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Docket Number 19723-36396

PRV.

VISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET (Small Entity)

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

Karme (first and middle [if any]) Family Name or Surname Residence (City and either State or Foreign Cou Boris Katzenberg Trumbull, Connecticut	
Boris Katzenherg Trumbull, Connecticut	ntry)
DUI 13 Nutchiberg	
Edward R. Caceres New Milford, Connecticut	
Joseph A. Deptula Watertown, Connecticut	
Patrick A. Evans Burlington, Connecticut	
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	
Direct all correspondence to	
Customer Number Bar Code Label here	
OR	
Firm or Individual Name William C. Crutcher, Esq.	
Address Gager & Peterson, LLP	
Address One Exchange Place	
City Waterbury State CT ZIP 06722-248	0
Country US Telephone 203-597-5116 Fax 203-757-78	188
ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS (check all that apply)	
Specification Number of Pages 6 Small Entity Statement	
Drawing(s) Number of Sheets 3 Other (specify)	
METHOD OF PAYMENT OF FILING FEES FOR THIS PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT (check one	
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge filing fees or	
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The invention was made by an agency of the United States Government or under a contract with an agency of the United States Government.	
No.	
Yes, the name of the US Government agency and the Government contract number are	
Respectfully submitted,	
SIGNATURE Alle Cutch Date March 10, 1999)
TYPED or PRINTED NAME William C. Crutcher REGISTRATION NO 19 (if appropriate)	9,279
TELEPHONE 203-597-5116	
USE ONLY FOR FILING A PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PA SEND TO: Box Provisional Application, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC	
[Page 1 of 2]	P19SMALL/

INVENTOR(S)/APPLICANT(S)				
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[Page 2 of 2]

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STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(c))SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN	Docket Number (Option 19723-36396
Applicant, Patentee, or Identifier. <u>Katzenberg</u> et <u>a1</u>	
FiledorIssued:	Equipment Over
a 10/100 Switched Ethernet Network 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 con	cern identified below:
NAMEOFSMALLBUSINESSCONCERN <u>Merlot</u> Communications, In	nc.
ADDRESSOFSMALLBUSINESSCONCERN <u>4 Berkshire Bouleyard</u> Bethel, Connecticut 06	
I hereby state that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small I3 CFR Part 121 for purposes of paying reduced fees to the United States Patent and Tra- o size standards for a small business concern may be directed to: Small Business Adm IO9 Third Street, SW, Washington, DC 20416.	l business concern as defined demark Office. Questions relat
I hereby state that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain dentified above with regard to the invention described in:	with the small business conce
 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 exclusion organization having rights in the invention must file separate statements as to their statu- o the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who would not qualify as TCFR 1.9(c) if that person made the invention, or by any concern which would not qua- inder 37 CFR 1.9(d), or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).	s as small entities, and no right s an independent inventor unde
Each person, concern, or organization having any rights in the invention is listed b I no such person, concern, or organization exists. I each such person, concern, or organization is listed below.	elow:
Separate statements are required from each named person, concern or organization tating their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)	on having rights to the invention
I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any char intitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the earliest after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFI	he issue fee or any maintenand
AME OF PERSON SIGNING Ronald M. Keenan	
TILE OF PERSON IF OTHER THAN OWNER Chief Technology Officer	
ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING 10 Tilquist Road, Oxford, CT	06478
SIGNATURE Munah M. Keman DATE	3/9/99
on Hour Statement. This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending up nents on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief informs ington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SENC ington, DC 20231.	

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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 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. 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 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 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.

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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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