PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of			
John C. Harvey and James W. Cuddihy		Examiner:	Faile, A.
Serial No.	08/460,711	Group Art Unit:	2711
Filed:	June 2, 1995	Atty. Dkt.	05634.0212

For: **SIGNAL PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHODS**

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

I. AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

This amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed May 29, 1998. Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be entered into the above-captioned application:

In the Claims

Applicants request entering the below amendments to the claims. Claims 2-4 and 37 are amended. For the PTO's convenience, claims that remain unchanged are included below in order to allow the Examiner to review all pending claims from this response in their numerical order.

2. (Twice Amended) A method of television signal processing at a receiver station, said receiver station having a plurality of processors and a digital switch, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving an information transmission containing digital television signals and a message stream;

detecting said message stream in said information transmission;

inputting a plurality of commands received in said message stream to a control processor;

selecting a plurality of said digital television signals contained in said information transmission in response to said commands, said selected plurality of said digital television signals being information segments of said information transmission;

controlling said digital switch to communicate each one of said selected plurality of said digital television [signal] signals to a signal processor;

processing said selected plurality of said digital television signals to communicate video and audio signals to a television monitor.

3. (Twice Amended) A method of delivering programming [at] to a video or audio programming storage station, said storage station comprising one or more storage locations capable of storing video or audio programming, a transmission device capable of communicating video or audio programming to or from said one or more storage locations, and a processor capable of controlling at least one of said one or more storage locations to receive, store, or communicate video or audio programming or capable of controlling said transmission device to communicate video or audio programming, comprising the steps of:

(1) receiving a signal comprising video or audio programming, said signal comprising video or audio programming containing one of (i) a first intermediate generation set and (ii) at least some of a program instruction set;

(2) receiving a first control signal which causes a transmitter station to communicate said signal comprising video or audio programming to a transmitter; and

(3) transmitting said one of (i) a first intermediate generation set and (ii) at least some of a program instruction set, said one of (i) a first intermediate generation set and (ii) at least some of a program instruction set to be stored at said video or audio programming storage station.

4. (Twice Amended) A method of delivering programming [at] to a video or audio programming storage station, said storage station comprising one or more storage locations capable of storing video or audio programming, a transmission device capable of communicating video or audio programming to or from said one or more storage locations, and a processor capable of controlling at least one of said one or more storage locations to receive, store, or communicate video or audio programming or capable of controlling said transmission device to communicate video or audio programming, said method comprising the steps of:

(1) receiving a signal comprising first video or audio programming and containing one of (i) a first intermediate generation set and (ii) at least some of a program instruction set; and

(2) causing said one of (i) a first intermediate generation set and (ii) at least some of a program instruction set to be communicated to a transmitter at a specific time, thereby to transmit said one of (i) a first intermediate generation set and (ii) at least some of a program instruction set, said one of (i) a first intermediate generation set and (ii) at least some of a program instruction set to be stored at said video or audio programming storage station.

5. A method of delivering programming at a video or audio programming storage station, said storage station comprising one or more storage locations capable of storing said video or audio programming, a transmission device capable of communicating said video or

audio programming to or from said one or more storage locations, and a processor capable of controlling at least one of said one or more storage locations to receive, store, or communicate said video or audio programming or capable of controlling said transmission device to communicate said video or audio programming, comprising the steps of:

receiving a signal containing said video or audio programming;

communicating said signal containing said video or audio programming to at least one of said one or more storage locations;

storing said signal containing said video or audio programming at said at least one of said one or more storage locations; and

storing one of (i) an intermediate generation set and (ii) at least some of a program instruction set at said video or audio programming storage station.

6. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of programming said control processor to control said digital switch on the basis of information contained in said message stream.

7. The method of claim 2, wherein said television signals include part of a television program, said method further comprising the steps of:

generating a balance of said television program; and synchronizing delivery of said received part of a television program and said generated balance of said television program at one of a television monitor and a television storage device.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein a memory is operatively connected to said one of a television monitor and a television storage device, said generated balance of said television

program includes a receiver specific datum, and said step of synchronizing comprises storing said receiver specific datum in said memory and clearing at least some of said memory.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein a memory is operatively connected to said one of a television monitor and a television storage device, and said step of synchronizing comprises setting a visible background color at some or all of said memory and producing a combined or sequential presentation of said received part of a television program and said visible background color.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of detecting one or more processor instructions in said information transmission which operate to generate said balance or synchronize said presentation.

11. The method of claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

detecting one or more instruct signals in said information transmission;

communicating said one or more instruct signals to at least one of said plurality of processors; and

performing at least one of said steps of generating and synchronizing in response to said one or more instruct signals.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said digital switch communicates said one or more instruct signals to said at least one processor.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein said control processor communicates said one or more instruct signals to said at least one processor.

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