CLAIMS:

1. A system comprising:

a number of transceiver units configured for use in a cabin of a vehicle, each of the number of transceiver units being configured to receive a number of messages and transmit the number of messages to a subsequent transceiver unit, wherein the subsequent transceiver unit is identified based on a physical position of the each of the number of transceiver units to one another;

a first computer system configured for use in the cabin, the first computer system being configured to receive the number of messages on a first number of physical network media and transmit the number of messages over a first wireless communications link to a first transceiver unit in the number of transceiver units; and

a second computer system configured for use in the cabin, the second computer system being configured to receive the number of messages over a second wireless communications link from a second transceiver unit in the number of transceiver units, the second computer system being further configured to transmit the number of messages received over the second wireless communications link on a second number of physical network media corresponding to the first number of physical network media.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the vehicle is an aircraft and further comprising:

the aircraft, wherein the cabin is located inside of the aircraft and the number of transceiver units are located substantially above a column of seats onboard the aircraft.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the each of the number of transceiver units are associated with a passenger service unit.

4. The system of claim 1 further comprising:

a first protocol for identifying an address for the each of the transceiver units.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein the number of transceiver units are located substantially in a row and the first protocol further comprises:

a second protocol for transmitting a code from the first computer system to the each of the number of transceiver units in an order, receiving the code at a final transceiver unit in the number of transceiver units in the row, transmitting a value from the final transceiver unit to the each of the number of transceiver units in a reverse of the order, and receiving the value at the first computer system.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein the vehicle is an aircraft and the medium is an infrared link.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the subsequent transceiver unit being determined based on the physical position of the each of the number of transceiver units to the one another further comprises the subsequent transceiver unit being located within a line of sight of a transceiver unit in the each of the number of transceiver units that most recently received the number of messages.

8. The system of claim 6, wherein the first number of physical network media and the second number of physical network media are selected from an Ethernet medium, a CAN bus medium, and a discrete signal medium.

9. A method of transmitting messages, the method comprising:

receiving, by a first computer system configured for use in a cabin of a vehicle, a number of messages on a first number of physical network media and transmitting the number of messages over a first wireless communications link to a first transceiver unit in a number of transceiver units;

receiving, by the number of transceiver units configured for use in the cabin, the number of messages and transmitting the number of messages to a subsequent transceiver unit, wherein the subsequent transceiver unit is identified based on a physical position of the each of the number of transceiver units to one another; and

receiving, by a second computer system configured for use in the cabin, the number of messages over a second wireless communications link from a second transceiver unit in the number of transceiver units, wherein the second computer system transmits the number of messages received over the second wireless communications link on a second number of physical network media corresponding to the first number of physical network media.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising:

identifying an address for each transceiver unit on the medium.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the first computer system is a source computer system, and wherein the step of identifying the address for the each computer system on the medium further comprises:

transmitting a code from the source computer system to a last transceiver unit on the medium, wherein the each transceiver unit receives the code and repeats the code to another transceiver unit on the medium;

responsive to receiving the code at a last transceiver unit on the medium, transmitting a value to the source computer system, wherein the each computer system receives the value and increments the value prior to repeating the value to the another computer system; and

receiving the value at the source computer system.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising:

setting a size of a number of buffers at the source computer system to the value.

13. The method of claim 9 further comprising:

receiving the number of messages from the first computer system at a transceiver unit; and

transmitting the number of messages from the transceiver unit to the second computer system.

14. The method of claim 13 further comprising:

responsive to receiving the number of messages from the first computer system at the transceiver unit, determining whether a message in the number of messages is addressed to the transceiver unit; and

responsive to a determination that the number of messages are addressed to the transceiver unit,

processing the number of messages by the transceiver unit.

15. The method of claim 9, wherein the medium is an infrared link.

16. The method of claim 9, wherein the medium is a different medium than each of the first number of physical network media and each of the second number of physical network media.

17. The method of claim 13, wherein the first computer system, the second computer system, and the transceiver unit are located in the cabin and the vehicle is an aircraft.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the transceiver unit is located substantially above a column of seats onboard the aircraft and associated with a number of panels.

19. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of transmitting the number of messages from the first number of physical network media on the medium further comprises:

multiplexing the number of messages onto the medium.

20. An apparatus comprising:

a first computer system configured to receive a number of messages on a first number of physical network media and transmit the number of messages from the first number of physical network media on a medium different than the first number of physical network media;

a second computer system, configured to transmit the number of messages on a second number of physical network

media in response to receiving the number of messages on the medium, wherein each of the number of messages is transmitted on a first physical network medium in the second number of physical network media corresponding to a second physical network medium in the first number of physical network media on which the each of the number of messages was received at the first computer system.

CLAIMS

1. A system comprising:

a number of transceiver units configured for a cabin of a vehicle, each of the number of transceiver units being configured to receive a number of messages and transmit the number of messages to a subsequent transceiver unit, wherein the subsequent transceiver unit is identified based on a physical position of each of the number of transceiver units;

a first computer system configured for the cabin, the first computer system being configured to receive the number of messages on a first number of physical network media and transmit the number of messages over a first wireless communications link to a first transceiver unit in the number of transceiver units; and

a second computer system configured for the cabin, the second computer system being configured to receive the number of messages over a second wireless communications link from a second transceiver unit in the number of transceiver units, the second computer system being further configured to transmit the number of messages received over the second wireless communications link on a second number of physical network media corresponding to the first number of physical network media.

2. The system of claim **1**, wherein the vehicle is an aircraft and further comprising:

the aircraft, wherein the cabin is located inside of the aircraft and the number of transceiver units are located above a column of seats onboard the aircraft.

3. The system of claim **2**, wherein each of the number of transceiver units are associated with a passenger service unit.

4. The system of claim **1** further comprising:

the first computer system, via a first protocol, identifying an address for each of the transceiver units.

5. The system of claim **4**, wherein the number of transceiver units are located substantially in a row and the first protocol further comprises:

a second protocol comprising:

transmitting a code from the first computer system to each of the number of transceiver units in an order;

receiving the code at a final transceiver unit in the number of transceiver units in the row, transmitting a value from the final transceiver unit to each of the number of transceiver units in a reverse of the order; and

receiving the value at the first computer system.

6. The system of claim **5**, wherein the vehicle is an aircraft and the first wireless communications link is an infrared link.

7. The system of claim **6**, wherein the first number of physical network media and the second number of physical network media are selected from an Ethernet medium, a controller area network (CAN) bus medium, and a discrete signal medium.

8. The system of claim **1**, wherein the subsequent transceiver unit being determined based on the physical position of each of the number of transceiver units to the one another further comprises the subsequent transceiver unit being located within a line of sight of a transceiver unit in each of the number of transceiver units that most recently received the number of messages.

9. A method of transmitting messages, the method comprising:

receiving, by a first computer system configured for a cabin of a vehicle, a number of messages on a first number of physical network media and transmitting the number of messages over a first wireless communications link to a first transceiver unit in a number of transceiver units;

receiving, by the number of transceiver units configured for the cabin, the number of messages and transmitting the number of messages to a subsequent transceiver unit, wherein the subsequent transceiver unit is identified based on a physical position of each of the number of transceiver units; and

receiving, by a second computer system configured for the cabin, the number of messages over a second wireless communications link from a second transceiver unit in the number of transceiver units, wherein the second computer system transmits the number of messages received over the second wireless communications link on a second number of physical network media corresponding to the first number of physical network media.

10. The method of claim **9** further comprising:

identifying an address for each transceiver unit on the first wireless communications link.

11. The method of claim **10**, wherein the first computer system is a source computer system, and wherein the step of identifying the address for each transceiver unit on the first wireless communications link further comprises:

transmitting a code from the source computer system to a last transceiver unit on the first wireless communications link, wherein each transceiver unit receives the code and repeats the code to another transceiver unit on the first wireless communications link;

responsive to receiving the code at a last transceiver unit on the first wireless communications link, transmitting a value to the source computer system, wherein each transceiver unit receives the value and increments the value prior to repeating the value to the another transceiver unit; and

receiving the value at the source computer system.

12. The method of claim **11** further comprising:

setting a size of a number of buffers at the source computer system to the value.

13. The method of claim **9** further comprising:

receiving the number of messages from the first computer system at the second transceiver unit; and

transmitting the number of messages from the second transceiver unit to the second computer system.

14. The method of claim **13** further comprising:

responsive to receiving the number of messages from the first computer system at the transceiver unit, determining whether a message in the number of messages is addressed to the second transceiver unit; and

responsive to a determination that the number of messages are addressed to the second transceiver unit, processing the number of messages by the second transceiver unit.

15. The method of claim **13**, wherein the first computer system, the second computer system, and the transceiver unit are located in the cabin and the vehicle is an aircraft.

16. The method of claim **15**, wherein the transceiver unit is located above a column of seats onboard the aircraft and associated with a number of panels.

17. The method of claim **9**, wherein the first wireless communications link is an infrared link.

18. The method of claim **9**, wherein the first wireless communications link is a different medium than each of the first number of physical network media and each of the second number of physical network media.

19. The method of claim **9**, wherein the step of transmitting the number of messages from the first number of physical network media over the first wireless communications link further comprises:

multiplexing the number of messages onto the first wireless communications link.

20. An apparatus comprising:

a first computer system configured to receive a number of messages on a first number of physical network media and transmit the number of messages on a communications link that is different from the first number of physical network media; and

a second computer system, configured to transmit the number of messages on a second number of physical network media in response to receiving the number of messages on the communications link, wherein each of the number of messages is transmitted on a second physical network medium comprised by the second number of physical network media corresponding to a first physical network medium comprised by the first number of physical network media on which each of the number of messages was received at the first computer system.