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(54) **MEDICAL EQUIPMENT SERVICING**

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Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 14/823,715, filed on
Aug. 11, 2015, now Pat. No. 9,814,893, which is a
(Continued)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

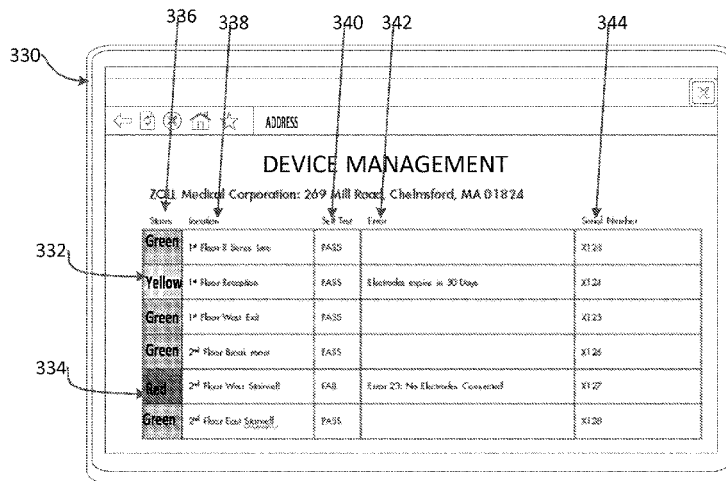
Systems and techniques for centralized management and servicing of medical equipment such as automated external defibrillators (AEDs) are described herein. A medical equipment management system is described that includes a database that includes status information for a plurality of AEDs, wherein the status information includes a functional status for one or more of the plurality of AEDs, and a computer configured to receive status updates from the plurality of AEDs, update the status information in the database with the status updates, receive a request to access the status information for the plurality of AEDs, and send the status information for the plurality of AEDs, wherein the status information for the plurality of AEDs is grouped based on user-defined geographic regions in which the plurality of AEDs is located and indicates one or more sites associated with the plurality of AEDs.

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(58) **Field of Classification Search**
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(Continued)

18 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets



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continuation of application No. 13/558,957, filed on Jul. 26, 2012, now Pat. No. 9,220,912.

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H04W 64/00 (2009.01)

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CPC **G06F 17/30345** (2013.01); **G06F 19/3412** (2013.01); *H04W 64/00* (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

USPC 340/539.12, 286.07, 539.1, 539.13
See application file for complete search history.

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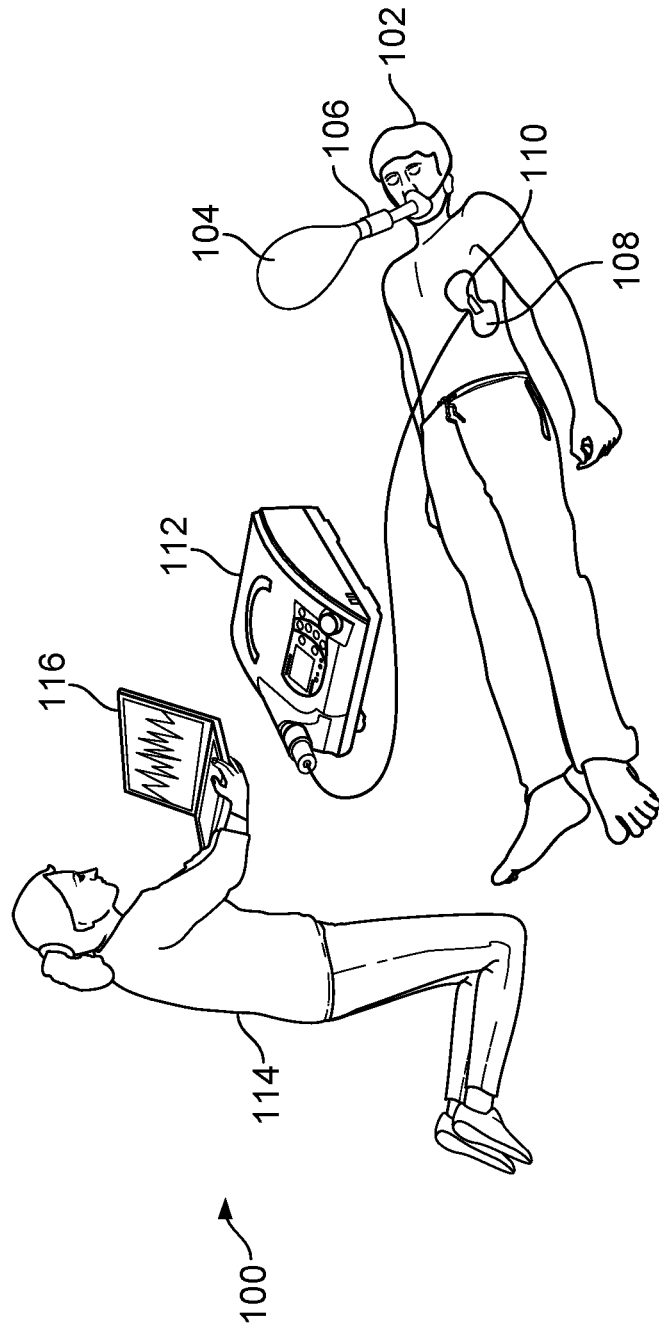


FIG. 1

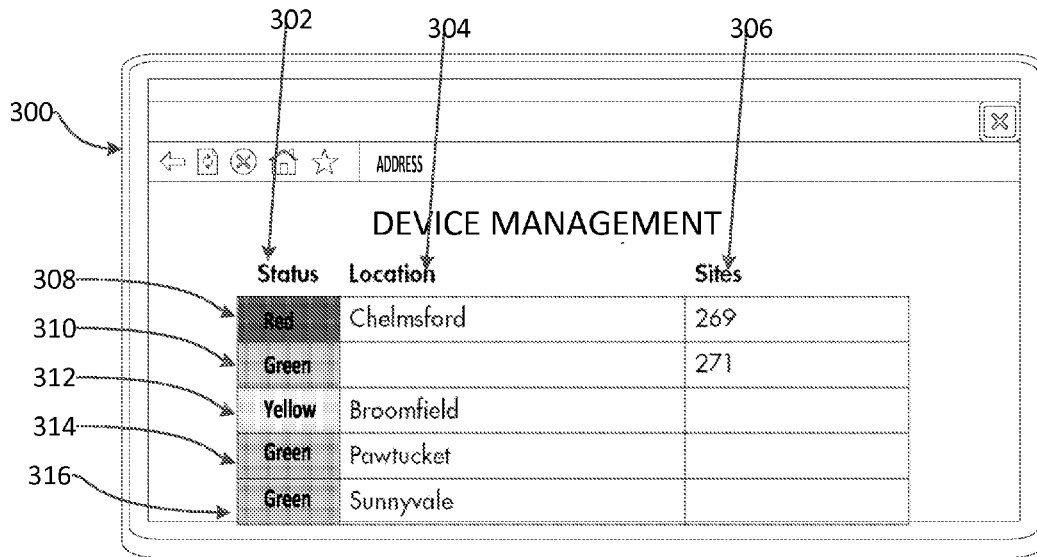


FIG. 3A

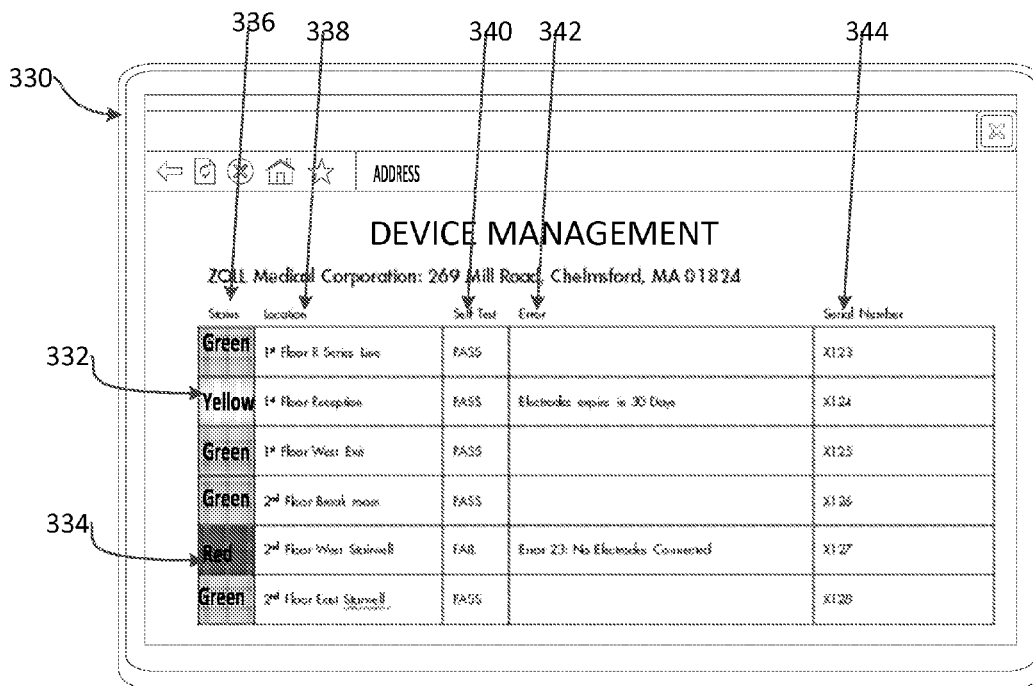


FIG. 3B

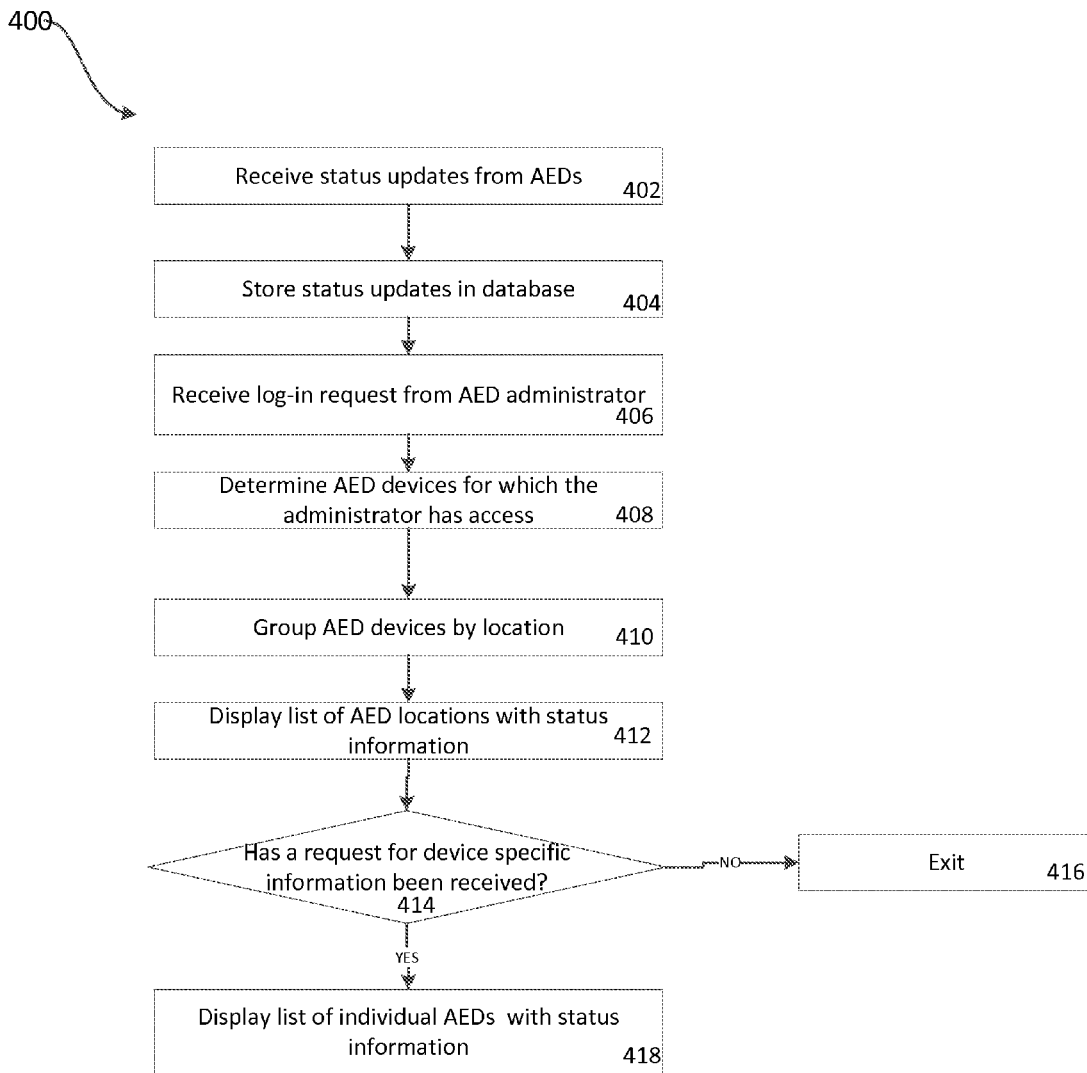


FIG. 4

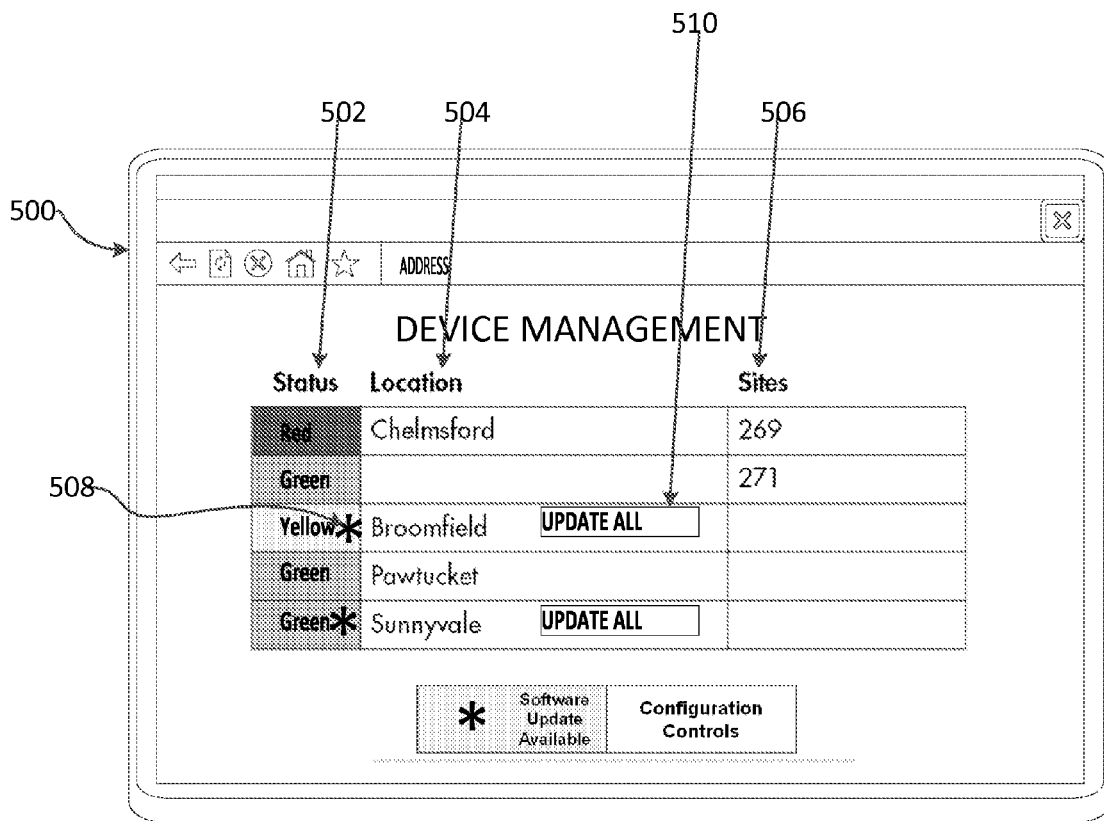


FIG. 5

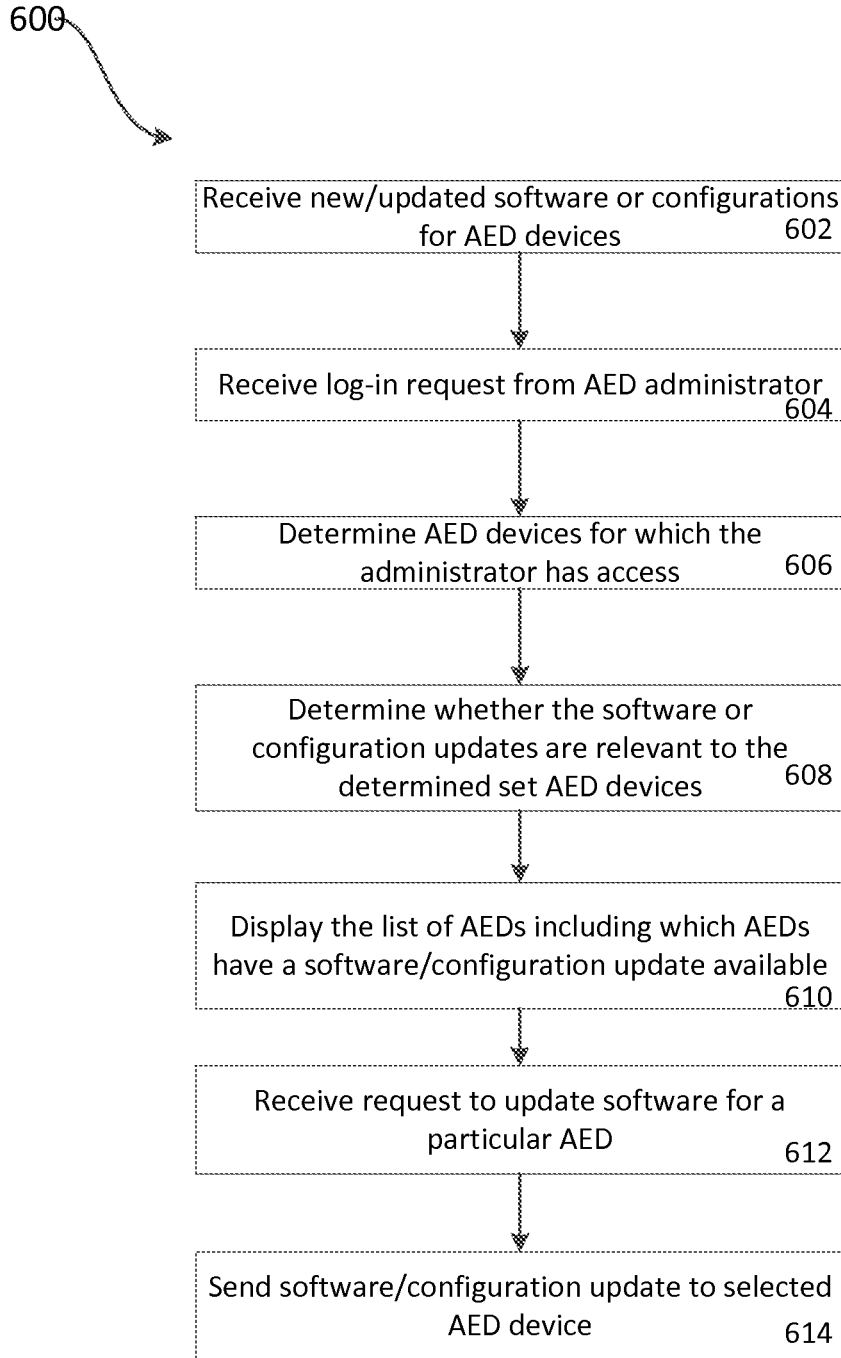
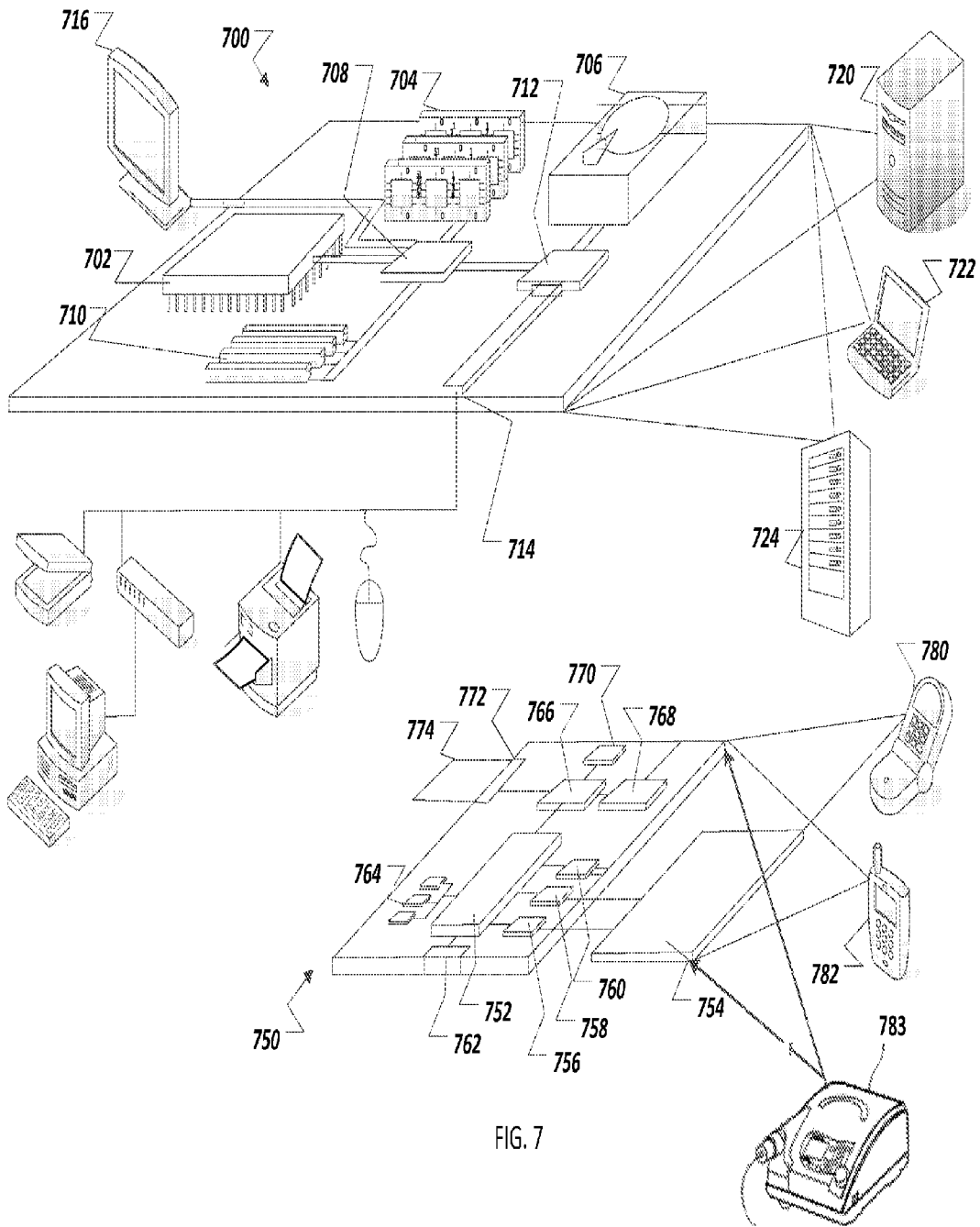


FIG. 6



MEDICAL EQUIPMENT SERVICING

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation under 35 USC § 120 to U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/823,715, is now U.S. Pat. No. 9,814,893, filed on Aug. 11, 2015 which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/558,957, filed Jul. 26, 2012 and issued as U.S. Pat. No. 9,220,912. All subject matter set forth in the above referenced applications is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety into the present application as if fully set forth herein.

TECHNICAL FIELD

Systems and techniques for centralized management and servicing of medical equipment such as automated external defibrillators (AEDs) are described herein.

BACKGROUND

Sudden health problems such as sudden cardiac arrest and injuries caused by accidents kill thousands of people and cause permanent injury every year. Fast and competent care can be essential to positive outcomes in such situations. For example, it is said that the chance of surviving a sudden cardiac arrest falls by ten percent for every minute in delaying effective treatment.

Emergency events like sudden cardiac arrests and accidents are generally responded to by organized emergency response units, such as ambulance or fire crews, and by laypeople who are immediately around the events so that they personally witness or offer assistance for the events.

SUMMARY

In some aspects, a method includes receiving status updates from multiple automated external defibrillators, receiving, from a user, a request to access status information, and sending, to the user, summary level status information for at least some of the multiple automated external defibrillators, the summary level status information being grouped based on a measure of geographic proximity of the multiple automated external defibrillators.

Other embodiments of this aspect include corresponding systems, apparatus, and computer programs recorded on one or more computer storage devices, each configured to perform the actions of the methods. A system of one or more computers can be configured to perform particular actions by virtue of having software, firmware, hardware, or a combination of them installed on the system that in operation cause the system to perform the actions. One or more computer programs can be configured to perform particular actions by virtue of including instructions that, when executed by data processing apparatus, cause the apparatus to perform the actions.

Other features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the drawings, detailed description, and claims.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram of a system for responding to an emergency medical condition according to an example embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of a system for managing medical equipment according to an example embodiment of the invention.

FIGS. 3A-B show exemplary screen shots for medical equipment management.

FIG. 4 is a flow chart of a process for providing status information about medical equipment according to an example embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 5 is an exemplary screen shot for medical equipment management.

FIG. 6 is a flow chart of a process for providing software and/or configuration updates to medical equipment according to an example embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 7 shows an example of a generic computer device and a generic mobile computer device, which may be used with the techniques described herein.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

FIG. 1 shows a system **100** for responding to an emergency medical condition of a subject **102**. In general, system **100** includes various portable devices for monitoring on-site care given to the subject **102** of the emergency situation. A rescuer **114** in this example is interacting with a computing device in the form of a laptop computer **116** that includes a graphical display by which to report information to the rescuer **114**, and may have an input mechanism such as a keyboard or a touchscreen by which the rescuer **114** may enter data into the system **100**. Separately, a portable defibrillator **112** is shown in a deployed state and is connected to the subject **102**. In addition to providing defibrillation, the defibrillator **112** may serve as a patient monitor via a variety of sensors or sensor packages. For example, as shown here, electrodes **108** connected to the defibrillator **112** have been applied to the subject **102** so that electrical shocking pulses may be provided to the electrodes in an effort to defibrillate the subject **102**, and electrocardiogram (ECG) signals may be read from the subject **102**. Further examples of use of the portable defibrillator are described, for example, in Ser. No. 13/398,280 filed on Feb. 16, 2012 and entitled "Coordinated Resuscitation Perfusion Support", the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

The defibrillator **112** may include an accelerometer assembly **110** configured to identify a vertical displacement caused by CPR compressions and provide feedback to the rescuer based on the measured displacements. The defibrillator can additionally be provided with a ventilation bag **104** that includes an airflow sensor **106** to identify a rate at which ventilation is occurring with the subject. The defibrillator **112** may communicate through a short range wireless data connection with the laptop **116** to provide to the laptop **116** status information, such as information received through the electrode assembly **108**, including ECG information for the subject **102**. Also, the defibrillator **112** can provide information to the rescuer **114** about the performance of chest compressions, such as depth and rate information for the chest compressions. The defibrillator operates according to a set of configurations stored on the defibrillator. The configurations can include a language setting, a CPR rate setting, a CPR depth setting, a shock voltage, and a shock waveform.

In order for a defibrillator, such as defibrillator **112**, to be useful during a medical emergency, the defibrillator must be charged and functional when the device is needed. In order to ensure the defibrillators are functional, regular servicing is needed. For example, batteries must be replaced when they no longer store adequate charge to power the defibril-

lator, electrodes may need to be replaced to ensure the electrodes will function appropriately, and the like. Additionally, over time software for the defibrillators may be updated based on enhancements or changes to protocols and/or configurations for the defibrillator may be modified based on changes in various protocols. As such, after defibrillator is purchased and installed at a location regular servicing is needed to ensure that the device will be available and functional when needed.

FIG. 2 shows a system for communication between medical equipment and a dispatch center **214** and a medical equipment management system **216**. Medical equipment, e.g., defibrillation devices **200a-f** and first-aid units **201a-b** are communicatively coupled to the dispatch center **214** and the medical equipment management system **216**.

Communications between the dispatch center **214** and the devices **200a-f** and **201a-b** can be used to alert rescue services upon activation of one of the devices and/or to communicate with a rescuer when one of the devices **200a-f** is in use. Such communication between defibrillators and a dispatch center **214** is described, for example, in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/946,843, filed on Nov. 15, 2010, and entitled Community-Based Response System, the contents of which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

Communications between the medical equipment management system **216** and the medical equipment (e.g., defibrillation devices **200a-f** and first aid units **201a-b**) can provide centralized servicing of the medical equipment. The medical equipment management system **216** can include a status module **220** and a software update module **218**. The status module **220** receives status information from medical equipment communicatively coupled to the medical equipment management system **216**, and provides centralized access to this information as described in more detail below. The software update module **218** can include information about the software and/or configurations currently stored on various medical equipment and new software and/or configurations available for the medical equipment. The software update module **218** can additionally send (e.g., push) updates to a particular piece of medical equipment to change or update the software and/or configurations of the medical equipment.

More particularly, as shown in FIG. 2, multiple pieces of medical equipment such as defibrillation devices **200a-f** and first aid units **201a-b** can be located in various physical locations. A particular building or area may include multiple defibrillation devices or other pieces of medical equipment. For example, building **202** includes defibrillation devices **200a**, **200b**, and **200c** and first aid unit **201a**. Each of these devices can be communicatively coupled to the management center **216**. For example, defibrillation devices **200a**, **200b**, and **200c** and first aid unit **201a** can include a transmitter in communication with a wireless router **206**. The wireless router **206** can send messages received from the defibrillation devices **200a**, **200b**, and **200c** and first aid unit **201a** to an external router **208** and the router can relay the messages to a remotely located server **212** via a cellular network **210**. Messages sent from defibrillation devices **200a**, **200b**, and **200c** and first aid unit **201a** can include information about the status of the medical equipment. For example, the messages can include information such as battery charging level, date of last servicing, error indications, electrodes or other component expirations, supply shortages and the like. These messages are relayed to the medical equipment and management system **216**. Thus, the medical equipment provides messages indicative of their status to a medical equipment management system **216** and the medical equip-

ment management system **216** can provide a centralized location for a device administrator to access status information for multiple disparately located devices. Centralized storage and access to information about the status of different pieces of medical equipment such as defibrillation devices can reduce the time and cost associated with servicing medical equipment because the administrator does not need to physically go to the devices to check their status. Additionally, servicing calls can more easily be grouped based on location because the administrator can identify devices in need of servicing in proximity to one another.

FIGS. 3A-B show exemplary screen shots for providing information about the status of medical equipment to an administrator of the medical equipment. As shown in FIG. 3A, a user interface **300** includes a device management status table. The status table includes a status column **302** that displays summary level status information for medical equipment grouped by location. The location is displayed in location column **304** and, if multiple sites exist for a particular location, a site number is displayed in site column **306**. Thus, user interface **300** provides summary level information about medical equipment grouped by location (e.g., as shown in rows **308**, **310**, **312**, **314**, **316**). For example, if multiple units of medical equipment exist at any particular geographic area (e.g., multiple devices in a particular building, such as building **202** and FIG. 2), the status information relays a summarized status of the medical equipment for the selected area. In some examples, the status displayed is the lowest status (e.g., worst) of all of the medical equipment associated with the location. For example, if a location included 10 medical equipment with one being nonfunctional, two being functional but in need of routine servicing, and seven devices that are fully functional, the status displayed in status column **302** would indicate a nonfunctional device.

The status can be displayed as color-coded icons associated with each piece of medical equipment where the color coding is indicative of the status. For example, as shown in FIG. 3A, the entries in the status column **302** can be color-coded to indicate whether the equipment is fully functional. In one particular example, a green color coding of the icon could be representative of equipment that has recently been tested and is fully functional, a red color coding can be representative of equipment that is not fully functional, and a yellow color coding could be representative of equipment that has not recently been tested but was previously functional at the time of the last test and/or representative of equipment that is in need of routine servicing. In the particular example shown in row **308**, devices associated with the Chelmsford location are color-coded as red to indicate that one or more of the associated medical devices in that location is not functional.

FIG. 3B shows a user interface **330** for providing device level status information for medical equipment. User interface **330** can be displayed based on a user's selection of a particular grouped location from user interface **300**. For example, clicking on a link in row **308** in user interface **300** can produce user interface **330**, which provides device level status information for the devices at the selected location (e.g., the Chelmsford location). The device level status information shown in user interface **330** can include a status column **336**, location column **338**, self-test results column **340**, error identification column **342**, and serial number column **344**. The status column **336** can include status information for a particular device. The status information can be similar to the status information described above. The location column **338** includes details of the location for the

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particular piece of medical equipment. For example, the location could include an address and/or a location within a building. This location is specific to the particular device as opposed to being a generalized group location as shown in FIG. 3A. The self-test results column 340 includes information about whether the medical equipment has passed or failed a self-test and/or an option to initiate a test of the device. Additionally, in some examples, the self-test results column 340 would include information about the date of the most recent self-test. The error column 342 includes information about why a device has failed a self-test and/or servicing needed for the device. The serial number column 344 includes a serial number for the medical equipment such that the medical equipment can be identified by the administrator.

Allowing an administrator to view status information for each of the devices at a particular location can provide the administrator with information about why devices are not functioning and/or what issues could be addressed during a single servicing call. For example, if an administrator is making a service call to the Chelmsford location to service the nonfunctional device, the administrator can additionally view the status of other devices and service those devices at the same time. In the particular example of FIG. 3B, while servicing the device on the second floor west stairwell (e.g., shown in row 334) the administrator could additionally replace the electrodes in the device on the first floor reception (e.g., as shown in row 332). Additionally, identification of an error (e.g., shown in column 336) that has resulted in the status of the medical equipment can help the administrator to prepare for the needed servicing.

In some examples, the location grouping (e.g., as shown in FIG. 3A) can be modified by a user to change the grouping to include devices located within a larger or smaller geographic area. For example, a user could select from viewing location based on city, zip code, building, neighborhood, company, or user-defined geographic regions. Allowing a user to select and change the size of the location used to group medical equipment when displaying their status can enable an administrator to more effectively service the devices. For example, in a major metropolitan area medical equipment such as defibrillators could be densely located such that displaying status information on a citywide level would provide little assistance to an administrator when trying to plan for servicing calls (e.g., displaying defibrillators in Boston could result in thousands of defibrillators). In such a situation, the administrator could narrow the geographic extent used to group the medical equipment, such that fewer medical equipment are associated with each location.

FIG. 4 is a flow chart of a process 400 for providing status information about automated external defibrillators (AEDs). While process 400 is described herein as providing status information about AEDs, this process could additionally and/or alternatively be applied to other types of medical equipment. AEDs send status information to a medical equipment management system 216. The medical equipment management system 216 receives the status updates from the AEDs (402). The medical equipment management system 216 stores the status updates in a centralized database (404). For example, the medical equipment management center can include a database of AEDs and information about the status associated with each AED can be updated based on the received status updates.

The medical equipment management system 216 receives a login request from an AED administrator (406). Based on the authentication of the administrator, the medical equip-

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ment management system 216 determines AED devices for which the administrator should be granted access (408). For example, in the database that includes the information about the AEDs and their status, each AED may be associated with one or more administrators who are allowed access to the status of the AEDs. After determining a set of AEDs for which the user has access, the medical equipment management system 216 groups the AEDs by location (410). For example, the medical equipment management system 216 can group the AEDs by city, neighborhood, building, or another measure of geographic proximity. The medical equipment management system 216 displays the list of AED locations and status information for each location to the user (412). As noted above, the status information is indicative of a status for the multiple devices associated with in the location. For example, the status information can display the lowest or worst status of all devices within the location. In another example, the status information could include a percentage of devices included in the group for the location having each of a plurality of different statuses. For example, if the system provided three statuses of red, yellow, and green (as described above), then the system could display the percentage of AEDs falling into each of the color-coded categories.

While location level summary information about the status of the AEDs included in the location can be beneficial, and some situations an administrator may desire to see information on a device level rather than a location level. The medical equipment management system 216 determines whether a request for device specific information has been received (414). For example, referring back to FIG. 3A, a user can request to view device specific information for a location by clicking on one of the rows in the displayed status information table. In response to receiving a request for device specific information, the medical equipment management system displays a list of individual AEDs and their associated status information (418). For example, device level information such as the information shown in FIG. 3B can be provided to the user. If a request for the device level information is not received, the system exits the process (416).

As noted above, over time software for the defibrillators or other medical equipment may be updated based on enhancements or changes to protocols and/or configurations for the defibrillator may be modified. The medical equipment management system 216 can provide a centralized access and management tool for updating software and or configurations for remotely located medical equipment such as AEDs. By providing a central server that has information about currently stored software and configurations and the ability to push software and configuration changes to remotely located medical equipment, the software and configurations for medical equipment can more easily be kept up to date as changes are promulgated.

FIG. 5 is an exemplary screen shot for identifying medical equipment for which the software update and/or configuration update is available, and sending information to update the medical device. Similar to the device management user interface 300 shown in FIG. 3A, user interface 500 includes a table with a status column 502, location column 504 and site column 506. In addition to providing the status information as described above, the user interface 500 additionally includes an indicator applied to entries in the table when a software and/or configuration update is available. For example, indicator 508 can be applied to a location when a software update is available for one or more units of medical equipment associated with the location. A user can see

additional information about the available software updates by selecting the location to see device level information (e.g., as shown in FIG. 3B). Additionally, and/or alternatively update information could be included in an additional column of the table.

In some examples, user interface 500 can additionally allow a user to update the software and or configurations for the medical equipment. In order to update the software for the devices associated with a particular location, and administrator can select the update all link 510. If the administrator would prefer to update the devices individually, and update link can be included on the device specific status page. Selection of the software update link sends available updates to the medical equipment.

FIG. 6 is a flow chart of a process 600 for providing software and/or configuration updates to automated external defibrillators (AEDs). While process 600 is described herein as providing status information and updating AEDs, this process could additionally and/or alternatively be applied to other types of medical equipment. Process 600 begins with the receipt of new or updated software and or configurations for AEDs (602). For example, changes to configurations or updates to software can be stored in a central database. The medical equipment management system 216 receives a login request from an AED administrator (604).

Based on the authentication of the administrator, the medical equipment management system 216 determines AED devices for which the administrator should be granted access (606). For example, in the database that includes the information about the AEDs and their status, each AED may be associated with one or more administrators who are allowed access to the status of the AEDs and push updates to the AEDs. For the devices identified as being associated with the administrator, the medical equipment management system determines whether the software and or configuration updates are relevant to the determined set of AEDs. For example, current configurations or software versions for the AEDs can be compared to a list of available updates to see if the most recent configurations and software are stored on the AEDs. The software and configurations available for a particular AED may be based on a make or model of the AED. For example, some software updates may only be available to a subset of AED models. In some examples, software updates and configuration updates can be associated with model numbers and with a timestamp of when the software update or configuration update was provided. Using this information, stored device models and a time of the last update for a particular device can be used to determine whether configuration or software updates are available for the device. The medical equipment management system 216 displays to the user, a list of AEDs including which AEDs have software and or configuration updates available. For example, the medical equipment management system 212 can send information to a user device to cause the user device to display such a list. The list can be grouped by location, for example, as described above. A user can update the software or configurations on one or more of the AEDs by selecting a link to send the update to the AED. Based on the user entered request for update, the medical equipment management system 212 receives the request to update software, and/or configurations for a particular AED (not shown) or for all AEDs associated with a particular location (612). Based on the received request, the medical equipment management system 212 sends the software and/or configuration update to the selected AED device or group of AED devices (614). Thus, the adminis-

trator can update the software and/or configurations for a particular AED device or group of AED devices from a central location.

FIG. 7 shows an example of a generic computer device 700 and a generic mobile computer device 750, which may be used with the techniques described here. Generic computer device 700 can be used to provide the above described functionality of the medical equipment management system 212. Computing device 700 is intended to represent various forms of digital computers, such as laptops, desktops, workstations, personal digital assistants, servers, blade servers, mainframes, and other appropriate computers. Generic mobile computer device 750 can be a computing component of defibrillator 112 or can be a laptop computer such as laptop computer 116. Computing device 750 is intended to represent various forms of mobile devices, such as personal digital assistants, cellular telephones, smartphones, and other similar computing devices that can receive information from a defibrillator 112 and provide that information to another computing device such as computer device 700. The components shown here, their connections and relationships, and their functions, are meant to be exemplary only, and are not meant to limit implementations of the inventions described and/or claimed in this document.

Computing device 700 includes a processor 702, memory 704, a storage device 706, a high-speed interface 708 connecting to memory 704 and high-speed expansion ports 710, and a low speed interface 712 connecting to low speed bus 714 and storage device 706. Each of the components 702, 704, 706, 708, 710, and 712, are interconnected using various busses, and may be mounted on a common motherboard or in other manners as appropriate. The processor 702 can process instructions for execution within the computing device 700, including instructions stored in the memory 704 or on the storage device 706 to display graphical information for a GUI on an external input/output device, such as display 716 coupled to high speed interface 708. In other implementations, multiple processors and/or multiple buses may be used, as appropriate, along with multiple memories and types of memory. Also, multiple computing devices 700 may be connected, with each device providing portions of the necessary operations (e.g., as a server bank, a group of blade servers, or a multi-processor system).

The memory 704 stores information within the computing device 700. In one implementation, the memory 704 is a volatile memory unit or units. In another implementation, the memory 704 is a non-volatile memory unit or units. The memory 704 may also be another form of computer-readable medium, such as a magnetic or optical disk.

The storage device 706 is capable of providing mass storage for the computing device 700. In one implementation, the storage device 706 may be or contain a computer-readable medium, such as a floppy disk device, a hard disk device, an optical disk device, or a tape device, a flash memory or other similar solid state memory device, or an array of devices, including devices in a storage area network or other configurations. A computer program product can be tangibly embodied in an information carrier. The computer program product may also contain instructions that, when executed, perform one or more methods, such as those described above. For example, the computer program product may contain instructions for receiving status information from and displaying status information for various medical devices such as AEDs. The information carrier is a computer- or machine-readable medium, such as the memory 704, the storage device 706, or memory on processor 702.

The high speed controller **708** manages bandwidth-intensive operations for the computing device **700**, while the low speed controller **712** manages lower bandwidth-intensive operations. Such allocation of functions is exemplary only. In one implementation, the high-speed controller **708** is coupled to memory **704**, display **716** (e.g., through a graphics processor or accelerator), and to high-speed expansion ports **710**, which may accept various expansion cards (not shown). In the implementation, low-speed controller **712** is coupled to storage device **706** and low-speed expansion port **714**. The low-speed expansion port, which may include various communication ports (e.g., USB, Bluetooth, Ethernet, wireless Ethernet) may be coupled to one or more input/output devices, such as a keyboard, a pointing device, a scanner, or a networking device such as a switch or router, e.g., through a network adapter.

The computing device **700** (e.g., management system **216**) may be implemented in a number of different forms, as shown in the figure. For example, it may be implemented as a standard server **720**, or multiple times in a group of such servers. It may also be implemented as part of a rack server system **724**. In addition, it may be implemented in a personal computer such as a laptop computer **722**. Alternatively, components from computing device **700** may be combined with other components in a mobile device (not shown), such as device **750**. Each of such devices may contain one or more of computing device **700**, **750**, and an entire system may be made up of multiple computing devices **700**, **750** communicating with each other.

Computing device **750** provides information about the status of medical equipment such as an AED to management system **216** (e.g., to computing device **700**) and includes a processor **752**, memory **764**, and an input/output device such as a display **754**, a communication interface **766**, and a transceiver **768**, among other components. The device **750** may also be provided with a storage device, such as a microdrive or other device, to provide additional storage. Each of the components **750**, **752**, **764**, **754**, **766**, and **768**, are interconnected using various buses, and several of the components may be mounted on a common motherboard or in other manners as appropriate. In some examples, computing device **750** is included in an AED such as AED **112** shown in FIG. 1.

The processor **752** can execute instructions within the computing device **750**, including instructions stored in the memory **764**. For example, the processor **752**, can execute instructions to perform a self-test on a piece of medical equipment and forward the results to the central management system **216**. The processor may be implemented as a chipset of chips that include separate and multiple analog and digital processors. The processor may provide, for example, for coordination of the other components of the device **750**, such as control of user interfaces, applications run by device **750**, and wireless communication by device **750**.

Processor **752** may communicate with a user through control interface **758** and display interface **756** coupled to a display **754**. The display **754** may be, for example, a TFT LCD (Thin-Film-Transistor Liquid Crystal Display) or an OLEO (Organic Light Emitting Diode) display, or other appropriate display technology. The display interface **756** may comprise appropriate circuitry for driving the display **754** to present graphical and other information to a user. The control interface **758** may receive commands from a user and convert them for submission to the processor **752**. In addition, an external interface **762** may be provided in communication with processor **752**, so as to enable near area

communication of device **750** with other devices. External interface **762** may provide, for example, for wired communication in some implementations, or for wireless communication in other implementations, and multiple interfaces may also be used.

The memory **764** stores information within the computing device **750**. The memory **764** can be implemented as one or more of a computer-readable medium or media, a volatile memory unit or units, or a non-volatile memory unit or units. Expansion memory **774** may also be provided and connected to device **750** through expansion interface **772**, which may include, for example, a SIMM (Single In Line Memory Module) card interface. Such expansion memory **774** may provide extra storage space for device **750**, or may also store applications or other information for device **750**. Specifically, expansion memory **774** may include instructions to carry out or supplement the processes described above, and may include secure information also. Thus, for example, expansion memory **774** may be provided as a security module for device **750**, and may be programmed with instructions that permit secure use of device **750**. In addition, secure applications may be provided via the SIMM cards, along with additional information, such as placing identifying information on the SIMM card in a non-hackable manner.

The memory may include, for example, flash memory and/or NVRAM memory, as discussed below. In one implementation, a computer program product is tangibly embodied in an information carrier. The computer program product contains instructions that, when executed, perform one or more methods, such as those described above. The information carrier is a computer- or machine-readable medium, such as the memory **764**, expansion memory **774**, or memory on processor **752**.

Device **750** may communicate wirelessly through communication interface **766**, which may include digital signal processing circuitry where necessary. Communication interface **766** may provide for communications under various modes or protocols, such as GSM voice calls, SMS, EMS, or MMS messaging, CDMA, TOMA, PDC, WCDMA, CDMA2000, or GPRS, among others. Such communication may occur, for example, through radio-frequency transceiver **768**. In addition, short-range communication may occur, such as using a Bluetooth, WiFi, or other such transceiver (not shown). In addition, GPS (Global Positioning System) receiver module **770** may provide additional navigation- and location-related wireless data to device **750**, which may be used as appropriate by applications running on device **750**. This communication via communication interface **766** can provide status information about the associated medical equipment to the management system **216** (e.g., to computing device **700**).

Device **750** may also communicate audibly using audio codec **760**, which may receive spoken information from a user and convert it to usable digital information. Audio codec **760** may likewise generate audible sound for a user, such as through a speaker, e.g., in a handset of device **750**. Such sound may include sound from voice telephone calls, may include recorded sound (e.g., voice messages, music files, etc.) and may also include sound generated by applications operating on device **750**.

The computing device **750** may be implemented in a number of different forms, as shown in the figure. For example, it may be implemented as a cellular telephone **780**. It may also be implemented as part of a, personal digital assistant, or other similar mobile device. It may also be implemented as part of a AED **783**, or other medical

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equipment. It may also be implemented as part of a laptop computer such as computer 116 in FIG. 1.

Various implementations of the systems and techniques described here can be realized in digital electronic circuitry, integrated circuitry, specially designed ASICs (application specific integrated circuits), computer hardware, firmware, software, and/or combinations thereof. These various implementations can include implementation in one or more computer programs that are executable and/or interpretable on a programmable system including at least one programmable processor, which may be special or general purpose, coupled to receive data and instructions from, and to transmit data and instructions to, a storage system, at least one input device, and at least one output device.

These computer programs (also known as programs, software, software applications or code) include machine instructions for a programmable processor, and can be implemented in a high-level procedural and/or object-oriented programming language, and/or in assembly/machine language. As used herein, the terms “machine-readable medium” “computer-readable medium” refers to any computer program product, apparatus and/or device (e.g., magnetic discs, optical disks, memory, Programmable Logic Devices (PLDs)) used to provide machine instructions and/or data to a programmable processor, including a machine-readable medium that receives machine instructions as a machine-readable signal. The term “machine-readable signal” refers to any signal used to provide machine instructions and/or data to a programmable processor.

A number of embodiments have been described. Nevertheless, it will be understood that various modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

In addition, the logic flows depicted in the figures do not require the particular order shown, or sequential order, to achieve desirable results. In addition, other steps may be provided, or steps may be eliminated, from the described flows, and other components may be added to, or removed from, the described systems. Accordingly, other embodiments are within the scope of the following claims. Many other implementations of the invention other than those described above are within the invention, which is defined by the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A medical equipment management system comprising:
 - a database that includes status information for a plurality of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) wherein the status information comprises a functional status for one or more of the plurality of AEDs;
 - a computer configured to:
 - receive status updates from the plurality of AEDs;
 - update the status information in the database with the status updates;
 - receive a request to access the status information for the plurality of AEDs,
 - send the status information for the plurality of AEDs, wherein the status information for the plurality of AEDs is grouped based on user-defined geographic regions in which the plurality of AEDs is located and indicates one or more sites associated with the plurality of AEDs; and
 - a user interface communicatively coupled to the computer and configured to display color-coded icons indicative of the functional status of the one or more of the plurality of AEDs.
2. The system of claim 1 wherein the one or more sites each comprise multiple AEDs of the plurality of AEDs.

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3. The system of claim 1 wherein each of the one or more sites is identified by a numerical identifier.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the functional status of the one or more of the plurality of AEDs comprises a functional status of one or more AED components.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein the functional status of the one or more AED components comprises a battery functional status.

6. The system of claim 4, wherein the functional status of the one or more AED components comprises an electrode functional status.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the functional status of the one or more of the plurality of AEDs comprises a self-test result for a respective AED.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the self-test result comprises information about whether the respective AED failed a self-test.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the information about whether the respective AED failed the self-test comprises a reason for the failure of the self-test.

10. The system of claim 8, wherein the information about whether the respective AED failed the self-test comprises an indication of a need to service the respective AED.

11. The system of claim 1 wherein the user interface is further configured to capture a site selection from a user and display AED status information according to the site selection.

12. The system of claim 1 wherein the database comprises status information for non-defibrillating safety equipment.

13. The system of claim 12 wherein the non-defibrillating safety equipment comprises a first aid unit.

14. The system of claim 1 wherein the functional status comprises AED component expiration information.

15. A system comprising:
 a plurality of AEDs;
 at least one computing device; and
 one or more servers located remotely from the plurality of AEDs and from the at least one computing device, wherein the plurality of AEDs and the at least one computing device are configured to communicatively couple to the one or more servers, and wherein the one or more servers comprise at least one memory and at least one processor, the at least one processor configured to:
 receive status updates from the plurality of AEDs,
 update status information, previously stored in the at least one memory, based on the status updates, wherein the status information comprises a functional status of one or more of the plurality of AEDs,
 establish a communicative coupling with the at least one computing device, and
 send the status information to the at least one computing device, wherein the status information is grouped based on user-defined geographic regions in which the plurality of AEDs is located and indicates one or more sites within at least one of the user-defined geographic regions, and
 wherein the at least one computing device is communicatively coupled to a user interface configured to display color-coded icons indicative of the functional status of the one or more of the plurality of AEDs.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein the functional status of the one or more of the plurality of AEDs comprises one or more of a battery functional status and an electrode functional status.

17. The system of claim 15 wherein the functional status of the one or more of the plurality of AEDs comprises a self-test result for a respective AED.

18. The system of claim 15 wherein the one or more servers constitute a medical equipment management center 5 that is separate from a rescue services dispatch center.

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