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ANTENNA METER APP

Abstract

Disclosed is an over-the-air (OTA) antenna meter application (“meter app”) that wirelessly connects to an OTA antenna meter (“meter”) installed with an OTA antenna and presents information that facilitates a user in installing the OTA antenna at the premises of a customer. For example, the meter app can help the user in pointing and peaking the OTA antenna for one or more broadcast channels, e.g., those selected by the customer. The meter app can store installation information of the OTA antenna for various installations, which can be used in generating a recommendation of, or predicting, installation information for installing the OTA antenna at a specified address. The predicted installation information can include broadcast channels that would be available for reception at the specified address and their signal strength, a specific location of installation on the premises, or whether a pre-amplifier and/or filter is required.

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Background/Summary

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS [0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 18/396,486, filed Dec. 26, 2023, entitled “ANTENNA METER APP,” which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 18/078,834, filed Dec. 9, 2022, entitled “ANTENNA METER APP,” which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/518,495, filed Nov. 3, 2021, entitled “ANTENNA METER APP,” which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/601,340, filed Oct. 14, 2019, entitled “ANTENNA METER APP,” the entire disclosures of each of which are incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Over-the-air (OTA) television is a term used to describe free to air television signals that are broadcast by local television broadcast towers (as opposed to a cable or satellite signal). An OTA antenna is used to receive OTA signals from such broadcast towers. Several factors affect the quality of reception such OTA signals by an OTA antenna installed at a building, including a distance of the broadcast tower from the OTA antenna, the direction of the broadcast tower, the height at which the OTA antenna is installed, the type of OTA antenna installed, whether there is an Long term evolution (LTE) interference, whether a preamplifier is required, etc. It may be necessary to determine the above factors for ensuring a good quality reception. Some currently available OTA meters that help an installation technician in installing an OTA antenna are not intuitive, and are cost-prohibitive.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0003] FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an environment in which the disclosed embodiments can be implemented.

[0004] FIG. 2A is a block diagram illustrating a server of FIG. 1 storing installation information associated with multiple installations of an OTA antenna, consistent with various embodiments.

[0005] FIG. 2B is a block diagram for generating a location-based installation map, consistent with various embodiments.

[0006] FIG. 3 is a block diagram for generating a recommendation of installation information, consistent with various embodiments.

[0007] FIG. 4A is a screenshot of a channel scan feature graphical user interface (GUI) of a meter app, consistent with various embodiments.

[0008] FIG. 4B is a screenshot of a mapping tool of the meter app, consistent with various

embodiments.

[0009] FIG. 4C is a screenshot of a channel peaking GUI of the meter app, consistent with various embodiments.

[0010] FIG. 4D is a screenshot of a signal strength GUI of the meter app, consistent with various embodiments.

[0011] FIG. 4E is a screenshot of an installation detail GUI of the meter app, consistent with various embodiments.

[0012] FIG. 5 is a block diagram of the server of FIG. 1, consistent with various embodiments.

[0013] FIG. 6 is a block diagram of a client device of FIG. 1, consistent with various embodiments.

[0014] FIG. 7 is a flow diagram of a process for managing installation of an OTA antenna using the meter app, consistent with various embodiments.

[0015] FIG. 8 is a flow diagram of a process for transmitting the installation information to the server of FIG. 1, consistent with various embodiments.

[0016] FIG. 9 is a flow diagram of a process for generating a location-based installation map, consistent with various embodiments.

[0017] FIG. 10 is a flow diagram of a process for retrieving installation information of a specific location, consistent with various embodiments.

[0018] FIG. 11 is a flow diagram of a process for generating a recommendation for installation for a specific location, consistent with various embodiments.

[0019] FIG. 12 is a block diagram of a processing system that can implement operations of the disclosed embodiments.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0020] Embodiments are directed to an over-the-air (OTA) antenna meter application (“meter app”) that facilitates a user in installing an OTA antenna at the premises of a customer, such as a building. For example, the meter app can help the user in pointing and peaking the OTA antenna for one or more broadcast channels, e.g., those selected by the customer. The pointing and peaking includes determining a position of the OTA antenna, such as a height at which the OTA is to be installed and an orientation of the OTA antenna (e.g., in degrees with respect to magnetic north), for obtaining the broadcast signals at a specified signal quality. In another example, the meter app can store installation information of the OTA antenna for various installations, which can be used in generating a recommendation of, or predicting, installation information for installing the OTA antenna at a specified address. The predicted installation information can include a set of broadcast channels that would be available for reception at the specified address, the signal quality of the set of broadcast channels, a specific location on the premises at which the OTA antenna is to be installed, a type of the OTA antenna, whether a pre-amplifier and/or filter is required, etc.

[0021] Not only does the meter app help the user, e.g., an installation technician, in actual installation of the OTA antenna at a customer's premises, the meter app also helps the installation technician in providing enhanced customer service to the customer by setting the customer's expectation with respect to the list of broadcast channels to be received, the quality of those broadcast channels, a list of the equipment that may be required, the installation cost, etc. prior to installing the OTA antenna at the customer's premises.

[0022] The meter app can be used with an OTA antenna meter (“meter”) that is installed with, or connected to, the OTA antenna. In some embodiments, a meter is a device which measures a signal quality or strength of a signal (e.g., for a broadcast channel) received by the OTA antenna. The meter app can be executed on a client device, such as a smartphone. In some embodiments, the meter and the meter app communicate wirelessly, e.g., via Bluetooth. The OTA meter provides various signal data such as radio frequencies of the broadcast channels and their signal strength to the meter app.

[0023] Turning now to FIG. 1, FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an environment 100 in which the disclosed embodiments can be implemented. The environment 100 includes a client device 120 in

which a meter app **145** is installed. The meter app **145** is a mobile app that can be downloaded to the client device **120**, e.g., from an app store hosted on a server device (not illustrated), and installed on the client device **120**. However, in some embodiments, the meter app **145** can also be implemented as a website, which can be accessed using an application on the client device **120**, such as a web browser. The client device **120** can be any of a variety of computing devices, e.g., a desktop computer, a laptop computer, a smartphone, a tablet PC, a wearable device, that is capable of communicating with an OTA meter **115**. In some embodiments, the OTA meter **115** has a wireless communication interface, such as Bluetooth. Accordingly, the client device **120** and the OTA meter **115** may communicate wirelessly using Bluetooth. However, the wireless communication between the client device **120** and the OTA meter **115** is not restricted to Bluetooth, it can happen over other wireless communication protocols. In some embodiments, the OTA meter **115** can also include a wired communication interface, which enables communication with the client device **120** over a wired means.

[0024] In the environment **100**, the meter **115** is installed with the OTA antenna **110**, which is to be installed at a location, such as building **105**. The meter app **145** provides various information that helps a user **125**, e.g., installation technician, in installing the OTA antenna **110** at the building **105**. Upon connecting the client device **120** to the meter **115**, e.g., wirelessly, the meter app **145** receives signal data from the meter **115** and interprets the signal data to show a list of the broadcast channels available for reception by the OTA antenna **110** and their signal strength (also referred to as “signal quality”) in the meter app **145**. In some embodiments, the signal data includes a radio frequency of the signal received for a broadcast channel and the signal strength. The signal strength of a broadcast channel can be measured as a function of one or more signal metrics, including for example, a power, signal-to-noise (SNR) ratio, or a modulation error ratio (MER) of a radio signal of the corresponding broadcast channel. The meter app **145** can display the signal strength in various forms, e.g., as numbers, or other graphical representations such as rectangular bars of varied color based on the signal strength (e.g., as illustrated in FIGS. **4A**, **4C** and **4D**). In some embodiments, a weak signal, e.g., a signal whose strength is less than a specified threshold, may indicate that the OTA antenna **110** is not positioned appropriately. The user **125** may try adjusting the position of the OTA antenna **110**, e.g., change the height and/or a direction of the OTA antenna **110**, and determine if the signal strength improves by looking at the signal strength displayed in the meter app **145**, e.g., as the OTA antenna **110** is adjusted.

[0025] In some embodiments, the signal strength of a broadcast channel improves when the OTA antenna **110** is oriented in the direction of the broadcast tower of the broadcast channel. The meter app **145** includes a mapping tool (e.g., as illustrated in FIG. **4B**) that displays on a geographical map, the location of the building **105** (e.g., based on address of the building) and the location of the broadcast towers of various broadcast channels. Additionally, the mapping tool may also display connecting lines between the broadcast towers and the address of the building **105** and their directions, e.g., in terms of degrees from the address of the building such as 65 degrees NE). The user **125** may refer to the mapping tool to peak the OTA antenna **110** for the broadcast channels. In some embodiments, antenna peaking refers to orienting a directional antenna toward the greatest radio signal amplitude (e.g., greatest signal strength). The signal strength displayed in the meter app **145**, which is received from the meter **115**, may have changed in response to adjusting the position of the OTA antenna **110**, and if the revised signal strength has improved and/or exceeded the specified threshold (also referred to as “strong” signal), then it indicates the broadcast channel reception is of an expected/desired quality.

[0026] The meter app **145** allows the user **125** to select a set of broadcast channels, e.g., those that a customer is interested in watching, view the signal strength of the selected set of broadcast channels, view the location of the broadcast towers of the selected set of broadcast channels in the mapping tool and to peak the OTA antenna for the selected set of broadcast channels accordingly. The mapping tool also allows the user **125** to determine which type an OTA antenna **110** may be

required to receive the selected set of broadcast channels. For example, some broadcast towers can be located within a 60-mile range from the address of the building **105** and some within a 35-mile range. Accordingly, the mapping tool can help the user **125** decide whether 60-mile range OTA antenna is necessary, or a 35-mile range OTA antenna would be sufficient to receive the selected set of broadcast channels at a specified signal strength. In another example, the meter app **145** can also help the user **125** in determining whether an indoor OTA antenna or an outdoor OTA antenna is suitable for the building **105**. In cases where the building **105** is so far from broadcast towers that it is out of the reception range of an indoor OAT antenna, or in cases where there is interference within the building **105**, the meter app **145** can indicate that the broadcast signal is weak, based on which the user **125** can try installing an outdoor OTA antenna and check the signal reception. If the signal is strong with the outdoor OTA antenna, then an outdoor OTA antenna is more suitable than the indoor OTA antenna.

[0027] In some embodiments, the meter app **145** also helps the user **125** in determining whether an additional equipment such as a filter and/or pre-amplifier may have to be installed with the OTA antenna **110**. For example, there may be interference from Long Term Evolution (LTE) signals near the building **105** due to which the broadcast channel signal may still be weak (regardless of whether the OTA antenna **110** is peaked), or there may even be a channel loss. The user **125** can install an LTE filter, which filters the LTE signals from the broadcast channel signal, may improve the signal strength of the broadcast channels. In another example, the signal strength of the broadcast channels may still be weak regardless of whether the OTA antenna **110** is peaked and may improve upon installing a pre-amplifier with the OTA antenna **110**. In some embodiments, the LTE filter may be integrated into the pre-amplifier.

[0028] As can be appreciated, the meter app **145** helps the user **125** in determining one or more installation parameters for installing the OTA antenna **110** at the building **105**. The user **125** can record the installation parameters as part of installation information **140** in the meter app **145**. An installation parameter can include one or more of a type (e.g., indoor vs. outdoor) of the OTA antenna **110**, an installation height of the OTA antenna **110**, a direction (e.g., in degrees with respect to magnetic north) of the OTA antenna **110**, a type of OTA adapter (e.g., Hauppauge model vs. Lark/Dish Model), a picture of the installation of the OTA antenna **110**, any additional equipment (e.g., pre-amplifier, LTE filter) installed with the OTA antenna **110**, or a set of broadcast channels received by the OTA antenna **110** and their signal strengths. The meter app **145** can store the installation information **140** in association with a workorder for a customer, which includes one or more of a workorder identification (ID), name of the customer, contact information of the customer (e.g., telephone number and/or email ID), address of the building **105**, requested broadcast channels, etc.

[0029] The meter app **145** can transmit the installation information **140** to a server device (“server”) **150**, which can store the installation information **140** in a storage system **135**. In some embodiments, if the client device **120** is “offline,” that is, does not have access to a communication network **130**, such as Internet or local area network (LAN), to connect with the server **150**, the installation information **140** is stored locally in the client device **120**, and is transmitted to the server **150** when the client device **120** goes “online,” that is, can access the communication network **130** to connect with the server **150**. After transmitting the installation information **140** to the server **150**, the installation information **140** may be deleted from the client device **120**. However, in some embodiments, the installation information **140** may be continued to be stored at the client device **120** even after it is transmitted to the server **150**.

[0030] In some embodiments, the installation information, such as the installation information **140**, submitted by one or more users can be used in predicting or generating installation information for new installations of the OTA antennas, as described at least with reference to FIGS. 2A, 2B and 3.

[0031] FIG. 2A is a block diagram illustrating the server of FIG. 1 storing installation information associated with multiple installations of the OTA antenna, consistent with various embodiments.

After installing an OTA antenna at the building, users can submit the installation information to the server **150**. The example **200** illustrates the server **150** receiving installation information **140a**, **140b** and **140c** associated with three different installations of an OTA antenna such as the OTA antenna **110**. The three installations can be performed by the same user or different users at different buildings. The installation information **140a-140c** can be transmitted to the server **150** at different times or at the same time. In one example, the installation information **140a** is transmitted from a client device, such as the client device **120**, as soon as the user inputs the installation information into the client device and submits the installation information **140a** for transmission to the server **150**. In another example, the client device can transmit the installation information **140a** to the server **150** when the client device goes online. In another example, the transmission of installation information to the server **150** can be scheduled. Further, the installation information **140a-140c** can be transmitted to the server **150** from the same client device, such as the client device **120**, or different client devices. The server **150** stores the installation information **140a-c** of different installations collectively as installation information **210** in the storage system **135**.

[0032] FIG. 2B is a block diagram for generating a location-based installation map, consistent with various embodiments. The example **205** illustrates the server **150** generating a location-based installation map **215**, which stores a mapping of an address of installation of the OTA antenna and one or more installation parameters of the installation. In some embodiments, the location-based installation map **215** is used for generating recommendations of, or predicting, installation information for installing an OTA antenna, such as the OTA antenna **110**, at a new address (e.g., an address of a building whose installation information is not stored in the storage system **135**).

[0033] The server **150** accesses the storage system **135** to retrieve the installation information **210**. The installation information **210** can have multiple installation records each of which corresponds to installation information associated with a particular installation. For each installation record, the server **150** extracts (a) an address of the building at which the installation is performed and (b) one or more installation parameters associated with the installation, and stores a mapping of the address and the one or more installation parameters in the location-based installation map **215**.

[0034] The user **125** can query the server **150** for installation information by providing an address, or at least a portion thereof, of a building as query input. When the server **150** receives a request from the client device **120** for installation information at a particular address, the server **150** performs a look-up in the location-based installation map **215** using the address and retrieves the one or more installation parameters for the matching address. The server **150** can then transmit the retrieved installation information, e.g., the one or more installation parameters, to the client device **120**.

[0035] In some embodiments, the user **125** can specify only a portion of the address in the query input. For example, the user **125** can provide only a street name, an intersection of two streets, a zip code, or even mark a portion on a geographical map in the meter app **145**, as the location input for query. If there are multiple entries in the location-based installation map **215** that match the location input in the query, the server **150** returns multiple sets of installation parameters corresponding to installations within a specified proximity of the query input location. For example, if the user **125** provided a street name, then the server **150** identifies all addresses in the location-based installation map **215** that are on the street, or in a one-mile stretch on the street, and retrieves the installation information for each of those installations.

[0036] FIG. 3 is a block diagram for generating a recommendation of installation information, consistent with various embodiments. In the example **300**, the server **150** can generate a location-specific installation recommendation **310** for installing an OTA antenna **325** (e.g., similar to the OTA antenna **110**), at a building **315** located in a specific location **320**. The location-specific installation recommendation **310** can include one or more installation parameters, such as a type of the OTA antenna **325**, an installation height of the OTA antenna **325**, a direction of the OTA antenna **325**, an exact location of the installation of the OTA antenna **325** in the building **315**, a

type of the OTA adapter, a picture of the installation of the OTA antenna **325**, any additional equipment to be installed with the OTA antenna **325**, or a set of broadcast channels received by the OTA antenna **325** and their signal strengths.

[0037] The user **125** can use the meter app **145** to send a recommendation request **305** to the server **150** for generating installation recommendation **310** for the specific location **320**. The user **125** can input the specific location **320** in the form of an address of the building **315**, which can be a complete address (e.g., having at least a building number, street name, and zip code) or a portion thereof (e.g., street name, city and state, or zip code). The server **150** performs a look-up in the location-based installation map **215** to identify all entries that have addresses that are within a specified proximity, e.g., one mile or a couple of blocks, of the specific location **320**, and retrieves the installation information for each of those addresses. The server **150** analyzes the retrieved installation information and generates the installation recommendation **310** based on the analysis. The server **150** can use any number of methods to perform the analysis, including artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), rule-based analysis, or statistical analysis.

[0038] By analyzing the retrieved installations (e.g., the installation information of the retrieved addresses), the server **150** can determine that the OTA antenna installed at the buildings in those addresses receive a first set of broadcast channels. Accordingly, the server **150** generates the installation recommendation **310** indicating that the OTA antenna **325** installed at the building **315** may receive the first set of broadcast channels. In some embodiments, the server **150** can also include a likelihood of the availability of the first set of broadcast channels in the installation recommendation **310**. For example, the more the number of buildings in the analyzed data set receive a broadcast channel, the higher the likelihood of availability of that broadcast channel for reception at the building **315**.

[0039] Similarly, the server **150** can determine from the analyzed installations that the buildings in the analyzed installations receive a specified broadcast channel at a specified signal strength. Accordingly, the server **150** can indicate in the installation recommendation **310** that the building **315** would likely receive the specified broadcast channel at the specified signal strength. In some embodiments, the server **150** can indicate the predicted signal strength as a range of values, based on the various signal strengths of the specified broadcast channel in the analyzed installations.

[0040] In another example, the server **150** can determine from the analyzed installations that a specified broadcast channel is not available for reception at one or more of the buildings in the analyzed installations. Accordingly, the server **150** can indicate in the installation recommendation **310** that the specified broadcast channel would likely be not available for reception at the building **315**. In some embodiments, the server **150** can also include a likelihood of the availability or unavailability of the specified broadcast channel in the installation recommendation **310**, e.g., as described above.

[0041] In another example, the server **150** can determine from the analyzed installations that a specified broadcast channel is available for reception at one or more of the buildings in the analyzed installations if a pre-amplifier is installed with the OTA antenna. Accordingly, the server **150** can indicate in the installation recommendation **310** that the specified broadcast channel would likely be available for reception at the building **315** at a specified signal strength if a pre-amplifier is installed with the OTA antenna **325**.

[0042] In another example, the server **150** can determine from the analyzed installations that a location of the one or more of the buildings in the analyzed installations is prone to LTE interference. Accordingly, the server **150** can indicate in the installation recommendation **310** that a specified broadcast channel would likely be available for reception at the building **315** at a specified signal strength if an LTE filter is installed with the OTA antenna **325**.

[0043] In another example, the server **150** can determine from the analyzed installations that a location of the one or more of the buildings in the analyzed installations is prone to multipath inflection or interference. In some embodiments, multipath Interference is caused by the signal

being bounced around some surfaces such as wet or icy surfaces, buildings or a passing airplane, hilly terrains or trees. The analysis may also indicate that the multipath inflection can be prevented by (a) avoiding a set of locations in the building for the installation and/or (b) installing the OTA antenna in a particular location of the building. In some cases, moving the OTA antenna **110**, e.g., a few feet, can help alleviate the problem. If the problem persists, the OTA antenna **110** may have to be elevated, installed on the roof or mounted to a pole. Accordingly, the server **150** can indicate in the installation recommendation **310** that a specified broadcast channel would likely be available for reception at the building **315** at a specified signal strength if the OTA antenna **325** is installed at a specified location in the building **315**.

[0044] In another example, the server **150** can determine from the analyzed installations that (a) to receive a specified broadcast channel at one or more of the buildings in the analyzed installations, (b) for certain types of buildings, or (c) buildings in a specified location, a specified type of the OTA antenna is necessary. Accordingly, the server **150** can indicate in the installation recommendation **310** that a specified type of the OTA antenna **325** may be necessary for receiving a specified broadcast channel at the building **315**.

[0045] In another example, the server **150** can determine from the analyzed installations that an OTA antenna is to be installed at a specified location of the building, in a specified orientation and at a specified height to receive a broadcast channel with a specified signal quality. Accordingly, the server **150** can indicate in the installation recommendation **310** that the OTA antenna **325** is to be installed at a specified location of the building **315**, in a specified orientation and at a specified height to receive the broadcast channel with the specified signal quality at the building **315**.

[0046] The above are just a few examples of the installation parameters predicted or recommended by the server **150**. However, the server **150** is not restricted to the above installation parameters and can predict or generate recommendation for more, less or different set of installation parameters. The installation recommendation **310** can aid the installation technician not only in installing the OTA antenna **325** at the building **315** but also in setting the customer's expectation (e.g., with respect to the installation cost, expected broadcast channels and their quality).

[0047] FIGS. **4A-4E** are screenshots of various graphical user interfaces (GUIs) of the meter app of FIG. **1**, consistent with various embodiments.

[0048] FIG. **4A** is a screenshot of a channel scan feature GUI of the meter app **145**, consistent with various embodiments. The channel scan feature GUI **405** allows a user, such as the user **125**, to scan for one or more broadcast channels available for reception by an OTA antenna installed at a building, such as the OTA antenna **110** at building **105**. The client device **120** receives signal data from the meter **115** and displays it in the channel scan feature GUI **405**. The signal data displayed in the channel scan feature GUI **405** can include one or more of a radio frequency in which a broadcast channel is transmitted, a virtual channel number of the broadcast channel, a station name of the broadcast channel, a call sign of the station, or a signal strength of the broadcast channel. The signal strength is measured as a function of one or more of a power, SNR ratio, or MER of a radio signal of the broadcast channel. Further, the signal strength can be displayed in various formats, e.g., as numbers, or other graphical representations such as rectangular bars of varied color based on the signal strength. In the channel scan feature GUI **405**, the signal strength is displayed as power and SNR values. Each of those two is displayed in the form of a rectangular bar, which can be one of three colors indicating a specific signal strength. For example, red color indicates a weak signal, yellow color indicates a good signal, and green color indicates a strong signal. The user **125** can select one or more of the broadcast channels from the channel scan feature GUI **405** to view further details. In some embodiments, the channels be pre-selected by the meter app **145**, e.g., based on user selection information recorded in a workorder associated with the installation.

[0049] In some embodiments, an OTA antenna installation may be associated with a workorder, which is created by the server **150**, or even the client device **120**, in response to receiving an installation request from a customer, e.g., a resident of the building **105**. The workorder can include

a workorder identification (ID), customer details, and details of the user **125**. The customer details can include one or more of a customer name, address of the installation (e.g., address of the building **105**), customer contact information, requested broadcast channels, or requested installation date and time. The user details can include one or more of an installation technician ID or name, a picture of the technician or contact details. The meter app **145** can display at least some of the workorder details, e.g., a workorder ID and customer name as illustrated in FIG. **4A**.

[0050] FIG. **4B** is a screenshot of a mapping tool of the meter app **145**, consistent with various embodiments. The mapping tool **410** displays a location of a broadcast tower of the broadcast channel selected in the channel scan feature GUI **405** in a geographical map. The mapping tool **410** also displays a location of the building **105** in the geographical map (e.g., based on the address of the building **105**). In some embodiments, the mapping tool **410** also displays connecting lines between the location of the broadcast tower and the location of the building **105** to depict a direction of the broadcast tower from the building **105**, which can aid the user **125** in orienting the OTA antenna **110** towards the broadcast tower.

[0051] FIG. **4C** is a screenshot of a channel peaking GUI **415** of the meter app **145**, consistent with various embodiments. The channel peaking GUI **415** displays signal data of the broadcast channels selected in the channel scan feature GUI **405**. The user **125** may further select a broadcast channel from the channel peaking GUI **415** to view the signal data, such as the signal strength, of the selected broadcast channel, e.g., as displayed in the signal strength GUI **420** of FIG. **4D**. The user **125** may navigate to the channel peaking GUI **415** to view only the user selected broadcast channels, which can be the broadcast channels that a customer is interested in receiving, and focus on peaking the OTA antenna **110** for the selected broadcast channels.

[0052] FIG. **4D** is a screenshot of a signal strength GUI **420** of the meter app **145**, consistent with various embodiments. The signal strength GUI **420** shows two different parameters that are indicative of the signal strength of the broadcast channel the user selects from the channel peaking GUI **415**. The signal strength GUI **420** shows a first bar **421** that is indicative of power of the signal and a second bar **422** that is indicative of the SNR of the signal of the corresponding broadcast channel. In some embodiments, the user **125** can select one or more of a power, SNR ratio, or MER values to be displayed as the signal strength in meter app **145**.

[0053] FIG. **4E** is a screenshot of an installation detail GUI **425** of the meter app **145**, consistent with various embodiments. The installation detail GUI **425** allows the user **125** to input installation information in the meter app **145**. The installation information can include one or more installation parameters such as the ones mentioned above at least with respect to FIG. **1**. The installation detail GUI **425** allows the user **125** input to installation parameters such as installation picture **427**, installation location or a type **428** of the OTA antenna **110**, installation height **429** and an orientation **430** of the OTA antenna **110**. One or more of the above parameters can be optional. The meter power indicator **426** indicates a battery level of the meter **115**. In some embodiments, if the battery level drops below a specified threshold, the meter app **145** shall display a notification indicating the same.

[0054] FIG. **5** is a block diagram of the server of FIG. **1**, consistent with various embodiments. The server **150** includes a data transceiver component **505**, a location-based installation map component **510** and a recommendation component **515**. The data transceiver component **505** can receive data from and transmit data to a client device, such as the client device **120**. The location-based installation map component **510** can analyze installation information of various installations and generate a location-based installation map, such as the location-based installation map **215**. The recommendation component **515** can predict installation information or generate a recommendation of the installation information, such as installation recommendation **310**, for installing an OTA antenna at a specified location based on the installation information of OTA antennas at addresses within a specified proximity of the specified location.

[0055] FIG. **6** is a block diagram of the client device of FIG. **1**, consistent with various

embodiments. The client device **120** includes a communication management component **605**, a GUI management component **610**, a channel management component **615**, and an installation information management component **620**. In some embodiments, a functionality of the meter app **145** is defined by the above components. The communication management component **605** can communicate with the meter **115** to establish a connection, e.g., wireless, between the client device **120** and the meter **115**. The GUI management component **610** can generate various GUIs of the meter app **145**, such as the ones in FIGS. **4A-4E**. The channel management component **615** can determine the signal strength of the broadcast channels received by the OTA antenna **110**, based on the signal data received from the meter. The installation information management component **620** allows the user **125** to submit installation information to the meter app **145**.

[0056] Additional details with respect to the components of the server **150** and the client device **120** are described at least with reference to FIGS. **7-12** below. Note that the server **150** illustrated in FIG. **5** is not restricted to having the above described components. The server **150** can include lesser number of components, e.g., functionalities of two components can be combined into one component, or can include more number of components, e.g., components that perform other functionalities. In some embodiments, the functionalities of one or more of the above components can be split into two or more components. Furthermore, the components of the server **150** can be implemented at a single computing device or distributed across multiple computing devices. Similarly, the client device illustrated in FIG. **6** is not restricted to having the above described components. The client device **120** can include lesser number of components, e.g., functionalities of two components can be combined into one component, or can include more number of components, e.g., components that perform other functionalities. In some embodiments, the functionalities of one or more of the above components of the client device **120** can be split into two or more components.

[0057] FIG. **7** is a flow diagram of a process **700** for managing installation of an OTA antenna using a meter app, consistent with various embodiments. In some embodiments, the process **700** can be implemented in the environment **100**. At block **705**, the communication management component **605** establishes a connection, e.g., a wireless connection via Bluetooth, between the meter **115** and the client device **120**.

[0058] At block **710**, the channel management component **615** receives signal data from the meter **115**. As described at least with reference to FIG. **1**, the signal data can include one or more of a RF of a broadcast channel, signal strength of the broadcast channel, a virtual channel number of the broadcast channel, or a station name of the broadcast channel.

[0059] At block **715**, the GUI management component **610** generates a GUI, such as the channel scan feature GUI **405**, displaying the broadcast channels received by the OTA antenna **110** and their signal strength, based on the signal data.

[0060] At block **720**, the channel management component **615** receives a user selection of a set of broadcast channels, for example, as illustrated at least with reference to FIG. **4A**.

[0061] At block **725**, the channel management component **615** determines that a signal for one or more of the selected broadcast channels is weak, that is, the signal strength is below a specified threshold. In some embodiments, a signal received by the OTA antenna is weak due to improper positioning of the OTA antenna. Accordingly, a weak signal can indicate to the user **125** to adjust a position of the OTA antenna **110**. In some embodiments, adjusting the position of the OTA antenna **110** can be one of many indicators for improving the signal reception (others include, for example, adding a pre-amplifier, an LTE filter, etc.). In some embodiments, adjusting the position of the OTA antenna **110** can include any of changing a location of the OTA antenna in the building **105**, changing an orientation of the OTA antenna **110**, changing an installation height of the OTA antenna **110**. Accordingly, the user **125** can reposition the OTA antenna **110** based on the signal strength displayed by the meter app **145**.

[0062] At block **730**, the user **125** adjusts the position of the OTA antenna **110**. In some

embodiments, the user **125** may refer to the mapping tool, e.g., illustrated in FIG. 4B, to adjust the orientation of the OTA antenna **110** in the direction of one or more broadcast towers that broadcast the user selected broadcast channels.

[0063] At block **735**, the channel management component **615** receives a revised signal strength of the one or more broadcast channels from the meter **115** in response to adjusting the position of the OTA antenna **110**.

[0064] At determination block **740**, the channel management component **615** determines whether the revised signal strength is above the specified threshold.

[0065] Responsive to a determination that the revised signal strength is still weak, the user **125** can continue to adjust the position of the OTA antenna **110**.

[0066] On the other hand, responsive to a determination that the revised signal is not weak any more, that is, the signal strength is above the specified threshold, at block **745**, the installation information management component **620** stores the installation information associated with the OTA antenna **110**, such as the installation information **140**, in the meter app **145** on the client device **120**. As described at least with reference to FIG. 4E, the user **125** can input the installation information in the meter app **145** using the installation detail GUI **425**. Some of the installation information may be provided by the meter app **145** and some may be input by the user **125**. For example, the address of the building **105** may be provided by the meter app **145**, which can be retrieved from a workorder associated with the installation.

[0067] At block **750**, the communication management component **605** transmits the installation information to the server **150**.

[0068] FIG. 8 is a flow diagram of a process **800** for transmitting the installation information to the server of FIG. 1, consistent with various embodiments. In some embodiments, the process **800** can be implemented in the environment **100** of FIG. 1 and as part of block **750** of FIG. 7. At block **805**, the communication management component **605** confirms that the client device **120** is online. For example, the client device **120** is online if it is connected to the communication network **130** and the server **150** is accessible by the client device **120**. If the client device **120** is offline, that is, the client device **120** is not connected to the communication network **130** or the server **150** is not accessible, then the client device **120** is offline. If the client device **120** is offline, the installation information stored in the meter app **145**, e.g., as described at least with reference to block **740** of FIG. 7, is put in a memory queue at the client device **120** for synchronization with the server **150**.

[0069] At block **810**, the communication management component **605** transmits the installation information **140** to the server **150**, which stores the installation information **140** at the storage system **135**.

[0070] FIG. 9 is a flow diagram of a process **900** for generating a location-based installation map, consistent with various embodiments. In some embodiments, the process **900** can be implemented in the environment **100** of FIG. 1. At block **905**, the data transceiver component **505** accesses installation records from the storage system **135**. The installation records contain installation information of multiple installations of an OTA antenna, and each installation record can have installation information, such as the installation information **140**, of the corresponding installation.

[0071] At block **910**, the location-based installation map component **510** extracts an address of the installation, e.g., an address of a building where the OTA antenna is installed, and one or more installation parameters from each installation record. The installation parameters can include one or more of a type of the OTA antenna **325**, an installation height of the OTA antenna **325**, a direction of the OTA antenna **325**, an exact location of the installation of the OTA antenna **325** in the building **315**, a type of the OTA adapter, a picture of the installation of the OTA antenna **325**, any additional equipment to be installed with the OTA antenna **325**, or a set of broadcast channels received by the OTA antenna **325** and their signal strengths.

[0072] At block **915**, the location-based installation map component **510** generates a location-based installation map, such as location-based installation map **215**, having a mapping of the installation

parameters and the address of the installation for each of the installations. In some embodiments, each entry in the location-based installation map **215** corresponds to one installation of an OTA antenna. In some embodiments, the location-based installation map **215** can be used for retrieving the installation parameters of an OTA antenna installation for a specific address, e.g., as described at least with respect to FIGS. **2A** and **2B**, and FIG. **10** below. In some embodiments, the location-based installation map **215** can also be used in generating a location-specific installation recommendation for installing an OTA antenna in a specific location, e.g., as described at least with reference to FIG. **3** above, and FIG. **10** below.

[0073] FIG. **10** is a flow diagram of a process **1000** for retrieving installation information of a specific location, consistent with various embodiments. In some embodiments, the process **1000** can be implemented in the environment **100** of FIG. **1**. At block **1005**, the data transceiver component **505** receives a request for installation information associated with an installation of an OTA antenna, such as the OTA antenna **110**, at a specific location. The request can be issued by the client device **120**. The request can include an address of the specific location, e.g., address of the building **105**.

[0074] At block **1010**, the location-based installation map component **510** performs a look-up in the location-based installation map **215** using the specified location to identify an entry matching the specific location.

[0075] At block **1015**, the location-based installation map component **510** retrieves the installation parameters from the identified entry.

[0076] At block **1020**, the location-based installation map component **510** transmits the installation parameters to the client device **120**. The client device **120** can present the installation parameters in one of the GUIs in the meter app **145**.

[0077] In some embodiments, the request for installation information can include only a portion of the address as the specific location. For example, the user **125** can provide only a street name, an intersection of two streets, a zip code, or even mark a portion on a geographical map in the meter app **145**, as the location input for query. If there are multiple entries in the location-based installation map **215** that match the specific location input in the query, the server **150** returns multiple sets of installation parameters corresponding to multiple installations within a specified proximity of the query input location, e.g., as described at least with reference to FIG. **2B**.

[0078] At block **1025**, the location-based installation map component **510** displays the installation parameters in the meter app **145**. In some embodiments, the meter app **145** can display the installation parameters for the specified location using a location-based installation information tool, such as the mapping tool **410** of FIG. **4B**. The location-based installation information tool generates a geographical map in the meter app **145** and the user **125** can input the specific location by inputting an address in the geographical map, pointing a specific location in the geographical map, or marking a specific area on the geographical map (which can be a particular street, a set of streets, a set of blocks, a city etc.). The location-based installation information tool can then show the installations in the specific location on the geographical map, e.g., by displaying markers at addresses of the installations, and the user **125** can view installation parameters of a specific installation by selecting that specific installation on the geographical map. In some embodiments, the location-based installation information tool can also display the installation information as a list of installations without the geographical map.

[0079] FIG. **11** is a flow diagram of a process **1100** for generating a recommendation for installation for a specific location, consistent with various embodiments. In some embodiments, the process **1100** can be implemented in the environment **100** of FIG. **1**. At block **1105**, the data transceiver component **505** receives a request for generating a recommendation of installation information for installing an OTA antenna at a building. The request can be issued by the client device **120** for installing the OTA antenna **325** at the building **315** and in the specific location **320**. The specific location **320** can be provided as an address of the building **315**.

[0080] At block **1110**, the location-based installation map component **510** performs a look-up in the location-based installation map **215** using the specific location **320** to identify entries having addresses that are within a specified proximity of the building **315**.

[0081] At block **1115**, the location-based installation map component **510** retrieves a set of installation parameters from each of the identified entries.

[0082] At block **1120**, the location-based installation map component **510** analyzes the installation parameters of the multiple installations to generate a recommendation of the installation information, such as the location-specific installation recommendation **310**, for the specific location **320**. Various examples of the analysis performed are described at least with reference to FIG. 3.

The location-specific installation recommendation **310** can include one or more installation parameters, such as a type of the OTA antenna **325** to be installed at the building **315**, an installation height of the OTA antenna **325**, a direction of the OTA antenna **325**, an exact location of the installation of the OTA antenna **325** in the building **315**, a type of the OTA adapter, a picture of the installation of the OTA antenna **325**, any additional equipment to be installed with the OTA antenna **325**, or a set of broadcast channels received by the OTA antenna **325** and their signal strengths.

[0083] At block **1125**, the data transceiver component **505** transmits the location-specific installation recommendation **310** to the client device **120**, which a user **125** can use for installing the OTA antenna **325** at the building **315**.

[0084] FIG. 12 is a block diagram of a computer system as may be used to implement features of the disclosed embodiments. The computer system **1200** may be used to implement any of the entities, components or services depicted in the examples of the foregoing figures (and any other components described in this specification). The computer system **1200** may include one or more central processing units (“processors”) **1205**, memory **1210**, input/output devices **1225** (e.g., keyboard and pointing devices, display devices), storage devices **1220** (e.g., disk drives), and network adapters **1230** (e.g., network interfaces) that are connected to an interconnect **1215**. The interconnect **1215** is illustrated as an abstraction that represents any one or more separate physical buses, point to point connections, or both connected by appropriate bridges, adapters, or controllers. The interconnect **1215**, therefore, may include, for example, a system bus, a Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) bus or PCI-Express bus, a HyperTransport or industry standard architecture (ISA) bus, a small computer system interface (SCSI) bus, a universal serial bus (USB), IIC (I2C) bus, or an Institute of Electrical and Electronics Components (IEEE) standard **1394** bus, also called “Firewire.”

[0085] The memory **1210** and storage devices **1220** are computer-readable storage media that may store instructions that implement at least portions of the described embodiments. In addition, the data structures and message structures may be stored or transmitted via a data transmission medium, such as a signal on a communications link. Various communications links may be used, such as the Internet, a local area network, a wide area network, or a point-to-point dial-up connection. Thus, computer readable media can include computer-readable storage media (e.g., “non-transitory” media) and computer-readable transmission media.

[0086] The instructions stored in memory **1210** can be implemented as software and/or firmware to program the processor(s) **1205** to carry out actions described above. In some embodiments, such software or firmware may be initially provided to the computer system **1200** by downloading it from a remote system through the computer system **1200** (e.g., via network adapter **1230**).

[0087] The embodiments introduced herein can be implemented by, for example, programmable circuitry (e.g., one or more microprocessors) programmed with software and/or firmware, or entirely in special-purpose hardwired (non-programmable) circuitry, or in a combination of such forms. Special-purpose hardwired circuitry may be in the form of, for example, one or more ASICs, PLDs, FPGAs, etc.

Remarks

[0088] The above description and drawings are illustrative and are not to be construed as limiting. Numerous specific details are described to provide a thorough understanding of the disclosure. However, in some instances, well-known details are not described in order to avoid obscuring the description. Further, various modifications may be made without deviating from the scope of the embodiments. Accordingly, the embodiments are not limited except as by the appended claims.

[0089] Reference in this specification to “one embodiment” or “an embodiment” means that a particular feature, structure, or characteristic described in connection with the embodiment is included in at least one embodiment of the disclosure. The appearances of the phrase “in one embodiment” in various places in the specification are not necessarily all referring to the same embodiment, nor are separate or alternative embodiments mutually exclusive of other embodiments. Moreover, various features are described which may be exhibited by some embodiments and not by others. Similarly, various requirements are described which may be requirements for some embodiments but not for other embodiments.

[0090] The terms used in this specification generally have their ordinary meanings in the art, within the context of the disclosure, and in the specific context where each term is used. Terms that are used to describe the disclosure are discussed below, or elsewhere in the specification, to provide additional guidance to the practitioner regarding the description of the disclosure. For convenience, some terms may be highlighted, for example using italics and/or quotation marks. The use of highlighting has no influence on the scope and meaning of a term; the scope and meaning of a term is the same, in the same context, whether or not it is highlighted. It will be appreciated that the same thing can be said in more than one way. One will recognize that “memory” is one form of a “storage” and that the terms may on occasion be used interchangeably.

[0091] Consequently, alternative language and synonyms may be used for any one or more of the terms discussed herein, nor is any special significance to be placed upon whether or not a term is elaborated or discussed herein. Synonyms for some terms are provided. A recital of one or more synonyms does not exclude the use of other synonyms. The use of examples anywhere in this specification including examples of any term discussed herein is illustrative only, and is not intended to further limit the scope and meaning of the disclosure or of any exemplified term. Likewise, the disclosure is not limited to various embodiments given in this specification.

[0092] Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the logic illustrated in each of the flow diagrams discussed above, may be altered in various ways. For example, the order of the logic may be rearranged, substeps may be performed in parallel, illustrated logic may be omitted; other logic may be included, etc.

[0093] Without intent to further limit the scope of the disclosure, examples of instruments, apparatus, methods and their related results according to the embodiments of the present disclosure are given below. Note that titles or subtitles may be used in the examples for convenience of a reader, which in no way should limit the scope of the disclosure. Unless otherwise defined, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which this disclosure pertains. In the case of conflict, the present document, including definitions will control.

Claims

1. A method, comprising: receiving, from a client device, a request for generating a recommendation of installation information for installing an over-the-air (OTA) antenna at a service location; retrieving a set of workorders associated with a set of locations within a specified proximity of the service location; generating the recommendation, comprising: analyzing installation information associated with the set of workorders; and indicating a likelihood that a broadcast channel is receivable at the service location based upon the analysis of the installation information; and providing the recommendation to the client device.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein retrieving the set of workorders associated with the set of locations within the specified proximity of the service location comprises: performing a look-up in a location-based installation map to identify entries that have addresses that are within the specified proximity.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the recommendation comprises at least one installation parameter of a type of the OTA antenna, an installation height of the OTA antenna, a direction of the OTA antenna, an installation location of the OTA antenna at the service location, a type of an OTA adapter, a picture of an installation of the OTA antenna, additional equipment to be installed with the OTA antenna, a set of broadcast channels receivable by the OTA antenna, or a signal strength of a broadcast channel receivable by the OTA antenna.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the recommendation comprises the signal strength of a broadcast channel receivable by the OTA antenna as a range of values.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the installation information associated with the set of workorders is analyzed based on an artificial intelligence (AI) based analysis technique, a machine learning (ML) analysis technique, a rule-based analysis technique, or a statistical analysis technique.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein analyzing the installation information associated with the set of workorders comprises determining from the analysis of the installation information a number of buildings that receive a broadcast channel.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein generating the recommendation comprises: determining from the analysis of the installation information that a broadcast channel is not available for reception at one or more buildings; and indicating in the recommendation a likelihood of unavailability of the broadcast channel for reception at the service location.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein generating the recommendation comprises: determining from the analysis of the installation information that a broadcast channel is available for reception at one or more buildings if a pre-amplifier is installed; and indicating in the recommendation that a specified broadcast channel is likely available for reception at the service location at a specified signal strength if a pre-amplifier is installed with the OTA antenna.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein generating the recommendation comprises: determining from the analysis of the installation information that a location of one or more buildings is prone to interference by a wireless broadband signal; and indicating in the recommendation that a broadcast channel is available for reception at the service location at a specified signal strength if a wireless broadband signal filter is installed with the OTA antenna.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein generating the recommendation comprises: determining from the analysis of the installation information that a location of one or more buildings is prone to multipath inflection or interference; and indicating in the recommendation an installation parameter to prevent the multipath inflection or interference.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein the installation parameter comprises at least one of: (a) avoiding a set of locations for the OTA antenna installation at the service location, or (b) installing the OTA antenna in a particular location of the service location.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein generating the recommendation comprises: determining from the analysis of the installation information that (a) to receive a broadcast channel at one or more buildings, (b) for certain types of buildings, or (c) buildings in a specified location, a specified type of the OTA antenna is needed; and indicating in the recommendation that the specified type of the OTA antenna is needed for receiving the broadcast channel at the service location.
13. The method of claim 1, wherein the request comprises the service location in a form of a complete address or a portion of the complete address.
14. The method of claim 1, further comprising: receiving, for storage, installation information for installing, based on the recommendation, the OTA antenna at the service location.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein the installation information associated with the service

location comprises one or more of a type of the OTA antenna, a type of an OTA adapter, an installation location of the OTA antenna, an installation height of the OTA antenna, an orientation of the OTA antenna, or a picture of installation of the OTA antenna.

16. One or more non-transitory computer-readable storage media storing computer-readable instructions that, when executed by at least one processor, cause operations comprising: receiving, from a client device, a request for generating a recommendation of installation information for installing an over-the-air (OTA) antenna at a service location; retrieving a set of workorders associated with a set of locations within a specified proximity of the service location; generating the recommendation, comprising: analyzing installation information associated with the set of workorders; and indicating a likelihood that a broadcast channel is receivable at the service location based upon the analysis of the installation information; and providing the recommendation to the client device.

17. A system, comprising: one or more processors; and one or more non-transitory, computer-readable media comprising instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, cause operations comprising: receiving, from a client device, a request for generating a recommendation of installation information for installing an over-the-air (OTA) antenna at a service location; retrieving a set of workorders associated with a set of locations within a specified proximity of the service location; generating the recommendation, comprising: analyzing installation information associated with the set of workorders; and indicating a likelihood that a broadcast channel is receivable at the service location based upon the analysis of the installation information; and providing the recommendation to the client device.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein retrieving the set of workorders associated with the set of locations within the specified proximity of the service location comprises: performing a look-up in a location-based installation map to identify entries that have addresses that are within the specified proximity.

19. The system of claim 17, wherein the recommendation comprises at least one installation parameter of a type of the OTA antenna, an installation height of the OTA antenna, a direction of the OTA antenna, an installation location of the OTA antenna at the service location, a type of an OTA adapter, a picture of an installation of the OTA antenna, additional equipment to be installed with the OTA antenna, a set of broadcast channels receivable by the OTA antenna, or a signal strength of a broadcast channel receivable by the OTA antenna.

20. The system of claim 17, wherein the installation information associated with the set of workorders is analyzed based on an artificial intelligence (AI) based analysis technique, a machine learning (ML) analysis technique, a rule-based analysis technique, or a statistical analysis technique.
