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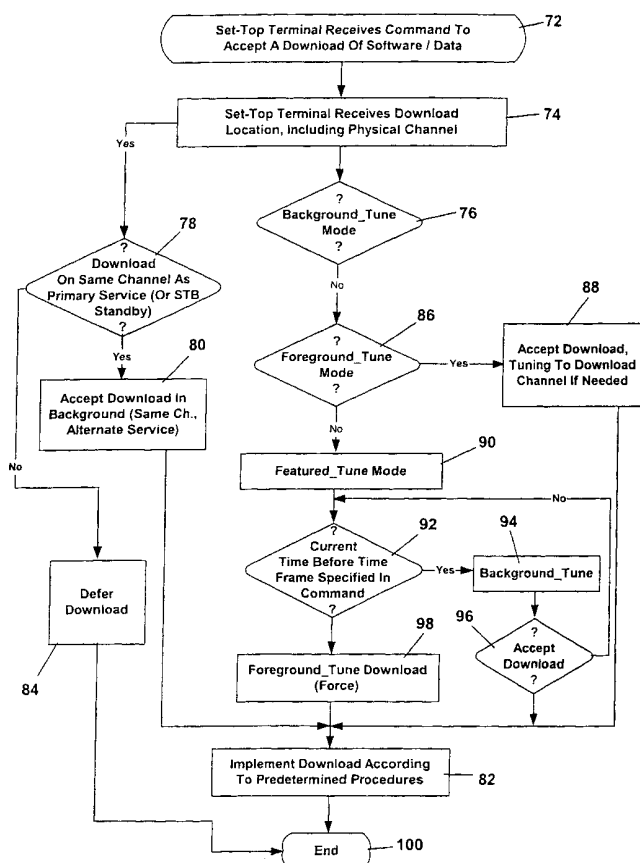
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DOWNLOADING OBJECTS VIA AN INBAND CHANNEL WITH MINIMAL SUBSCRIBER IMPACT



(57) Abstract: A download server at a headend of a cable system transmits a command to a digital set-top terminal causing it to operate in one of a background tune mode, a foreground tune mode, and a featured tune mode of operation. The background tune mode of operation configures the set-top terminal to accept the offered download of software or data objects to the set-top terminal when acceptance of the download would not affect a subscriber's primary service to thereby allow uninterrupted viewing of a subscriber selected program. The foreground tune mode of operation configures the set-top terminal to immediately accept a download from the download server by tuning to the download channel irrespective of any effect on the subscriber's primary service. In the featured tune mode of operation the set-top terminal is configured to attempt to download the objects in the background, without affecting the primary service, before a specified start time. Thereafter, the set-top terminal is reconfigured to immediately accept the download of the objects, wherein, through the foregoing, downloading via an inband channel may be made with minimal subscriber impact.



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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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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 G06F

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, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 440 632 A (BACON KINNEY C ET AL) 8 August 1995 (1995-08-08)	1,5,6, 8-10, 13-17
Y	section "Summary of the invention"	2-4,7, 18,19
A	column 9, line 25 -column 10, line 4 column 15, line 55 -column 16, line 42 ---	11,12
Y	EP 0 926 862 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD) 30 June 1999 (1999-06-30) column 1, line 57 -column 2, line 6 sections '0020!', '0021! sections '0027!', '0032! sections '0038!', '0039! sections '0109!'-'0125! ----- -/--	2-4,18, 19

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

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- *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

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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 5 797 010 A (BROWN RALPH W) 18 August 1998 (1998-08-18) section "Summary of the invention" ----	7
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A	US 5 940 074 A (GOLDMAN PHILLIP Y ET AL) 17 August 1999 (1999-08-17) column 8, line 33 - line 50 column 9, line 29 - line 34 figure 7 -----	1-19

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