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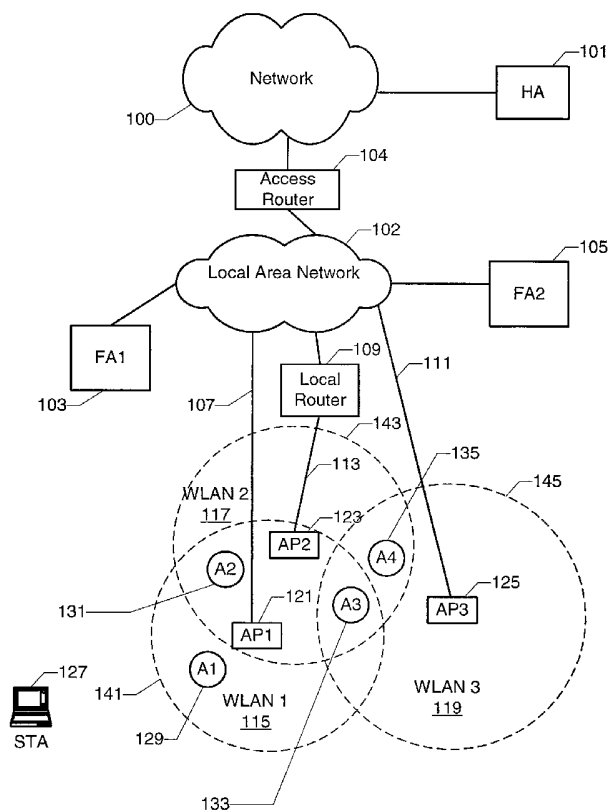
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(54) Title: A METHOD FOR A WIRELESS STATION TO LOCATE AND ASSOCIATE WITH A WIRELESS NETWORK



(57) Abstract: A wireless station having a wireless network device capable of providing a link-layer interface to a wireless network, a method operating at the link layer (L2) in the wireless station, and a carrier medium carrying computer readable code segments that when executed on a processor in the wireless station implement the method. The method includes, prior to the station being associated with a wireless network, wirelessly receiving L2 frames transmitted from one or more wireless access point of one or more wireless networks that the station can hear. The method further includes gathering information about the received L2 frames, including L2 information and L3 information. The L3 information includes whether an AP is sending an IP packet from a mobility agent, such that the station may associate with a wireless network that is in communication with the mobility agent. The method further includes storing information about the wireless networks that the station can hear in a database. The information stored about each wireless network includes one or more of an identifier of the wireless network, the L3 information in the L2 frame received from the AP of the wireless network, a time stamp of when the L2 frame was received from the AP, and an indication of the signal strength of the L2 frame from the AP.

WO 2004/034647 A3



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**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

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**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2001/046223 A1 (SOLIMAN HESHAM ET AL) 29 November 2001 (2001-11-29) figures 1-4,6,7 page 1, paragraph 3 page 2, paragraph 12 page 3, paragraphs 30,32,33 page 4, paragraphs 37,41 page 5, paragraph 42 page 7, paragraphs 52,53 page 8, paragraphs 56,60 page 9, lines 1-7	1-143
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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>US 2002/026527 A1 (DAS SAJAL ET AL) 28 February 2002 (2002-02-28) figures 2,4-6 page 1, paragraphs 4,6 page 2, paragraphs 18,21,22 page 3, paragraph 26 page 4, paragraphs 35,51 page 5, paragraphs 52,53 page 7, paragraph 74</p>	1-143
A	<p>US 2001/036834 A1 (MCAULEY ANTHONY J ET AL) 1 November 2001 (2001-11-01) figures 1-4 page 1, paragraphs 4,5 page 2, paragraphs 12,13,22 page 3, paragraphs 26,31 page 4, paragraphs 35,37,41 page 5, paragraph 45</p>	1-143

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**  
 information on patent family members

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