BRIEF SUMMARY

A method and apparatus may provide an efficient and reliable mechanism for sharing one or more connectivity parameters and associated data to one or more devices of a user(s) and/or one or more devices of friends of the user(s).

In this regard, a communication device(s) may utilize one or more established trust relationships (for example, friend relationships) of one or more social network services (for example, Facebook™, Twitter™, LinkedIn™, MySpace™, Skype™, etc.) to configure and/or share one or more connection parameters (for example, network settings) and associated data (for example, passwords, security settings, certificates, etc.) with one or more devices of the user(s) and/or one or more devices of friends of the user(s).

In this regard, according to some example embodiments, a communication device(s) may utilize the shared connection parameters to facilitate connection with one or more access points (for example, network access points (for example, Wi-Fi hotspots/networks, etc.)). As such, some example embodiments may utilize the shared connection parameters to enable one or more devices of the user(s) and/or one or more devices of the friends of the user to automatically connect to respective access points. In this manner, upon receipt of the connection parameters and associated data, the devices may automatically connect to the access points in an instance in which the devices may be within a vicinity (for example, a location) of the access points. As such, some example embodiments may enable a device(s) of a user(s) and/or a device(s) of one or more friends of the user to connect to an access point(s) with minimal or no user-interaction.

In one ~~example embodiment~~aspect, a method ~~for enabling sharing of one or more connectivity parameters with one or more friends~~ is provided. The method ~~may~~ includes detecting one or more connection parameters and associated data of at least one access point. The method also includes requesting data identifying one or more friends, and/or friends of friends, of a user from a network entity. The method also~~may further~~ includes facilitating provision of the connection parameters and associated data for inclusion within at least one profile of a user. The profile may be associated with a social network service identifying one or more relationships among one or more determined friends of the user. The method also~~may further~~ includes ~~enabling provision~~providing of the connection parameters and associated data to at least one device of the user or one or more devices of the friends in response to an indication of activation of the at least one of the device of the user or one or more devices of the friends.

In another ~~example embodiment~~aspect, an apparatus ~~for enabling sharing of one or more connectivity parameters with one or more friends~~ is provided. The apparatus ~~may~~ includes at least one processor and at least one memory including computer program code. The memory and the computer program code are configured to, with the processor, cause the apparatus to at least perform operations including detecting one or more connection parameters and associated data of at least one access point. The memory and the computer program code also ~~may further~~ cause the apparatus to request data identifying one or more friends, and/or friends of friends, of a user from a network entity; facilitate provision of the connection parameters and associated data for inclusion within at least one profile of a user. The profile is ~~may be~~ associated with a social network service identifying one or more relationships among one or more determined friends of the user. The memory and the computer program code also ~~may further~~ cause the apparatus to enable provision of the connection parameters and associated data to at least one device of the user or one or more devices of the friends in response to an indication of activation of the at least one of the device of the user or one or more devices of the friends.

In another aspect ~~example embodiment~~, a computer program product for enabling sharing of one or more connectivity parameters with one or more friends is provided. The computer program product includes at least one computer-readable storage medium having computer executable program code instructions stored therein. The computer executable program code instructions may include program code instructions configured to detect one or more connection parameters and associated data of at least one access point and request data identifying one or more friends, and/or friends of friends, of a user from a network entity. The program code instructions may also be configured to facilitate provision of the connection parameters and associated data for inclusion within at least one profile of a user. The profile may be associated with a social network service identifying one or more relationships among one or more determined friends of the user. The program code instructions may also be configured to enable provision of the connection parameters and associated data to at least one device of the user or one or more devices of the friends.

In another ~~example embodiment~~aspect, an apparatus ~~for enabling sharing of one or more connectivity parameters with one or more friends~~ is provided. The apparatus ~~may~~ includes at least one processor and at least one memory including computer program code. The memory and the computer program code are configured to, with the processor, cause the apparatus to at least perform operations including receiving a detection of one or more connection parameters and associated data of at least one

access point. The memory and the computer program code alsomay further cause the apparatus to receive a detection of one or more connection parameters and associated data of at least one access point, request data identifying one or more friends, and/or friends of friends, of a user from a network entity and facilitate inclusion of the connection parameters and associated data within at least one profile of a user. The connection parameters and associated data may be included within the profile of the user in response to determining that the profile is associated with a social network service identifying one or more relationships among one or more friends of the user. The memory and the computer program code may further cause the apparatus to enable provision of the connection parameters and associated data to at least one device of the user or one or more devices of the friends to enable the device or the devices to utilize the connection parameters and associated data to connect to the access point in response to an indication of activation of the at least one of the device of the user or one or more devices of the friends.

Some example embodiments may provide a better user experience by facilitating the sharing of connection parameters without requiring user interaction. As such, device users may enjoy improved capabilities with respect to establishing connections with network access points.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

Having thus described the invention in general terms, reference will now be made to the accompanying drawings, which are not necessarily drawn to scale, and wherein:

FIG. 1 is a schematic block diagram of a system according to example embodiments of the invention;

FIG. 2 is a schematic block diagram of an apparatus according to example embodiments of the invention;

FIG. 3 is a schematic block diagram of a network entity according to example embodiments of the invention;

FIG. 4 is a schematic block diagram of a network device according to example embodiments of the invention;

FIG. 5 is a block diagram of a system according to example embodiments of the invention; and

FIG. 6 illustrates a flowchart for providing one or more connectivity parameters to one or more devices based in part on one or more social network service connections according to example embodiments of the invention.