

US Patent & Trademark Office

Patent Public Search | Text View

United States Patent Application Publication

20250253674

Kind Code

A1

Publication Date

August 07, 2025

Inventor(s)

Du; Liqiang et al.

BATTERY LIFE OF BATTERY POWERED WIRELESS DEVICES

Abstract

A method of reducing a power consumption of a wireless device according to one embodiment includes performing, by the wireless device, a calibration of wireless communication circuitry of the wireless device in response to establishing a wireless communication connection with a wireless access point, determining, by the wireless device, a number of disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point over a predefined period of time, and increasing, by the wireless device, a sleep interval of the wireless communication circuitry of the wireless device in response to determining the number of disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point over the predefined period of time is less than a threshold number of disconnections.

Inventors: Du; Liqiang (Carmel, IN), Newby; David I. (Plainfield, IN), Ashok Dileephan; Ilamparithi (Carmel, IN)

Applicant: Schlage Lock Company LLC (Carmel, IN)

Family ID: 77272884

Appl. No.: 18/923169

Filed: October 22, 2024

Related U.S. Application Data

parent US continuation 18109378 20230214 parent-grant-document US 12126195 child US 18923169

parent US continuation 16794667 20200219 parent-grant-document US 11581746 child US 18109378

Publication Classification

Int. Cl.: H02J7/00 (20060101); H02J50/80 (20160101); H04W48/16 (20090101); H04W48/20 (20090101); H04W84/12 (20090101)

U.S. Cl.:

CPC H02J7/00034 (20200101); H02J50/80 (20160201); H04W48/16 (20130101); H04W48/20 (20130101); H04W84/12 (20130101);

Background/Summary

BACKGROUND

[0001] Battery powered wireless devices, such as wireless Internet of Things (IoT) devices, are typically maintained in an “awake” state to receive data transmitted by and respond to queries from a wireless access point intended for the device. A particular wireless device is often designed to stay awake in order to ensure that the wireless device receives data intended for it without latency and to ensure that the wireless access point does not disassociate the wireless device from the network.

[0002] The IEEE 802.11 standard outlines specific protocols for implementing Wi-Fi-based wireless local area network (WLAN) communications, which is a prevalent wireless communication technology. However, the standard offers a significant amount of latitude to wireless access point vendors with respect to various aspects of the operation of wireless access points. As such, each vendor uses its discretion in handling those characteristics and parameters of its wireless access point.

SUMMARY

[0003] One embodiment is directed to a unique system, components, and methods for reducing the power consumption of devices utilizing wireless technologies. Other embodiments are directed to apparatuses, systems, devices, hardware, methods, and combinations thereof for reducing the power consumption of devices utilizing wireless technologies.

[0004] According to an embodiment, a method of reducing a power consumption of a wireless device may include performing, by the wireless device, a calibration of wireless communication circuitry of the wireless device in response to establishing a wireless communication connection with a wireless access point, determining, by the wireless device, a number of disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point over a predefined period of time, and increasing, by the wireless device, a sleep interval of the wireless communication circuitry of the wireless device in response to determining the number of disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point over the predefined period of time is less than a threshold number of disconnections.

[0005] In some embodiments, the method may further include determining, by the wireless device, a second number of disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point over the predefined period of time in response to increasing the sleep interval based on the number of disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point being less than the threshold number of disconnections, and returning, by the wireless device, the sleep interval of the wireless communication circuitry of the wireless device to a prior sleep interval in response to determining the second number of disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point over the predefined period of time is at least the threshold number of disconnections.

[0006] In some embodiments, the method may further include determining, by the wireless device, an amount of at least one of broadcast or multicast traffic messages received by the wireless device, and increasing, by the wireless device, the sleep interval of the wireless communication circuitry of

the wireless device in response to determining the amount of the at least one of the broadcast or multicast traffic messages received by the wireless device exceeds a threshold amount of traffic. [0007] In some embodiments, the method may further include determining, by the wireless device, a second number of disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point over the predefined period of time in response to increasing the sleep interval based on the amount of the at least one of the broadcast or multicast traffic messages received by the wireless device exceeding the threshold amount of traffic, and returning, by the wireless device, the sleep interval of the wireless communication circuitry of the wireless device to a prior sleep interval in response to determining the second number of disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point over the predefined period of time is at least the threshold number of disconnections. [0008] In some embodiments, determining the number of disconnections may include periodically determining the number of disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point over the predefined period of time.

[0009] In some embodiments, the method may further include determining, by the wireless device, a wireless signal strength of the wireless communication connection established between the wireless device and the wireless access point, disconnecting, by the wireless device, the wireless communication connection with the wireless access point in response to determining that the wireless signal strength of the wireless communication connection established between the wireless device and the wireless access point is below a threshold signal strength, and establishing a wireless communication connection with another wireless access point in response to disconnecting the wireless communication connection with the wireless access point.

[0010] In some embodiments, the method may further include determining, by the wireless device, a wireless signal strength of a prospective wireless communication connection between the wireless device and the another wireless access point, and disconnecting the wireless communication connection with the wireless access point may include disconnecting the wireless communication connection with the wireless access point in response to determining that the wireless signal strength of the wireless communication connection established between the wireless device and the wireless access point is below the threshold signal strength and the wireless signal strength of the prospective wireless communication connection between the wireless device and the another wireless access point is greater than the wireless signal strength of the wireless communication connection established between the wireless device and the wireless access point.

[0011] In some embodiments, the wireless communication circuitry may include Wi-Fi communication circuitry.

[0012] In some embodiments, the wireless device may be an access control device including a physical lock mechanism to secure a corresponding passageway, and the wireless access point may be a router.

[0013] According to another embodiment, a wireless router may include a Wi-Fi communication circuitry, at least one processor, and at least one memory comprising a plurality of instructions stored thereon that, in response to execution by the at least one processor, causes the wireless device to perform a calibration of the Wi-Fi communication circuitry in response to establishing a Wi-Fi communication connection with a wireless access point, determine a number of Wi-Fi disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point over a predefined period of time, and increase a sleep interval of the Wi-Fi communication circuitry in response to determining the number of Wi-Fi disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point over the predefined period of time is less than a threshold number of Wi-Fi disconnections.

[0014] In some embodiments, the plurality of instructions may further cause the wireless device to determine a second number of Wi-Fi disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point over the predefined period of time in response to increasing the sleep interval based on the number of Wi-Fi disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point

being less than the threshold number of Wi-Fi disconnections, and return the sleep interval of the Wi-Fi communication circuitry of the wireless device to a prior sleep interval in response to determining the second number of Wi-Fi disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point over the predefined period of time is at least the threshold number of Wi-Fi disconnections.

[0015] In some embodiments, the plurality of instructions may further cause the wireless device to determine an amount of at least one of broadcast or multicast traffic messages received by the wireless device, and increase the sleep interval of the Wi-Fi communication circuitry of the wireless device in response to determining the amount of the at least one of the broadcast or multicast traffic messages received by the wireless device exceeds a threshold amount of traffic.

[0016] In some embodiments, the plurality of instructions may further cause the wireless device to determine a second number of Wi-Fi disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point over the predefined period of time in response to increasing the sleep interval based on the amount of the at least one of the broadcast or multicast traffic messages received by the wireless device exceeding the threshold amount of traffic, and return the sleep interval of the Wi-Fi communication circuitry of the wireless device to a prior sleep interval in response to determining the second number of Wi-Fi disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point over the predefined period of time is at least the threshold number of Wi-Fi disconnections.

[0017] In some embodiments, to determine the number of Wi-Fi disconnections may include to periodically determine the number of Wi-Fi disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point over the predefined period of time.

[0018] In some embodiments, the plurality of instructions may further cause the wireless device to determine a wireless signal strength of the Wi-Fi communication connection established between the wireless device and the wireless access point, disconnect the Wi-Fi communication connection with the wireless access point in response to determining that the wireless signal strength of the Wi-Fi communication connection established between the wireless device and the wireless access point is below a threshold signal strength, and establish a Wi-Fi communication connection with another wireless access point in response to disconnecting the Wi-Fi communication connection with the wireless access point.

[0019] In some embodiments, the wireless device may further include a physical lock mechanism having at least one of a latch or a bolt to secure a corresponding passageway.

[0020] According to yet another embodiment, an access control device may include a Wi-Fi communication circuitry, a lock mechanism having at least one of a latch or a bolt to secure a corresponding passageway, at least one processor, and at least one memory comprising a plurality of instructions stored thereon that, in response to execution by the at least one processor, causes the access control device to perform a calibration of the Wi-Fi communication circuitry in response to establishing a Wi-Fi communication connection with a wireless access point, determine a number of Wi-Fi disconnections between the access control device and the wireless access point over a predefined period of time, and increase a sleep interval of the Wi-Fi communication circuitry in response to determining the number of Wi-Fi disconnections between the access control device and the wireless access point over the predefined period of time is less than a threshold number of Wi-Fi disconnections.

[0021] In some embodiments, the plurality of instructions may further cause the access control device to determine a second number of Wi-Fi disconnections between the access control device and the wireless access point over the predefined period of time in response to increasing the sleep interval based on the number of Wi-Fi disconnections between the access control device and the wireless access point being less than the threshold number of Wi-Fi disconnections, and return the sleep interval of the Wi-Fi communication circuitry of the access control device to a prior sleep interval in response to determining the second number of Wi-Fi disconnections between the access control device and the wireless access point over the predefined period of time is at least the

threshold number of Wi-Fi disconnections.

[0022] In some embodiments, the plurality of instructions may further cause the access control device to determine an amount of at least one of broadcast or multicast traffic messages received by the access control device, and increase the sleep interval of the Wi-Fi communication circuitry in response to determining the amount of the at least one of the broadcast or multicast traffic messages received by the access control device exceeds a threshold amount of traffic.

[0023] In some embodiments, the plurality of instructions may further cause the access control device to determine a wireless signal strength of the Wi-Fi communication connection established between the access control device and the wireless access point, disconnect the Wi-Fi communication connection with the wireless access point in response to determining that the wireless signal strength of the Wi-Fi communication connection established between the access control device and the wireless access point is below a threshold signal strength, and establish a Wi-Fi communication connection with another wireless access point in response to disconnecting the Wi-Fi communication connection with the wireless access point.

[0024] This summary is not intended to identify key or essential features of the claimed subject matter, nor is it intended to be used as an aid in limiting the scope of the claimed subject matter. Further embodiments, forms, features, and aspects of the present application shall become apparent from the description and figures provided herewith.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0025] The concepts described herein are illustrative by way of example and not by way of limitation in the accompanying figures. For simplicity and clarity of illustration, elements illustrated in the figures are not necessarily drawn to scale. Where considered appropriate, references labels have been repeated among the figures to indicate corresponding or analogous elements.

[0026] FIG. 1 is a simplified block diagram of a system for increasing a sleep interval of a wireless device utilizing wireless technologies to reduce the power consumption of the wireless device;

[0027] FIG. 2 is a simplified block diagram of at least one embodiment of a computing system;

[0028] FIG. 3 is a simplified flow diagram of at least one embodiment of a method for increasing a sleep interval of wireless communication circuitry of the wireless device of the system of FIG. 1 at startup of the wireless device to reduce the power consumption of the wireless device;

[0029] FIG. 4 is a simplified flow diagram of at least one embodiment of a method for increasing the sleep interval of wireless communication circuitry of the wireless device of the system of FIG. 1 at re-calibration of the wireless device; and

[0030] FIG. 5 is a simplified flow diagram of at least one embodiment of a method for increasing a sleep interval of wireless communication circuitry of the wireless device of the system of FIG. 1 to reduce the power consumption of the wireless device.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0031] Although the concepts of the present disclosure are susceptible to various modifications and alternative forms, specific embodiments have been shown by way of example in the drawings and will be described herein in detail. It should be understood, however, that there is no intent to limit the concepts of the present disclosure to the particular forms disclosed, but on the contrary, the intention is to cover all modifications, equivalents, and alternatives consistent with the present disclosure and the appended claims.

[0032] References in the specification to “one embodiment,” “an embodiment,” “an illustrative embodiment,” etc., indicate that the embodiment described may include a particular feature, structure, or characteristic, but every embodiment may or may not necessarily include that

particular feature, structure, or characteristic. Moreover, such phrases are not necessarily referring to the same embodiment. It should further be appreciated that although reference to a “preferred” component or feature may indicate the desirability of a particular component or feature with respect to an embodiment, the disclosure is not so limiting with respect to other embodiments, which may omit such a component or feature. Further, when a particular feature, structure, or characteristic is described in connection with an embodiment, it is submitted that it is within the knowledge of one skilled in the art to implement such feature, structure, or characteristic in connection with other embodiments whether or not explicitly described. Additionally, it should be appreciated that items included in a list in the form of “at least one of A, B, and C” can mean (A); (B); (C); (A and B); (B and C); (A and C); or (A, B, and C). Similarly, items listed in the form of “at least one of A, B, or C” can mean (A); (B); (C); (A and B); (B and C); (A and C); or (A, B, and C). Further, with respect to the claims, the use of words and phrases such as “a,” “an,” “at least one,” and/or “at least one portion” should not be interpreted so as to be limiting to only one such element unless specifically stated to the contrary, and the use of phrases such as “at least a portion” and/or “a portion” should be interpreted as encompassing both embodiments including only a portion of such element and embodiments including the entirety of such element unless specifically stated to the contrary.

[0033] The disclosed embodiments may, in some cases, be implemented in hardware, firmware, software, or a combination thereof. The disclosed embodiments may also be implemented as instructions carried by or stored on one or more transitory or non-transitory machine-readable (e.g., computer-readable) storage media, which may be read and executed by one or more processors. A machine-readable storage medium may be embodied as any storage device, mechanism, or other physical structure for storing or transmitting information in a form readable by a machine (e.g., a volatile or non-volatile memory, a media disc, or other media device).

[0034] In the drawings, some structural or method features may be shown in specific arrangements and/or orderings. However, it should be appreciated that such specific arrangements and/or orderings may not be required. Rather, in some embodiments, such features may be arranged in a different manner and/or order than shown in the illustrative figures unless indicated to the contrary. Additionally, the inclusion of a structural or method feature in a particular figure is not meant to imply that such feature is required in all embodiments and, in some embodiments, may not be included or may be combined with other features.

[0035] Referring now to FIG. 1, in the illustrative embodiment, a system **100** includes a wireless device **102**, a wireless access point **104**, and a network **106**. Although only one wireless device **102** and one wireless access point **104** are shown in the illustrative embodiment of FIG. 1, the system **100** may include multiple wireless devices **102** and/or wireless access points **104** in other embodiments. For example, in some embodiments, multiple wireless devices **102** may be configured to communicate with the same wireless access point **104**.

[0036] The wireless device **102** may be embodied as any type of device or collection of devices suitable for wireless communicating with the wireless access point **104** (e.g., via Wi-Fi communication circuitry) and otherwise performing the functions described herein. For example, in some embodiments, the wireless device **102** may be embodied as an electronic lock (e.g., a mortise lock, a cylindrical lock, or a tubular lock), an exit device (e.g., a pushbar or pushpad exit device), a door closer, an auto-operator, a motorized latch/bolt (e.g., for a sliding door), barrier control device (e.g., battery-powered), a peripheral controller of a passageway, credential reader device, and/or other type of access control device. As such, in some embodiments, the wireless device **102** may include, or be electrically coupled to, a physical lock mechanism configured to control access through a passageway and/or other components typical of a lock device. For example, the lock mechanism may include a deadbolt, a latch bolt, a lever, and/or other mechanism adapted to move between a locked state and an unlocked state. In some embodiments, the wireless device **102** may be stationary or have fixed movements (e.g., as with a fixed path of a door-mounted device). Although the wireless device **102** may be described herein in reference to access control, it should

be appreciated that the wireless device **102** may be unrelated to access control in other embodiments.

[0037] The wireless access point **104** may be embodied as any one or more devices that, individually or collectively, allow wireless communication devices (e.g., the wireless device **102**) to connect to a wired network and/or the Internet (e.g., via the network **106**). For example, in some embodiments, the wireless access point **104** may be embodied as a gateway device that is communicatively coupled to a router. In other embodiments, the wireless access point **104** may form an integral component of or otherwise form a portion of the router itself. For simplicity and clarity of the description, the wireless access point **104** is described herein as being communicatively coupled to the Internet. Further, in some embodiments, it should be appreciated that the wireless access point **104** is configured to wirelessly communicate with devices (e.g., the wireless device **102**) via Wi-Fi communication circuitry. In some embodiments, it should be appreciated that the wireless access point **104** may be embodied as or include a mesh node and/or network extender (e.g., a Wi-Fi extender).

[0038] The network **106** may be embodied as any type of communication network capable of facilitating communication between the various devices of the system **100**. As such, the network **106** may include one or more networks, routers, switches, computers, and/or other intervening devices. For example, the network **106** may be embodied as or otherwise include one or more cellular networks, telephone networks, local or wide area networks, publicly available global networks (e.g., the Internet), ad hoc networks, or a combination thereof.

[0039] It should be appreciated that the wireless device **102** and/or the wireless access point **104** may be embodied as one or more computing devices similar to the computing device **200** described below in reference to FIG. 2. For example, each of the wireless device **102** and the wireless access point **104** may include a processing device **202** and a memory **206** having stored thereon operating logic **208** (e.g., a plurality of instructions) for execution by the processing device **202** for operation of the corresponding device.

[0040] As indicated above, battery powered wireless devices (e.g., the wireless device **102**) are often maintained in an “awake” state to receive data transmitted by and respond to queries from a wireless access point (e.g., the wireless access point **104**) intended for the device. Wireless devices **102** (e.g., wireless IoT devices) are ubiquitous in homes, offices, and other locations, which means there are often many wireless devices **102** consistently “chattering” in the network (e.g., transmitting broadcast and/or multicast packets). Broadcast/multicast traffic may be messages/packets that are sent out to every node on the network (or a portion thereof) and commonly used, for example, to announce that network resources are now available, to advertise services, and/or to make requests for address resolution. As such, wireless devices **102** often receive and parse data packets from many other devices even when there is no information in those packets relevant to the particular wireless device **102** doing the parsing. It should be appreciated that battery powered devices (e.g., wireless devices **102**) have power capacity constraints (e.g., relative to line powered devices), and consistently maintaining the devices **102** in an awake state causes the battery to drain quickly, which results in a reduced battery life of the device **102**.

[0041] As such, the wireless device **102** may be placed in a low power sleep state in order to conserve power (e.g., when not communicating with the wireless access point **104**), which allows the wireless device **102** to ignore broadcast and multicast traffic intended for different devices. However, if the wireless device **102** remains in a sleep state for too long (and misses too many packets from the wireless access point **104**), the access point **104** may drop/disconnect its connection with the wireless device **102** and/or otherwise disassociate the wireless device **102** from the network. As such, the wireless device **102** may balance the amount of time the device **102** is in a low-powered sleep state (e.g., to conserve power) with the operational considerations of being awake to be responsive to user operations (e.g., avoiding latency in the user experience when a user attempts to gain access) and avoid network disassociation.

[0042] It should be further appreciated that the operating environment of a particular wireless device **102** is likely to change over time, which may impact the battery life of the wireless device **102**. For example, new wireless devices **102** may be introduced into the system **100**, which may cause wireless interference or additional traffic in the network (e.g., due to chattiness). The location of the wireless access point **104** may be changed, which may cause a variation in the signal strength of the wireless communication connection with the wireless device **102** (e.g., a previously strong signal may now be poor in view of the change in location of the wireless access point **104**). Similarly, one or more mesh nodes in the system **100** with a good signal strength may become unavailable, which may cause the wireless device **102** to connect to the next available mesh node, which may have a less favorable signal strength. In some circumstances, the wireless access point **104** may go offline, which may cause the wireless device **102** to connect (e.g., automatically) to a different wireless access point **104** having the same network SSID name (e.g., in locations with multiple wireless access points **104**). Further, there may be circumstances in which someone introduces one or more new objects (e.g., a metal cabinet, objects/devices causing interference, etc.) in the physical environment of the wireless device **102**, which may change the optimal calibration of the wireless communication circuitry (e.g., Wi-Fi communication circuitry) of the wireless device **102**.

[0043] The techniques described herein may allow the wireless device **102** “learn” about its installed environment and self-determine how to modify its operating and/or communication behavior to reduce power consumption (i.e., improving battery life). For example, as described in greater detail below, upon connecting to the wireless access point **104**, the wireless device **102** may obtain configuration data, wireless radio data, and/or other relevant data (e.g., the beacon interval, delivery traffic indication map (DTIM) interval, etc.). Based on those settings, the wireless device **102** may determine the initial minimum number of beacons that may be skipped or ignored without suffering a performance impact, which the wireless device **102** may use to determine a duration (e.g., minimum duration) for which the wireless device **102** is to enter a low power sleep state (e.g., power save mode) without having to receive beacons from the wireless access point **104**. In other words, the wireless device **102** may determine a “power save mode duration,” “sleep duration,” or “sleep interval” for the wireless communication circuitry. The wireless device **102** may continue to periodically monitor its performance, for example, for unanticipated disconnections from the wireless access point **104**, unacceptable delay (e.g., based on predefined criteria) in receiving data that would result in unsatisfactory performance, and/or other performance criteria. If there is no (or negligible) performance impact, the wireless device **102** may periodically increase the sleep interval (e.g., up to a predefined maximum interval) and continue to monitor for performance degradation. If the wireless device **102** detects performance degradation (e.g., a certain number of disconnections from the wireless access point **104** within a predefined time period), the wireless device **102** may revert to the previously known acceptable sleep interval and stop adjusting the interval (e.g., until a periodic wireless recalibration).

[0044] Further, in some embodiments, the wireless device **102** may monitor/track the network “chattiness” in terms of, for example, the number of broadcast packets and/or the number of multicast packets received by the wireless device **102**. If the wireless device **102** determines that it is receiving too much broadcast/multicast traffic (e.g., by receiving at least a threshold number of broadcast/multicast packets/messages), the wireless device **102** may increase the sleep interval. The wireless device **102** may then continue to monitor its performance, for example, for unanticipated disconnections from the wireless access point **104**, unacceptable delay (e.g., based on predefined criteria) in receiving data that would result in unsatisfactory performance, and/or other performance criteria. In some embodiments, if there is no (or negligible) performance impact, the wireless device **102** may periodically increase the sleep interval (e.g., up to a predefined maximum interval) and continue to monitor for performance degradation. If the wireless device **102** detects performance degradation (e.g., a certain number of disconnections from the wireless access point

104 within a predefined time period), the wireless device **102** may revert to the previously known acceptable sleep interval and stop adjusting the interval (e.g., until a periodic wireless recalibration). In some embodiments, the wireless device **102** may further re-evaluate whether it is continuing to receive too much broadcast/multicast traffic and only further increase the sleep interval if that traffic continues to be too much (e.g., exceeds the threshold), whereas in other embodiments, the wireless device **102** may continue to attempt to proactively increase the sleep interval to the extent that it does not degrade performance.

[0045] As indicated above, in some embodiments, the wireless access point **104** may go offline and/or the network environment may change for various reasons, which may affect the wireless signal strength between the wireless device **102** and the wireless access point **104** (or new wireless access point **104** to which the wireless device **102** has automatically connected). Accordingly, the wireless device **102** may periodically re-evaluate (e.g., via wireless re-calibration) whether the wireless signal strength is sufficiently strong (e.g., above a predefined threshold). If the signal strength is poor, the wireless device **102** may attempt to connect to another wireless access point **104** with a better signal strength.

[0046] Referring now to FIG. 2, a simplified block diagram of at least one embodiment of a computing device **200** is shown. The illustrative computing device **200** depicts at least one embodiment of a wireless device **102** and/or wireless access point **104** illustrated in FIG. 1. Depending on the particular embodiment, computing device **200** may be embodied as a wireless device, access control device, reader device, server, desktop computer, laptop computer, tablet computer, notebook, netbook, Ultrabook™, mobile computing device, cellular phone, smartphone, wearable computing device, personal digital assistant, Internet of Things (IoT) device, control panel, processing system, router, gateway, wireless access point, mesh node, wireless extender, and/or any other computing, processing, and/or communication device capable of performing the functions described herein.

[0047] The computing device **200** includes a processing device **202** that executes algorithms and/or processes data in accordance with operating logic **208**, an input/output device **204** that enables communication between the computing device **200** and one or more external devices **210**, and memory **206** which stores, for example, data received from the external device **210** via the input/output device **204**.

[0048] The input/output device **204** allows the computing device **200** to communicate with the external device **210**. For example, the input/output device **204** may include a transceiver, a network adapter, a network card, an interface, one or more communication ports (e.g., a USB port, serial port, parallel port, an analog port, a digital port, VGA, DVI, HDMI, Fire Wire, CAT 5, or any other type of communication port or interface), and/or other communication circuitry. Communication circuitry of the computing device **200** may be configured to use any one or more communication technologies (e.g., wireless or wired communications) and associated protocols (e.g., Ethernet, Bluetooth (including Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE), Wi-Fi, Near Field Communication (NFC), WiMAX, ZigBee, Z-wave, IEEE 802.15, etc.) to effect such communication depending on the particular computing device **200**. The input/output device **204** may include hardware, software, and/or firmware suitable for performing the techniques described herein.

[0049] The external device **210** may be any type of device that allows data to be inputted or outputted from the computing device **200**. For example, in various embodiments, the external device **210** may be embodied as the wireless device **102** and/or the wireless access point **104**. Further, in some embodiments, the external device **210** may be embodied as another computing device, switch, diagnostic tool, controller, printer, display, alarm, peripheral device (e.g., keyboard, mouse, touch screen display, etc.), and/or any other computing, processing, and/or communication device capable of performing the functions described herein. Furthermore, in some embodiments, it should be appreciated that the external device **210** may be integrated into the computing device **200**.

[0050] The processing device **202** may be embodied as any type of processor(s) capable of performing the functions described herein. In particular, the processing device **202** may be embodied as one or more single or multi-core processors, microcontrollers, or other processor or processing/controlling circuits. For example, in some embodiments, the processing device **202** may include or be embodied as an arithmetic logic unit (ALU), central processing unit (CPU), digital signal processor (DSP), and/or another suitable processor(s). The processing device **202** may be a programmable type, a dedicated hardwired state machine, or a combination thereof. Processing devices **202** with multiple processing units may utilize distributed, pipelined, and/or parallel processing in various embodiments. Further, the processing device **202** may be dedicated to performance of just the operations described herein, or may be utilized in one or more additional applications. In the illustrative embodiment, the processing device **202** is programmable and executes algorithms and/or processes data in accordance with operating logic **208** as defined by programming instructions (such as software or firmware) stored in memory **206**. Additionally or alternatively, the operating logic **208** for processing device **202** may be at least partially defined by hardwired logic or other hardware. Further, the processing device **202** may include one or more components of any type suitable to process the signals received from input/output device **204** or from other components or devices and to provide desired output signals. Such components may include digital circuitry, analog circuitry, or a combination thereof.

[0051] The memory **206** may be of one or more types of non-transitory computer-readable media, such as a solid-state memory, electromagnetic memory, optical memory, or a combination thereof. Furthermore, the memory **206** may be volatile and/or nonvolatile and, in some embodiments, some or all of the memory **206** may be of a portable type, such as a disk, tape, memory stick, cartridge, and/or other suitable portable memory. In operation, the memory **206** may store various data and software used during operation of the computing device **200** such as operating systems, applications, programs, libraries, and drivers. It should be appreciated that the memory **206** may store data that is manipulated by the operating logic **208** of processing device **202**, such as, for example, data representative of signals received from and/or sent to the input/output device **204** in addition to or in lieu of storing programming instructions defining operating logic **208**. As shown in FIG. 2, the memory **206** may be included with the processing device **202** and/or coupled to the processing device **202** depending on the particular embodiment. For example, in some embodiments, the processing device **202**, the memory **206**, and/or other components of the computing device **200** may form a portion of a system-on-a-chip (SoC) and be incorporated on a single integrated circuit chip.

[0052] In some embodiments, various components of the computing device **200** (e.g., the processing device **202** and the memory **206**) may be communicatively coupled via an input/output subsystem, which may be embodied as circuitry and/or components to facilitate input/output operations with the processing device **202**, the memory **206**, and other components of the computing device **200**. For example, the input/output subsystem may be embodied as, or otherwise include, memory controller hubs, input/output control hubs, firmware devices, communication links (i.e., point-to-point links, bus links, wires, cables, light guides, printed circuit board traces, etc.) and/or other components and subsystems to facilitate the input/output operations.

[0053] The computing device **200** may include other or additional components, such as those commonly found in a typical computing device (e.g., various input/output devices and/or other components), in other embodiments. It should be further appreciated that one or more of the components of the computing device **200** described herein may be distributed across multiple computing devices. In other words, the techniques described herein may be employed by a computing system that includes one or more computing devices. Additionally, although only a single processing device **202**, I/O device **204**, and memory **206** are illustratively shown in FIG. 2, it should be appreciated that a particular computing device **200** may include multiple processing devices **202**, I/O devices **204**, and/or memories **206** in other embodiments. Further, in some

embodiments, more than one external device **210** may be in communication with the computing device **200**.

[0054] Referring now to FIG. **3**, in use, the system **100** or, more specifically, the wireless device **102** may execute a method **300** for increasing a sleep interval of wireless communication circuitry (e.g., Wi-Fi communication circuitry) of the wireless device **102** at startup of the wireless device **102** to reduce the power consumption of the wireless device **102**. It should be appreciated that the particular blocks of the method **300** are illustrated by way of example, and such blocks may be combined or divided, added or removed, and/or reordered in whole or in part depending on the particular embodiment, unless stated to the contrary.

[0055] The illustrative method **300** begins with block **302** in which the wireless device **102** determines the settings of the wireless access point **104** and/or other settings associated with a wireless connection (e.g., Wi-Fi connection) between the wireless device **102** and the wireless access point **104**. For example, in some embodiments, the wireless device **102** may determine a delivery traffic indication map (DTIM) interval and/or beacon interval of the wireless access point **104**. It should be appreciated that the delivery traffic indication map of the wireless access point **104** is a number/value that determines how frequently a beacon frame is transmitted (e.g., via Wi-Fi) from the wireless access point **104** to networked devices (e.g., the wireless device **102**) including a delivery traffic indication message (collectively referred to herein as DTIM or DTIM interval for simplicity). As described above, the IEEE 802.11 standard offers a significant amount of latitude to wireless access point vendors with respect to various aspects of the operation of wireless access points **104**. For example, the current standard does not mandate a particular DTIM setting of the wireless access point **104**; instead, the standard allows vendors discretion with that particular wireless access point characteristic. The number of beacons that can be ignored by a wireless device **102** without loss of a connection between the wireless device **102** and the wireless access point **104** is likewise not predefined by the current standard and, as a result, the connection-dropping behavior of wireless access points **104** is also not uniformly defined across all wireless access points **104**. It should be appreciated that the wireless device **102** may determine the DTIM interval and/or beacon interval of the wireless access point **104** using any suitable technique and/or mechanism (e.g., based on wireless communications between those devices **102**, **104**). Further, in determining the settings of the wireless access point **104**, the wireless device **102** may receive various data from the wireless access point **104** (e.g., radio diagnostic information) and/or determine various other characteristics of the wireless network environment.

[0056] In block **304**, the wireless device **102** establishes an initial sleep interval (e.g., a sleep interval (SI) or long sleep interval (LSI)) for the wireless communication circuitry (e.g., Wi-Fi communication circuitry) of the wireless device **102**, which may dictate the sleep interval for which the wireless device **102** or, more specifically, the wireless communication circuitry may be placed in the low power sleep state before waking up to check for beacons/packets/messages transmitted from the wireless access point **104**. In some embodiments, it should be appreciated that the wireless device **102** may establish the initial sleep interval based on the determined settings/parameters of the wireless access point **104**. For example, in some embodiments, the initial sleep interval may be between 600 ms and 1600 ms.

[0057] In block **306**, the wireless device **102** performs a wireless calibration for the wireless communication circuitry (e.g., the Wi-Fi communication circuitry) of the wireless device **102**. For example, the wireless device **102** may perform a hardware radio calibration to learn the wireless (e.g., Wi-Fi) environment in order to adjust its operational parameters for optimal, best possible, and/or acceptable operation in that particular environment.

[0058] In block **308**, the wireless device **102** increases the sleep interval of the wireless communication circuitry (e.g., the Wi-Fi communication circuitry). In some embodiments, the sleep interval may be increased by a predefined amount of time (e.g., in milliseconds). As described above, it should be appreciated that the sleep interval may be increased in order to reduce the

power consumption of the wireless device **102** and thereby improve the battery life thereof. In block **310**, the wireless device **102** determines whether the wireless device **102** has experienced performance degradation due to the increase in the sleep interval. For example, in some embodiments, the wireless device **102** may determine the number of disconnections between the wireless device **102** and the wireless access point **104** over a predefined period of time (e.g., one hour, one half hour, two hours, etc.), and the wireless device **102** may further determine whether that number of disconnections has exceeded (or is at least) a threshold number of disconnections (e.g., two disconnections, three disconnections, four disconnections, etc.). If the number of disconnections has exceeded (or is at least) the threshold number of disconnections, the wireless device **102** may be determined to have suffered from degraded performance. In other embodiments, it should be appreciated that the wireless device **102** may otherwise determine whether performance degradation has occurred.

[0059] If the wireless device **102** determines, in block **310**, that performance degradation has occurred, the method **300** advances to block **320** in which the wireless device **102** returns the sleep interval of the wireless communication circuitry (e.g., Wi-Fi communication circuitry) of the wireless device **102** to a prior sleep interval of the wireless device **102** (e.g., a sleep interval that did not result in degraded performance). However, if the wireless device **102** determines, in block **310**, that no performance degradation has occurred, the method **300** advances to block **312** in which the wireless device **102** determines an amount of broadcast and/or multicast traffic (e.g., in terms of the number/volume of packets, messages, and/or otherwise) received by the wireless device **102** over a predefined period of time. It should be appreciated that the predefined period may be the same or different from the predefined period associated with determining the number of disconnections from the wireless access point **104** (see, e.g., block **310**).

[0060] In block **314**, the wireless device **102** determines whether the amount of broadcast and/or multicast traffic received by the wireless device **102** has exceeded (or is at least) a threshold amount of traffic over the predetermined period of time. If the wireless device **102** determines, in block **314**, that the amount of broadcast and/or multicast traffic received by the wireless device **102** has not exceeded (or is not at least) the threshold amount of traffic, the method **300** advances to block **322** in which the method **300** delays for a predefined period of time (e.g., one hour, one half hour, two hours, etc.) before returning to block **308** in which the sleep interval is again increased. However, if the wireless device **102** determines, in block **314**, that the amount of broadcast and/or multicast traffic received by the wireless device **102** has exceeded (or is at least) the threshold amount of traffic, the method **300** advances to block **316** in which the wireless device **102** further increases the sleep interval of the wireless communication circuitry (e.g., Wi-Fi communication circuitry) of the wireless device **102**.

[0061] In block **318**, the wireless device **102** again determines whether the wireless device **102** has experienced performance degradation due to the further increase in the sleep interval. For example, as described above, the wireless device **102** may determine the number of disconnections between the wireless device **102** and the wireless access point **104** over a predefined period of time and whether that number of disconnections has exceeded (or is at least) a threshold number of disconnections. If the wireless device **102** determines, in block **318**, that performance degradation has occurred, the method **300** advances to block **320** in which the wireless device **102** returns the sleep interval of the wireless communication circuitry (e.g., Wi-Fi communication circuitry) of the wireless device **102** to a prior sleep interval of the wireless device **102** (e.g., a sleep interval that did not result in degraded performance). However, if the wireless device **102** determines, in block **318**, that no performance degradation has occurred, the method **300** advances to block **322** in which the method **300** delays for a predefined period of time before returning to block **308** in which the sleep interval is again increased.

[0062] In other words, as described herein, the wireless device **102** may periodically increase the sleep interval of the wireless communication circuitry (e.g., Wi-Fi communication circuitry) of the

wireless device **102** and to reduce the power consumption and/or the amount of broadcast/multicast traffic received by the wireless device **102** while ensuring that the performance and/or user experience does not suffer (e.g., measured in terms of the number of disconnections from the wireless access point **104** over a predefined period of time).

[0063] Although the blocks **302-322** are described in a relatively serial manner, it should be appreciated that various blocks of the method **300** may be performed in parallel in some embodiments.

[0064] Referring now to FIG. **4**, in use, the system **100** or, more specifically, the wireless device **102** may execute a method **400** for increasing a sleep interval of wireless communication circuitry (e.g., Wi-Fi communication circuitry) of the wireless device **102** at re-calibration of the wireless device **102**. It should be appreciated that the particular blocks of the method **400** are illustrated by way of example, and such blocks may be combined or divided, added or removed, and/or reordered in whole or in part depending on the particular embodiment, unless stated to the contrary.

[0065] The illustrative method **400** begins with block **402** in which the wireless device **102** performs a wireless re-calibration for the wireless communication circuitry (e.g., the Wi-Fi communication circuitry) of the wireless device **102**. For example, as described above, the wireless device **102** may perform a hardware radio calibration to learn the wireless (e.g., Wi-Fi) environment in order to adjust its operational parameters for optimal, best possible, and/or acceptable operation in that particular environment.

[0066] In block **404**, the wireless device **102** increases the sleep interval of the wireless communication circuitry (e.g., the Wi-Fi communication circuitry). As indicated above, in some embodiments, the sleep interval may be increased by a predefined amount of time (e.g., in milliseconds). In block **406**, the wireless device **102** determines whether the wireless device **102** has experienced performance degradation due to the increase in the sleep interval. For example, as described above, the wireless device **102** may determine the number of disconnections between the wireless device **102** and the wireless access point **104** over a predefined period of time (e.g., one hour, one half hour, two hours, etc.), and the wireless device **102** may further determine whether that number of disconnections has exceeded (or is at least) a threshold number of disconnections. If the number of disconnections has exceeded (or is at least) the threshold number of disconnections, the wireless device **102** may be determined to have suffered from degraded performance. In other embodiments, it should be appreciated that the wireless device **102** may otherwise determine whether performance degradation has occurred.

[0067] If the wireless device **102** determines, in block **406**, that performance degradation has occurred, the method **400** advances to block **422** in which the wireless device **102** returns the sleep interval of the wireless communication circuitry (e.g., Wi-Fi communication circuitry) of the wireless device **102** to a prior sleep interval of the wireless device **102** (e.g., a sleep interval that did not result in degraded performance). However, if the wireless device **102** determines, in block **406**, that no performance degradation has occurred, the method **400** advances to block **408** in which the wireless device **102** determines a wireless signal strength of the wireless communication connection established between the wireless device **102** and the wireless access point **104**. As described above, the wireless signal strength may degrade or change over time due to various factors (e.g., new objects introduced into the physical environment, the wireless access point **104** dropping offline, etc.). In some embodiments, the wireless device **102** may determine the signal strength based on a received signal strength indicator (RSSI) of wireless communications and/or other indicator of signal strength. However, it should be appreciated that the wireless device **102** may use any other suitable technique and/or mechanism to determine the wireless signal strength in other embodiments.

[0068] In block **410**, the wireless device **102** determines whether the wireless signal strength of the wireless communication connection with the wireless access point **104** is below (or no more than) a threshold signal strength. If the wireless device **102** determines, in block **410**, that the wireless

signal strength is below (or no more than) the threshold signal strength, the method **400** advances to block **412** in which the wireless device **102** may attempt to switch to another wireless access point **104** in the system **100**. In particular, the wireless device **102** may identify wireless access points **104** within wireless communication range (e.g., Wi-Fi range) of the wireless device **102** to which the wireless device **102** could potentially connect and determine the respective wireless signal strength of those connections (or potential connections). In some embodiments, if one or more of the prospective wireless access points **104** has a stronger signal strength than the wireless access point **104** to which the wireless device **102** is currently connected, the wireless device **102** may switch to one of those wireless access points **104** (e.g., the wireless access point **104** having the strongest signal strength). More specifically, the wireless device **102** may disconnect/drop the wireless connection with the current wireless access point **104** and establish a new wireless communication connection (e.g., Wi-Fi connection) with one of the prospective wireless access points **104** with the improved signal strength (e.g., the wireless access point **104** having the strongest signal strength).

[0069] If the wireless device **102** determines, in block **410**, that the wireless signal strength with the currently wireless access point **104** is sufficient by determining that it is not below (or greater than) the threshold signal strength, or in response to switching to another wireless access point **104** in block **412**, the method **400** advances to block **414** in which the wireless device **102** determines an amount of broadcast and/or multicast traffic (e.g., in terms of the number/volume of packets, messages, and/or otherwise) received by the wireless device **102** over a predefined period of time. [0070] In block **416**, the wireless device **102** determines whether the amount of broadcast and/or multicast traffic received by the wireless device **102** has exceeded (or is at least) a threshold amount of traffic over the predetermined period of time. If the wireless device **102** determines, in block **416**, that the amount of broadcast and/or multicast traffic received by the wireless device **102** has not exceeded (or is not at least) the threshold amount of traffic, the method **400** advances to block **424** in which the method **400** delays for a predefined period of time (e.g., one hour, one half hour, two hours, etc.) before returning to block **404** in which the sleep interval is again increased. However, if the wireless device **102** determines, in block **416**, that the amount of broadcast and/or multicast traffic received by the wireless device **102** has exceeded (or is at least) the threshold amount of traffic, the method **400** advances to block **418** in which the wireless device **102** further increases the sleep interval of the wireless communication circuitry (e.g., Wi-Fi communication circuitry) of the wireless device **102**.

[0071] In block **420**, the wireless device **102** again determines whether the wireless device **102** has experienced performance degradation due to the further increase in the sleep interval. For example, as described above, the wireless device **102** may determine the number of disconnections between the wireless device **102** and the wireless access point **104** over a predefined period of time and whether that number of disconnections has exceeded (or is at least) a threshold number of disconnections. If the wireless device **102** determines, in block **420**, that performance degradation has occurred, the method **400** advances to block **422** in which the wireless device **102** returns the sleep interval of the wireless communication circuitry (e.g., Wi-Fi communication circuitry) of the wireless device **102** to a prior sleep interval of the wireless device **102** (e.g., a sleep interval that did not result in degraded performance). However, if the wireless device **102** determines, in block **420**, that no performance degradation has occurred, the method **400** advances to block **424** in which the method **400** delays for a predefined period of time before returning to block **404** in which the sleep interval is again increased.

[0072] In other words, as described herein, the wireless device **102** may periodically increase the sleep interval of the wireless communication circuitry (e.g., Wi-Fi communication circuitry) of the wireless device **102** and to reduce the power consumption and/or the amount of broadcast/multicast traffic received by the wireless device **102**. In some embodiments, it should be appreciated that the method **400** may be executed by the wireless device **102** periodically (e.g., once per day, once per

week, etc.) to make periodic adjustments to the wireless device **102** in order to reduce power consumption without suffering unacceptable performance degradation.

[0073] Although the blocks **402-424** are described in a relatively serial manner, it should be appreciated that various blocks of the method **400** may be performed in parallel in some embodiments.

[0074] Referring now to FIG. 5, in use, the system **100** or, more specifically, the wireless device **102** may execute a method **500** for increasing a sleep interval of wireless communication circuitry (e.g., Wi-Fi communication circuitry) of the wireless device **102** to reduce the power consumption of the wireless device **102**. It should be appreciated that the particular blocks of the method **500** are illustrated by way of example, and such blocks may be combined or divided, added or removed, and/or reordered in whole or in part depending on the particular embodiment, unless stated to the contrary.

[0075] The illustrative method **500** begins with block **502** in which the wireless device **102** determines whether a timer/clock has expired. For example, in some embodiments, the wireless device **102** may use a timer/clock to trigger further execution of the method **500**. It should be appreciated that the time delay may vary depending on the particular embodiment (e.g., one hour, one half hour, two hours, etc.). If the wireless device **102** determines, in block **502**, that the timer has expired, the method **500** advances to block **504** in which the wireless device **102** determines a sleep interval (si_interval) for the wireless communication circuitry (e.g., Wi-Fi communication circuitry) of the wireless device **102**. For example, the wireless device **102** may determine a sleep interval based on one or more of the characteristics described herein. In some embodiments, the wireless device **102** may calculate the sleep interval based on the DTIM interval and/or the beacon interval of the wireless access point **104**. For example, the sleep interval may be calculated as the mathematical product of the two intervals (e.g., $si_interval = DTIM * beacon_interval$). In other embodiments, it should be appreciated that the sleep interval may be otherwise determined.

[0076] In block **504**, the wireless device **102** may determine one or more wireless radio statistics, which may reflect the wireless communication (e.g., Wi-Fi) environment of the wireless device **102**. For example, in some embodiments, the wireless radio statistics may include radio diagnostic information received from the wireless access point **104** and/or based on data received from the wireless access point **104**.

[0077] In block **508**, the wireless device **102** determines whether update the sleep interval of the wireless communication circuitry (e.g., Wi-Fi communication circuitry) of the wireless device **102**. In particular, in the illustrative embodiment, the wireless device **102** determines whether a particular value/flag is set to prompt updating of the sleep interval (e.g., whether $update_si == true$ evaluates as true/accurate). If not, the method **500** returns to block **502** in which the wireless device **102** awaits for the timer/clock to expire again (e.g., after a predefined delay period). However, if so, the method **500** advances to block **510** in which the wireless device **102** determines the number of disconnections between the wireless device **102** and the wireless access point **104** over a predefined period of time (e.g., one hour, etc.), and whether that number of disconnections has met a disconnect threshold (e.g., three disconnections within the predefined period of time, etc.).

[0078] If, in block **510**, the wireless device **102** determines that the disconnect threshold has not been met, the method **500** advances to block **512** in which the wireless device **102** determines an amount of broadcast/multicast traffic (e.g., in terms of the number/volume of packets, messages, and/or otherwise) received by the wireless device **102** over the predefined period of time, and whether the amount of broadcast/multicast traffic has met a traffic threshold. If the wireless device **102** determines, in block **512**, that the traffic threshold has not been met, the method **500** advances to block **524** in which the wireless device **102** updates the value/flag associated with updating the sleep interval to discontinue updating the interval (e.g., by assigning $update_si = false$). However, if the wireless device **102** determines, in block **512**, that the traffic threshold has been met, the method **500** advances to block **514** in which the wireless device **102** determines whether a

broadcasting skip/ignore traffic parameter/threshold (ignoreThreshold) is set to a particular non-zero value (e.g., ignoreThreshold=5?). It should be appreciated that the broadcasting skip/ignore traffic parameter/threshold may be a particular parameter of a communication circuitry (e.g., a Wi-Fi chip) that allows for avoiding some broadcast traffic, and the particular value may vary depending on the particular embodiment.

[0079] If the wireless device **102** determines, in block **514**, that the broadcasting skip/ignore traffic parameter/threshold is set to the particular non-zero value, the method **500** advances to block **524** in which the wireless device **102** updates the value/flag associated with updating the sleep interval to discontinue updating the interval (e.g., by assigning update_si=false). However, if the wireless device **102** determines, in block **514**, that the broadcasting skip/ignore traffic parameter/threshold is not set to the particular non-zero value, the method **500** advances to block **516** in which the wireless device **102** temporarily increases the sleep interval (e.g., new_si=current_si+si_interval). In block **518**, the wireless device **102** determines whether the temporarily increased sleep interval (new_si) is less than or equal to a maximum value or upper limit of the sleep interval (e.g., whether new_si<=SI_UL). For example, in some embodiments, the maximum value of the sleep interval may be 1600 ms. If the wireless device **102** determines, in block **518**, that the temporarily increased sleep interval is less than or equal to the maximum value, the method **500** advances to block **520** in which the wireless device **102** sets the current sleep interval to the temporary sleep interval (e.g., current_si=new_si), and the method **500** returns to block **502** to await expiration of the timer/clock. However, if the wireless device **102** determines, in block **518**, that the temporarily increased sleep interval is not less than or equal to the maximum value, the method **500** advances to block **522** in which the current sleep interval is maintained and the broadcasting skip/ignore traffic parameter/threshold is set to the particular non-zero value (e.g., 5), and the method returns to block **502** to await expiration of the timer/clock.

[0080] Returning to block **510**, if the wireless device **102** determines that the disconnect threshold has been met, the method **500** advances to block **526** in which the wireless device **102** determines whether the current sleep interval is equal to the initial sleep interval (i.e., whether current_si==initial_si). If so, the method **500** advances to block **536** in which the wireless device **102** updates the value/flag associated with updating the sleep interval to discontinue updating the interval (e.g., by assigning update_si=false) and maintain the initial sleep interval of the wireless device **102**. If the wireless device **102** determines, in block **526**, that the current sleep interval is not equal to the initial sleep interval, the method **500** advances to block **528** in which the wireless device **102** determines whether the broadcasting skip/ignore traffic parameter/threshold is set to the particular non-zero value. If so, the wireless device **102** sets the value of the broadcasting skip/ignore traffic parameter/threshold to zero in block **538** and updates the value/flag associated with updating the sleep interval to discontinue updating the interval (e.g., by assigning update_si=false) in block **536**, and the method **500** returns to block **502** to await expiration of the timer/clock.

[0081] If the wireless device **102** determines, in block **528**, that the broadcasting skip/ignore traffic parameter/threshold is not set to the particular non-zero value, the method **500** advances to block **530** in which the wireless device **102** temporarily decreases the sleep interval (e.g., new_si=current_si-si_interval). In block **532**, the wireless device **102** determines whether the temporarily decreased sleep interval (new_si) is greater than or equal to a minimum value or lower limit of the sleep interval (e.g., whether new_si>=SI_LL). For example, in some embodiments, the minimum value of the sleep interval may be 600 ms. If the wireless device **102** determines, in block **532**, that the temporarily increased sleep interval is not greater than or equal to the minimum value, the method **500** advances to block **536** in which the wireless device **102** updates the value/flag associated with updating the sleep interval to discontinue updating the interval (e.g., by assigning update_si=false) in block **536**, and the method **500** returns to block **502** to await expiration of the timer/clock. However, if the wireless device **102** determines, in block **532**, that the

temporarily increased sleep interval is greater than or equal to the minimum value, the method **500** advances to block **534** in which the wireless device **102** updates the value/flag associated with updating the sleep interval to discontinue updating the interval (e.g., by assigning `update_si=false`) and, in block **520**, the wireless device **102** sets the current sleep interval to the temporary sleep interval (e.g., `current_si=new_si`). The method **500** returns to block **502** to await expiration of the timer/clock.

[0082] It should be appreciated that, in some embodiments, the wireless device **102** may include another time/clock set to update the value/flag associated with updating the sleep interval to resume updating the interval and further execution of the method **500** (e.g., by assigning `update_si=true`). For example, in some embodiments, that value/flag may be updated every day; however, other period may be used in other embodiments. Further, in some embodiments, the sleep interval may be determined on various factors (e.g., including signal strength) according to yet another predefined period (e.g., every week, etc.).

[0083] Although the blocks **502-538** are described in a relatively serial manner, it should be appreciated that various blocks of the method **500** may be performed in parallel in some embodiments.

Claims

1. A method of reducing a power consumption of a wireless device, the method comprising: performing, by the wireless device, a calibration of wireless communication circuitry of the wireless device in response to establishing a wireless communication connection with a wireless access point; determining, by the wireless device, a number of disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point over a predefined period of time; and increasing, by the wireless device, a sleep interval of the wireless communication circuitry of the wireless device in response to determining the number of disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point over the predefined period of time is less than a threshold number of disconnections.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising: determining, by the wireless device, a second number of disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point over the predefined period of time in response to increasing the sleep interval based on the number of disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point being less than the threshold number of disconnections; and returning, by the wireless device, the sleep interval of the wireless communication circuitry of the wireless device to a prior sleep interval in response to determining the second number of disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point over the predefined period of time is at least the threshold number of disconnections.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising: determining, by the wireless device, an amount of at least one of broadcast or multicast traffic messages received by the wireless device; and increasing, by the wireless device, the sleep interval of the wireless communication circuitry of the wireless device in response to determining the amount of the at least one of the broadcast or multicast traffic messages received by the wireless device exceeds a threshold amount of traffic.
4. The method of claim 3, further comprising: determining, by the wireless device, a second number of disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point over the predefined period of time in response to increasing the sleep interval based on the amount of the at least one of the broadcast or multicast traffic messages received by the wireless device exceeding the threshold amount of traffic; and returning, by the wireless device, the sleep interval of the wireless communication circuitry of the wireless device to a prior sleep interval in response to determining the second number of disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point over the predefined period of time is at least the threshold number of disconnections.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the number of disconnections comprises periodically determining the number of disconnections between the wireless device and the

wireless access point over the predefined period of time.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising: determining, by the wireless device, a wireless signal strength of the wireless communication connection established between the wireless device and the wireless access point; disconnecting, by the wireless device, the wireless communication connection with the wireless access point in response to determining that the wireless signal strength of the wireless communication connection established between the wireless device and the wireless access point is below a threshold signal strength; and establishing a wireless communication connection with another wireless access point in response to disconnecting the wireless communication connection with the wireless access point.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising determining, by the wireless device, a wireless signal strength of a prospective wireless communication connection between the wireless device and the another wireless access point; and wherein disconnecting the wireless communication connection with the wireless access point comprises disconnecting the wireless communication connection with the wireless access point in response to determining that (i) the wireless signal strength of the wireless communication connection established between the wireless device and the wireless access point is below the threshold signal strength and (ii) the wireless signal strength of the prospective wireless communication connection between the wireless device and the another wireless access point is greater than the wireless signal strength of the wireless communication connection established between the wireless device and the wireless access point.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless communication circuitry comprises Wi-Fi communication circuitry.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless device comprises an access control device including a physical lock mechanism to secure a corresponding passageway.

10. A wireless device, comprising: a Wi-Fi communication circuitry; at least one processor; and at least one memory comprising a plurality of instructions stored thereon that, in response to execution by the at least one processor, causes the wireless device to: perform a calibration of the Wi-Fi communication circuitry in response to establishing a Wi-Fi communication connection with a wireless access point; determine a number of Wi-Fi disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point over a predefined period of time; and increase a sleep interval of the Wi-Fi communication circuitry in response to determining the number of Wi-Fi disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point over the predefined period of time is less than a threshold number of Wi-Fi disconnections.

11. The wireless device of claim 10, wherein the plurality of instructions further causes the wireless device to: determine a second number of Wi-Fi disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point over the predefined period of time in response to increasing the sleep interval based on the number of Wi-Fi disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point being less than the threshold number of Wi-Fi disconnections; and return the sleep interval of the Wi-Fi communication circuitry of the wireless device to a prior sleep interval in response to determining the second number of Wi-Fi disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point over the predefined period of time is at least the threshold number of Wi-Fi disconnections.

12. The wireless device of claim 10, wherein the plurality of instructions further causes the wireless device to: determine an amount of at least one of broadcast or multicast traffic messages received by the wireless device; and increase the sleep interval of the Wi-Fi communication circuitry of the wireless device in response to determining the amount of the at least one of the broadcast or multicast traffic messages received by the wireless device exceeds a threshold amount of traffic.

13. The wireless device of claim 12, wherein the plurality of instructions further causes the wireless device to: determine a second number of Wi-Fi disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point over the predefined period of time in response to increasing the sleep interval based on the amount of the at least one of the broadcast or multicast traffic messages received by

the wireless device exceeding the threshold amount of traffic; and return the sleep interval of the Wi-Fi communication circuitry of the wireless device to a prior sleep interval in response to determining the second number of Wi-Fi disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point over the predefined period of time is at least the threshold number of Wi-Fi disconnections.

14. The wireless device of claim 10, wherein to determine the number of Wi-Fi disconnections comprises to periodically determine the number of Wi-Fi disconnections between the wireless device and the wireless access point over the predefined period of time.

15. The wireless device of claim 10, wherein the plurality of instructions further causes the wireless device to: determine a wireless signal strength of the Wi-Fi communication connection established between the wireless device and the wireless access point; disconnect the Wi-Fi communication connection with the wireless access point in response to determining that the wireless signal strength of the Wi-Fi communication connection established between the wireless device and the wireless access point is below a threshold signal strength; and establish a Wi-Fi communication connection with another wireless access point in response to disconnecting the Wi-Fi communication connection with the wireless access point.

16. The wireless device of claim 10, further comprising a physical lock mechanism having at least one of a latch or a bolt to secure a corresponding passageway.

17. An access control device, comprising: a Wi-Fi communication circuitry; a lock mechanism having at least one of a latch or a bolt to secure a corresponding passageway; at least one processor; and at least one memory comprising a plurality of instructions stored thereon that, in response to execution by the at least one processor, causes the access control device to: perform a calibration of the Wi-Fi communication circuitry in response to establishing a Wi-Fi communication connection with a wireless access point; determine a number of Wi-Fi disconnections between the access control device and the wireless access point over a predefined period of time; and increase a sleep interval of the Wi-Fi communication circuitry in response to determining the number of Wi-Fi disconnections between the access control device and the wireless access point over the predefined period of time is less than a threshold number of Wi-Fi disconnections.

18. The access control device of claim 17, wherein the plurality of instructions further causes the access control device to: determine a second number of Wi-Fi disconnections between the access control device and the wireless access point over the predefined period of time in response to increasing the sleep interval based on the number of Wi-Fi disconnections between the access control device and the wireless access point being less than the threshold number of Wi-Fi disconnections; and return the sleep interval of the Wi-Fi communication circuitry of the access control device to a prior sleep interval in response to determining the second number of Wi-Fi disconnections between the access control device and the wireless access point over the predefined period of time is at least the threshold number of Wi-Fi disconnections.

19. The access control device of claim 17, wherein the plurality of instructions further causes the access control device to: determine an amount of at least one of broadcast or multicast traffic messages received by the access control device; and increase the sleep interval of the Wi-Fi communication circuitry in response to determining the amount of the at least one of the broadcast or multicast traffic messages received by the access control device exceeds a threshold amount of traffic.

20. The access control device of claim 17, wherein the plurality of instructions further causes the access control device to: determine a wireless signal strength of the Wi-Fi communication connection established between the access control device and the wireless access point; disconnect the Wi-Fi communication connection with the wireless access point in response to determining that the wireless signal strength of the Wi-Fi communication connection established between the access control device and the wireless access point is below a threshold signal strength; and establish a

Wi-Fi communication connection with another wireless access point in response to disconnecting the Wi-Fi communication connection with the wireless access point.
