

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
05 December 2019 (05.12.2019)



(10) International Publication Number
WO 2019/231807 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:

H04W 4/06 (2009.01) *H04L 12/18* (2006.01)
H04W 4/90 (2018.01) *H04L 29/08* (2006.01)
H04L 12/58 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2019/033675

(22) International Filing Date:

23 May 2019 (23.05.2019)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

15/996,376	01 June 2018 (01.06.2018)	US
16/416,392	20 May 2019 (20.05.2019)	US

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(81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JO, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN, KP, KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME,

(54) Title: PERSONAL SAFETY NETWORK

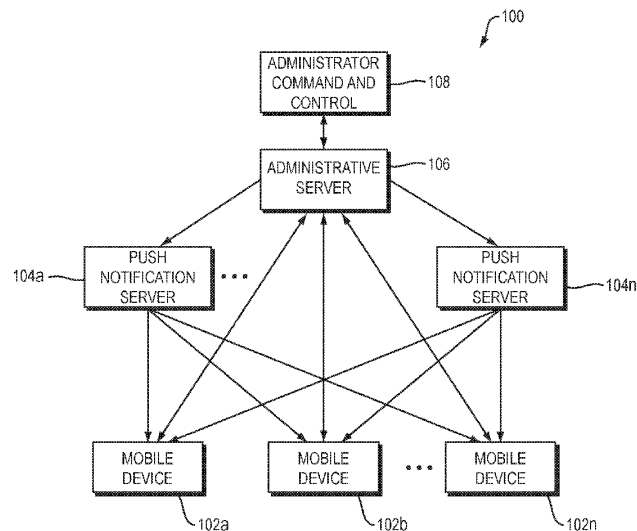


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A personal safety network (PSN) is provided in which authorized members of the network may rapidly and efficiently communicate with each other regarding threats, emergencies, or other circumstances. The PSN provides virtually real-time, multi-way messages among at least the members of a predetermined group of authorized members of the PSN. The PSN may integrate sensor data from security devices such as cameras, badge readers, and smart locks, with messages created by authorized members. The PSN may also include a location data database for maintaining virtually real-time location information for authorized members. Messages may be composed using speech recognition as an alternative to typing. A system administrator may provide temporary access to first responders or other authorized entities to message threads and underlying messages maintained by the PSN. Pre-processing and de-duplication methods are disclosed for managing congestion during periods when a large number of messages are received by the PSN.

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MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ,
OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA,
SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN,
TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))
