CLAIM 6

6. Method for remotely powering access equipment in a data network, comprising,

providing a data node adapted for data switching, an access device adapted for data transmission, at least one data signaling pair connected between the data node and the access device and arranged to transmit data therebetween, a main power source connected to supply power to the data node, and a secondary power source arranged to supply power from the data node via said data signaling pair to the access device,

delivering a low level current from said main power source to the access device over said data signaling pair,

sensing a voltage level on the data signaling pair in response to the low level current, and

controlling power supplied by said secondary power source to said access device in response to a preselected condition of said voltage level.

CLAIM 9

9. Method according to claim 6, including the step of continuing to sense voltage level and to decrease power from the secondary power source if voltage level drops on the data signaling pair, indicating removal of the access device.

CLAIM 10

Claim 10 (proposed substitute for Claim 6): Method for remotely powering access equipment in an Ethernet data network, comprising,

providing an Ethernet data node adapted for data switching, an access device adapted for data transmission . . .,

delivering a low level current from said main power source to the access device over said data signaling pair,

sensing a voltage level on the data signaling pair in response to the low level current,

determining whether the access device is capable of accepting remote power based on the sensed voltage, and

controlling power supplied by said secondary power source to said access device in response to a preselected condition of said voltage level.