CENTRALIZED RESOURCE MANAGER

A centralized resource manager (10) for distributed networks manages resources available on the network, such as network bandwidth, CPU allocation, TV tuners, MPEG encoders and decoders, disk bandwidth and input/output devices. The central resource manager (10) also allocates the resources of network clients (18, 20, 32, 24, 26, 28, 30, 36, 38, 40, 42) and a network-associated media server (14), in response to requests for media services via the distributed network. The centralized resource manager may include means for discovering when devices are added or removed from the network; current, IR, or electromagnetic field sensing system for determining when video devices are turned off so that resources associated with any device not in use may be reallocated elsewhere; or a power switching system for controlling the ON or OFF state of such devices so that resources associated with any device in the OFF state may be reallocated elsewhere.
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US02/28553

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC(7) : Please See Extra Sheet.
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)

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)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, &quot;where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Y,P</td>
<td>US 6,378,000 B1 (AKATSU et al.) 23 April 2002; Fig. 2-3, 5, 6, 9-12; Col. 5, lines 15-60; Col. 6, lines 1-Col. 7, lines 32.</td>
<td>1-21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 6,052,750 (LEA) 18 April 2000; Abstract</td>
<td>1-21</td>
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<td>Y</td>
<td>US 5,936,960 A (STEWART) 10 August 1999; Abstract; Summary; Fig. 1, 3, 5, 8, 9 and Col. Col. 4, lines 43-Col. 5, lines 9; Col. 6, lines 18-Col. 7, lines 38.</td>
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER:
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US CL :