

CLAIMS

1. A method for detecting trips of a vehicle, the method comprising:
generating, using a seat sensor associated with a seat located in the vehicle, seat data
5 indicative of whether a vehicle occupant is occupying the seat;
receiving seat data from the seat sensor;
receiving telematics data indicative of one or more attributes of motion of the vehicle;
determining if a trip has occurred based on the seat data and the telematics data; and
generating trip output data indicative of attributes of the trip if a trip is determined to have
10 occurred.
2. A method according to claim 1, comprising setting a trip signal to active if the seat data
indicates that the seat is occupied for a time greater than or equal to a first threshold time, and
the vehicle is in motion for a time greater than or equal to a second threshold time as indicated
15 by the telematics data.
3. A method according to claim 2, comprising generating trip start data indicative of a start
time of the trip in response to the trip signal being set to active, the trip start data being based on
the telematics data.
20
4. A method according to claim 2 or claim 3, comprising maintaining the trip signal as active
if the seat data indicates the seat is not occupied and the trip signal indicates the trip is active for
a time greater than or equal to a third threshold time.
- 25 5. A method according to any of claims 2 to 4, in which, if the trip signal is set as active, the
method comprises setting the trip signal to not active if the vehicle is not in motion for greater than
or equal to a fourth threshold time, and the seat data indicates that the seat is not occupied for a
time greater than or equal to a fifth threshold time.
- 30 6. A method according to claim 5, comprising generating trip end data indicative of an end
time of the trip in response to the trip signal being set as not active.
7. A method according to claim 6, in which the trip output data comprises trip duration data
based on a difference between the trip start time and the trip end time as indicated by the trip
35 start data and the trip end data.
8. A method according to any of claims 2 to 7, in which a trip is determined to have occurred
if the trip signal is set from active to not active.

9. A method according to any of claims 2 to 8, in which the vehicle is determined to be in motion if a vehicle speed as indicated by the telematics data is greater than a threshold vehicle speed.
- 5
10. A method according to any preceding claim, in which the seat sensor comprises a pressure sensitive sensor located beneath the seat for generating the seat data.
11. A method according to claim 10, comprising generating seat data indicating that the vehicle occupant is occupying the seat if a detected weight as indicated by the seat sensor is greater than a threshold weight.
- 10
12. Apparatus for detecting trips of a vehicle, the apparatus comprising:
a seat sensor associated with a seat located in the vehicle, the seat sensor being operable
15 to generate seat data indicative of whether a vehicle occupant is occupying the seat;
a seat data receiving module operable to receive the seat data from the seat sensor;
a telematics module operable to receive telematics data indicative of one or more attributes of motion of the vehicle;
a processing module operable to:
20 determine if a trip has occurred based on the seat data and the telematics data;
and
generate trip output data indicative of attributes of the trip if a trip is determined to have occurred.
- 25
13. A computer program comprising software, which when implemented on the processing module of the apparatus of claim 12, causes the apparatus to carry out a method according to any of claims 1 to 11.
- 30
14. A storage medium comprising a computer program according to claim 13.
15. A vehicle comprising the apparatus according to claim 12.