vation of a sensing device, an identifier of the device is associated with a user identifier. The association may comprise, for example, coupling the sensing device with a communication device associated with the user identifier. The user identifier may suitably be a network identifier. Alternatively, for example if the sensing device includes self-contained communication capabilities, a user identifier may be provided to the sensing device by means of a user interface. At step **304**, a setup of the sensing device is performed, with the setup including designating persons authorized to receive access to data collected by the sensing device. Setup may further comprise associating the identifier of the device with information identifying the authorized recipients of access, as well as levels of access, and establishing a protocol for delivery of information collected by the device to a generally accessible data repository. The setup may further comprise the establishment of data records and authorization information relating to the device by a central repository and confirmation by the central repository that setup has been accomplished. At step **306**, the central repository delivers notifications to authorized users of the presence of the sensing device, according to appropriate criteria for selecting recipients of notifications. At step **308**, information collected by the sensing device is delivered to the central repository. Delivery may be according to a schedule, such as a schedule established at setup or programmed into the device, or may be performed according to other mechanisms and criteria if desired, such as upon collection of data, upon a change in the data collected, a request from an authorized user or during periods of low traffic. At step **310**, upon a request from a user for access to data, the central repository determines if the user is authorized and delivers access if the user is in fact authorized. At step **312**, upon a change in setup information, such as a change in the authorized users or removal of a sensing device, the central repository updates its information relating to the device and delivers updated notifications as appropriate.

[0038] Reference is now made to FIG. **4** for illustrating a simplified block diagram of an electronic device and apparatus suitable for use in practicing the exemplary embodiments of this invention. In FIG. **4** an apparatus which may serve as a sensing device **400**, which may be implemented as a mobile device/terminal such as a UE, wireless network station, or near field communication device, is adapted for communication with other apparatuses having wireless communication capability. The sensing device **400** may be a user device similar to the devices **102**A-**102**E of FIG. **1**.

[0039] The sensing device **400** includes processing means such as at least one data processor (DP) **404**, storing means such as at least one computer-readable memory (MEM) **406** storing data **408**, at least one computer program (PROG) **410** or other set of executable instructions, communicating means such as a transmitter TX **412** and a receiver RX **414** for bidirectional wireless communications with an eNB, wireless network access point, near field communication equipped device, or other device, via one or more antennas **416**.

[0040] At least one of the PROGs **410** in the sensing device **400** is assumed to include a set of program instructions that, when executed by the associated DP **404**, enable the device to operate in accordance with the exemplary embodiments of this invention, as detailed above. In these regards the exemplary embodiments of this invention may be implemented at least in part by computer software stored on the MEM **406**, which is executable by the DP **404** of the device **400**, or by hardware, or by a combination of tangibly stored software and hardware (and tangibly stored firmware). Electronic devices implementing these aspects of the invention need not be the entire devices as depicted at FIG. **1** or FIG. **4** or may be one or more components of same such as the above described tangibly stored software, hardware, firmware and DP, or a system on a chip SOC or an application specific integrated circuit ASIC.

[0041] In general, the various embodiments of the device **400** can include, but are not limited to personal portable digital devices having wireless communication capabilities, including but not limited to cellular telephones, navigation devices, laptop/palmtop/tablet computers, digital cameras and music devices, and Internet appliances.

[0042] Various embodiments of the computer readable MEM **406** include any data storage technology type which is suitable to the local technical environment, including but not limited to semiconductor based memory devices, magnetic memory devices and systems, optical memory devices and systems, fixed memory, removable memory, disc memory, flash memory, DRAM, SRAM, EEPROM and the like. Various embodiments of the DP **404** include but are not limited to general purpose computers, special purpose computers, microprocessors, digital signal processors (DSPs) and multicore processors.

[0043] The sensing device **400** may communicate directly or indirectly with a data processing device **450** which may comprise a device such as a near field connection or wireless networking equipped computer, a central data repository, or one or more servers such as a cloud server or a social network server. The data processing device **450** may include processing means such as at least one data processor (DP) **454**, storing means such as at least one computer-readable memory (MEM) **456** storing data **458**, at least one computer program (PROG) **460** or other set of executable instructions, communicating means such as a transmitter TX **462** and a receiver RX **464** for bidirectional wireless communications with an eNB, wireless network access point, near field communication equipped device, or other device, via one or more antennas **466**.

In an embodiment, bluetooth, wireless local area network, or other short range radio communication may replace near field connection/communication as described in some other embodiments.

[0044] At least one of the PROGs **460** in the device **400** is assumed to include a set of program instructions that, when executed by the associated DP **454**, enable the device to operate in accordance with the exemplary embodiments of this invention, as detailed above. In these regards the exemplary embodiments of this invention may be implemented at least in part by computer software stored on the MEM **406**, which is executable by the DP **454** of the device **400**, or by hardware, or by a combination of tangibly stored software and hardware (and tangibly stored firmware). Electronic devices implementing these aspects of the invention need not be the entire devices as depicted at FIG. **1** or FIG. **4** or may be one or more components of same such as the above described tangibly stored software, hardware, firmware and DP, or a system on a chip SOC or an application specific integrated circuit ASIC.

[0045] In general, the various embodiments of the device **400** can include, but are not limited to personal computers, network servers, data storage systems, and other suitable mechanisms for receiving, storing, and distributing data.