PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.:	90/009,513
Filing Date:	September 24, 2009
Applicant:	Patent No. 7,457,250
Group Art Unit:	3992
Examiner:	Eric B. Kiss
Title:	SYSTEM FOR COMMUNICATING WITH ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT
Attorney Docket:	9919-000002/RXF

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RESPONSE

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed April 20, 2010, please consider the remarks set forth below.

A listing of the Patent Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 22 of this paper.

THE CLAIMS

The following is a listing of the claims in U.S. Patent No. 7,457,250. They are not being amended.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Original) A system for communicating information on a network having pieces of electronic equipment that connect to the network by cables having a plurality of wires therein, said system comprising:

a central module having at least one power source;

a first piece of equipment;

a first cable having wires therein connected between the central module and the first piece of equipment;

a first remote module utilized in conjunction with the central module to alter a flow of current within at least a pair of wires in the first cable, the altered current flow communicating information about the first piece of equipment to the central module while the first piece of equipment is physically connected to the network via the first cable;

a second piece of equipment;

a second cable having wires therein connected between the central module and the second piece of equipment; and

a second remote module utilized in conjunction with the central module to alter a flow of current within at least a pair of wires in the second cable, the altered current flow communicating information about the second piece of equipment to the central module while the second piece of equipment is physically connected to the network via the second cable.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the information *communicated to the central module is over the same wires* in the cable that normally carry high frequency data communications over the network to a piece of electronic equipment. [note italicized language is from Certificate of Correction]

3. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the information is a unique signal related to the piece of equipment to which each remote module is associated.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein said central module further comprises:

a monitor for decoding the unique signal communicated over the cable thereby identifying the equipment associated therewith.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein a remote module is a device attached to a piece of equipment.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the central module identifies the existence and location of a piece of equipment even if the piece of equipment is powered off.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the central module further comprises a power modulator for modulating power from the power source and coupling a modulated power signal over the cables to the remote modules, and

wherein the remote module further comprises a power demodulator for demodulating the modulated power signal to detect information sent from the central module;

whereby the remote modules can operate on power from the central module without the electronic equipment being powered, and further that information can be bi-directionally transmitted between the central module and remote modules.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the central module detects the absence of a proper signal associated with a piece of equipment on the network and blocks network services from being delivered to that piece of equipment.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1 which further comprises:

a database having information that identifies each piece of equipment and its location on the network, along with an identification signal for each piece of equipment; and

wherein the system periodically updates the database as a function of the communicated information to thereby track the identity and location of the equipment on the network.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the central module is used to limit access to selected programs as a function of the information communicated by at least one remote module.

11. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the information is in the form of multi-bit information and wherein the bit rate of the multi-bit information is less than about 1% of the bit-rates of the high frequency data communications.

12. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the information can be communicated to the central module even if a piece of electronic equipment is powered off.

13. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the network is an Ethernet network.

14. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein the frequency of the high frequency data is at least 10 Mbits/sec and the bit rate of the multi-bit information is not more than 100 kb/sec.

15. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the cables are twisted pair Ethernet cables.

16. (Original) A system for communicating information on a network, said system comprising:

a central module having at least one power source;

a first piece of equipment;

a first cable having a plurality of wires therein, at least a pair of wires in said first cable connecting the first piece of equipment to the central module through a first loop;

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