

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR COMMUNICATING EMERGENCY DATA

BACKGROUND OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

[0001] 1. Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates generally to the field of telecommunications and more particularly to the field of personal data storage and transmission using conventional and wireless means.

[0003] 2. History of the Related Art

[0004] The proliferation of highly portable computing devices such as mobile telephones, personal data assistants, laptop computers, MP3 players, and other mobile personal computing devices has allowed people access to a great deal of information at their fingertips. In general, various types of users have found these devices useful for things ranging from running fairly complex programs, such as to browse the web or access email, to simpler tasks such as storing contact information, keeping a calendar, and so forth. Moreover, the integration of multiple functions within more powerful and compact devices has allowed users to consolidate many of these functions into very few or perhaps even a single hardware element.

[0005] A side effect of the increasing mobility of modern society is the increased risk of encountering an emergency situation outside of one's home, school or office. Moreover, as the amount of information in modern society increases, there is even more input that is needed in an emergency situation in order for a user or first responder to make accurate and safe decisions. For example, a user in an emergency situation might be expected to access a significant amount of information from different sources, such as a phone number for road-side assistance, their vehicle's identification (VIN) number, physician contact information, insurance information, and any information related to pre-existing allergies or maladies. Moreover, families and other groups may need these and other types of information for spouses, dependants, or employees. While even the most conscientious users may take the time to put such information in a computer system, the existing art is inefficient and limited in its ability to organize and transmit this data to a suitable mobile device that provides a user or first responder with easy access to relevant information. As such there is a need in the art for a system and method for storing, organizing and transmitting emergency data for use on a mobile computing device. The proposed solution should be both simple and elegant, such that users and first responders can readily access the emergency data in a crisis.

SUMMARY OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

[0006] Accordingly, the present invention includes a system and a method for communicating emergency data. In its various embodiments, discussed in detail below, the present invention provides an interface between at least one mobile device and at least one data center, the latter of which is preferably networked such that it can be accessed through normal Internet protocols. The system of the present invention further provides for a network gateway that links the mobile device to the data center and provides means for translating information usable by the mobile device into

information usable by the data center. In its more preferred embodiments, the emergency data is communicated according to two protocols, one that applies to communications with the data center and a second that applies to communications with the mobile device.

[0007] The method of the present invention is practicable through software or other means for operating a computer, database or mobile device. In particular, the method of the present invention includes steps for storing, receiving and transmitting emergency data according to a first protocol, storing, receiving and transmitting emergency data according to a second protocol, and a step for converting data between the first and second protocols. In practice, the method of the present invention includes steps for receiving, storing and transmitting data from a web-enabled data center to a mobile device, such as for example a mobile telephone; and further receiving, storing and transmitting data from the mobile device to the web-enabled data center. In this manner, the method ensures that a user's emergency data is always current and accurate, as the user can add, update or change his or her emergency data through both the web-enabled data center and the mobile device. Any changes or updates to the emergency data are communicated automatically to the complimentary element of the system.

[0008] These and other features and benefits of the present invention are more clearly and distinctly presented in the following detailed description made with reference to the Figures.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

[0009] FIG. 1 is a schematic block diagram of a system for communicating emergency data according to one aspect of the present invention.

[0010] FIG. 2 is a schematic block diagram of the system for communicating emergency data according to additional embodiments of the present invention.

[0011] FIG. 3 is a screen shot of a mobile device operating in one mode according to the system and method of the present invention.

[0012] FIG. 4 is a screen shot of a mobile device operating in another mode according to the system and method of the present invention.

[0013] FIG. 5 is a screen shot of a mobile device operating in another mode according to the system and method of the present invention.

[0014] FIG. 6 is a screen shot of a mobile device operating in another mode according to the system and method of the present invention.

[0015] FIG. 7 is a screen shot of a mobile device operating in another mode according to the system and method of the present invention.

[0016] FIG. 8 is a screen shot of a mobile device operating in another mode according to the system and method of the present invention.

[0017] FIG. 9 is a screen shot of a mobile device operating in another mode according to the system and method of the present invention.