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## SHARING TASKS ACROSS MOBILE DEVICES

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## Sharing Tasks Across Mobile Devices

**Abstract:** Tasks are shared across multiple users and devices such that any of the users can perform the task but ensures that the task is performed by only one of the users.

This disclosure relates to the field of mobile devices.

A technique is disclosed that creates and manages smartphone tasks, such as for example alarms. that can be shared among members of a group.

Smartphones have enabled people to track and follow up their work by allowing them to create alarms on their smartphones. These alarms or reminders help to remind the user to perform certain tasks, and once the task is complete, the reminder can be dismissed. However, often alarms are needed for a group of people, such as a project team, and these alarms could be created by any member of the group and then shared with the other members. For example, when a child or an older adult need to be medicated, multiple people in their family could share the reminder, but only one of them needs to administer the medication. Similarly, in hospitals where multiple nurses are handling certain patients or certain medications, having a shared task or reminder on the mobile phones of all the responsible users can ensure that the medication is administered to the patient promptly, but only once by one nurse.

According to the present disclosure, and as understood with reference to the Figure, a cloud-based Shared Information Handler Service (SIHS) 20 is created to enable a user to create a network 10 of smartphones or any other mobile devices 30. This cloud service 20 allows users to share a common set of tasks such as reminders. Once the tasks have been created, they are sent to the individual phones 30 of the users in the network. Individual users may also opt-in via their phones 30. The tasks get tracked as though they were created on that device 30. Once any user in the network 10 completes the task and dismisses the reminder on their device 30, the reminder is turned off on all the phones in the network and the annotation about the task performed is automatically shared to all the devices 30 in the network 10.

The SIHS 20 ensures that all devices 30 are synced regularly. It handles the user registration events and creates a network representation in the cloud 20. It further associates the data specified by the user as shared across the network 10 as part of this cloud representation.

A user can use apps in his or her individual device 30 to create new tasks. For example, an alarm can be added using the calendar app or the alarm app on the user's device 30. This data is then synchronized with the SIHS 20 and the task becomes a group task. The user can alternatively choose to retain the task as a private one, not to be enabled for cloud sync or group updates to other devices 30.

If the user chooses to make the task a group task, the group then gets permission to update the task status. The user who creates the task could alternatively choose who gets to read and/or update the task status. The SIHS 20 ensures that the status of all the group tasks on all the devices 30 that are part of the same user group are updated, either periodically or based on an event trigger.

The disclosed technique advantageously enables tasks to be tracked, monitored, and performed by any one of a group of users, while ensuring that the task is only performed once by a single user.

*Disclosed by Raghu Anantharangachar, HP Inc.*

