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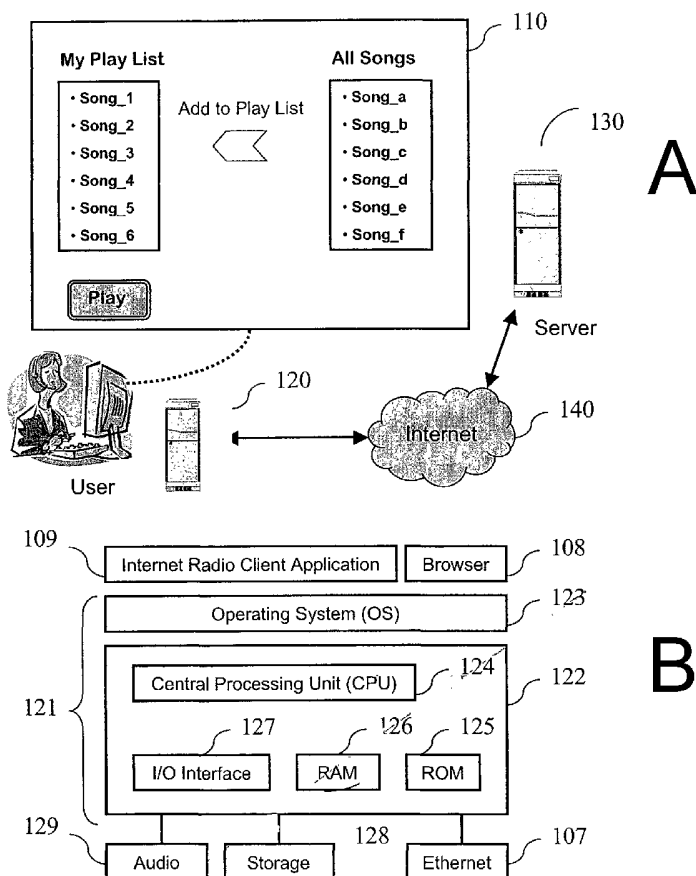
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SKIPPING SONGS WITHOUT DELAY



(57) Abstract: In an Internet based personalized radio, where a user has a pre-selected list of songs to be played in a particular order, the invention provides an apparatus and method allowing the user to skip one or more songs without having an unintended delay between skips. This is accomplished by pre-buffering the first ten seconds of each of the next several songs on the list so that, should the user choose to skip to any of the next several songs, the pre-buffered ten seconds of the target song is already available to be played. The apparatus starts to play the pre-buffered part of the target song and starts to download the rest of it at the same time. Because the initial buffering time for the rest of the target song is less than ten seconds, the target song is played smoothly.

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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

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 US CL : 700/94

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
 U.S. : 700/94

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US PG Pub 2001/0030660 A1 (ZAINOULLINE) 18 October 2001, entire document	1-25
Y,P	US 6,502,194 B1 (BERMAN et al.) 31 December 2002, entire document	1-25

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

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