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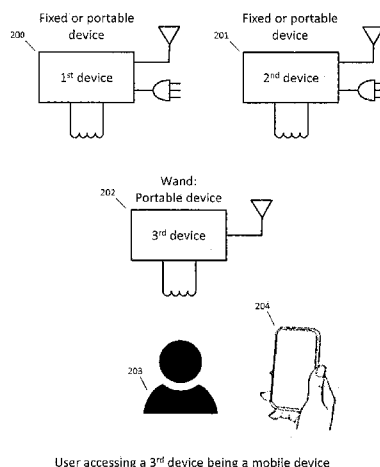
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FORMING ASSOCIATIONS AND COMMUNICATING BETWEEN DEVICES

Figure 2

Arrangement of 1st, 2nd and 3rd devicesUser accessing a 3rd device being a mobile device

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to the field of proximity communications and especially methods for establishing associations, transferring power and communicating data between devices. Devices are proposed to interact with each other, initially by being brought into close proximity to initiate transfer of data that enables the device to communicate with other devices similarly brought together. The devices can be used as a controller or an appliance or both. There is also provided a power transfer mechanism for controller and appliance devices which do not have locally available power at the time the initial proximity action is taking place, so that the processes associated with the data transfer can take place regardless. There is also described a two part device, one part of which provides the proximity communications capability the other part does not have.