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Docket Number 19723-36396

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PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET (Small Entity)

This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT under 37 CFR 1.53 (c).

INVENTOR(S)/APPLICANT(S)					
Name (first and middle [if any])	Family Name or Surname	Residence (City and either State or Foreign Country)			
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<input type="checkbox"/> Additional inventors are being named on page 2 attached hereto					
TITLE OF THE INVENTION (280 characters max)					
Apparatus and Method for Remotely Powering Access Equipment Over a 10/100 Switched Ethernet Network					
CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS					
Direct all correspondence to:					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Customer Number	<input type="text"/>	→ <input type="text"/>		
OR					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Firm or Individual Name	William C. Crutcher, Esq.			
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	Country	US	Telephone	203-597-5116	Fax 203-757-7888
ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS (check all that apply)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specification	Number of Pages	6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Small Entity Statement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Drawing(s)	Number of Sheets	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify) <input type="text"/>
METHOD OF PAYMENT OF FILING FEES FOR THIS PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT (check one)					
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No.				
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Respectfully submitted,

SIGNATURE *William C. Crutcher*

Date March 10, 1999

TYPED or PRINTED NAME William C. Crutcher

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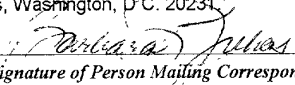
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**STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(c))--SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN**

Docket Number (Optional)
19723-36396

Applicant, Patentee, or Identifier: Katzenberg, et al.

Application or Patent No.: new

Filed or issued: _____

Title: Apparatus and Method for Remotely Powering Access Equipment Over
a 10/100 Switched Ethernet Network

I hereby state that I am

- the owner of the small business concern identified below:
- an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

NAME OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN Merlot Communications, Inc.

ADDRESS OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN 4 Berkshire Boulevard
Bethel, Connecticut 06801

I hereby state that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR Part 121 for purposes of paying reduced fees to the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Questions related to size standards for a small business concern may be directed to: Small Business Administration, Size Standards Staff, 409 Third Street, SW, Washington, DC 20416.

I hereby state that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention described in:

- the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.
- the application identified above.
- the patent identified above.

If the rights held by the above identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern, or organization having rights in the invention must file separate statements as to their status as small entities, and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person made the invention, or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d), or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern, or organization having any rights in the invention is listed below:

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Separate statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention stating their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING Ronald M. Keenan

TITLE OF PERSON IF OTHER THAN OWNER Chief Technology Officer

ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING 10 Tilquist Road, Oxford, CT 06478

SIGNATURE Ronald M. Keenan DATE 3/9/99

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

**Apparatus and Method for Remotely Powering Access Equipment
Over a 10/100 Switched Ethernet Network**

This invention broadly relates to the powering of 10/100 Ethernet compatible
equipment. The invention more particularly relates to apparatus and methods for
5 automatically determining if remote equipment is capable of remote power feed and
if it is determined that the remote equipment is able to accept power remotely then
to provide power in a reliable non-intrusive way.

Background of the Invention

A variety of telecommunications equipment is remotely powered today.
10 Telephones and Network Repeater devices are examples of remotely powered
equipment. Obviously there are many advantages to remotely powering equipment,
however this technique has not migrated to data communications equipment for
several reasons. Data communications equipment has traditionally required high
power levels to operate which has made it prohibitive to implement. The widely
15 distributed nature as well as the use of shared media used in data networks has
also made remote power impractical.

The desire to add remotely powered devices to a data network is being
pushed by the convergence of voice and data technologies. The advent of IP
Telephony, Voice over IP and Voice over Packet technologies has brought
20 traditional telephony requirements into the data environment. It is not desirable to
have a phone powered by a local wall transformer. It is desirable to have a
centrally powered system that can be protected during a power outage.

It is therefore an object of the invention to provide methods and apparatus for reliably determining if a remote piece of equipment is capable of accepting remote power.

It is another object of this invention to provide methods and apparatus for delivering remote power to remote equipment over 10/100 switched Ethernet segments and maintain compliance with IEEE 802.3 standards.

Summary of the Invention

In accord with the objects of the invention an apparatus for remotely powering access equipment over a 10/100 switched Ethernet network comprises: automatic detection of remote equipment being connected to the network; determining whether the remote equipment is capable of accepting remote power in a non-intrusive manner; delivering the power to remote equipment over the same wire pairs that deliver the data signals; automatic detection of remote equipment being removed from the network.

Drawings

The invention will be more clearly understood by reference to the following description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a simplified schematic diagram of the remote power automatic detection system of the present invention, shown in conjunction with a single unit of remote access equipment connected as part of an Ethernet local area network,

Fig. 2 is a simplified schematic drawing of a power feed configuration for supplying power to the remote access equipment on the local area network, and

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