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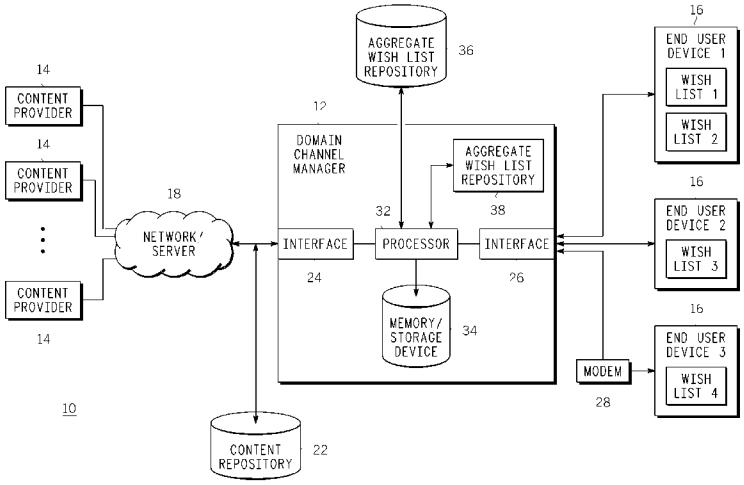
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(54) Title: METHOD, SYSTEM AND APPARATUS FOR DYNAMICALLY CREATING CONTENT CHANNELS BASED ON END USER WISH LISTS



(57) Abstract: A system (10), apparatus (12) and method (40) for providing content channels to end users based on end user wish lists. The method includes a domain channel manager apparatus accessing a plurality of end user wish lists maintained at end user devices, such as end user residential gateways and home servers. The domain channel manager accesses the plurality of wish lists and aggregates the wish list items, organizing and ranking the wish list items if necessary. Based on the aggregated wish list items from the plurality of end users, the domain channel manager retrieves content from all available content sources, such as content providers and existing content repositories. The domain channel manager creates content channels based on the retrieved content and offers those content channels to end users whose preferences match the content of the particular channel offered.

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AMENDED CLAIMS
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1. A method for providing content to at least one end user, comprising the steps of:

aggregating a plurality of content wish lists generated from at least one end user device;

retrieving content based on the aggregation of the plurality of content wish lists;

generating at least one content channel based on the retrieved content, wherein the at least one content channel includes at least a portion of the retrieved content; and

providing the at least one content channel to the at least one end user.

2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the retrieving step includes comparing the aggregation of the plurality of content wish lists with content available from a content repository.

3. The method as recited in claim 1 or claim 2, further comprising the step of creating a channel set based on the aggregation of the plurality of content wish lists, and wherein the retrieving step includes retrieving content based on the channel set.

4. The method as recited in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein at least a portion of at least one of the content wish lists has metadata associated therewith, wherein the aggregating step includes aggregating metadata associated with the plurality of content wish lists, and wherein the retrieving step includes retrieving content based on the aggregated metadata.

5. The method as recited in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the providing step further comprises:

offering the content channel for sale or subscription to the end user,

encrypting at least a portion of the retrieved content being provided to the at least one end user, and

providing at least one decryption key to authorized end users for decrypting the encrypted content.

6. A domain channel manager apparatus for providing content to at least one end user, comprising:

a storage unit for storing a plurality of content wish lists generated by at least one end user and received by the apparatus; and

a processor coupled to the storage unit and configured to aggregate the plurality of content wish lists,

wherein the processor is configured to retrieve content based on the aggregation of the plurality of content wish lists,

wherein the processor is configured to generate at least one content channel based on the retrieved content, wherein the at least one content channel includes at least a portion of the retrieved content, and

wherein the processor is configured to provide the at least one content channel to the at least one end user.

7. The apparatus as recited in claim 6, wherein the processor is configured to retrieve content from at least one of

a plurality of content sources coupled to the domain channel manager apparatus and

a content repository coupled to the domain channel manager apparatus; and wherein the processor is configured to retrieve content based on a comparison of the aggregation of the plurality of content wish lists to content available from the content repository.

8. The apparatus as recited in claim 6 or claim 7, wherein the processor is configured to provide the aggregation of the plurality of content wish lists to at least one potential content source coupled to the domain channel manager apparatus in

such a manner that the potential content source can become one of the plurality of content sources.

9. The apparatus as recited in any one of claims 6 to 8, wherein at least a portion of at least one of the plurality of content wish lists has metadata associated therewith, and wherein the processor is configured to aggregate the metadata and retrieved content based on the aggregated metadata.

10. The apparatus as recited in any one of claims 6 to 9, wherein the processor is configured to encrypt at least a portion of the retrieved content provided to the at least one end user, and wherein the processor is configured to provide to authorized end users at least one decryption key for decrypting the encrypted content.