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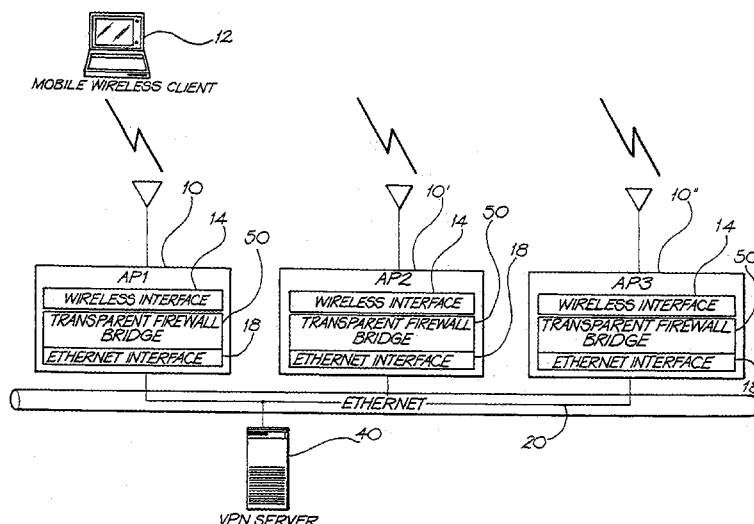
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(54) Title: SECURITY OF DATA THROUGH WIRELESS ACCESS POINTS SUPPORTING ROAMING



(57) Abstract: Methods and apparatus for providing client wireless device access to a network are described. The wireless device attains the ability to roam between wireless access points without needing to re-establish a network layer connection to the server. A wireless client device (12) connects with a secure access point (10). The access point (10) connects to a server (40) at the data link layer and has a firewall in place. The firewall passes only virtual private network data and network addressing data. The client obtains a network layer (IP) address, then, through the server (40), has a virtual private network connection established. As the client (12) moves from AP1 (10) to AP2 (10'), the data link layer connection is reestablished with AP2. However, the network layer connection is maintained, and hence the virtual private network connection is maintained. Seamless roaming is thereby supported together with a high level of security.



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