote outlets to determine data associated with the new end-user device in response to the new end-user device being connected to one of the remote outlets;

a scanner communicating with each of the patch panels to monitor an addition of a new end-user device connected to one of the remote outlets;

wherein the scanner and each of the patch panels include a portion of the sensing circuitry.

4. A system for use with a network having a plurality of end-user devices connected thereto comprising:

a plurality of patch panels, each having a plurality of patch panel ports;

a plurality of remote outlets, each being operatively associated with a patch panel port, each remote outlet being configured for interconnection to an end-user device;

sensing circuitry for electronically determining whether a new end-user device has been connected to any of the remote outlets;

a computing device configured to perform event driven polling by communicating through some but not all of the remote outlets to determine data associated with the new end-user device in response to the new end-user device being connected to one of the remote outlets;

wherein the computing device stores data incorporating the physical locations of each port and remote outlet as well as an electronic map of each port and remote outlet.