

Title (en)  
APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR MONITORING TRAVEL OF A MOBILE VEHICLE

Title (de)  
VORRICHTUNG UND VERFAHREN UM DIE BEWEGUNG EINES BEWEGLICHEN FAHRZEUGS ZU ÜBERWACHEN

Title (fr)  
DISPOSITIF ET PROCEDE SERVANT A CONTROLER LE DEPLACEMENT D'UN VEHICULE MOBILE

Publication  
**EP 1261902 A1 20021204 (EN)**

Application  
**EP 00904307 A 20000112**

Priority  
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• US 11575599 P 19990113  
• US 12248299 P 19990301

Abstract (en)  
[origin: WO0042562A1] A vehicle tracking system (10) includes a sensor (18) (e.g., a GPS sensor) and a vehicle control unit (VCU) (15) attached to a vehicle (17). The sensor (18) determines the vehicle's location based on positioning signals received from a plurality of satellites. The VCU (15) compares the vehicle's location to a predefined schedule (30a). The predefined schedule (30a) includes a plurality of entries where each entry corresponds to a location along the vehicle's route of travel. Furthermore, each entry includes a location value indicating the location that corresponds with the entry and a time value indicating when the vehicle (17) should be at the location. The VCU (15) determines whether the vehicle (17) is on schedule or off schedule by comparing the current location of the vehicle (17) as determined by the sensor (18) and the amount of time elapsed since the start of the route with the entries in the predefined schedule. If the vehicle (17) is off schedule, then the VCU (15) transmits a status message to a remote location indicating how much the vehicle is off schedule. A computer (31b) at the remote location is aware of the predefined schedule and assumes that the vehicle (17) is on schedule unless a status message is received from the VCU (15). If a status message is received, the computer (31b) at the remote location determines the current location of the vehicle (17) based on the status message.

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