

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
19 October 2006 (19.10.2006)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2006/110433 A2

- (51) International Patent Classification:
H04L 12/28 (2006.01) *H04Q 7/24* (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2006/012743
- (22) International Filing Date: 4 April 2006 (04.04.2006)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
60/670,174 11 April 2005 (11.04.2005) US
11/321,393 29 December 2005 (29.12.2005) US
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **INTER-DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION** [US/US];
3411 Silverside Road, Concord Plaza, Suite 105, Hagley Building, Wilmington, Delaware 19810 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **RAHMAN, Shamin, Abkar** [CA/CA]; 1700 Rene-levesque Blvd. West, Apt. 1003, Montreal, Québec H3H 2V1 (CA).

ZUNIGA, Juan, Carlos [MX/CA]; 955 Rue Gohier Ville St. Laurent, Montreal, Québec H4L 3J4 (CA). **RUDOLF, Marian** [DE/CA]; 1958 Rue Workman, Montreal, Québec H3J 2P3 (CA).

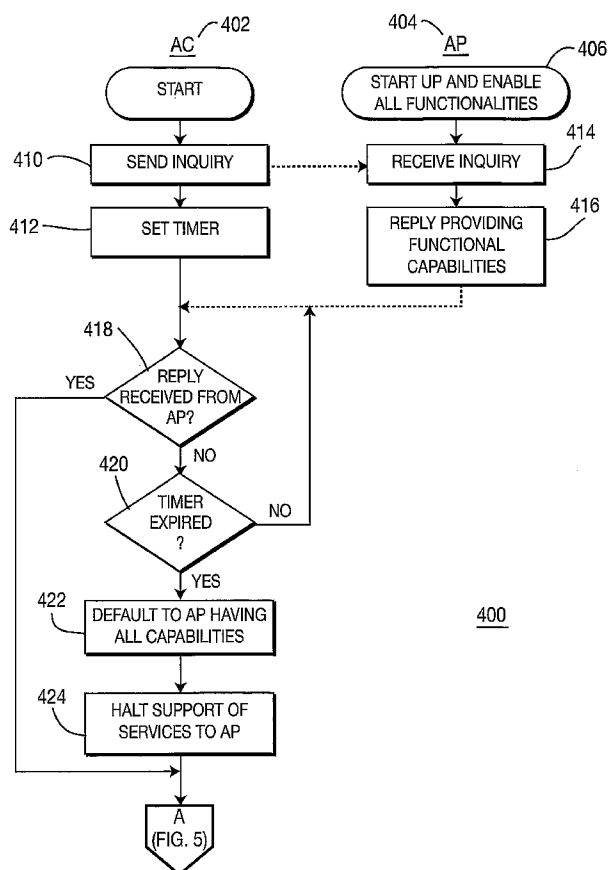
(74) Agent: **BALLARINI, Robert, J.**; Volpe and Koenig, P.C., United Plaza, Suite 1600, 30 S. 17th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103 (US).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SELF-CONFIGURABLE WIRELESS LOCAL AREA NETWORK NODE



(57) Abstract: In a wireless local area network including an access controller (AC) and an access points (AP), the AC transmits a functionality inquiry to the AP. Upon receiving the inquiry, the AP transmits a query response including the functional capabilities of the AP. The AC then generates a map of the functional capabilities present in the network based on the inquiry response. Conflicting or redundant functional capabilities are identified and are disabled, enabled, or reconfigured by instructions from the AC. The AC may selectively enable and/or disable functional capabilities at nodes in the network to provide a more balanced load on the network, and to provide for load sharing by allocating functionalities between and among network nodes having common functional capabilities to satisfy a variety of situations encountered in the network.



ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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