CLAIMS

1. A method of sending an alert message, comprising:

receiving (302), at a communication device, a notification message for a user;

determining (304), by the communication device, a location of the user, wherein determining the location of the user includes executing a user search function, wherein the user search function includes communications to one or more devices with instructions to obtain an image and to determine if the user is in the image;

determining (306), by the communication device, one or more notification devices based on the location of the user;

generating (308), by the communication device, the alert message based on one or more notification preferences associated with the user and the one or more notification devices; and

sending (310), by the communication device, the alert message to at least one of the one or more notification devices based on the one or more notification preferences.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the alert message includes an indication of the one or more notification preferences.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the communication device is a central controller.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein determining the location of the user includes providing a user identification associated with the user to the central controller and receiving an indication of the location of the user from the central controller.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one of the one or more notification devices is configured to receive the alert message from a second notification device.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the alert message is a pending-notification message including information configured to enable the at least one of the one or more notification devices to display an icon associated with the user.

7. A device (40-47, 60, 112, 114, 118, 120, 140) for providing an alert message to a user, comprising:

at least one processor configured to:

receive a notification for the user;

determine a location of the user, wherein, to determine the location of the user, the at least one processor is configured to execute a user search function and wherein the user search function includes communications to one or more devices with instructions to obtain an image and to determine if the user is in the image;

determine one or more notification devices based on the location of the user;

determine one or more notification preferences associated with the user and the one or more notification devices;

generate the alert message for at least one of the one or more notification devices based on the one or more notification preferences; and

a transceiver, communicatively coupled to the at least one processor, configured to transmit the alert message wirelessly from the device.

8. The device of claim 7 or the method of claim 1 wherein the one or more notification preferences includes a privacy preference indicating conditions in which a receiving notification device that receives the alert message may present the alert message.

9. The device of claim 7 or the method of claim 1 wherein the one or more notification preferences includes a display area preference indicating an area on a display in which a receiving notification device that receives the alert message will present the alert message.

10. The device of claim 7 or the method of claim 1 wherein the one or more notification preferences includes a volume level preference indicating a volume in which a receiving notification device that receives the alert message will present the alert message.

11. The device of claim 7 or the method of claim 1 wherein the alert message is a pending-notification message including information configured to enable the at least one of the one or more notification devices to display an icon associated with the user.

12. The device of claim 7 wherein the at least one processor is configured to receive information from at least one presence sensor and determine the location of the user based at least in part on the information received from the at least one presence sensor.

13. The device of claim 7 wherein the at least one processor is configured to receive an indication of the location of the user from the one or more notification devices.

14. A non-transitory processor-readable storage medium comprising processor-readable instructions configured to cause one or more processors execute the method of any of claims 1-6.