METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR THE COMMUNICATION OF CELLULAR NETWORK INFORMATION BETWEEN A WIRELESS LOCAL AREA NETWORK AND A MOBILE STATION

ABSTRACT

Methods and apparatus for the communication of cellular network information between a wireless local area network (WLAN) and a mobile station are disclosed. In one illustrative example, the mobile station receives a generic container message from the WLAN in an extensible authentication procedure (EAP). The generic container message includes cellular network information associated with one or more available cellular networks previously received by the WLAN. The generic container message is not technology or standard-specific and therefore it may contain cellular network information from a variety of different cellular networks (e.g. 3GPP, 3GPP2, IETF, etc.). The mobile station decodes the generic container message to identify and store the cellular network information in its memory. Preferably, the cellular network information includes information for identifying the cellular networks so that the mobile station may appropriately select one of the cellular networks for communication.

(Fig. 5)