

INVENTION DISCLOSURE

Invention Title:

Local Radio Station Listings in a Connected Car Environment

Invention Summary:

This invention disclosure describes a method of accessing local radio station listing services from within a connected car environment. Radio station discovery and tuning can be simplified and implemented in a less distracting manner.

Invention Description:

Using the connected car's current location information, the vehicle network connectivity, and the vehicle dashboard display unit, currently available radio stations can be discovered and tuned. The location information would be transmitted over the network to a server containing a directory of radio stations by coverage area. The server would perform a lookup of the location and return a listing of radio stations, complete with frequency information and metadata such as call signs and content genres. This information would be presented on the vehicle dashboard display unit, where the user could tune the vehicle radio to the desired station by selecting it on the screen.

By having the user select a preferred genre or set of genres, the discovery and tuning process could be fully automated. As the application receives the station list information from the server, it could search for a station with the user's preferred type of content and automatically tune or recommend a station.

Invention Commercial value/customers:

This method of discovering and tuning radio stations is a convenient way for travelers to complete a task that is typically more cumbersome. Radio scanning can take time and attention away from drivers, resulting in accidents or serious injuries. This invention can automate much, if not all, of the radio station discovery and selection process, allowing drivers to focus their attention on safer driving.

Invention differences:

In order to find the radio stations available in the current location, one would typically perform a scan using the vehicle radio, stopping at the desired station. Alternatively, one could use a mobile device with cellular connectivity to search the web for station listings, and then manually tune the automobile radio unit to the desired station. This process would have to be repeated as the vehicle travels in and out of range of different radio stations. This invention proposes an interactive vehicle dashboard application to automate the discovery and selection of radio stations.