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(54) **SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR MONITORING AND CONTROLLING REMOTE DEVICES**

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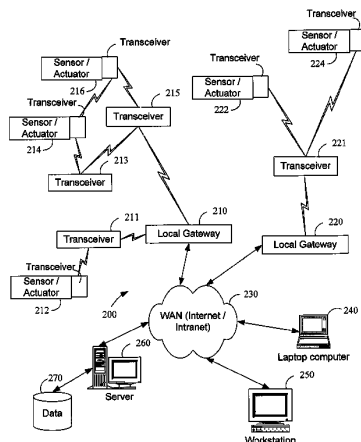
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Embodiments of the present invention are generally directed to a system for monitoring a variety of environmental and/or other conditions within a defined remotely located region. Such a system may be configured to monitor utility meters in a defined area. The system is implemented by using a plurality of wireless transmitters, wherein each wireless transmitter is integrated into a sensor adapted to monitor a particular data input. The system also includes a plurality of transceivers that are dispersed throughout the region at defined locations. The system uses a local gateway to translate and transfer information from the transmitters to a dedicated computer on a network. The dedicated computer, collects, compiles, and stores the data for retrieval upon client demand across the network. Other aspects, features, and embodiments are also claimed and described.

23 Claims, 18 Drawing Sheets



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continuation of application No. 13/222,216, filed on Aug. 31, 2008, now Pat. No. 8,212,667, which is a continuation of application No. 12/477,329, filed on Aug. 31, 2008, now Pat. No. 8,410,931, which is a continuation of application No. 12/337,739, filed on Dec. 18, 2008, now Pat. No. 7,978,059, which is a continuation of application No. 11/395,685, filed on Mar. 31, 2006, now Pat. No. 7,468,661, which is a continuation of application No. 10/139,492, filed on May 6, 2002, now Pat. No. 7,053,767, which is a continuation of application No. 09/439,059, filed on Nov. 12, 1999, now Pat. No. 6,437,692, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/271,517, filed on Mar. 18, 1999, now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/102,178, filed on Jun. 22, 1998, now Pat. No. 6,430,268, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/412,895, filed on Oct. 5, 1999, now Pat. No. 6,430,278, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/172,554, filed on Oct. 14, 1998, now Pat. No. 6,028,522.

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 See application file for complete search history.

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