

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
7 February 2008 (07.02.2008)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2008/015618 A3**

(51) International Patent Classification:

**G06F 3/00** (2006.01) **H04N 5/445** (2006.01)

**G06F 13/00** (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/IB2007/052952

(22) International Filing Date: 25 July 2007 (25.07.2007)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:

2006/06346 1 August 2006 (01.08.2006) ZA

(71) Applicant and

(72) Inventor: **NICOL, Andrew James Quentin** [ZA/ZA]; 6  
Paradise Mansions, Foyle Road, 7708 Claremont (ZA).

(74) Agent: **TRUTER, Kenneth Colin**; 2nd Floor Mariendahl  
House, Newlands on Main, PO Box 45060, Claremont,  
7735 Cape Town (ZA).

(81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM,

AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH,  
CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG,  
ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL,  
IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK,  
LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW,  
MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL,  
PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY,  
TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA,  
ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH,  
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,  
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),  
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,  
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, PL,  
PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM,  
GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— *with international search report*

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
30 April 2009

(54) Title: PROCESSING OF BROADCASTING SCHEDULES

(57) Abstract: The invention provides a method of processing data to enrich a broadcast schedule (16) of titles, times and channels of scheduled broadcasts of television programmes. The method includes allocating a program identity to each program, identifying programmes that form episodes of series and non-series programmes and allocating an episode identity to each episode in a series. Episodes that are identified as repeats are referenced chronologically in relation to the current premiere episode according to the offset value and are assigned the relevant existing episode identity. The data is then saved in an enriched program schedule (18) that can be transmitted to subscribers (14) to allow them to program PVRs to record the programmes in the schedule (18).



**WO 2008/015618 A3**

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IB07/52952

<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b> IPC: <b>G06F 3/00( 2006.01),13/00( 2006.01);H04N 5/445( 2006.01)</b>  USPC: <b>725/50,53,55</b> According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC												
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b> Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 725/50,53,55  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 practicable, search terms used) EAST: episode, series, television, EPG, program guide												
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>												
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.										
X --- Y	US 6,601,074 (LIEBENOW) 39 July 2003 (29.07.2003), Column 5, Lines 14-46	1-2 ----- 3										
Y	US 5,629,733 (YOUMan et al) 13 May 1997 (13.05.1997), Figures 38C-38F	3										
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.												
* Special categories of cited documents: <table border="0"> <tr> <td>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</td> <td>"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</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date</td> <td>"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</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"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)</td> <td>"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</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</td> <td>"&amp;" document member of the same patent family</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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	"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"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	"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)	"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	"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family	"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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											
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"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											
"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)	"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											
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family											
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed												
Date of the actual completion of the international search 12 March 2008 (12.03.2008)		Date of mailing of the international search report <b>25 MAR 2008</b>										
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201		Authorized officer Jason P. Salce Telephone No. (571) 272-7301										

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IB07/52952

## Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☒ Claims Nos.: 4-24  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fees.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

- Remark on Protest**
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
  - ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
  - ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.