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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **QUALCOMM FLARION TECHNOLOGIES, INC.** [US/US];
Bedminster One, 135 Route 202/206 South, Bedminster, NJ 07921 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **TSIRTSIS, George**

[GB/US]; 29 West 8th Street, Apt. 4R, New York, NY 10011 (US). **CORSON, M., Scott** [US/US]; 106 Preston Drive, Gillette, NJ 07933 (US). **PARK, Vincent** [US/US]; 11 Rolling Hills Drive, Budd Lake, NJ 07828 (US).

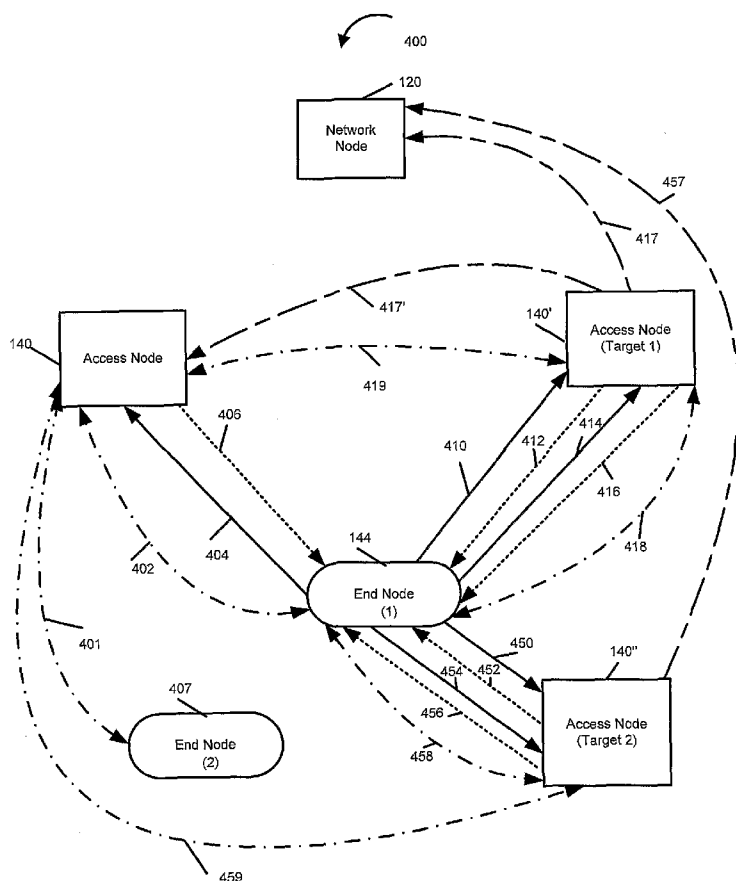
(74) Agent: **STRAUB, Michael, P.**; Straub & Pokotylo, 620 Tinton Avenue, Bldg. B, 2nd Floor, Tinton Falls, NJ 07724-3260 (US).

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(54) Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR THE UTILIZATION OF MOBILE NODES FOR STATE TRANSFER



(57) Abstract: Methods and apparatus for storing, manipulating, retrieving, and forwarding state, e.g., context and other information, used to support communications sessions with one or more end nodes, e.g., mobile devices, are described. Various features are directed to an end node controlling the transfer of state from a first access node to a second access node during a handoff operation thereby eliminating any need for state transfer messages to be transmitted between the second access node and the first access node during handoff or the use of a core network node to support state transfer. As part of a handoff state information is obtained by an end node from the current access node in encrypted form and then communicated to the new access node to which the handoff operation is to be completed. The new access node, e.g., base station decrypts the state information and then uses it to support communications with the end node. While the information is communicated to and from the end node over wireless links, since it is encrypted by the first access node it is secure and can be trusted by the receiving, e.g., target, access node.

WO 2007/035436 A1



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