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**** CONTINUING DATA *******

**** FOREIGN APPLICATIONS *******

IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED ** 01/17/2001

Foreign Priority claimed 35 USC 119 (a-d) conditions met	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> Met after Allowance	STATE OR COUNTRY CA	SHEETS DRAWING 42	TOTAL CLAIMS	INDEPENDENT CLAIMS
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TITLE
 Network-enabled audio device

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PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT
COVER SHEET

Case No. SQURESH.001PR2

Date: November 8, 2000

Page 1

11/08/00
JC966 U.S. PRO

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
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ATTENTION: PROVISIONAL PATENT APPLICATION

JC930 U.S. PRO
60/246842
11/08/00

Sir:

This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT under 37 CFR § 1.53(c).

For: **NETWORK-ENABLED AUDIO DEVICE**

Name of Inventor:

Residence Address:

Enclosed are:

- Specification in fifty-one (51) pages.
- Forty-two (42) sheet(s) of drawings.
- A check in the amount of \$150.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- A return prepaid postcard.
- The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, now or in the future, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 11-1410. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

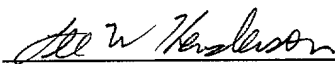
Was this invention made by an agency of the United States Government or under a contract with an agency of the United States Government?

No.

Please send correspondence to:

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Respectfully submitted,



Lee W. Henderson Ph.D.
Registration No. 41,830

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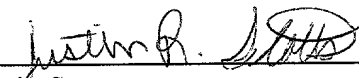
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Attorney Docket No. : SQURESH.001PR2
Applicant(s) :
For : NETWORK-ENABLED AUDIO DEVICE
Attorney : Lee W. Henderson Ph.D.
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Mailing Label No. : EL559446689US
Date of Deposit : November 8, 2000

I hereby certify that the accompanying

Transmittal in Duplicate; Specification in 51 pages; 42 sheets of drawings;
Check(s) for Filing Fee(s); Return Prepaid Postcard

are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and are addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.


Justin Stotts

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NETWORK-ENABLED AUDIO DEVICEBackground of the Invention5 Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to the field of audio file transfers and, more particularly, relates to the field of management and distribution of audio files over a computer network such as the Internet.

Description of the Related Art

10 The Internet is a worldwide array of interconnected computers and information servers that allow anyone with a computer and access to the Internet to get information about virtually any subject 24 hours a day. For the average consumer, an Internet Service Provider (ISP) provides access to the Internet. ISPs such as CompuServe, Prodigy, and America On-Line, currently link over ten million users to the Internet. Users typically
15 connect to the ISP by using standard telephone lines and a telephone modem. Cable modems that allow a user to connect to the ISP over cable television lines, and satellite connections to the Internet, are also available.

The Internet provides a wealth of information from stock reports to headline news. One of the newer services provided on the Internet is a streaming audio (e.g., RealAudio
20 and MPEG audio) service. Streaming audio services are often provided in connection with the World Wide Web (Web) and thus are often called Web radio broadcasts. With streaming audio, a user with a Personal Computer (PC), a sound card, and the necessary software can listen to audio programs from anywhere in the world. For example, Radio Prague provides daily Internet broadcasts from the Czech Republic. Listeners in the U.S.
25 can listen to these Web radio broadcasts either in real time, or stored for later replay. Thus, unlike more traditional radio broadcasts where the listener must be within a reception area, Web radio broadcasts can be heard anywhere, so long as the listener has a connection to the Internet and the necessary computer hardware and software.

Unfortunately, even with the ever-decreasing cost of personal computers, the
30 hardware and software needed to listen to a Web radio broadcast is beyond the financial means of many people. Even for those that can afford a personal computer, listening to a

Web radio broadcast ties up the computer so that the user cannot use it for other purposes. Moreover, the use of a personal computer to receive streaming audio (e.g., Web radio broadcasts) requires a certain amount of computer literacy on the part of the user. The user must be able to install the Web Radio software, configure the Web Radio software to communicate with the ISP, and find the various Web radio broadcasts provided on the Web.

In addition to listening to Web radio broadcasts, users may wish to listen to audio files. With a group of PC's in a home and in a network, users can download songs from one PC to another or upload songs from one PC to another. However, users cannot play a song on one PC by using the controls of another PC. In addition, the users must purchase multiple PC's, which can be costly. Further, the user must be able to install the network connection and the appropriate software. Moreover, even if the user can afford to purchase multiple PC's and install the proper connection, the user would have difficulty playing music in addition to performing other tasks on the PC. For example, the Web radio broadcast may be interrupted. Also, a skip over parts of a song may result if the user is using a word processing program at the same time as listening to music.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention solves these and other problems by providing a network-enabled audio device for listening to a variety of audio sources with substantially equal convenience. The network-enabled audio device has a visual display for providing audio source choices to a user. The visual display also provides functions for managing audio sources. User control buttons allow a user to choose an audio source to listen to. The menu buttons allow the user to choose functions for managing the audio sources. In one embodiment, there is also tuner circuitry for receiving radio frequency signals from radio broadcast stations. In one embodiment, a CD player allows the user to listen to CD's. In one embodiment, the network-enabled audio device also has one or more audio amplifiers and one or more loudspeakers operably connected to said audio amplifiers. In one embodiment, a modem is used for transmitting and receiving digital data over a communications network. One embodiment includes a data storage device.

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