

CLAIMS

1. A method in at least one computing device, comprising:
sensing a situation with a plurality of sensors to generate sensor data;
calculating a situation score based on the sensor data; and
altering behavior of an electronic personal assistant based on the calculated situation score.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the situation is a driving situation in which a driver drives a vehicle on a roadway, said calculating comprising:
calculating a driving situation score based on the sensor data; and
said altering comprises:
altering behavior of the electronic personal assistant based on the calculated driving situation score.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein said sensing comprises:
sensing at least one aspect of the driver.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein said sensing comprises:
sensing at least one aspect of the vehicle.
5. The method of claim 2, wherein said sensing comprises
sensing at least one aspect of an environment of the roadway.
6. The method of claim 2, wherein said altering comprises:
suspending interaction by the electronic personal assistant with the driver on condition that the driving situation score has a predetermined value to avoid the driver being distracted by the electronic personal assistant.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein said suspending interaction comprises:
delaying at least one of verbal or visual communications with the driver.
8. The method of claim 2, wherein said altering comprises:
providing at least one of verbal or visual assistance to the driver.
9. At least one computing device, comprising:
a situation monitor configured to calculate a situation score based on sensor data received from a plurality of sensors sensing a situation; and
an electronic personal assistant configured to alter behavior based on the calculated situation score.
10. The at least one computing device of claim 9, wherein the situation is a driving situation in which a driver drives a vehicle on a roadway and the situation monitor includes a driving situation monitor configured to calculate a driving situation score based on the

sensor data.

11. The at least one computing device of claim 10, wherein the sensors comprise at least one of:

- a first sensor configured to sense at least one aspect of the driver;
- a second sensor configured to sense at least one aspect of the vehicle; or
- a third sensor configured to sense at least one aspect of an environment of the

roadway.

12. The at least one computing device of claim 10, wherein the electronic personal assistant is configured to alter behavior by suspending interaction by the electronic personal assistant with the driver on condition that the driving situation score has a predetermined value, thereby avoiding the driver being distracted by the electronic personal assistant.

13. The at least one computing device of claim 10, further comprising:

a mobile user device that implements the driving situation monitor and the electronic personal assistant.

14. The at least one computing device of claim 10, further comprising:

a mobile user device that implements the electronic personal assistant; and
the driving situation monitor is implemented by a processor circuit of the vehicle.

15. A computer program product comprising a computer-readable medium having computer program logic recorded thereon, comprising:

computer program logic means for enabling a processor to perform any of claims 1-

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