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(54) **METHOD AND APPARATUS TO TRANSMIT VIDEO DATA**

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**Related U.S. Application Data**

(63) Continuation of application No. 14/580,364, filed on Dec. 23, 2014, now Pat. No. 9,813,677, which is a continuation of application No. 12/942,111, filed on Nov. 9, 2010, now abandoned.

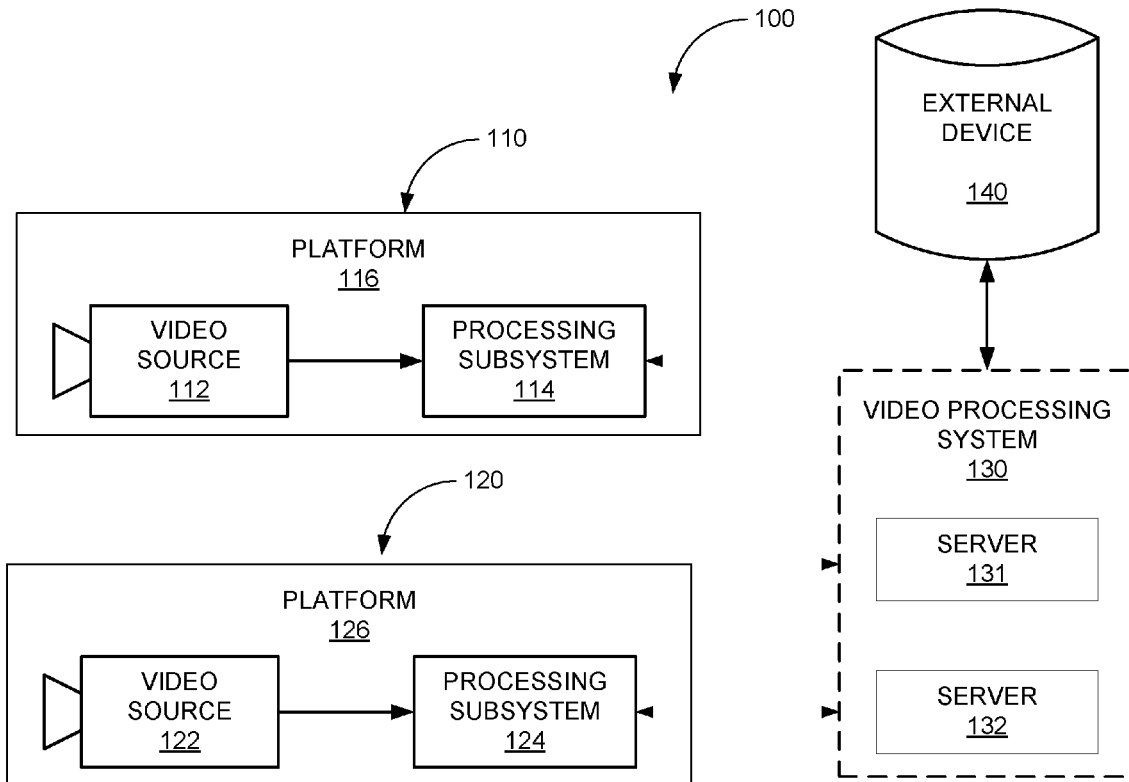
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A video system includes at least one video subsystem including a video source coupled to a mobile platform. The video source is configured to capture and transmit video data. A video processing system is configured to receive transmission of the video data from the video subsystem at a plurality of locations in which the video subsystem is configured to transmit the video data to the video processing system automatically when the video subsystem is in range of the video processing system at each of the plurality of locations.



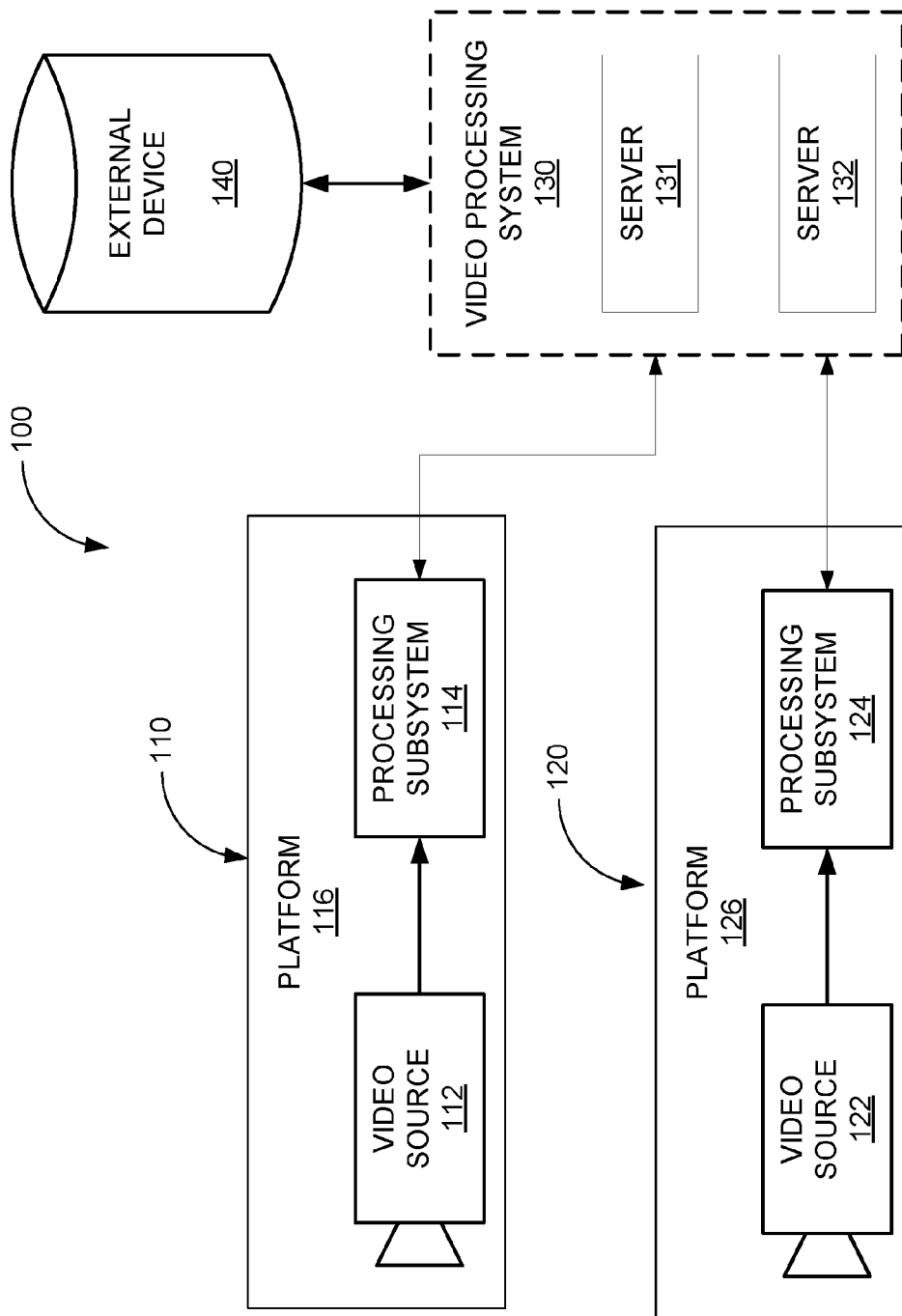


Figure 1

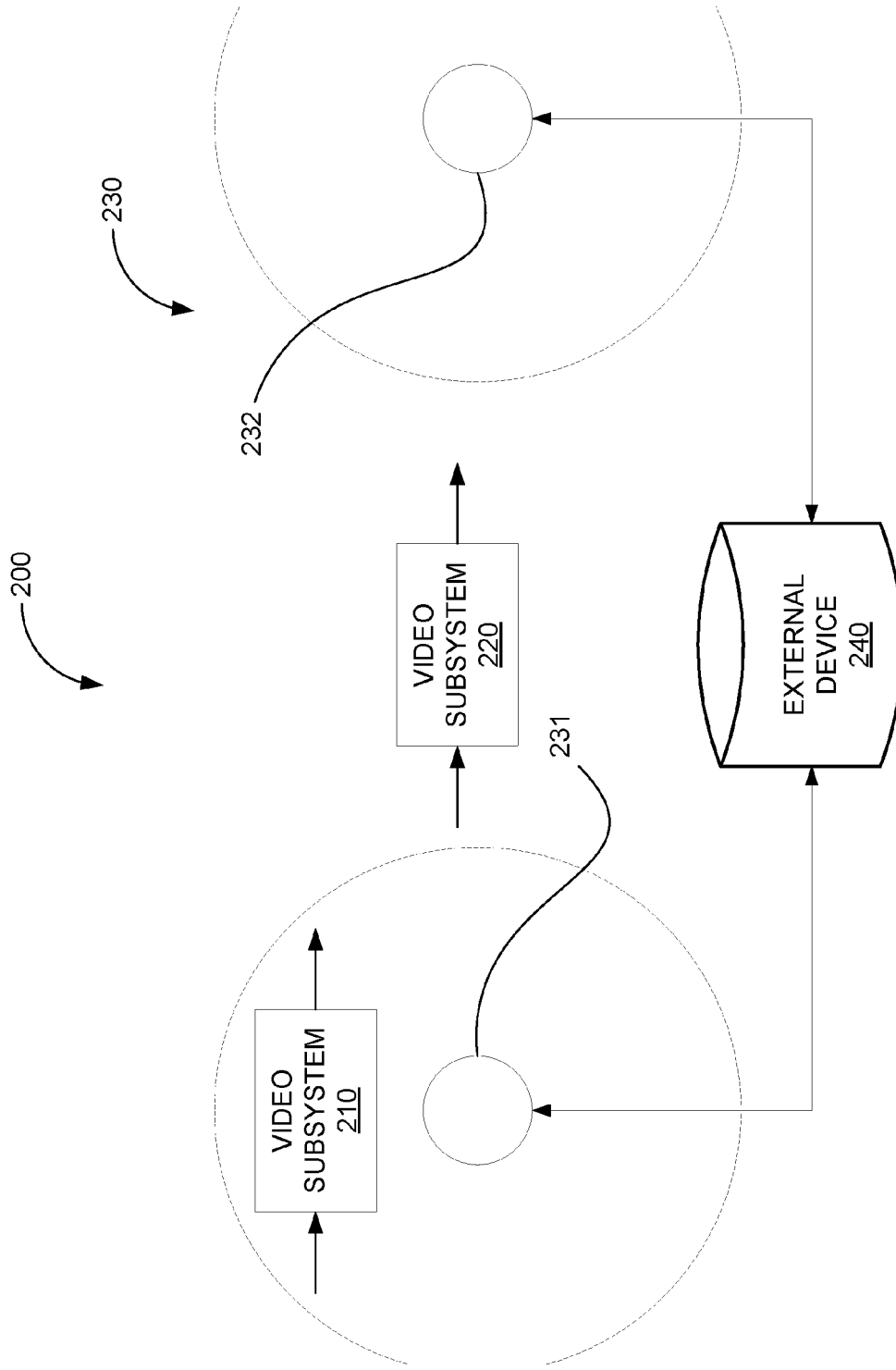


Figure 2

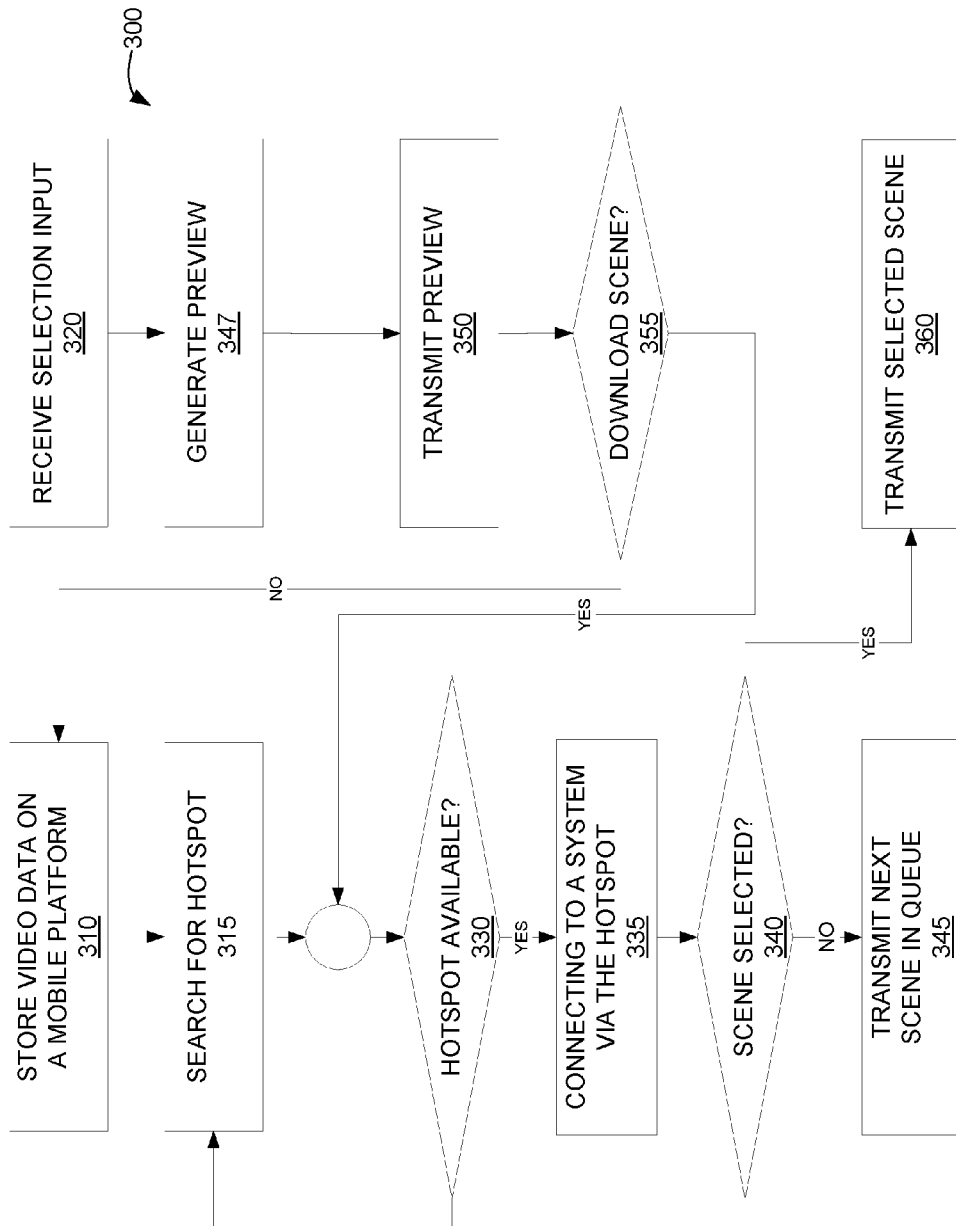


Figure 3

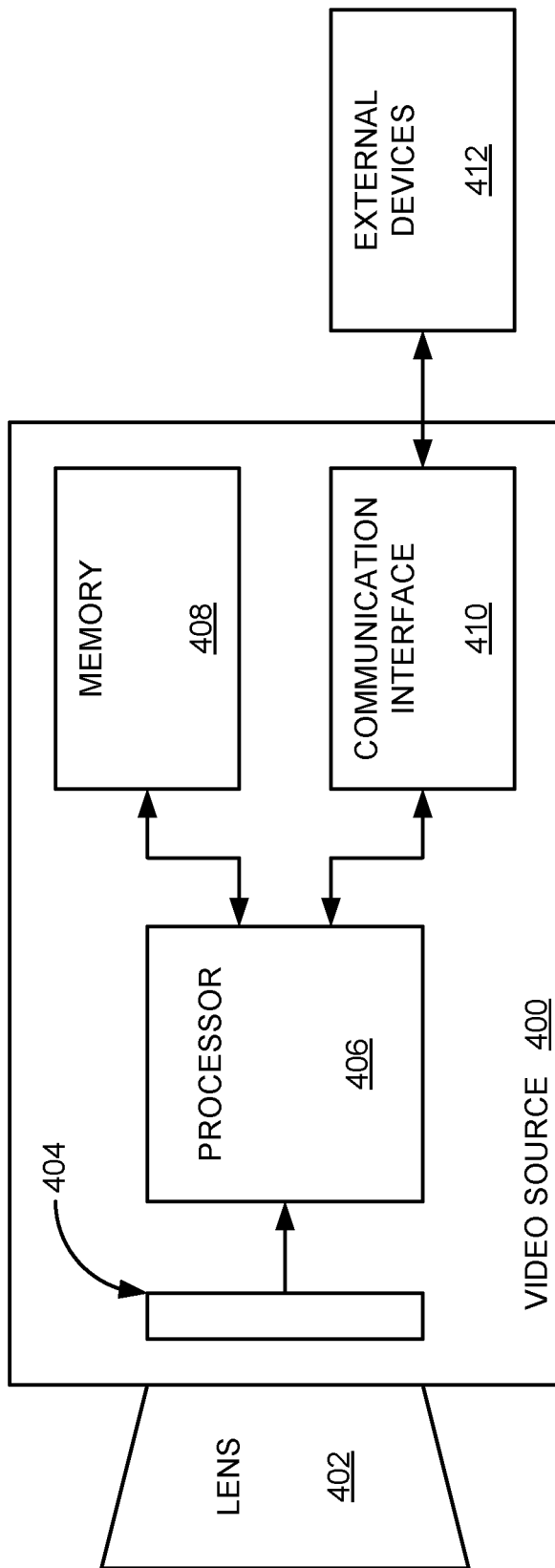


Figure 4

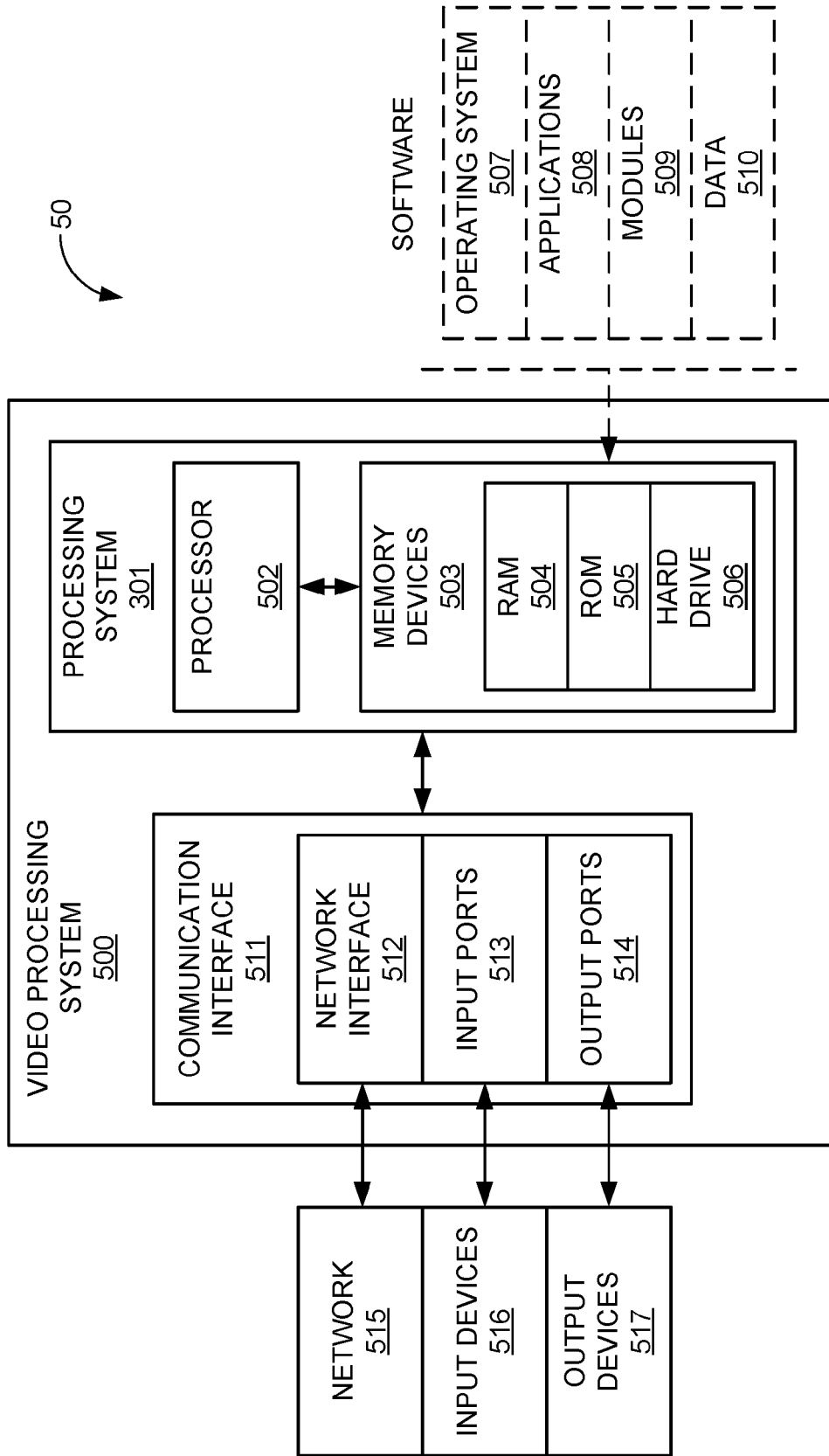


Figure 5

## METHOD AND APPARATUS TO TRANSMIT VIDEO DATA

### RELATED APPLICATIONS

**[0001]** This application is a continuation of U.S. Utility application Ser. No. 14/580,364 filed Dec. 23, 2014, entitled, "METHOD AND APPARATUS TO TRANSMIT VIDEO DATA," which in turn is a continuation of U.S. Utility application Ser. No. 12/942,111 filed Nov. 9, 2010, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS TO TRANSMIT VIDEO DATA," which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 61/259,452 filed Nov. 9, 2009, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS TO TRANSMIT VIDEO DATA," and U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 61/259,464 filed Nov. 9, 2009, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS TO PREVIEW VIDEO DATA FROM A VEHICLE," all of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entireties.

### TECHNICAL BACKGROUND

**[0002]** Presently, transit vehicles store video data over the course of a shift and download the video data to a storage system when they return to a depot at the end of the shift. However, the bandwidth available at the depot may be limited, especially if several vehicles are downloading the video data at the same time. As a result, only a subset of the video data is often downloaded. This subset often includes video data that has been specifically identified by an operator for downloading during the shift. However, if an operator fails to identify a scene that may be interest, that scene may be lost when subsequent video data is recorded over the previously recorded video data.

### OVERVIEW

**[0003]** A video system includes at least one video subsystem including a video source coupled to a mobile platform. The video source is configured to capture and transmit video data. A video processing system is configured to receive transmission of the video data from the video subsystem at a plurality of locations in which the video subsystem is configured to transmit the video data to the video processing system automatically when the video subsystem is in range of the video processing system at each of the plurality of locations.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

**[0004]** FIG. 1 illustrates a block diagram of an example of a video system.

**[0005]** FIG. 2 illustrates a block diagram of an example of a video system.

**[0006]** FIG. 3 illustrates a method of transmitting video data.

**[0007]** FIG. 4 illustrates a block diagram of an example of a video source.

**[0008]** FIG. 5 illustrates a block diagram of an example of a video system.

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**[0009]** The following description and associated drawings teach the best mode of the invention. For the purpose of teaching inventive principles, some conventional aspects of the best mode may be simplified or omitted. The following

claims specify the scope of the invention. Some aspects of the best mode may not fall within the scope of the invention as specified by the claims. Thus, those skilled in the art will appreciate variations from the best mode that fall within the scope of the invention. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the features described below can be combined in various ways to form multiple variations of the invention. As a result, the invention is not limited to the specific examples described below, but only by claims and their equivalents.

**[0010]** Presently, transit vehicles store video all day and download once they park in the depot. But, the wireless bandwidth available at the depot is very limited, and thus only a subset of the video data is downloaded. The remaining portion is written over. Disclose herein is a method and apparatus for the transit vehicles to automatically download video data throughout the day whenever a wireless hotspot is encountered. Inexpensive hotspots could be constructed and placed throughout a route.

**[0011]** FIG. 1 illustrates a schematic view of an exemplary video system 100. The exemplary video system 100 generally includes at least one video subsystem, such as video subsystems 110, 120. The video system 100 also includes at least one video processing system, such as video processing system 130 and at least one external device 140.

**[0012]** The video subsystems 110, 120 are configured to capture video data over the course of a time interval. In at least one example, input from an operator, system intelligence, or other input during the shift may identify video data to be transferred from the video subsystems to the external device 140 via the video processing system 130 during the shift 130. Once the shift has ended, the video subsystems 110, 120 may then download additional video data stored thereon to the external device 140 directly. The external device 140 may include a storage system, an input/output interface, and/or other external devices as desired.

**[0013]** The video processing system 130 is configured to communicate with the video subsystems 110, 120 during the shift to transmit portions of the video data to the external device 140, as will be described at appropriate points hereinafter. Such a configuration can allow for a more complete transfer of video data that occurs during a shift.

**[0014]** Further, the video processing system 130 may allow an administrator to preview the video data during a shift. Previewing the video data during a shift may allow the administrators to identify video data that should be acted on as soon as possible, thereby allowing earlier access to potentially relevant video data. The general configuration of the exemplary video subsystems 110, 120 and the video processing system 130 will first be discussed, followed by a more detailed description of various components with the video subsystems 110, 120 and the video processing system 130.

**[0015]** As illustrated in FIG. 1, the video subsystem 110 generally includes a video source 112 and a processing subsystem 114 associated with a platform 116. In the illustrated example, the video source 112 is in communication with the processing subsystem 114, which in turn is in communication with the video processing system 130.

**[0016]** Similarly, the second video subsystem 120 may include a video source 122 and a processing subsystem 124 associated with a platform 126. The video source 122 is in communication with video processing subsystem 126, which in turn is in communication with the video processing system 130.

[0017] In at least one example, the processing subsystems **114**, **124** may be very basic processing systems configured to transmit raw video data to the video processing system **130**. In other examples, the processing subsystems **114**, **124** may be more full-featured and may do some amount of video processing before transmitting the processed video data to the video processing system **130**.

[0018] The connections and links between the elements of video system **100** may use various communication media, such as air, metal, optical fiber, or some other signal propagation path—including combinations thereof. Such connections may be direct links, or they might include various intermediate components, systems, and networks.

[0019] The video processing system **130** includes at least one device configured to receive transmissions of video subsystems **110**, **120**. In the illustrated example, the video processing system **130** includes at least one server configured to communication with either or both of the video subsystems **110**, **120**, such as servers **131**, **132**. Accordingly, FIG. **1** illustrates the video subsystems **110**, **120** in communication with the entire video processing system **130** to emphasize the video subsystems **110**, **120** may couple to either or both of the servers **131**, **132**, which are part of the video processing system **130**. The video processing system **130** then processes the video data to a desired extent.

[0020] Once the video processing system **130** has processed the video data, the video processing system **130** transmits some or all of the video data to an external device **140** or other external device. By providing a plurality of pathways which the video subsystems **110**, **120** may use to transfer video data from their locations to the central storage systems **140** during their shifts, the video processing system **130** may increase the amount of video data from each shift the video system **100** is able to retain.

[0021] Further, such a configuration may allow the video processing system **130** to provide a preview of video data. Such a situation may be desirable when relevance of selected video data is unclear and thus it is unclear whether it would be desirable to analyze the selected video data immediately or whether it may be suitable to analyze the selected video data at a later time. To this point, the locations of the video subsystems **110**, **120** and the servers **131**, **132** have been introduced generally.

[0022] One exemplary arrangement is illustrated in more detail in FIG. **2**. As illustrated in FIG. **2**, a video system **200** may include a plurality of video subsystems **210**, **220** positioned within a geographical region. The video subsystems **210**, **220** may be configured similarly to the video subsystems as have been described with reference to FIG. **1** or as will be described with reference to FIG. **4**. In any case, the video subsystems **210**, **220** are configured to communicate with a processing/transmission system **230** at various locations within the region.

[0023] In the illustrated example, the processing/transmission system **230** includes a plurality of hotspots **231**, **232**. The hotspots **231**, **232** may be at fixed locations or mobile locations. For ease of reference, the hotspots **231**, **232** will be described as being located at fixed geographic locations.

[0024] The hotspots **231**, **232** may be configured to provide a range of coverage, illustrated by the dashed lines around the hotspots **231**, **232**. In such an example, the video subsystems **210**, **220** may automatically couple with the video processing system **230** when the video subsystems **210**, **220** are within range of the hotspots **231**, **232**. One such

example may occur when the platforms associated with the video subsystems **210**, **220** are vehicles that move along various routes within the region. Such routes may include transit routes, such that the vehicles may be transit vehicles.

[0025] In the illustrated example, the video subsystem **210** is shown in range of the hotspot **231**. While the video subsystem **210** is thus in range of the hotspot **231**, the video subsystem **231** automatically transmits video data to the hotspot **231**, which in turn transmits the video data to an external system **240**.

[0026] The selection of which video data the video subsystem **210** transmits may be determined in response to user input, by system intelligence, or by some combination thereof. The transmission of video data to the hotspot **231** may part of a download operation and/or may be a preview of video data that has been identified for potential investigation. Each of these two scenarios will now be discussed in more detail.

[0027] FIG. **3** illustrates a method **300** for transmitting video data from a video subsystem to according to one example. As illustrated in FIG. **3**, the method **300** begins at step **310** when a video system begins by storing video data on a video subsystem that includes a mobile platform. The video data may include any number of scenes.

[0028] As previously discussed, the mobile platform may include one or more video subsystem that travels along various routes within a geographical region. The video subsystems may be configured to communicate with one or more hotspots within the geographical region. Accordingly, the method includes searching for hotspots at step **315** as the video subsystems travel along the various routes. Searching for hotspots **315** may include searching for wireless hotspots.

[0029] In at least one example, the method **300** may also optionally include at step **320** receiving selection input to identify one or more scene for investigation by an administrator. This step is shown in parallel with the steps of storing video data **310** and searching for hotspots **315** since all three of these steps may be performed on an ongoing basis.

[0030] As shown in FIG. **3**, if a hot spot is not available (NO, step **330**), the video subsystem continues to search for a hotspot until an available hotspot is in range. Once a hotspot is available (YES, step **330**), the method includes connecting to a system via the hotspot. Connecting to a system via the hotspot may include connecting to a processing/transmission system that is in further communication with an external device, such as a storage system or an I/O interface.

[0031] How the video subsystem transmits video data may depend on whether a scene has been selected at step **340**. If no scene is selected (NO, step **340**), then the video subsystem transmits the next scene in a transmission queue at step **345** to an external storage device, such as a storage system. Such an example may occur where no previews are available in the optional steps described above or if no input selection has been received to select a scene. A transmission queue may be merely the earliest video data yet to be transmitted or may be any other arrangement of video data, such as video data that have been selected for retention, but which have been identified as being suitable for analysis at the end of the shift.

[0032] However, if a scene has been selected, various steps may be performed to indicate how the video data



should be treated. Referring still to FIG. 3, once selection input is received at step 320, the method includes generating a preview of the scene identified by the selection input at step 347. Previews may be generated in any desired format, such as a video clip, video stills, or any other desired format.

[0033] If a scene has been selected the method includes transmitting the preview at step 350. For example, the preview may be transmitted to an external I/O device. In at least one example, transmitting the preview may include transmitting the scene to an I/O device for an administrator to view. In at least one example, the preview may be transmitted once the preview is generated. Further, the preview may be generated using any suitable network including the processing systems described herein, wide area networks, cellular networks, other networks, or combinations thereof.

[0034] As a result, the method includes determining whether to download the identified scene at step 355. As previously introduced, the preview may be generated and sent to an administrator at steps 325 and 350. For example, an administrator may provide instructions to the video subsystem to download the scene or not at step 355. These instructions may be provided from the same network used to transmit the preview or may be provided in some other manner. If the instructions indicate the scene is to be downloaded, the video subsystem prioritizes delivery of that scene. As a result, when the video subsystem has coupled to a system via a hotspot as described in steps 310-340, at step 340 the system then determines that a scene has been selected (Yes, step 340) and the video subsystem transmits the selected scene to an external device at step 345, such as a storage system accessible by an administrator.

[0035] If, however, the instructions indicate that the scene should not be downloaded immediately (NO, step 355), the video subsystem continues to store the video data and handles the video data normally, as indicated by the arrow from the NO decision returning to the first step of the process. In such a process, the video data may be transmitted when in turn as part of the transmission processes described herein.

[0036] Though two video subsystems are shown, it will be appreciated that the video system 200 may include any number of video subsystems. Further, while two hotspots 231, 232 are shown, it will be appreciated that any number of hotspots may be distributed within a region.

[0037] As introduced, any number of video subsystems may communicate with the external device 240 via the hotspots 231, 232. Accordingly, a large number of video subsystems may all communicate with the video processing system 230. Communication between several video subsystems and the video processing system 230 may result in bandwidth concerns as video processing system 230 may not have an input port capable of receiving full resolution, real time video from all of the video sources.

[0038] In such a case, it may be desirable to incorporate some video processing functionality within each of the video sources and video transmission systems associated with each of the carriers such that the bandwidth requirements between the various video sources and video processing system 130 are reduced. An example of such a video source is illustrated in FIG. 4.

[0039] FIG. 4 is a block diagram of an exemplary video source 300 similar to video sources 112, 122 (FIG. 1). The video source 400 includes a lens 402, a sensor 404, a

processor 406, memory 408, and a communication interface 410. The lens 402 is configured to focus an image of a scene on the sensor 404. The lens 402 may be any type of lens, pinhole, zone plate, or the like able to direct light to and/or focus an image on the sensor 404. The sensor 404 then digitally captures video of the scene and passes the video images to the processor 406. The processor 406 is configured to store some or all of the video in the memory 408, process the video, and send the processed video to external devices 412 through the communication interface 410. In some examples, the external devices 412 may include the video processing system 130 and/or the external device 140 (both seen in FIG. 1).

[0040] Any of the processing subsystems 110, 120 (FIG. 1), the video processing system 130 (FIG. 1), the processor 406 from FIG. 2 and the video processing system 510 from FIG. 5 may be implemented on a computer system 50 such as that shown in FIG. 5. The computer system 50 includes a video processing system 300. The video processing system 300 includes communication interface 311, and processing system 301. Processing system 301 is linked to communication interface 311 through a bus. Processing system 301 includes processor 302 and memory devices 303 that store operating software.

[0041] Communication interface 511 includes network interface 512, input ports 513, and output ports 514. Communication interface 511 includes components that communicate over communication links, such as network cards, ports, RF transceivers, processing circuitry and software, or some other communication device. Communication interface 511 may be configured to communicate over metallic, wireless, or optical links. Communication interface 511 may be configured to use TDM, IP, Ethernet, optical networking, wireless protocols, communication signaling, or some other communication format—including combinations thereof.

[0042] Network interface 512 is configured to connect to external devices over network 515. In some examples these external devices may include video sources and video storage systems as illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 5. Input ports 513 are configured to connect to input devices 516 such as a keyboard, mouse, or other user input devices. Output ports 514 are configured to connect to output devices 517 such as a display, a printer, or other output devices.

[0043] Processor 502 includes microprocessor and other circuitry that retrieves and executes operating software from memory devices 503. Memory devices 503 include random access memory (RAM) 504, read only memory (ROM) 505, a hard drive 506, and any other memory apparatus. Operating software includes computer programs, firmware, or some other form of machine-readable processing instructions. In this example, operating software includes operating system 507, applications 508, modules 509, and data 510. Operating software may include other software or data as required by any specific embodiment. When executed by processor 502, operating software directs processing system 501 to operate video processing system 500 to process and/or transfer video data as described herein.

[0044] The above description and associated figures teach the best mode of the invention. The following claims specify the scope of the invention. Note that some aspects of the best mode may not fall within the scope of the invention as specified by the claims. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the features described above can be combined in various ways to form multiple variations of the invention. As

a result, the invention is not limited to the specific embodiments described above, but only by the following claims and their equivalents.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of transmitting video data, comprising: capturing video data using a video source coupled to a mobile platform; maintaining a transmission queue of the video data stored for delivery to an external device; and transmitting a next scene of the video data from the transmission queue to the external device via a wireless hotspot only when and while the mobile platform travels within a respective predetermined range of the wireless hotspot.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the transmission queue comprises video data selected for retention on the external device, but suitable for analysis at a later time.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the next scene comprises earliest video data in the transmission queue that has yet to be transmitted to the external device.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising: receiving an instruction to download a selected scene of the video data to the external device; and prioritizing transmission of the selected scene.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the selected scene is prioritized for transmission to the external device over other video data in the transmission queue.
6. The method of claim 4, further comprising: transmitting a video preview of the selected scene prior to receiving the instruction to download the selected scene.
7. The method of claim 6, further comprising: receiving a selection input that identifies the selected scene for investigation prior to transmitting the video preview.
8. The method of claim 1, further comprising: prior to transmitting the next scene from the transmission queue, determining whether a selection input that identifies a selected scene has been received.
9. The method of claim 8, where transmitting the next scene is initiated upon determining that a selection input has not been received.
10. The method of claim 8, further comprising: generating a video preview of the selected scene; and transmitting the video preview only when and while the mobile platform travels within the respective predetermined range of the wireless hotspot.
11. The method of claim 10, further comprising: receiving an instruction to store video data of the selected scene in the transmission queue for delivery to the external device.
12. The method of claim 10, further comprising: receiving an instruction to prioritize transmission of the selected scene to the external device.
13. A video system, comprising: a video source coupled to a mobile platform, wherein the video source is configured to capture video data; and a processing sub-system configured to maintain a transmission queue of the video data stored for delivery to an external device and configured to transmit a next scene of the video data from the transmission queue to the external device via a wireless hotspot only when and while the mobile platform travels within a respective predetermined range of the wireless hotspot.
14. The video system of claim 13, wherein the processing sub-system is further configured to receiving an instruction to download a selected scene of the video data to the external device and prioritize transmission of the selected scene to the external device via the wireless hotspot only when and while the mobile platform travels within a respective predetermined range of the wireless hotspot.
15. The video system of claim 14, wherein the processing sub-system is further configured to transmit a video preview of the selected scene prior to receiving the instruction to download the selected scene.
16. The video system of claim 15, wherein the processing sub-system is further configured to receive a selection input that identifies the selected scene for investigation prior to transmitting the video preview.
17. The video system of claim 13, wherein the processing sub-system is further configured to determine, prior to a transmission of the next scene from the transmission queue, whether a selection input that identifies a selected scene has been received.
18. The video system of claim 17, wherein the transmission of the next scene is initiated upon a determination that a selection input has not been received.
19. The video system of claim 13, wherein the processing sub-system is further configured to generate a video preview of the selected scene and transmit the video preview to the external device only when and while the mobile platform travels within the respective predetermined range of the wireless hotspot.
20. The video system of claim 13, wherein the processing sub-system is further configured to receive an instruction to store video data of the selected scene in the transmission queue for delivery to the external device.

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