

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
27 December 2001 (27.12.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/99416 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: H04N 7/16

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US01/17131

(22) International Filing Date: 24 May 2001 (24.05.2001)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/213,058 21 June 2000 (21.06.2000) US
60/214,529 27 June 2000 (27.06.2000) US
60/231,180 7 September 2000 (07.09.2000) US
09/751,702 29 December 2000 (29.12.2000) US
09/751,809 29 December 2000 (29.12.2000) US

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): BELL-SOUTH INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CORPORATION [US/US]; 824 Market Street, Suite 510, Wilmington, DE 19801 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): DURDEN, George,

A. [US/US]; 5355 Skidaway Drive, Alpharetta, GA 30022 (US). STEFANIK, John, R. [US/US]; 5085 Jett Forest Trail NW, Atlanta, GA 30327 (US). SWIX, Scott, R. [US/US]; 3775 River Hollow Run, Duluth, GA 30096 (US).

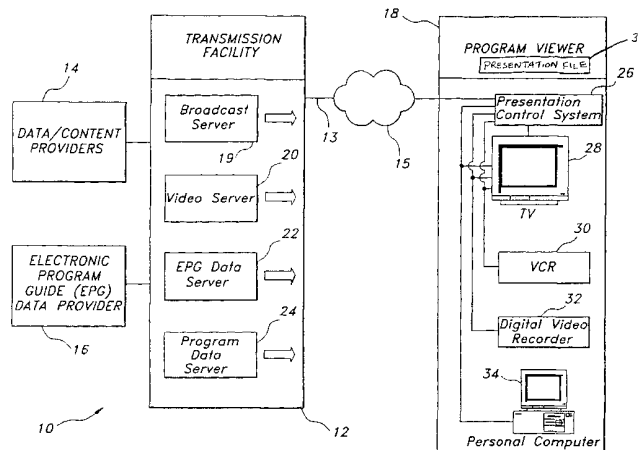
(74) Agents: PRATT, John, S. et al.; Kilpatrick Stockton LLP, 1100 Peachtree Street, Suite 2800, Atlanta, GA 30309-4530 (US).

(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR FORMULATING, DELIVERING AND MANAGING DATA CONCERNING PROGRAMMING CONTENT AND PORTIONS THEREOF



(57) Abstract: This document discloses systems and methods for enabling viewers to control and manage the presentation of programs based on specified types of rating categories and content attributes that the viewer desires not to be presented. The invention provides program data corresponding to each program. The data contains (1) time-varying information related to the content of discrete portions of the television program and, optionally, (2) corresponding data controlling the presentation of that content. By way of example, the program data includes rating and content attribute values as well as control data indicating to which media component the value applies or instructions corresponding to the ways in which each portion of the program may be disabled, modified, replaced, and / or edited. A set top box or other configured consumer electronics device combines the program data with data input by the user concerning the programming the user desires to disable. Based on the program data and the viewer's presentation profile, the consumer electronic device controls whether and/or how each applicable portion or component of programming is presented to the viewer.



WO 01/99416 A3



Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

20 June 2002

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

In International Application No

PCT/US 01/17131

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 H04N7/16

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)

IPC 7 H04N

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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 195 135 A (PALMER DOUGLAS A) 16 March 1993 (1993-03-16) abstract column 2, line 11 - line 21 column 2, line 49 - line 66 column 3, line 16 - line 41 column 4, line 25 - line 38 column 5, line 10 - line 47	1-8, 10-24, 26-37, 41-47
Y	figure 1 --- -/--	9, 25, 38-40

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

21 December 2001

Date of mailing of the international search report

10/01/2002

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Fantini, F

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 01/17131

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 4 930 158 A (VOGEL PETER S) 29 May 1990 (1990-05-29) abstract column 2, line 55 -column 3, line 55 column 4, line 11 - line 22	9,25
A	column 4, line 60 -column 5, line 6 ----	1,11,18, 24,29,41
Y	US 5 801 747 A (BEDARD KAREN) 1 September 1998 (1998-09-01) abstract	38-40
A	column 8, line 16 - line 21 ----	1,11,18, 24,29,41
A	US 5 485 518 A (HUNTER ROBERT M ET AL) 16 January 1996 (1996-01-16) ----	
A	US 6 025 869 A (BRIAN JAMES M ET AL) 15 February 2000 (2000-02-15) -----	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 01/17131

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5195135	A	16-03-1993	NONE
US 4930158	A	29-05-1990	AU 611710 B2 20-06-1991 GB 2209417 A ,B 10-05-1989 GB 2209427 A ,B 10-05-1989 US 4930160 A 29-05-1990
US 5801747	A	01-09-1998	AT 205985 T 15-10-2001 AU 729623 B2 08-02-2001 AU 7182598 A 03-06-1998 BR 9713510 A 06-06-2000 CN 1286868 A 07-03-2001 DE 69706891 D1 25-10-2001 EP 1013082 A2 28-06-2000 HU 0001633 A2 28-09-2000 JP 2001509327 T 10-07-2001 WO 9821877 A2 22-05-1998
US 5485518	A	16-01-1996	NONE
US 6025869	A	15-02-2000	US 5548345 A 20-08-1996 AU 4695796 A 24-07-1996 EP 0878092 A1 18-11-1998 JP 10512117 T 17-11-1998 WO 9621319 A1 11-07-1996