Claims

1. A method of blocking one or more app(s) and/or feature(s) on a smart device, wherein the smart device comprises a GPS receiver and one or more wireless receiver devices; the method comprising, on the smart device:

periodically detecting, by a control app running on the smart device, movement of the smart device into or out of a predetermined region based on data received by the GPS receiver and/or one or more of the wireless receiver devices;

when movement of the smart device into the predetermined region is detected,

blocking, by the control app, one or more app(s) and/or feature(s) on the smart device while the smart device is within the predetermined region and independently of any attempt to access the one or more app(s) or feature(s) on the smart device;

wherein the smart device is configured to communicate with a server;

the control app sending data relating to movement of the smart device into or out of the predetermined region to the server;

the server determining, based on this data, whether app(s) and/or feature(s) should be blocked on the smart device;

the server communicating with the smart device to provide instructions to block app(s) and/or feature(s), wherein the blocking is carried out in response to these instructions;

the smart device sending to the server a set of current smart device parameters that are currently applied on or detected by the smart device; and

wherein the set of parameters comprises: some or all current app permissions for the control app, the current activation state of one or more wireless receiver devices of the smart device, and the current state of a manual override switch of the control app in the smart device;

the method further comprising the steps of:

the server determining whether the current smart device parameters conform to a predetermined set of parameters; and

when the current smart device parameters do not conform to the predetermined set of parameters, sending a notification to the smart device to instruct the smart device or a user of the smart device to adjust the current device parameters applied on the device.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of blocking comprises blocking one or more predetermined app(s) and/or feature(s).

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of blocking comprises blocking all apps and/or

features on the smart device except for one or more predetermined app(s) and/or feature(s) when the smart device is within the predetermined region.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining a current time; and

wherein the one or more app(s) and/or feature(s) is blocked when both the smart device is within the predetermined region and the current time is within a predetermined time period.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined region comprises at least one of the following areas:

a 2D spatial region defined by a predetermined set of GPS coordinates;

a 2D spatial region defined by a single predetermined GPS coordinate and a radius from that GPS coordinate;

a region in which a predetermined network identifier is detected by the wireless receiver, optionally wherein the predetermined network identifier is a SSID or UUID, optionally wherein a UUID is a Bluetooth low energy beacon identifier.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein, if the control app permissions are determined to not conform to the control app permissions of the predetermined set of parameters, the method comprises the step of the server pushing a notification to the smart device to initiate communication with the server.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising the smart device sending to the server one or more of: network identifiers for any wireless networks that are detected by the smart device, visible beacons and current GPS coordinates of the smart device.

8. The method of claim 1, comprising the step of the server sending notifications to the smart device to set or update the predetermined region.

9. The method of claim 4, further comprising the server determining whether a current time of a clock of the server is within the predetermined time period.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the smart device is associated with a first user, and wherein the server maintains a record of the current control app permissions; and

when the control app permissions are determined to not conform to the control app permissions of the predetermined set of parameters more than a predetermined number of times, the server sends an alert to a second user identifying the first user.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the smart device is associated with a first user, and wherein the server maintains a record of a frequency with which the smart device communicated with the server; and when the frequency drops below a predetermined frequency, the server sends an alert to a second user identifying the first user.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the smart device is associated with a first user, and wherein the server maintains a record of the last time that the smart device communicates with the server; and

when a duration since the last time that the smart device communicates with the server exceeds a predetermined duration, the server sends an alert to a second user identifying the first user.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the or each wireless receiver device is one of a Bluetooth receiver device, a Wi-Fi receiver device, and a cellular network receiver device.

14. A processor in conjunction with a non-transitory computer readable storage medium configured to:

periodically detect, by a control app installed on a smart device, movement of the smart device into or out of a predetermined region based on data received by a GPS receiver and/or one or more wireless receiver devices of the smart device; and

block, by the control app, one or more app(s) and/or feature(s) on the smart device while the smart device is within the predetermined region and independently of any attempt to access the one or more app(s) or feature(s) on the smart device;

send, by the control app, data relating to movement of the smart device into or out of the predetermined region to a server;

determine, by the server, based on this data, whether app(s) and/or feature(s) should be blocked on the smart device;

communicate, by the server with the smart device, to provide instructions to block app(s) and/or feature(s), wherein the blocking is carried out in response to these instructions;

send, by the smart device a set of current smart device parameters that are currently applied on or detected by the smart device to the server;

wherein the set of parameters comprises at least one of: some or all current app permissions for the control app, the current activation state of one or more wireless receiver devices of the smart device, and the current state of a manual override switch of the control app in the smart device;

determining, by the server, whether the current smart device parameters conform to a predetermined set of parameters; and

send, by the server, a notification to the smart device to instruct the smart device or a user of the smart device to adjust the current device parameters applied on the device when the current smart device parameters do not conform to the predetermined set of parameters.

15. The non-transitory computer readable storage medium and a processor of claim 14, further configured to block the one or more app(s) and/or feature(s) on the smart device additionally based on whether a current time is within a predetermined time period.

16. A system comprising a smart device and a server, wherein the smart device comprises a GPS receiver and one or more wireless receiver devices;

wherein the smart device contains computer-executable instructions to detect periodically movement of the smart device into or out of a predetermined region based on data received by the GPS receiver and/or one or more of the wireless receiver devices;

wherein the smart device contains computer-executable instructions to block one or more app(s) and/or feature(s) on the smart device when the smart device is within the predetermined region and independently of any attempt to access the one or more app(s) or feature(s) on the smart device;

wherein the smart device contains computer-executable instructions to communicate with the server;

wherein the smart device contains computer-executable instructions to send data relating to movement of the smart device into or out of the predetermined region to the server;

wherein the server contains computer-executable instructions to determine, based on this data, whether app(s) and/or feature(s) should be blocked on the smart device; and

wherein the server contains computer-executable instructions to communicate with the smart device to provide instructions to block app(s) and/or feature(s), wherein the blocking is carried out in response to these instructions;

wherein the smart device contains computer-executable instructions to send to the server a set of current smart device parameters that are currently applied on or detected by the smart device;

wherein the set of parameters comprises: some or all current app permissions for the control app, the current activation state of one or more wireless receiver devices of the smart device, and the current state of a manual override switch of the control app in the smart device;

wherein the server contains computer-executable instructions to determine whether the current smart device parameters conform to a predetermined set of parameters; and

wherein the server contains computer-executable instructions to send a notification to the smart device to instruct the smart device or a user of the smart device to adjust the current device parameters applied on the device when the current smart device parameters do not conform to the predetermined set of parameters.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the server contains editable computer-executable instructions to define the predetermined region;

and wherein the server contains editable computer-executed instructions to communicate with the smart device to set the predetermined region.

18. The system of claim 16, wherein the server and/or the smart device comprises a clock, and wherein the computer-executable instructions of the smart device block one or more app(s) and/or feature(s) on the smart device additionally based on whether a current time of the clock is within a pre-determined time period.

19. The system according to claim 16, wherein the or each wireless receiver device is one of a Bluetooth receiver device, a Wi-Fi receiver device, and a cellular network receiver device.