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Inventor(s)

Crawford; Laura et al.

CLOUD-ENABLED VEHICLE AUTOSTART MONITORING

Abstract

In accordance with one aspect of the disclosure, an apparatus is provided that includes a database configured to store one or more vehicle status parameters of a vehicle and one or more secured space status parameters of a secured space. The apparatus further includes a server-based processor operatively coupled or connected to the database and configured to receive one or more of the one or more vehicle status parameters and one or more of the one or more secured space status parameters. The server-based processor is further configured to determine, based on at least one of the one or more vehicle status parameters and at least one of the one or more secured space status parameters whether to change a state of the vehicle.

Inventors: Crawford; Laura (Chicago, IL), Hopkins; Garth Wesley (Lisle, IL), Khamham; Oddy (Lombard, IL), Lukas; Edward James (Batavia, IL), Struckmeyer; Erich (Barrington, IL), Trainor; James (Chicago, IL)

Applicant: THE CHAMBERLAIN GROUP LLC (OAK BROOK, IL)

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Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS [0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 18/239,479, filed Aug. 29, 2023, entitled CLOUD-ENABLED VEHICLE AUTOSTART MONITORING, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/666,778, filed Feb. 8, 2022, entitled CLOUD-ENABLED VEHICLE AUTOSTART MONITORING, which issued as U.S. Pat. No. 11,773,815 on Oct. 3, 2023, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/413,148, filed May 15, 2019, entitled CLOUD-ENABLED VEHICLE AUTOSTART MONITORING, which issued as U.S. Pat. No. 11,248,576 on Feb. 15, 2022, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 62/674,601, filed May 21, 2018, all of which are incorporated by reference herein in their entireties.

FIELD

[0002] This disclosure relates to a cloud-enabled movable barrier operator system and, specifically, to a cloud-enabled movable barrier operator system for monitoring and controlling auto-start of a vehicle in or proximate to a secured space controlled by the movable barrier operator.

BACKGROUND

[0003] A garage is a confined space and as automotive technology advances more and more vehicles are coming equipped with auto-start functionality. Auto-start functionality allows for remote starting of a vehicle, and many vehicles that have auto-start functionality have keyless ignitions. Because the user of a vehicle with auto-start functionality does not need to be in the vehicle to start the vehicle, or take the keys out of the ignition, the likelihood that noxious and potentially harmful gases will fill the garage increases. For example, the user may forget the vehicle is running.

[0004] Electric vehicles are quiet, and users of electric vehicles often forget that they are running. Leaving electric vehicle running drains the vehicle's batteries and creates the potential for unwanted use of the vehicle. For example, a parent may accidentally leave an electric vehicle running, increasing the risk that a child may operate the vehicle.

[0005] Improved control systems for auto-start and auto-shutoff of vehicles parked in or proximate to a secured space such as a garage are needed. A central problem in developing such a system is the development of appropriate data to enable modern control systems to decide when to start a vehicle, when to shut off a vehicle, and when to let a user make that choice. Moreover, modern controls systems must be designed in a way that is intuitive and easy to use for the user while minimizing the potential harm to users or their property.

[0006] The business model of a modern automotive manufacturer is becoming more service oriented. For example, Ford®, in addition to selling the consumer a vehicle, sells the consumer the service that comes along with the vehicle. The quality of that service is telling indicia of the quality of the auto manufacturer's brand, just like the quality of vehicle itself. As such, auto manufacturers need reliable sources of data and reliable algorithms to implement decision based on that data that

are intuitive and easy to use for the customer while minimizing the potential harm to customers or their property.

[0007] A system that addresses these concerns is described in detail below.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0008] FIG. 1 illustrates a control system for determining when to change the state of a vehicle in or proximate to a secured space.

[0009] FIG. 2 illustrates a control system for determining when to change the state of a vehicle in or proximate to a secured space implemented entirely by a third-party vendor to the vehicle.

[0010] FIG. 3 illustrates the control system of FIG. 1 implemented as an authorized user in the loop control system.

[0011] FIG. 4 diagrams conditions in which the control system should start a vehicle and conditions in which the control system should not start a vehicle

[0012] FIG. 5 illustrates a problem to be solved by the control system in which more than one vehicle is in or proximate to a secured space.

[0013] FIG. 6 illustrates a vehicle designed to interface with the control system.

[0014] FIG. 7 illustrates the control system of FIG. 3 having a confidence algorithm for determining when to change the state of a vehicle.

[0015] FIG. 8 illustrates the confidence algorithm embodied as a single layer neural expert system having a start process under control.

[0016] FIG. 9 illustrates the confidence algorithm embodied as a single layer neural expert system having a turn off process under control.

[0017] FIG. 10 illustrates the confidence algorithm embodied as a multi-layer neural expert system having a start process under control.

[0018] FIG. 11 illustrates the confidence algorithm embodied as a multi-layer neural expert system having a turn off process under control.

[0019] FIG. 12 illustrates the confidence algorithm embodied as a neuro-fuzzy system having a start process under control.

[0020] FIG. 13 illustrates the confidence algorithm embodied as a neuro-fuzzy system having a turn off process under control.

[0021] FIG. 14 illustrates a functional block diagram of a movable barrier operator.

[0022] FIG. 15 illustrates a functional block diagram of a control device.

[0023] FIG. 16 illustrates a functional block diagram of a key fob device.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0024] With reference to FIG. 1, an access control platform server **100** is connected to a telematics service provider (“TSP”) server **130** and an access control platform **110**. The TSP associated with the TSP server **130** may provide services such as roadside assistance, emergency response service, automatic crash response, infotainment service, and/or vehicle connectivity service as some examples. The access control platform server **100** may connect to the TSP server **130** and access control platform **110** over one or more networks such as the Internet. The access control platform server **100** may connect to the access control platform **110** through any or all of the access control devices **101** and/or the movable barrier operator **115**. The access control platform **100** and the TSP server **130** may have computing resources, including processors **100A**, **130A**, located in the cloud.

[0025] Optionally, the access control platform server **100** may communicate directly with a vehicle **120**, again, over one or more communications networks such as the Internet. The access control platform server **100** may be configured to send, receive, associate, determine, and cause to be stored one or more status parameters of a vehicle, such as vehicle **120**, and/or an access control

platform, such as access control platform **110**. Additionally, the access control platform server **100** may be configured to send one or more commands to control when a vehicle, such as vehicle **120**, is started and when the vehicle is shut off.

[0026] The access control platform **110** may include one or more access control devices **101**, **115**. For example, the access control platform **110** may include one or more access control devices such as movable barrier operator **115** and/or one or more locking mechanisms, such as access control devices **101**, connected over a communications network such as the Internet. The access control devices **101**, **115** of the access control platform **110** may also be networked to each other in a peer-to-peer ad hoc fashion using a short-range communication protocol such as Bluetooth® (or Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE), or Near Field Communications (NFC), or Wi-Fi) with at least one of the access control devices **101**, **115** of the access control platform **110** being able to access a communications network such as the Internet.

[0027] The access control platform server **100** may be connected or coupled to an access control platform database **105** to store one or more status parameters of a vehicle, such as vehicle **120**, or the secured space **15**. The status parameters of the secured space **15** may be determined by an access control platform, such as access control platform **110**. The access control platform database **105** may be, for example, a cloud storage or computing solution. The access control platform database **105** may be further configured to store one or more commands to control when a vehicle, such as vehicle **120**, is started and when the vehicle is shut off.

[0028] The TSP server **130** may be configured to send, receive, associate, determine, and cause to be stored one or more status parameters of a vehicle, such as vehicle **120**, or the secured space **15**. The status parameters of the secured space **15** may be determined by an access control platform, such as access control platform **110**. The TSP server **130** may connect to the access control platform **115** and/or the vehicle **120** over one or more networks such as the Internet. Additionally, the TSP server **130** may be further configured to send one or more commands to control when a vehicle, such as vehicle **120**, is started and when it is shut off. The TSP server **130** may receive one or more status parameters or commands from the access control platform server **100**, the access control platform **110**, or the vehicle **120**.

[0029] The TSP server **130** may be connected or coupled to a TSP database **135** to store one or more status parameters of a vehicle, such as vehicle **120**, or the secured space **15**. The status parameters of the secured space **15** may be determined by an access control platform, such as access control platform **110**. The TSP database **135** may be, for example, a cloud storage solution. The TSP database **135** may be further configured to store one or more commands to control when a vehicle, such as vehicle **120**, is started and when the vehicle is shut off.

[0030] The movable barrier operator **115** of the access control platform **110** may connect to the one or more access control devices **101**, the access control platform server **100**, the TSP server **130**, and the vehicle **120** over one or more networks such as the Internet. The movable barrier operator **115** may also connect to the vehicle **120** and the one or more access control devices **101** using a short-range communication protocol such as Bluetooth® (or Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE), or Near Field Communications (NFC), or Wi-Fi). As illustrated in FIG. **14**, the movable barrier operator **115** may include a processor **1403** coupled or connected to a memory **1404**, a communication interface **1401**, and one or more sensors **1402**. The communication interface **1401** may be configured to send and receive status parameters or commands to and from the user device **310** (FIG. **3**), one or more of the access control devices **101**, the vehicle **120**, the TSP server **130**, or the access control platform server **100**. The one or more sensors **1402**, may include, for example, a camera, a microphone, one or more noxious gas detectors, and a photo eye. The one or more sensors **1402** may determine one or more of the status parameters of the secured space **15**.

[0031] The one or more access control devices **101** of the access control platform **110** may connect to the movable barrier operator **115**, the access control platform server **110**, the TSP server **130**, and the vehicle **120** over one or more networks such as the Internet. The one or more access control

devices **101** may also connect to the vehicle **120** or the movable barrier operator **115** using a short-range communication protocol such as Bluetooth® (or Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE), or Near Field Communications (NFC), or Wi-Fi). As illustrated in FIG. 15, the one or more access control devices **101** may include a processor **1503** coupled or connected to a memory **1504**, a communication interface **1501**, and one or more sensors **1502**. The communication interface **1501** may be configured to send and receive status parameters or commands to and from the user device **310** (FIG. 3), movable barrier operator **115**, the vehicle **120**, the TSP server **130**, or the access control platform server **100**. The one or more sensors **1502**, may include, for example, an accelerometer, a gyroscope, a magnetometer, a camera, a microphone, one or more noxious gas detectors, and a photo eye. The one or more sensors **1502** may determine one or more of the status parameters of the secured space **15**.

[0032] Access control platform **110** controls access to the secured space **15**. The secure space **15** may be, for example, a garage or a home. For example, the movable barrier operator **115** of the access control platform **110** may be disposed in the secured space **15** and may be coupled to a movable barrier **45**. The movable barrier operator **110** may be, for example, a garage door opener as illustrated in FIG. 1. The movable barrier operator **110** may be an operator such as a jackshaft operator, a swinging door operator, or a sliding gate operator. The movable barrier operator **110** may have, for example, a belt drive, a chain drive, or a screw drive. The movable barrier **45** may be a garage door that is configured to, for example, move along a track or pivot on a hinge. The access control platform **110** may also control access to a home by controlling the locking mechanism of one or more man doors via one or more of the access control devices **101**. The state of a man door may be a status parameter of the secured space **15**. For example, the one or more access control devices **101** may determine lock state and movement history of the man door and transmit them to the access control platform server **100** either directly or indirectly through, for example, the movable barrier operator **115**.

[0033] The access control platform **110** may receive one or more signals from the vehicle **120** regarding the state of the vehicle **120**. The one or more signals regarding the state of the vehicle **120** may be generated by one or more electronic control units (ECUs) (see FIG. 6) and communicated to a central processing unit **620** of the vehicle **120** through an ECU data bus **630**. The central processing unit **620** may be configured to send and receive data, including the one or more data generated by the ECUs, to the access control platform **110**, the access control platform server **100**, the TSP server **130**, and the user device **310**. The access control platform **110**, the access control platform server **100**, the TSP server **130**, and the user device **310** may communicate with the vehicle **120** through a central communication interface **610** of the vehicle **120** over one or more communication networks such as the Internet using any one or more various wireless communication protocols such as 3G, 4G, or 5G or it may communicate directly with any one of the individual ECUs to receive one or more signals regarding the state of the vehicle **120**. The direct communication with the ECUs of the vehicle **120** and communication through a central communication interface **610** may also occur a short-range communication protocol such as Bluetooth® (or Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE), or Near Field Communications (NFC), or Wi-Fi. Communication directly with the one or more ECUs of the vehicle **120** improves system response time to commands, reduces data compression errors, and provides a more seamless user experience, whereas communication through the central interface is generally more secure.

[0034] The access control platform **110** may be networked or coupled to one or more peripheral devices such as images sensors, microphones, photo eyes, carbon monoxide or noxious gas detectors, weights sensors, charging devices, or other safety sensors or vehicle service devices. Furthermore, the access control platform **110** may determine status parameters of a secured space **15** from, for example, the peripheral devices. Status parameters may include an indication of whether the garage door is closed or open, an indication of whether, when, and how frequently a beam of a photo eye device was broken, or an indication that a vehicle has been recognized to be in

the secured by space **15** by an image sensor coupled or connected to the access control platform **110**.

[0035] The vehicle **120** may generate one or more signals via one or more ECUs to be sent to the access control platform **110**, the access control platform server **100**, or the TSP server **130**. For example, the ECUs of the vehicle **120** may include a vehicle location ECU, such as a GPS module for determining the latitude, longitude, and elevation of a vehicle, and the vehicle location ECU may be capable of determining the heading, speed, velocity, and acceleration of the vehicle **120**; an odometer ECU that may improve the location estimate of the vehicle **120** and similarly improve dead-reckoning calculation; a wheel pulse ECU for improving dead-reckoning calculations; a tachometer ECU; a wheel position ECU for determining wheel position; an accelerometer ECU; a gyroscope ECU; and a presence ECU for determining whether a driver or passenger is present in the vehicle. The presence ECU may include, for example, weight/pressure sensors, microphones, images sensors, and seat belt sensors for determining if the vehicle **120** is occupied. The vehicle **120** may include one or more of the ECUs discussed above.

[0036] The vehicle **120** may store one or more pieces of data to be sent to the access control platform **110**, the access control platform server **100**, or the TSP server **130**. For example, the vehicle **120** may store an ignition state, vehicle identification number (VIN), key fob identifier data, braking information, blinker information, charge state, and data, obtained by, for example, vehicle to vehicle communication, indicating the presence of another vehicle proximate the vehicle **120**. The vehicle **120** may also store historical records or data of any of the aforementioned or any other data collected by the ECUs or obtained by the vehicle. The vehicle **120** may also communicate with other vehicles to determine data regarding a state of the other vehicle upon receiving a command from the access control platform **110**, the access control platform server **100**, or the TSP server **130**. Similarly, the vehicle **120** may transmit any data collected by any one of the one or more ECUs in real-time, at a fixed time interval, or after the size of data payload reaches a threshold amount to the access control platform **110**, the access control platform server **100**, or the TSP server **130** to be stored or processed.

[0037] The vehicle **120** may have an embedded or third-party application installed as a software module to facilitate communication from the vehicle **120** to the access control platform **110** and/or the access control platform server **100** to assist the vehicle in deciding when to start a vehicle, when to shut off a vehicle, and when to let a user make that choice. For example, a user of vehicle **120** may request remote start of the vehicle **120** from a device, such as device **310**, configured to send a remote start signal to the vehicle **120**. The device configured to send a remote start signal to the vehicle **120** may be, for example, a radio frequency transmitter such as a key fob, a mobile phone, or another computing system such as a home management system, and start may be requested by a radio broadcast, a short range wireless communication protocol such as Bluetooth®, or over one or more networks such as the Internet. In another option, the vehicle **120** may receive the command to start via a direct voice command. In the case that the start request is sent over the Internet, it may be received at the TSP server **130**, and the TSP server **130** may send the start request to the access control platform server **100** to determine whether to start the vehicle **120**.

[0038] With reference to FIG. 2, a system is illustrated that is substantially the same as the system that is illustrated in FIG. 1 except that the device the user uses to request a vehicle, such as vehicle **220**, to start communicates directly with the access control platform server **200**. The movable barrier operator **215** is coupled to the access control platform **210** having one or more other access control devices **201**. The movable barrier operator **215**, the access control platform **210**, and the one or more access control devices **201** perform the same or similar functions as like parts of the system of FIG. 1. The movable barrier operator **215** operates the movable barrier **65** to control access to the secure space **25** in the same or similar manner to like features of the system of FIG. 1.

[0039] With reference to FIG. 3, the control system of FIG. 1 is illustrated as an authorized-user-in-the-loop control system. In the authorized-user-in-the-loop control system of FIG. 3 a user device

310 is coupled to one or more of the vehicles, such as vehicle **120**, the access control platform **110**, the TSP server **130**, or the access control platform server **100**. The user device **310** may be configured to send or receive one or more commands to control when a vehicle, such as vehicle **120**, is started and when the vehicle is shut off. For example, a user may request that the vehicle **120** is started from the user device **310**, the command may be received, by the vehicle **120**, the access control server **100**, the access control platform **110** or the TSP server **130**. In the case that the start request is received by the vehicle **120**, the access control platform **110**, or the TSP server **130** the start request may be transmitted or relayed to the access control server **100** for further processing. The access control platform server **100** may then, in response to receiving the start request, determine whether or not the vehicle should be started based one or more status parameters of the secured space **15** or the vehicle **120**. The access control platform server **100** may determine from the received status parameters that the vehicle is in the garage and the garage door is closed and, in response to that determination, determine that the vehicle **120** should not be started. Likewise, if the garage door is open the access control platform server **100** may determine that the vehicle **120** can be started, see FIG. 4.

[0040] The user device **310** may be a smart phone, laptop, radio frequency transmitter such as a key fob **1600**, another computing system such as a home management system, or any other device. In the case of the user device **310** that is not a key fob **1600** sending a start request, the start request may first be received by the key fob **1600**, such as the key fob **1600** illustrated in FIG. 16, designed to grant access to the ignition system of the vehicle **120**. A security token for starting the vehicle may be attached to the start request transmitted from the user device **310** by the user key fob **1600**. The user key fob **1600** may then transmit the start request to the access control platform server **100** via the communication interface **610** (FIG. 6) of the vehicle **120** and/or one or more other devices such as the access control platform **110**. Alternatively, the vehicle **120** will buffer the start request and wait for confirmation from the access control platform server **100** that the vehicle **120** should be or should not be started.

[0041] If the access control platform server **100** determines that the vehicle **120** should not be start based on one or more status parameters of the secured space **15** or the vehicle **120**, the access control platform server **100** will not send a command to the access control platform **110**, the vehicle **120**, or the TSP server **130** to start the vehicle **120**. In this case, the buffered start signal held by the vehicle **120** may expire, after a time, and be removed from the buffer. However, an override request may be sent to the user device **310**. The override request may ask the user of the user device **310** if they would like to start the vehicle despite potential unsafe condition such as the garage door being closed. The override request may specify one or more reasons that the access control platform server **100** determined that the vehicle **120** should not be started. If the user responds to the override request before that start signal is cleared from the buffer by the central processing unit **610** of the vehicle **120**, the vehicle **120** will be started if the user's response to the override requests indicates that the vehicle **120** should be started.

[0042] If the vehicle **120** is in or proximate to the secured space, the access control platform server **100** may monitor the vehicle **120** is real time to determine if the vehicle **120** should be turned off. For example, if a user starts the vehicle **120** and the vehicle **120** is left running for a period of time and there is no other indicator that the vehicle **120** is intended to be used, for example a user sitting in the seat of the vehicle, the access control server **100** may turn off the vehicle **120**. The access control platform server **100** may process one or more status parameters of the secured space **15** and the vehicle **120** to determine if the vehicle **120** should be turned off. If the access control platform server **100** cannot determine whether the vehicle **120** should be shut off, a permission request may be sent to a user device, such as user device **310**, requesting permission to shut off the vehicle **120**. The permission request may specify one or more reasons the access control platform server **100** decided not to turn off the vehicle.

[0043] FIG. 5 illustrates a problem where more than one vehicle **520**, **530** may be associated with

an access control platform **110** and where more than one vehicle is in or proximate to the secured space **15**. In this case, the access control platform will have to determine which of the vehicles **520**, **530** is in the secured space **15** using one or more status parameters of the vehicle **520**, **530** and one or more status parameters of the secured space **15**. The status parameters of both the vehicles **520**, **530** will be used to determine which of the vehicles **520**, **530** is in the secured space **15** and which is not. For example, VIN, ambient light sensor data, or vehicle movement history data including data such as GPS, wheel sensor data, and steering wheel position data may be used to determine which of the vehicles **520**, **530** is in the secured space **15** and which of the vehicles **520**, **530** is not in the secured space **15**. If the vehicle for which the user sent a start request for example, from user device **540**, is not in the secured space **15**, the vehicle will start; otherwise if the vehicle for which the user sent the start request is in the secured space **15**, the access control platform **100** will determine whether the vehicle should start.

[0044] In one such implementation, the access control platform tracks the vehicle using multiple signals to determine location (such as GPS data, wheel pulse data, and the like) to learn what it means to be in someone's garage on a per vehicle basis. For example, person one always parks vehicle one in garage while person two's vehicle is just outside. We would see a higher confidence interval that person one's vehicle is in garage because 1) vehicle one's location is approximate to what has been set up as home, 2) vehicle one's distance traveled is within a certain amount of the door's opening, 3) time stamps are compared to see when vehicle one turned off compared to when a door is opened, a beam of a photo eye device was broken, and the door is closed, 4) wheel pulse data is consulted to count the number of clicks to supplement GPS data to help location determination. If person two parks outside the garage but gets inside the house via the garage, the system will see that: 1) location is approximately by garage, 2) vehicle two was shut off before garage door opened, 3) a beam of a photo eye device was broken in a pattern not consistent with a vehicle passing through, 4) wheel clicks do not include the extra amount usually detected when vehicle is in right location, slowing down. Using GDO data or Wifi data, the system could understand if multiple users use the same garage and live in the same household. The users' data could then be compared to improve confidence in the determinations.

[0045] The access control platform **110** may employ one or more confidence algorithms to determine whether the vehicle **120** should be started in response to the start request from the user. The confidence algorithm may be embodied as a neural system. For example, the confidence algorithm may be implemented as a single layer neural expert system (see FIGS. **8**, **9**), a multilayer neural expert system (see FIGS. **10**, **11**), or a neuro-fuzzy system (see FIGS. **12**, **13**). Though not illustrated the confidence algorithm may be implemented as a neuro-fuzzy adaptive network or a neural adaptive network. The one or more confidence algorithms may have one or more processes under control. For example, it is contemplated that the processes under control may be the starting of the vehicle **120** and the turning off of the vehicle **120**. The algorithms including the one or more processes under control can be implemented without the use of a confidence algorithm.

[0046] The neural system controlling the process of starting the vehicle **120** may decide whether to start the vehicle **120**, let the user decide whether to start the vehicle **120**, or decide not to start the vehicle **120**. For example, if in response to an initial user request to start the vehicle **120** from a remote device, such as user device **310**, the neural system may determine that it is not confident that the vehicle should be started. In this case, the vehicle will not start and an override request may be sent to the remote device asking the user whether the vehicle **120** should be started regardless. The override request may indicate one or more reasons the confidence algorithm decided not to start the vehicle **120**. The override request may further allow the user to indicate which of the reasons are true and which of the reasons are false. The user's response to the override request may be used to train or tune the confidence algorithm. In one example of this case, the TSP prompts the user with the override request, and data is returned as to whether the user engaged, which can be used to fine tune the algorithm. By responding to the override request, the user creates an override

response.

[0047] The confidence algorithm may be executed by the access control platform server **100**, as illustrated in FIG. 7. However, the confidence algorithm may also be executed on the TSP server, by the access control platform **110**, or the vehicle **120**. In one example, the access control platform server may send a confidence level that the vehicle **120** is parked in a garage to the TSP server or vehicle, which will then determine whether the vehicle **120** is allowed to start.

[0048] The neural systems controlling the process of turning off the vehicle **120** will decide whether to turn off the vehicle **120**, let the user decide whether to turn off the vehicle **120**, or decide not to turn off the vehicle **120**. For example, if in response to one or more status parameters of the vehicle **120** or the secure space **15** that indicate that a vehicle should be shut off, the confidence algorithm is not confident that the vehicle **120** should be shut off, a permission request may be sent to a remote device, such as user device **310**, asking the user whether not the vehicle may be shut off. The permission request may indicate one or more reasons the confidence algorithm decided not to shut off the vehicle **120**. The permission request may further allow the user to indicate which of the reasons are true and which of the reasons are false. The user's response to the override request may be used to train or tune the confidence algorithm. By responding the permission request, the user creates a permission response.

[0049] In the case of the confidence algorithm being implemented as a neural expert system the confidence algorithm will send the override request if a fuzzy inference of the neural expert system indicates that the user should decide whether or not to start the vehicle **120**. Similarly, the neural expert system may, in one embodiment, send the override request if the inequality of equation (1), below, is false.

$$[00001] \sum_{i=1}^n x_i w_i > \sum_{j=1}^n w_j$$

[0050] If the inequality of equation (1) above is false no fuzzy inference can be made by the neural expert system for a particular neuron for which the inequality is false. Equation (1) stands for the fact that that the confidence system embodied as a neural expert system cannot infer whether a particular action should execute unless that the sum of the net weighted input to the neuron is greater than the sum of the absolute value of the weights of the unknown inputs. The variable $x_{sub.i}$ in the equation above represents the value of an input to the neural expert system and the variable $w_{sub.i}$ is the weight corresponding to a given input, $x_{sub.i}$. The variable $w_{sub.j}$ represents the weight of an unknown input.

[0051] The confidence algorithm embodied as one or more neural expert systems may have one or more processes under control. For example, the confidence algorithm may have a neural expert system for controlling the process of starting a vehicle as illustrated in FIGS. **8** and **10**. In the single layer neural expert system of FIG. **8** and the multi-layer neural expert system of FIG. **10**, the neural expert systems are illustrated as having three inputs: the state of the garage door, for example whether or not the garage door is open; the state of the photo eye, for example whether or not a light beam of a photo eye was broken; and the state of a vehicle, for example one or more vehicle status parameters may indicate that a vehicle is in the garage. FIG. **10** illustrates a multi-layer neural expert system that uses the data of GPS sensors and dead reckoning techniques utilizing vehicle status parameters such as wheel turns and secure space status parameters such as the breaking of a light beam of a photo eye to determine whether the vehicle **120** is in the secure space **15**.

[0052] The confidence algorithm may have a neural expert system for controlling the process of turning off a vehicle as illustrated in FIGS. **9** and **11**. In the single layer neural expert system of FIG. **9** and the multi-layer neural expert system of FIG. **11**, the neural expert systems are illustrated as having three inputs: the state of the weight sensor, for example the weight sensor may indicate that a seat is empty; the state of a man door, for example one or more sensors may indicate that a man door has been opened; and the state of a vehicle, for example one or more vehicle status

parameters may indicate that a vehicle is in the garage. FIG. 10 illustrates a multi-layer neural expert system that uses the data of GPS sensors and dead reckoning techniques utilizing vehicle status parameters such as wheel turns and secure space status parameters such as the breaking of a light beam of a photo eye to determine whether the vehicle 120 is in the secure space 15.

[0053] The embodiments of FIGS. 8-11 are only examples, the systems may have more or less inputs, more or less rules, and more or less outputs. Similarly, the systems may consist of as few or as many layers are necessary to control a process of starting a vehicle or a process of shutting off a vehicle.

[0054] In the case of the confidence algorithm being implemented as a neuro-fuzzy system controlling the process starting a vehicle (FIG. 12), the output of the neuro-fuzzy system may be, for example, a single probability value, x . As such, the determination of whether to start the vehicle 120, to ask the user whether the vehicle should be started, or to not start the vehicle may be determined by a conditional argument such as the conditional argument below:

$x \geq 70\%$, startthevehicle

[00002]if{ $x < 70\%$ and $x \geq 40\%$, lettheuserdecide

$x < 40\%$, donotstartthevehicle

If the confidence algorithm implemented as a neuro-fuzzy system determines that the user should decide whether or not to start the vehicle 120, the access control platform server 100 may send an override request to the user device 310. The override request may indicate one or more reasons the confidence algorithm decided not to start the vehicle 120. The override request may further allow the user to indicate which of the reasons are true and which of the reasons are false. The user's response to the override request may be used to train or tune the confidence algorithm using techniques such as backpropagation. Both the probability value x and the ranges of the conditional argument may be adjusted. For example, the confidence algorithm may feedforward probability value x or an error value determined from the probability value x to adjust the ranges of the conditional argument prior to making a determination based on the conditional argument.

[0055] In the case of the confidence algorithm being implemented as a neuro-fuzzy system controlling the process shutting off a vehicle (FIG. 13), the output of the neuro-fuzzy system may be, for example, a single probability value, x . As such, the determination of whether to shut off the vehicle 120, to ask the user whether the vehicle should be shut off, or to not shut off the vehicle may be determined by a conditional argument such as the conditional argument below:

$x \geq 70\%$, shutoffthevehicle

[00003]if{ $x < 70\%$ and $x \geq 40\%$, lettheuserdecide

$x < 40\%$, donotshutoffthevehicle

If the confidence algorithm implemented as a neuro-fuzzy system determines that the user should decide whether to shut off the vehicle 120, the access control platform server 100 may send a permission request to the user device 310. The permission request may indicate one or more reasons the confidence algorithm decided to shut off the vehicle 120. The permission request may further allow the user to indicate which of the reasons are true and which of the reasons are false. The user's response to the permission request may be used to train or tune the confidence algorithm using techniques such as backpropagation. Both the probability value x and the ranges of the conditional argument may be adjusted. For example, the system may feedforward probability value x or an error value determined from the probability value x to adjust the ranges of the conditional argument prior to making a determination based on the conditional argument.

[0056] The embodiments of FIGS. 12 and 13 are only examples, and the systems may have more or less inputs, more or less rules, and more or less outputs. The inputs to the neuro-fuzzy systems of FIGS. 12 and 13 may be similar to the inputs to the neural expert system of FIGS. 8 and 9 except the one or more status parameters of the vehicle may be used to determine each input and the one or more status parameters may be normalized to a particular universe of discourse before being

input into layer 1 as crisp values so that they may be fuzzified by reference to the universe of discourse in layer 2.

[0057] While there have been illustrated and described particular embodiments of the present invention, it will be appreciated that numerous changes and modifications will occur to those skilled in the art, and it is intended for the present invention to cover all those changes and modifications which fall within the scope of the appended claims.

Claims

1. A non-transitory computer readable medium storing instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause performance of operations comprising: at a server computer external to a vehicle: receiving a request to change a state of the vehicle in a garage; executing, in response to receiving the request, a confidence algorithm to determine whether the vehicle should be started, wherein the confidence algorithm is a neural system; determining whether to change the state of the vehicle based on a confidence interval generated by the confidence algorithm; and communicating a command to the vehicle to cause the vehicle to change the state of the vehicle.
2. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 1, wherein the neural system is a single layer neural expert system, a multilayer neural expert system, or a neuro-fuzzy system.
3. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 1, wherein determining whether to change the state of the vehicle comprises selecting between whether to start the vehicle, determining whether to let a user decide whether to start the vehicle, and determining whether to not to start the vehicle.
4. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 3, wherein, in response to determining to let the user decide whether to start the vehicle, the operations further comprise: transmitting, to a remote device of the user, an override request asking the user whether the vehicle should be started; and receiving, from the remote device, a response to the override request.
5. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 4, wherein the response is used to train or tune the confidence algorithm.
6. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 1, wherein the confidence algorithm is tuned based on user feedback.
7. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 1, wherein the command is configured to cause the vehicle to change the state of the vehicle from off to running; the operations further comprising: receiving a vehicle status parameter after communicating the command to the vehicle; determining whether to change the state of the vehicle based at least in part upon the vehicle status parameter; and communicating a subsequent command to the vehicle to cause the vehicle to change the state of the vehicle from running to off.
8. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 1, wherein communicating the command to the vehicle comprises: transmitting a signal from the server computer to an access control device, the signal including the command; and transmitting, from the access control device to the vehicle, the command or information associated therewith to cause the vehicle to change the state of the vehicle.
9. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 1, wherein the confidence algorithm is based at least in part on a garage status parameter associated with the garage and a vehicle status parameter associated with the vehicle.
10. A server computer comprising: a memory external to a vehicle and configured to store a vehicle status parameter of the vehicle; a processor external to the vehicle and operatively connected to the memory, the processor configured to: receive a request to change a state of the vehicle; execute, in response to receiving the request, a confidence algorithm to determine whether the vehicle should be started, wherein the confidence algorithm is a neural system; determine whether to change the state of the vehicle based at least in part upon a confidence interval generated by the confidence

algorithm; and communicate a command to the vehicle to cause the vehicle to change the state of the vehicle.

11. The server of claim 10, wherein the confidence algorithm is based at least in part on a garage status parameter associated with a garage in which the vehicle is parked and a vehicle status parameter associated with the vehicle.

12. The server of claim 10, wherein the neural system is a single layer neural expert system, a multilayer neural expert system, or a neuro-fuzzy system.

13. The server of claim 10, wherein the command is configured to cause the vehicle to change the state of the vehicle from off to running; the server computer is further configured to: receive a vehicle status parameter after communicating the command to the vehicle; determine whether to change the state of the vehicle based at least in part upon the vehicle status parameter; and communicate a subsequent command to the vehicle to cause the vehicle to change the state of the vehicle from running to off.

14. The server of claim 10, wherein the server is connected to an access control platform database that stores a vehicle status parameter and a garage status parameter, and wherein executing the confidence algorithm is based at least in part on the stored vehicle status parameter and the stored garage status parameter.

15. The server of claim 10, wherein, the processor determines to let a user decide whether to start the vehicle, and wherein, in response to determining to let the user decide whether to start the vehicle, the server computer is further configured to: transmit, to a remote device of the user, an override request asking the user whether the vehicle should be started; and receive, from the remote device, a response to the override request.

16. The server of claim 15, wherein the response is used to train or tune the confidence algorithm.

17. A method of affecting a state of a vehicle, the method comprising: receiving, at a server, a request to change a state of a vehicle in a garage; executing, at the server, a confidence algorithm to determine whether the vehicle should be started, wherein the confidence algorithm is a neural system, and wherein executing the confidence algorithm occurs in response to receiving the request; determining, at the server, whether to change the state of the vehicle based on a confidence interval generated by the confidence algorithm; and communicating, from the server, a command to the vehicle to cause the vehicle to change the state of the vehicle.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein communicating the command comprises: transmitting a signal from the server to an access control device, the signal including the command; and transmitting, from the access control device to the vehicle, the command or information associated therewith to cause the vehicle to change the state of the vehicle.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein the command is configured to cause the vehicle to change the state of the vehicle from off to running; the method further comprising: receiving, at the server, a vehicle status parameter after communicating the command to the vehicle; determining, at the server, whether to change the state of the vehicle based at least in part upon the vehicle status parameter; and communicating, from the server, a subsequent command to the vehicle to cause the vehicle to change the state of the vehicle from running to off.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein the neural system is a single layer neural expert system, a multilayer neural expert system, or a neuro-fuzzy system.
