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**Katole et al.**

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(54) **VOICE CONTROL OF COMPONENTS OF A FACILITY**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**  
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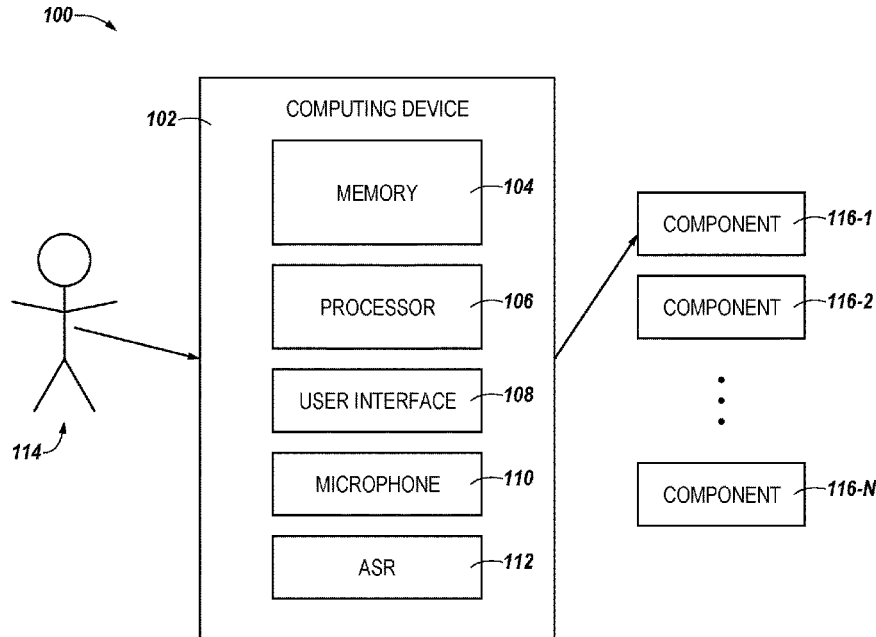
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**G10L 15/183** (2013.01)  
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(57) **ABSTRACT**  
Devices, methods, and systems for voice control of components of a facility are described herein. One computing device apparatus includes a memory, and a processor configured to execute executable instructions stored in the memory to receive a voice command or voice query from a user, determine location context information associated with the computing device, and determine which component or components of the facility are associated with the voice  
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command or voice query based, at least in part, on the location context information associated with the computing device.

**20 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets**

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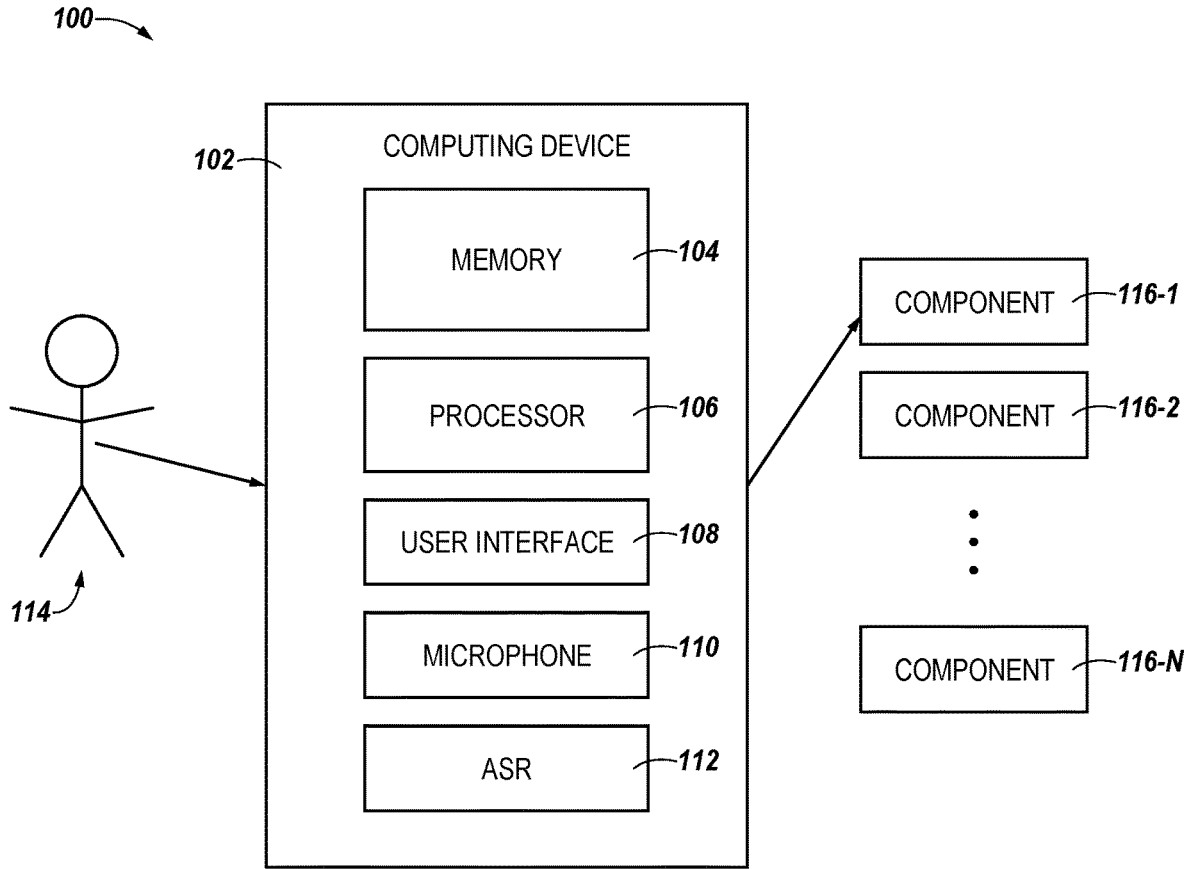
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*Fig. 1*

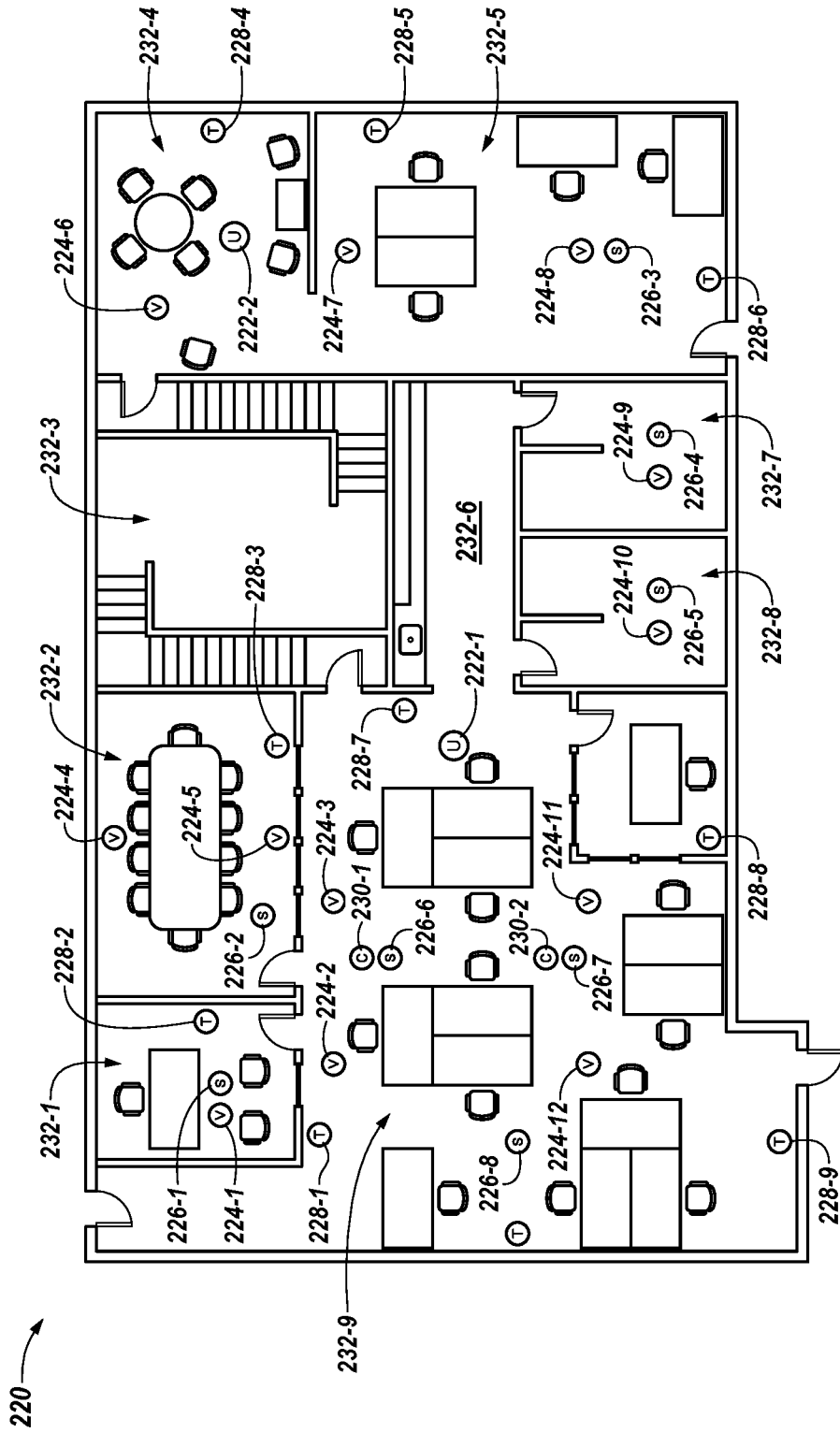


Fig. 2

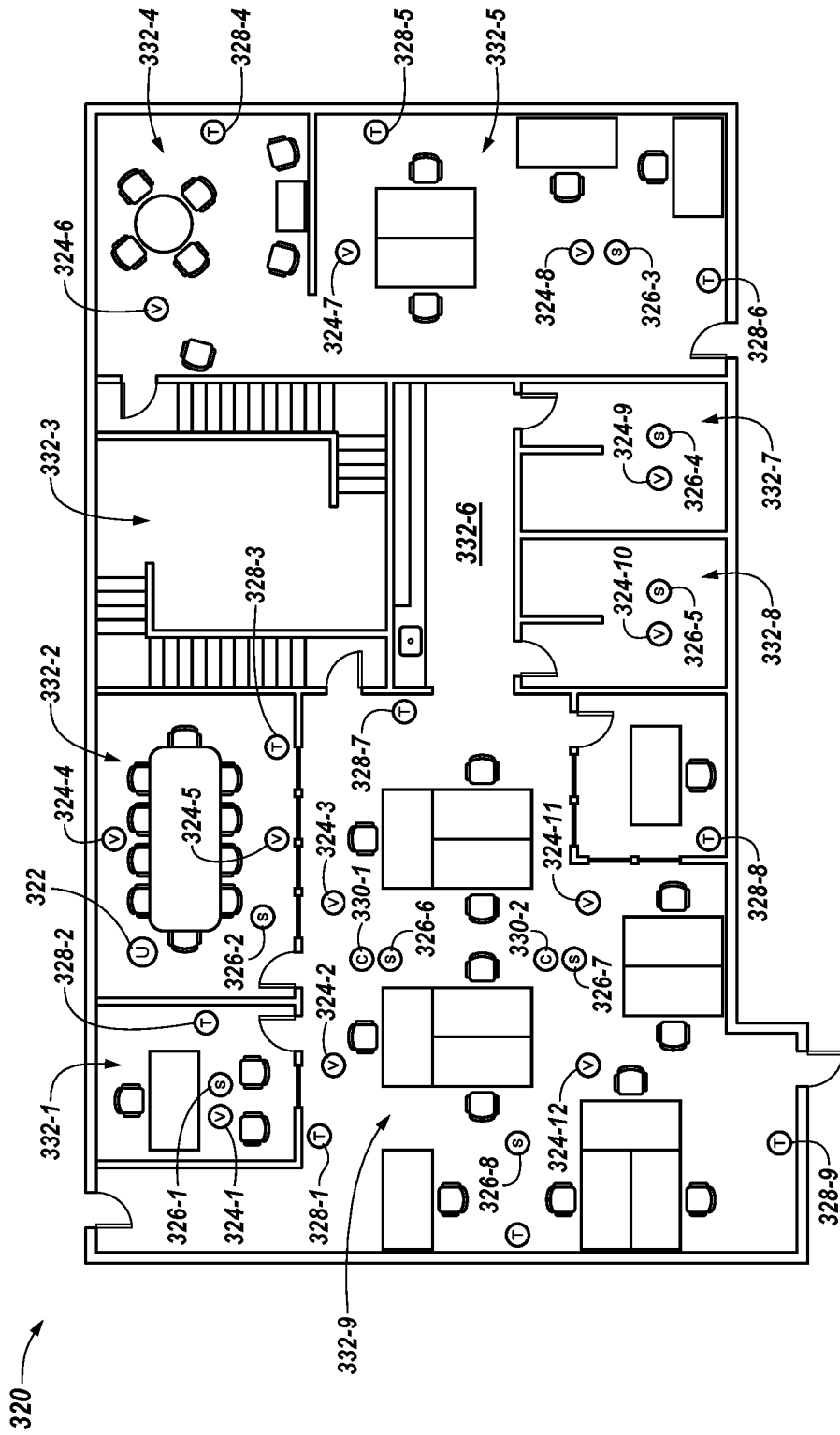


Fig. 3

## VOICE CONTROL OF COMPONENTS OF A FACILITY

This is a continuation of co-pending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/382,982, filed Dec. 19, 2016, which is incorporated herein by reference.

### TECHNICAL FIELD

The present disclosure relates to devices, methods, and systems for voice control of components of a facility.

### BACKGROUND

Components of a facility (e.g., building), such as, for instance, objects, equipment, and/or devices of a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system of the facility, may need to be commissioned, maintained, tested, and/or inspected. This is typically performed by one or more users (e.g., technicians and/or workers) in the facility. For example, the user(s) may carry a computing device, such as a laptop, smart phone, or tablet, with him throughout the facility (e.g., to where the components are located in the facility) for use in performing commissioning, maintenance, testing, and/or inspection tasks. However, if the facility is a large facility, such as, for instance, a large commercial building (e.g., airport, mall, office building, etc.), warehouse, or refinery, the commissioning, maintenance, testing, and/or inspection of the components can be time consuming and/or difficult for the user(s).

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 illustrates an example of a system for controlling components of a facility in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 2 illustrates a visual representation of a map of a facility in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 3 illustrates a visual representation of a map of a facility in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present disclosure.

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Devices, methods, and systems for voice control of components of a facility are described herein. For example, one or more embodiments include a memory, and a processor configured to execute executable instructions stored in the memory to receive a voice command or voice query from a user, determine location context information associated with the computing device, and determine which component or components of the facility are associated with the voice command or voice query based, at least in part, on the location context information associated with the computing device.

Utilizing voice control of components of a facility (e.g., building), such as, for instance, objects, equipment, and/or devices of a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system of the facility, in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present disclosure can make it quicker and/or easier for a user (e.g., technician and/or worker) to commission, maintain, test, and/or inspect the components of the facility, particularly if the facility is a large facility, such as, for instance, a large commercial building (e.g., airport, mall, office building, etc.), warehouse, or refinery. For example, embodiments of the present

disclosure can effectively (e.g., quickly and accurately) identify the component or components of the facility to which the user is issuing a voice command or query during the commissioning, maintenance, testing, and/or inspection. Further, embodiments of the present disclosure can effectively (e.g., quickly and/or accurately) recognize the voice command or query issued by the user.

In the following detailed description, reference is made to the accompanying drawings that form a part hereof. The drawings show by way of illustration how one or more embodiments of the disclosure may be practiced.

These embodiments are described in sufficient detail to enable those of ordinary skill in the art to practice one or more embodiments of this disclosure. It is to be understood that other embodiments may be utilized and that mechanical, electrical, and/or process changes may be made without departing from the scope of the present disclosure.

As will be appreciated, elements shown in the various embodiments herein can be added, exchanged, combined, and/or eliminated so as to provide a number of additional embodiments of the present disclosure. The proportion and the relative scale of the elements provided in the figures are intended to illustrate the embodiments of the present disclosure, and should not be taken in a limiting sense.

The figures herein follow a numbering convention in which the first digit or digits correspond to the drawing figure number and the remaining digits identify an element or component in the drawing. Similar elements or components between different figures may be identified by the use of similar digits. For example, **20** may reference element “**20**” in FIG. 2, and a similar element may be referenced as **320** in FIG. 3.

As used herein, “a” or “a number of” something can refer to one or more such things. For example, “a number of components” can refer to one or more components. Additionally, the designator “N” as used herein, particularly with respect to reference numerals in the drawings, indicates that a number of the particular feature so designated can be included with a number of embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 1 illustrates an example of a system **100** for controlling components (e.g., components **116-1**, **116-2**, . . . , **116-N**) of a facility in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present disclosure. The facility can be a large facility, such as, for instance, a large commercial building (e.g., airport, mall, office building, etc.), warehouse, or refinery. However, embodiments of the present disclosure are not limited to a particular type of facility or building.

The components of the facility (e.g., components **116-1**, **116-2**, . . . , **116-N** illustrated in FIG. 1) can include, for example, HVAC components of the facility, such as, for instance, thermostats and/or vents of the HVAC system. However, embodiments of the present disclosure are not so limited; components **116-1**, **116-2**, . . . , **116-N** can include any type of object, control component, equipment, device, network, sensor, and/or actuator of the HVAC system such as, for instance, valves such as a heating and/or cooling valves, chillers (e.g., chiller plant), boilers (e.g., boiler plant), pumps such as hot water and/or chilled water pumps, fans, compressors, air dampers such as a variable air volume (VAV) damper, air handling units (AHUs) (e.g., AHU plant), coils such as a heating and/or cooling coil, air filters, and/or cooling towers, among other components. Further, a “component”, as used herein, can also include and/or refer to connections between other components, such as a chain of equipment (e.g., duct work, pipes, ventilation, and/or elec-

trical and/or gas distribution equipment) that connects other components of the HVAC system.

As an additional example, components **116-1**, **116-2**, . . . , **116-N** can include lighting components of the facility, such as, for instance, light switches. As an additional example, components **116-1**, **116-2**, . . . , **116-N** can include components of a safety and/or security system of the facility, such as, for instance, cameras and/or smoke alarms.

As shown in FIG. 1, system **100** can include a computing device **102**. Computing device **102** can be, for example, a laptop computer, a desktop computer, or a mobile device (e.g., smart phone, tablet, PDA, etc.). However, embodiments of the present disclosure are not limited to a particular type of computing device.

Computing device **102** can be used by a user (e.g., user **114** illustrated in FIG. 1) to control (e.g., commission, maintain, test, and/or inspect) components **116-1**, **116-2**, . . . , **116-N** of the facility, as will be further described herein. For example, in embodiments in which computing device **102** is a laptop or mobile device, user **114** may carry computing device **102** with him throughout the facility (e.g., to the location of components **116-1**, **116-2**, . . . , **116-N** in the facility) for use in performing control tasks on the components. As an additional example, user **114** can control components **116-1**, **116-2**, . . . , **116-N** using computing device **102** from a location that is remote from the components, such as, for instance, a control room or operating room elsewhere in the facility or at another location outside the facility. User **114** can be, for instance, a worker, operator, or technician of the HVAC, lighting, safety, and/or security systems of the facility.

As shown in FIG. 1, computing device **102** can include a user interface **108**. A user (e.g., user **114**) of computing device **102** can interact with computing device **102** via user interface **108**. For example, user interface **108** can provide (e.g., display and/or present) information to, and/or receive information from (e.g., input by), the user of computing device **102**. For instance, user interface **108** can display information (e.g., data values, operating parameters, readings, statuses, actions, etc.) associated with components **116-1**, **116-2**, . . . , **116-N** on which control tasks are being performed.

In some embodiments, user interface **108** can be a graphical user interface (GUI) that can include a display (e.g., a screen) that can provide and/or receive information to and/or from the user of computing device **102**. The display can be, for instance, a touch-screen (e.g., the GUI can include touch-screen capabilities). As an additional example, user interface **108** can include a keyboard and/or mouse the user can use to input (e.g., enter) information into computing device **102** (e.g., into user interface **108**). Embodiments of the present disclosure, however, are not limited to a particular type(s) of user interface.

As shown in FIG. 1, computing device **102** can include a microphone **110**. For example, microphone **110** can be embedded (e.g., built into) computing device **102**, as illustrated in FIG. 1. However, embodiments of the present disclosure are not so limited. For example, in some embodiments, microphone **110** can be coupled (e.g., connected) to computing device **102** through a wired or wireless connection, such as, for instance, wired or wireless (e.g., Bluetooth and/or Wi-Fi) headphones.

Microphone **110** can receive voice commands and/or voice queries from (e.g., spoken by) user **114**. The voice commands and/or voice queries received by microphone **110** can be supplied to automatic speech recognition (ASR) engine **112**, which will be further described herein.

The voice commands and/or voice queries may be associated with (e.g., directed to) one or more of components **116-1**, **116-2**, . . . , **116-N**. For example, a voice query may include a request for information (e.g., data values, operating parameters, readings, statuses, actions, etc.) from one or more of components **116-1**, **116-2**, . . . , **116-N**, and a voice command may include an instruction to one or more of components **116-1**, **116-2**, . . . , **116-N** to perform a particular task or function. Further examples of voice commands and voice queries will be further described herein (e.g., in connection with FIGS. 2 and 3).

As shown in FIG. 1, computing device **102** can include a memory **104** and a processor **106**. Memory **104** can be any type of storage medium that can be accessed by processor **106** to perform various examples of the present disclosure. For example, memory **104** can be a non-transitory computer readable medium having computer readable instructions (e.g., computer program instructions) stored thereon that are executable by processor **106** to control components of a facility (e.g., components **116-1**, **116-2**, . . . , **116-N**) in accordance with the present disclosure. That is, processor **106** can execute the executable instructions stored in memory **104** to control components of a facility (e.g., components **116-1**, **116-2**, . . . , **116-N**) in accordance with the present disclosure.

Memory **104** can be volatile or nonvolatile memory. Memory **104** can also be removable (e.g., portable) memory, or non-removable (e.g., internal) memory. For example, memory **104** can be random access memory (RAM) (e.g., dynamic random access memory (DRAM) and/or phase change random access memory (PCRAM)), read-only memory (ROM) (e.g., electrically erasable programmable read-only memory (EEPROM) and/or compact-disk read-only memory (CD-ROM)), flash memory, a laser disk, a digital versatile disk (DVD) or other optical disk storage, and/or a magnetic medium such as magnetic cassettes, tapes, or disks, among other types of memory.

Further, although memory **104** is illustrated as being located in computing device **102**, embodiments of the present disclosure are not so limited. For example, memory **104** can also be located internal to another computing resource (e.g., enabling computer readable instructions to be downloaded over the Internet or another wired or wireless connection).

As shown in FIG. 1, computing device **102** can include an automatic speech recognition (ASR) engine **112**. For example, ASR engine **112** can be embedded (e.g., built into) computing device **102**, as illustrated in FIG. 1. However, embodiments of the present disclosure are not so limited. For example, in some embodiments, ASR engine **112** can be coupled (e.g., connected) to computing device **102** through a wired or wireless connection. ASR engine **112** can be a device agnostic ASR engine.

ASR engine **112** can receive (e.g., via microphone **110**) a voice command or voice query from (e.g., spoken by) user **114**. Upon receiving the voice command or voice query, ASR engine can utilize location context information associated with computing device **102** to determine (e.g., identify) which of components **116-1**, **116-2**, . . . , **116-N** the command or query is associated with the command or query (e.g., which component(s) the command or query is directed to), and/or to recognize the command or query.

For example, upon receiving a voice command or voice query from user **114**, ASR engine **112** can determine location context information associated with computing device **102**. In some embodiments, (e.g., embodiments in which computing device **102** is a laptop or mobile device and user **114**

is carrying computing device **102** with him throughout the facility), the location context information associated with computing device **102** can include, for example, the position of computing device **102** in the facility (which can correspond to the position of user **114** in the facility) and/or the direction in which user **114** is facing. ASR engine **102** can determine the location context information (e.g., the position of computing device **102** in the facility) using, for example, indoor and/or outdoor positioning technology associated with computing device **102**, such as GPS, fingerprinting, and/or multilateration, among others.

In some embodiments, (e.g., embodiments in which user **114** is using computing device **102** at a location that is remote from components **116-1**, **116-2**, . . . , **116-N**), the location context information can include the position of one or more of the components in the facility and/or the position of another user in the facility, such as, for instance, the position of a user who is making a complaint about the HVAC, lighting, safety, and/or security systems of the facility. In such embodiments, ASR engine **102** can receive the location context information (e.g., the position of the component(s) and/or user in the facility) from user **114** via user interface **108**. For instance, user **114** may input (e.g., enter) the location context information into user interface **108**.

In some embodiments (e.g., embodiments in which computing device **102** is a laptop or mobile device and user **114** is carrying computing device **102** with him throughout the facility), the location context information associated with computing device **102** can include which component or components of components **116-1**, **116-2**, . . . , **116-N** are located within a particular proximity of (e.g., are closest to) computing device **120**. In such embodiments, ASR engine **112** can determine the location context information (e.g., which component(s) are located within the particular proximity of computing device **120**) using a map of the facility stored in ASR engine **112** that includes the positions of components **116-1**, **116-2**, . . . , **116-N** in the facility, along with the position of computing device **102** in the facility. For instance, the map can be dynamically updated based on (e.g., to reflect) updates to the position of computing device **102** as user **114** moves throughout the facility. The map can be pre-loaded to computing device **102**, or can be dynamically downloaded by computing device **102** during operation. Examples of such maps will be further described herein (e.g., in connection with FIGS. 2 and 3).

ASR engine **112** can then determine (e.g., identify) which component or components of components **116-1**, **116-2**, . . . , **116-N** are associated with the voice command or voice query from user **114** based, at least in part, on the location context information associated with computing device **102**. For instance, in the example illustrated in FIG. 1, the location context information may indicate that component **116-1** is closest to computing device **102**, and ASR engine **112** can determine component **116-1** is associated with the voice command or voice query based on that information.

As such, ASR engine **112** can determine which component(s) of the facility are associated with the voice command or voice query without user **114** having to explicitly identify that component(s) in the command or query. This can make it quicker and/or easier for user **114** to perform commissioning, maintenance, testing, and/or inspection tasks in the facility.

ASR engine **112** can also recognize the voice command or voice query from user **114** based, at least in part, on the location context information associated with computing

device **102**. For example, ASR engine **112** can search for the voice command or voice query in a command and/or query search (e.g., speech knowledge) space in ASR engine **112** based on the location context information. For instance, ASR engine **112** may search only for commands or queries in the search space that are applicable to the component or components of components **116-1**, **116-2**, . . . , **116-N** that are located within a particular proximity of (e.g., are closest to) computing device **120**.

As such, ASR engine **112** can locate the voice command or voice query from user **114** in the search space without having to search through all commands and/or queries in the search space. Accordingly, ASR engine **112** can more effectively (e.g., quicker and/or more accurately) recognize the voice command or voice query issued by the user.

The command and/or query search space can include weighted finite space transducers (WFSTs) that can provide posterior probability information for senones in the speech signal associated with the voice command or voice query from the user, and the search for the probable word hypothesis can be conducting on the WFSTs using search algorithms. Further, the WFSTs can be dynamically updated based on (e.g., to reflect updates to) the location context information associated with computing device **120**. For example, the WFSTs can include flexible HMM context-lexicon-grammar (HCLG) based lexicon and grammar components that can be dynamically updated based on the location context information. For instance, the WFSTs can encode HCLG-based graphs that represent speech knowledge and can be dynamically updated based on which component(s) are located within the particular proximity of computing device **120**. Such dynamic updates can further enhance the effectiveness of the ASR engine's recognition of the voice command or query.

Further, in some embodiments, ASR engine **112** can determine which component or components of components **116-1**, **116-2**, . . . , **116-N** are associated with the voice command or voice query from user **114** based, at least in part, on the recognized voice command or voice query. That is, ASR engine **112** can determine which component(s) are associated with the voice command or voice query based, at least in part, on the command or query itself. For instance, ASR engine **112** can determine which component(s) are associated with the voice command and/or query based, at least in part, on the words and/or phrases included in the command or query.

Upon ASR engine **112** recognizing the voice command or voice query received from user **114**, computing device **102** can send (e.g., transmit) the recognized command or query to the component or components of components **116-1**, **116-2**, . . . , **116-N** determined (e.g., identified) by ASR engine **112** to be associated with the command or query. For instance, in the example illustrated in FIG. 1 (e.g., in which component **116-1** has been determined to be the component associated with the command or query), computing device **102** can send the recognized command or query to component **116-1**. The identified component(s) (e.g., component **116-1** in the example illustrated in FIG. 1) can then process and execute the command or query upon receiving the command or query.

Computing device **102** can send the recognized voice command or voice query to component **116-1**, for example, via a wired or wireless network (not shown in FIG. 1 for clarity and so as not to obscure embodiments of the present disclosure). The network can be, for example, a network relationship through which computing device **102** and components **116-1**, **116-2**, . . . , **116-N** can communicate. Examples of such a network relationship can include a



distributed computing environment (e.g., a cloud computing environment), a wide area network (WAN) such as the Internet, a local area network (LAN), a personal area network (PAN), a campus area network (CAN), or metropolitan area network (MAN), among other types of network relationships. For instance, the network can include a number of servers that receive the recognized voice command or voice query via a wired or wireless network, and transmit the received command or query to component 116-1 via a wired or wireless network.

As used herein, a “network” can provide a communication system that directly or indirectly links two or more computers and/or peripheral devices and allows users to access resources on other computing devices and exchange messages with other users. A network can allow users to share resources on their own systems with other network users and to access information on centrally located systems or on systems that are located at remote locations. For example, a network can tie a number of computing devices together to form a distributed control network (e.g., cloud).

A network may provide connections to the Internet and/or to the networks of other entities (e.g., organizations, institutions, etc.). Users may interact with network-enabled software applications to make a network request, such as to get a file or print on a network printer. Applications may also communicate with network management software, which can interact with network hardware to transmit information between devices on the network.

FIG. 2 illustrates a visual representation of a map 220 of a facility in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present disclosure. In the example illustrated in FIG. 2, map 220 is a map of a floor of the facility. Map 220 can be stored in ASR engine 112 previously described in connection with FIG. 1.

As shown in FIG. 2, map 220 includes (e.g., illustrates) the positions of various components in the floor of the facility, such as HVAC vents 224-1, 224-2, 224-3, 224-4, 224-5, 224-6, 224-7, 224-8, 224-9, 224-10, 224-11, and 224-12 (which may be collectively referred to as HVAC vents 224), smoke alarms 226-1, 226-2, 226-3, 226-4, 226-5, 226-7, and 226-8 (which may be collectively referred to as smoke alarms 226), thermostats 228-1, 228-2, 228-3, 228-4, 228-5, 228-6, 228-7, 228-8, and 228-9 (which may be collectively referred to as thermostats 228), and cameras 230-1 and 230-2 (which may be collectively referred to as cameras 230). For instance, HVAC vent 224-1, smoke alarm 226-1, and thermostat 228-2 are located in space 232-1 of the floor of the facility, HVAC vents 224-4 and 224-5, smoke alarm 226-2, and thermostat 228-3 are located in space 232-2 of the floor of the facility, and the other HVAC vents 224, smoke alarms 226, thermostats 228, and cameras 230 are located in the other respective spaces 232-3, 232-4, 232-5, 232-6, 232-7, 232-8, and 232-9 of the floor of the facility, as illustrated in FIG. 2.

As shown in FIG. 2, map 220 also includes (e.g., illustrates) the positions (e.g., current positions) of users 222-1 and 222-2 in the floor of the facility. For instance, user 222-1 is located on the right side of space 232-9, and user 222-2 is located in space 232-4, as illustrated in FIG. 2.

Users 222-1 and 222-2 may each be carrying a computing device analogous to computing device 102 previously described in connection with FIG. 1. For instance, the computing device being carried by each respective user 222-1 and 222-2 may include an ASR engine analogous to ASR engine 112 previously described in connection with FIG. 1. As such, the computing device being carried by each respective user 222-1 and 222-2 can determine location

context information associated therewith, such as, for instance, its position in the floor of the facility, as previously described in connection with FIG. 1. The position of the computing device being carried by user 222-1 can correspond to the position of user 222-1 in the facility, and the position of the computing device being carried by user 222-2 can correspond to the position of user 222-2 in the facility, and these positions can be included in map 220, as illustrated in FIG. 2. Further, as users 222-1 and 222-2 move throughout the floor of the facility, their respective positions in map 220 can be dynamically updated to reflect their respective movements, as previously described in connection with FIG. 1.

In the example illustrated in FIG. 2, users 222-1 and 222-2 may be HVAC technicians who have been called to the facility in response to complaints about the temperature in the facility. While at their respective locations illustrated in FIG. 2, users 222-1 and 222-2 may issue a voice query to get the temperature in their respective vicinities. Based on the location context information provided by map 220, the computing device being carried by user 222-1 can determine that thermostat 228-7 is the closest thermostat to user 222-1 in the facility, and therefore can determine that the query issued (e.g., spoken) by user 222-1 is associated with (e.g., directed to) thermostat 228-7 (e.g., without user 222-1 having to specifically identify thermostat 228-7 in the query). Similarly, the computing device being carried by user 222-2 can determine that thermostat 228-4 is the closest thermostat to user 222-2 in the facility, and therefore can determine that the query issued by user 222-2 is associated with thermostat 228-4, based on the location context information provided by map 220 (e.g., without user 222-2 having to specifically identify thermostat 228-4 in the query).

Accordingly, the computing device being carried by user 222-1 can send the temperature query to thermostat 228-7, and the computing device being carried by user 222-2 can send the temperature query to thermostat 228-4. Thermostats 228-7 and 228-4 can reply to the respective queries by sending the respective computing devices their respective temperature readings, which can be provided (e.g., displayed) to users 222-1 and 222-2 (e.g., the temperature reading of thermostat 228-7 is provided to user 222-1, and the temperature reading of thermostat 228-4 is provided to user 222-2).

Continuing in the example, users 222-1 and 222-2 may also issue a voice query to get the status of the HVAC vents at their respective locations illustrated in FIG. 2. Based on the location context information provided by map 220, the computing device being carried by user 222-1 can determine that HVAC vents 224-3 and 224-11 are the closest vents to user 222-1 in the facility, and therefore can determine that the query issued (e.g., spoken) by user 222-1 is associated with (e.g., directed to) vents 224-3 and 224-11 (e.g., without user 222-1 having to specifically identify vents 224-3 and 224-11). Similarly, the computing device being carried by user 222-2 can determine that HVAC vent 224-6 is the closest vent to user 222-2 in the facility, and therefore can determine that the query issued by user 222-2 is associated with vent 224-6, based on the location context information provided by map 220 (e.g., without user 222-2 having to specifically identify vent 224-6).

Accordingly, the computing device being carried by user 222-1 can send the vent status query to HVAC vents 224-3 and 224-11, and the computing device being carried by user 222-2 can send the vent status query to HVAC vent 224-6. Vents 224-3, 224-11, and 224-6 can reply to the respective

queries by sending the respective computing devices their respective statuses, which can be provided (e.g., displayed) to users 222-1 and 222-2 (e.g., the statuses of vents 224-3 and 224-11 are provided to user 222-1, and the status of vent 224-6 is provided to user 222-2).

If users 222-1 and 222-2 determine that the complaints about the temperature are due to the status of the vents, such as, for instance, a high airflow through the vents, users 222-1 and 222-2 can issue a voice command to regulate all vents to reduce airflow in their respective vicinities. Based on the location information context provided by map 220, the computing device being carried by user 222-1 can determine that the command from user 222-1 is associated with vents 224-3 and 224-11, and accordingly can send the command to vents 224-3 and 224-11. Similarly, the computing device being carried by user 222-2 can determine that the command from user 222-1 is associated with vent 224-6, and accordingly can send the command to vent 224-6. Upon receiving the respective commands, vents 224-3, 224-11, and 224-6 can reduce their airflow.

Further, the location context information provided by map 220 may indicate that while there are several components (e.g., HVAC vents 224-3 and 224-11, smoke alarms 226-6 and 226-7, thermostat 228-7, and cameras 230-1 and 230-2) in the vicinity of user 222-1, the only components in the vicinity of user 222-1 are HVAC vent 224-6 and thermostat 228-4. As such, the computing device being carried by user 222-2 can recognize the voice queries and voice command issued by user 222-2 by only searching the search space (e.g., WFSTs) of its ASR engine for queries and commands applicable to HVAC vents and thermostats, while the computing device being carried by user 222-1 may need to search its search space for queries and commands applicable to smoke alarms and cameras, as well as HVAC vents and thermostats, to recognize the voice queries and command issued by user 222-1.

FIG. 3 illustrates a visual representation of a map 320 of a facility in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present disclosure. Map 220 can be analogous to map 220 previously described in connection with FIG. 2. For example, map 320 includes the positions of HVAC vents 324, smoke alarms 326, thermostats 328, and cameras 330 in spaces 332 of a floor of the facility, in a manner analogous to that previously described in connection with FIG. 2.

As shown in FIG. 3, map 320 also includes (e.g., illustrates) the position (e.g., current positions) of user 322 in the floor of the facility. For instance, user 322 is located in space 332-2, as illustrated in FIG. 3. User 322 may be carrying a computing device analogous to computing device 102 previously described in connection with FIG. 1. For instance, the computing device being carried by user 322 may include an ASR engine analogous to ASR engine 112 previously described in connection with FIG. 1. As such, the computing device being carried by user 322 can determine location context information associated therewith, such as, for instance, its position in the floor of the facility, as previously described in connection with FIG. 1. The position of the computing device being carried by user 322 can correspond to the position of user 322 in the facility, as illustrated in FIG. 3. Further, as user 322 moves throughout the floor of the facility, his/her position in map 320 can be dynamically updated to reflect his/her movements, as previously described in connection with FIG. 1.

While at his/her location illustrated in FIG. 3, user 322 may issue a voice command to “turn on the light”. Based on the location context information provided by map 320, the computing device being carried by user 322 can determine

that user 322 is located in space 332-2 in the facility, and therefore can determine that the command is associated with the lighting components of space 332-2 (e.g., without user 322 having to specifically identify space 332-2 in the command). Accordingly, the computing device can send the command to the lighting components of space 332-2, and the lighting components of space 332-2 can turn on upon receiving the command.

Although specific embodiments have been illustrated and described herein, those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that any arrangement calculated to achieve the same techniques can be substituted for the specific embodiments shown. This disclosure is intended to cover any and all adaptations or variations of various embodiments of the disclosure.

It is to be understood that the above description has been made in an illustrative fashion, and not a restrictive one. Combination of the above embodiments, and other embodiments not specifically described herein will be apparent to those of skill in the art upon reviewing the above description.

The scope of the various embodiments of the disclosure includes any other applications in which the above structures and methods are used. Therefore, the scope of various embodiments of the disclosure should be determined with reference to the appended claims, along with the full range of equivalents to which such claims are entitled.

In the foregoing Detailed Description, various features are grouped together in example embodiments illustrated in the figures for the purpose of streamlining the disclosure. This method of disclosure is not to be interpreted as reflecting an intention that the embodiments of the disclosure require more features than are expressly recited in each claim.

Rather, as the following claims reflect, inventive subject matter lies in less than all features of a single disclosed embodiment. Thus, the following claims are hereby incorporated into the Detailed Description, with each claim standing on its own as a separate embodiment.

What is claimed:

1. A computing device for controlling components of a building, comprising:

a memory for storing positions of the components in the building; wherein the components of the building are one or more of a heating, ventilation, and/or air conditioning (HVAC) component of the building, a safety component of the building, and/or a security component of the building; and

a processor configured to execute executable instructions stored in the memory to:

receive a voice command or voice query from a user; determine a position of the computing device in the building at a time of receiving the voice command or voice query;

determine which component or components of the building are associated with the voice command or voice query based, at least in part, on the position of the computing device in the building at the time of receiving the voice command or voice query relative to the positions of the components in the building;

send a command that corresponds to the voice command or voice query to at least one of modify, query and control the component or components of the building determined to be associated with the voice command or voice query; and

wherein once received, the component or components determined to be associated with the voice command or voice query implement the received command.

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2. The computing device of claim 1, wherein the processor is configured to execute the executable instructions to determine the position of the computing device in the building at the time of receiving the voice command or voice query using positioning technology associated with the computing device.

3. The computing device of claim 1, wherein the processor is configured to determine which component or components of the building are associated with the voice command or voice query based at least in part on the voice command or voice query.

4. The computing device of claim 1, wherein the component or components of the building that are in a particular proximity to the position of the computing device in the building at the time of receiving the voice command or voice query are determined to be associated with the voice command or voice query.

5. The computing device of claim 4, wherein the processor is further configured to only search for voice commands or voice queries that are applicable to the components in the building that are within the particular proximity to the position of the computing device in the building at the time of receiving the voice command or voice query.

6. The computing device of claim 1, wherein the position of the computing device in the building at the time of receiving the voice command or voice query includes a direction in which the user is facing.

7. The computing device of claim 1, wherein the computing device is a mobile device.

8. A method for controlling components of a building, comprising:

receiving, by a computing device, a voice command or voice query from a user;

determining a position of the computing device in the building at a time of receiving the voice command or voice query;

determine which component or components of the building are associated with the voice command or voice query based, at least in part, on the position of the computing device in the building at the time of receiving the voice command or voice query relative to positions of the components in the building, wherein the component or components of the building include one or more of a heating, ventilation, and/or air conditioning (HVAC) component of the building, a safety component of the building, and/or a security component of the building;

send a command that corresponds to the voice command or voice query to at least one of modify, query and control the component or components of the building determined to be associated with the voice command or voice query; and

executing the command to thereby at least one of modify, query and control the component or components of the building determined to be associated with the voice command or voice query.

9. The method of claim 8, the position of the computing device in the building at the time of receiving the voice command or voice query is determined using positioning technology associated with the computing device.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein determining which component or components of the building are associated with the voice command or voice query is also based at least in part on the voice command or voice query.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein the component or components of the building that are in a particular proximity to the position of the computing device in the building at the

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time of receiving the voice command or voice query are determined to be associated with the voice command or voice query.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising only searching for voice commands or voice queries that are applicable to the components in the building that are within the particular proximity to the position of the computing device in the building at the time of receiving the voice command or voice query.

13. The method of claim 8, wherein the position of the computing device in the building at the time of receiving the voice command or voice query includes a direction in which the user is facing.

14. The method of claim 8, wherein the computing device is a mobile device.

15. The method of claim 8, further comprises the computing device transmitting the received voice command or voice query to a remote server via a network.

16. The method of claim 8, wherein a remote server sends the command that corresponds to the voice command or voice query to at least one of modify, query and control the component or components of the building determined to be associated with the voice command or voice query.

17. The method of claim 8, wherein the method includes: receiving the voice command or voice query using a microphone of the computing device; and

recognizing the voice command or voice query using an automatic speech recognition engine, wherein the automatic speech recognition engine searches a search space, wherein the search space is dependent on the position of the computing device in the building at a time of receiving the voice command or voice query.

18. A non-transitory computer readable medium having computer readable instructions stored thereon that are executable by a processor to:

receive a voice command or voice query from a user of a computing device;

determine a location of the computing device in a building at a time of receiving the voice command or voice query;

determine which component or components of the building are associated with the voice command or voice query based, at least in part, on the location of the computing device in the building at the time of receiving the voice command or voice query relative to the locations of the components in the building, wherein the component or components of the building include one or more of a heating, ventilation, and/or air conditioning (HVAC) component of the building, a safety component of the building, and/or a security component of the building;

send a command that corresponds to the voice command or voice query to at least one of modify, query and control the component or components of the building determined to be associated with the voice command or voice query, such that the component or components determined to be associated with the voice command or voice query implement the received command.

19. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 18, wherein determining which component or components of the building are associated with the voice command or voice query is also based at least in part on the voice command or voice query.

20. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 18, wherein the command is a commissioning command, a maintenance command, a testing command, an inspection command and/or a control command.

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