NAMING CONVENTION FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF DEVICE, AND APPARATUS AND METHODS USING THE NAMING CONVENTION

ABSTRACT

Provided are methods, apparatus and computer programs for self-generating device names for communications devices (10,20,30) using processes running on the device. The device names are then used to enable the devices (10,20,30) to be identified during the network communications. This avoids the configuration overhead inherent in requiring unique device names to be allocated by a central naming authority. Uniqueness of device names is achieved by a class-based naming convention in which class names are associated with device types and unique device identifiers are allocated for devices within a class. The device identifiers one class may have a very different format from device identifiers in other classes, and processes are provided for interpreting the different formats of device identifier to identify individual devices (10,20,30).

Fig.2