



ARRANGEMENT FOR SIMULTANEOUSLY INTERROGATING A PLURALITY OF PORTABLE RADIO FREQUENCY COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Abstract

An updatable, interrogation system (10) is provided for simultaneously
5 interrogating a plurality of portable data cards (20). Operable over a plurality of
radio frequencies, the interrogation system sequentially communicates with each
portable data card as it comes within communication range on a first one of the
plurality of radio frequencies for determining a unique identification number
associated with each data card. Once the identification number for a card is obtained
10 by the interrogation system, a predetermined transaction, such as deactivating an
electronic barrier to entering a limited access area, for the holder of the identified
card is initiated. The interrogation system then selects and moves with each card to
a different one of the plurality of radio frequencies for completing a data transfer
portion of the transaction. The interrogation system simultaneously completes each
15 predetermined transaction of reading from and writing data to each one of the
plurality of cards while communicating with each card on the respectively selected
ones of the plurality of radio frequencies.

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