APPLICANTS   Michael Shanahan   455   2686

TITLE   Methods and apparatuses for programming user-defined information into electronic devices

PTO-2040
12/99

ISSUING CLASSIFICATION

ORIGINAL		CROSS REFERENCE(S)					
CLASS	**SUBCLASS**	**CLASS**	**SUBCLASS (ONE SUBCLASS PER BLOCK)**				

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

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DRAWINGS			CLAIMS ALLOWED	
Sheets Drwg.	Figs. Drwg.	Print Fig.	Total Claims	Print Claim for O.G.

☐ The term of this patent subsequent to _____ (date) has been disclaimed.

_____ _____
(Assistant Examiner)   (Date)

☐ The term of this patent shall not extend beyond the expiration date of U.S Patent. No. _____

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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE MAILED

ISSUE FEE

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** CONTINUING DATA *************************
THIS APPLN CLAIMS BENEFIT OF 60/169,188 12/06/1999

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

IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED ** SMALL ENTITY **
** 05/01/2000

Foreign Priority claimed ☐ yes ☒ no		STATE OR COUNTRY NY	SHEETS DRAWING 13	TOTAL CLAIMS 19	INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 3
35 USC 119 (a-d) conditions met ☐ yes ☒ no ☐ Met after Allowance					
Verified and Acknowledged Examiner's Signature Initials					

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TITLE

Methods and apparatuses for programming user-defined information into electronic devices

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METHODS AND APPARATUSES FOR PROGRAMMING
USER-DEFINED INFORMATION INTO ELECTRONIC DEVICES

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This application claims priority from
United States provisional application 60/169,158 filed
December 6, 1999.

10 Background of the Invention

This application relates to electronic devices,
and more particularly to a programming apparatus that
allows users to program user-defined information into
their electronic device.

15 There are many types of electronic devices
available to consumers today that have the ability to
produce both audio sounds and video displays. Many of
these devices provide users with the ability to select
and play a particular piece of audio or video. A

20 television viewer, for example, may tune to a TV channel
and watch a particular program, or connect a VCR or DVD
player to the television in order to view a specific
program not currently being broadcast. Similarly, an
audio system user may tune a receiver to a particular

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radio station to hear a certain genre of music, or connect a CD or tape player to the system in order to hear specific pieces of music. In both cases, the audio and video is user-selectable.

5   Currently, however, there are many electronic products that offer an audio/video playing capability that are not fully user-programmable. Users of such devices (*e.g.*, wireless or cordless telephones, pagers, personal digital assistants (PDAs), hand-held computers

10   and the like) have to choose from a limited selection of pre-programmed information (*e.g.*, audio clips, video clips or frames, *etc.*) placed there by the manufacturer. This severely limits the user's ability to customize the device to suit his or her particular taste. Furthermore,

15   most pre-programmed audio tends to be rather generic and can be confusing when a device of a nearby user generates a sound similar to or the same as that of another user's device. Although a programmable memory within many such electronic devices could support user-defined audio,

20   currently, no system exists for programming such information into an electronic device.

The same is true for user-defined video. For example, certain types of user-defined video information, such as video clips, frames, and other digital or analog

25   images could be programmed into an electronic device (*e.g.*, PDA, wireless phone, or any portable display device) and displayed at a time of the user choosing. Although a programmable memory within such a device could support user-defined video, currently, no system exists

30   for programming such information into the device.

Summary Of The Invention

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide an apparatus that allows a user to

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