of the device 2 is the same as that in FIG. 3 except that the input unit 21 has been removed, an illustration of the configuration is omitted.

[0053] FIG. 11 is a flowchart illustrating the IP address acquisition operation of the device 2 that does not include the input unit. The operation of the device 2 at the time of the initial setting of an IP address is illustrated in FIG. 11.

[0054] As illustrated in FIG. 11, when the power source is turned on (S20), the IP address request unit 20a determines whether an IP address has already been set (S21). The power source as used herein is, for example, a power source for the entire train.

[0055] As a result of the determination in S21, in a case where an IP address has already been set when the power source is turned on (S21, Yes), the device 2 proceeds to operations other than the IP address acquisition operation, i.e., normal operations. As a result of the determination in S21, in a case where an IP address has not been set yet when the power source is turned on (S21, No), the IP address request unit 20a proceeds to the IP address acquisition operation in S22 and the subsequent steps.

[0056] Next, in a case where an IP address has not been set yet when the power source is turned on, the IP address request unit 20a generates the IP address request signal for requesting an IP address and sends the IP address request signal to the communication network 3 (S22). The IP address request signal is broadcasted using a broadcast address as a transmission destination address. The transmission source address is the MAC address of the device 2.

[0057] Next, in response to receiving the IP address distribution signal from the IP address distribution device

[0061] Next, the user operates the touch panel to select, from among the used IP addresses displayed on the display 1a, the IP address corresponding to the in-train installation position of the device 2 that is a target for the resetting of the IP address. Consequently, input information for selecting the IP address is input to the IP address distribution device 1.

[0062] Next, the IP address clear signal generation unit 30b accepts the input information and generates the IP address clear signal for causing the device 2 to which the IP address is assigned to execute a clearing process on the IP address. The IP address clear signal generation unit 30b then transmits the IP address clear signal to the device 2 using the IP address as the transmission destination address. Subsequent processes are the same as those described using FIG. 11.

[0063] As mentioned above, according to the present embodiment, both the initial setting and resetting processes for the IP address can be performed even when the device 2 does not include the input unit 21. The configuration, operation, and effect of the present embodiment other than those described above are the same as those in the first embodiment.

[0064] The present embodiment can also be used in a case where the device 2 includes the input unit 21. Specifically, in a case where the device 2 includes the input unit 21, the processes in FIG. 11 may be performed instead of performing the processes in FIG. 6, and the IP address clear signal generation unit 30b may be provided in the IP address distribution device 1.

[0065] In addition, as in the modification of the first embodiment, the IP address setting process may be performed via a mobile terminal in such a manner that the wireless