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U.S. Patent No. 7,027,418)	Examiner: Pokrzywa, Joseph R.
Issued: April 21, 2006)	Art Unit: 3992
)	
For: APPROACH FOR SELECTING)	
COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS BASED)	
ON PERFORMANCE)	
_____)	

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Housekeeping Amendment

In Response to Decision, *Sua Sponte*, to Merge Reexamination Proceedings

Sir:

This “housekeeping” amendment is submitted by the Patent Owner in response to the Decision, *Sua Sponte*, To Merge Reexamination Proceedings dated January 10, 2013 (“Merger Decision”) in the above-referenced *inter partes* reexamination proceedings. This paper is submitted in duplicate for entry into the files of each of the above-referenced proceedings.

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CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)
2. (Amended) [The method as recited in claim 1] A method for selecting communications channels for a communications system, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
 - selecting, based upon performance of a plurality of communications channels at a first time and channel selection criteria, a first set of two or more communications channels from the plurality of communications channels, wherein the channel selection criteria specifies that for a particular communications channel to be selected, the particular communications channel (a) receives a specified number of affirmative votes to use the particular communications channel from a plurality of participants and (b) does not receive a negative vote from a particular participant to not use the particular communications channel;
 - selecting, based upon performance of the plurality of communications channels at a second time that is later than the first time and the channel selection criteria, a second set of two or more communications channels from the plurality of communications channels;
 - wherein the communications system is a frequency hopping communications system and the plurality of communications channels correspond to a set of frequencies to be used based on a hopping sequence according to a frequency hopping protocol; and
 - wherein at each hop in the hopping sequence, only one communications channel is used for communications between a pair of participants.
3. (Amended) The method as recited in claim [1]2, wherein the plurality of communications channels communicatively couple at least a plurality of wireless devices.
4. The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the plurality of wireless devices includes one or more mobile devices.
5. (Amended) The method as recited in claim [1]2, further comprising the steps of:
 - generating first channel identification data that identifies the first set of two or more communications channels;
 - transmitting the first channel identification data to one or more participants in the communications system over one communications channel of the plurality of communications channels based on the hopping sequence according to the frequency hopping protocol;
 - generating second channel identification data that identifies the second set of two or more communications channels; and
 - transmitting the second channel identification data to one or more participants in the communications system over one communications channel of the plurality of communications channels based on the hopping sequence according to the frequency hopping protocol.

6. (Amended) [The method as recited in claim 1,] A method for selecting communications channels for a communications system, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

selecting, based upon performance of a plurality of communications channels at a first time and channel selection criteria, a first set of two or more communications channels from the plurality of communications channels, wherein:
the channel selection criteria specifies that for a particular communications channel to be selected, the particular communications channel receives a first specified number of votes to use the particular communications channel from among a plurality of votes;
each participant in a plurality of participants except for a particular participant casts one vote of the plurality of votes; and
the particular participant casts a second specified number of votes;
selecting, based upon performance of the plurality of communications channels at a second time that is later than the first time and the channel selection criteria, a second set of two or more communications channels from the plurality of communications channels;
wherein the communications system is a frequency hopping communications system and the plurality of communications channels correspond to a set of frequencies to be used based on a hopping sequence according to a frequency hopping protocol; and
wherein at each hop in the hopping sequence, only one communications channel is used for communications between a pair of participants.

7. (Amended) The method as recited in claim [1]2, wherein the channel selection criteria include a channel performance threshold.

8. (Amended) The method as recited in claim [1]2, further comprising the steps of:
generating first channel performance data that indicates the performance of the plurality of communications channels at the first time; and
generating second channel performance data that indicates the performance of the plurality of communications channels at the second time.

9. (Amended) [The method as recited in claim 1,] A method for selecting communications channels for a communications system, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

selecting, based upon performance of a plurality of communications channels at a first time and channel selection criteria, a first set of two or more communications channels from the plurality of communications channels, wherein:
the channel selection criteria specifies that for a particular communications channel to be selected, the particular communications channel receives a specified number of votes to use the particular communications channel from among a plurality of votes; and
each participant in a plurality of participants casts one vote of the plurality of votes;
selecting, based upon performance of the plurality of communications channels at a second time that is later than the first time and the channel selection criteria, a second set of two or more communications channels from the plurality of communications channels;
wherein the communications system is a frequency hopping communications system and the plurality of communications channels correspond to a set of frequencies to be used based on a hopping sequence according to a frequency hopping protocol; and

wherein at each hop in the hopping sequence, only one communications channel is used for communications between a pair of participants.

10. (Amended) The method as recited in claim [1]2, further comprising the steps of: communicating, prior to the second time, over the first set of two or more communications channels, according to the frequency hopping protocol; and communicating, after a third time that is not earlier than the second time, over the second set of two or more communications channels, according to the frequency hopping protocol.

11. (Amended) The method as recited in claim [1]2, further comprising the steps of: determining the performance of the plurality of communications channels at the first time; and determining the performance of the plurality of communications channels at the second time.

12. (Amended) The method as recited in claim [1]2, wherein the performance of the plurality of communications channels is based on channel performance data that is transmitted over one or more of the plurality of communications channels based on the hopping sequence according to the frequency hopping protocol.

13. The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the performance of the plurality of communications channels is based on additional channel performance data that is based on transmitting the channel performance data over one or more of the plurality of communications channels based on the hopping sequence according to the frequency hopping protocol.

14. A method for selecting communications channels for a frequency hopping communications system, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of: selecting, based upon performance of a plurality of communications channels at a first time and channel selection criteria, a first set of two or more communications channels from the plurality of communications channels, wherein the plurality of communications channels correspond to a set of frequencies to be used based on a hopping sequence according to a frequency hopping protocol, and wherein at each hop in the hopping sequence, only one communications channel is used for communications between a pair of participants; determining, based upon performance of the first set of two or more communications channels at a second time that is later than the first time, a number of communications channels from the first set of two or more communications channels that satisfy the channel selection criteria; and if the number of communications channels from the first set of two or more communications channels that satisfy the channel selection criteria at the second time is less than a specified number, then selecting, based upon performance of the plurality of communications channels at a third time that is later than the second time and the channel selection criteria, a second set of two or more communications channels from the plurality of communications channels in the frequency hopping communications system.

15. (Amended) A method for communicating with a participant in a communications arrangement, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

- selecting, based on first performance data that indicates performance of a plurality of communications channels at a first time and at least a first performance criterion, a first set of two or more communications channels from the plurality of communications channels;
- generating first identification data that identifies the first set of two or more communications channels;
- providing the first identification data to the participant;
- communicating with the participant over the first set of two or more communications channels[.];
- wherein the plurality of communications channels correspond to a set of frequencies to be used based on a hopping sequence according to a frequency hopping protocol;
- wherein at each hop in the hopping sequence, only one communications channel is used for communications between a pair of participants;[and]
- wherein the first identification data is provided to the participant over one communications channel of the plurality of communications channels based on the hopping sequence according to the frequency hopping protocol;
- determining, based on second performance data that indicates performance of the first set of two or more communications channels at a second time that is later than the first time, a number of communications channels from the first set of two or more communications channels that satisfy at least a second performance criterion; and
- if the number of communications channels from the first set of two or more communications channels is less than a specified number, then:
 - selecting, based on third performance data that indicates performance of the plurality of communications channels at a third time that is at or later than the second time and at least a third performance criterion, a second set of two or more communications channels from the plurality of communications channels;
 - generating second identification data that identifies the second set of two or more communications channels;
 - providing the second identification data to the participant over one communications channel of the plurality of communications channels based on the hopping sequence according to the frequency hopping protocol; and
 - communicating with the participant over the second set of two or more communications channels.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the participant is selected from the group consisting of a wireless device and a mobile device.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the first performance data indicates performance for each communications channel of the plurality of communications channels.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein the step of providing the first identification data to the participant comprises the computer-implemented steps of:

- encrypting the first identification data; and
- providing the encrypted first identification data to the participant.

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