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(56) Documents Cited
EP 0758833 A2 EP 0705036 A2 WO 97/46011 A1
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(54) Abstract Title
An electronic television programme guide

(57) An electronic programme guide (EPG) database is interrogated to produce a list of programmes that may be of interest to a viewer. Queries may be composed by users or may be developed automatically by inspection of viewing habits or viewer profiles. Viewer profiles may be produced by interrogation of the viewer. User queries may be stored hierarchically and queries relating to different viewers may be merged. Queries may be allowed to run continually to uncover programmes of interest as they arise in the EPG. Queries may restrict selection of certain categories. A 10-key alphanumeric keypad may be used to enter query data. The EPG interprets the data from each key to mean any of the numbers or letters associated therewith and identifies all possible programmes and channels and networks. As the viewer continues to add letters or numbers, the list narrows dynamically until only a few choices remain. The EPG data may be transmitted with the TV signals and may contain links to Web pages.

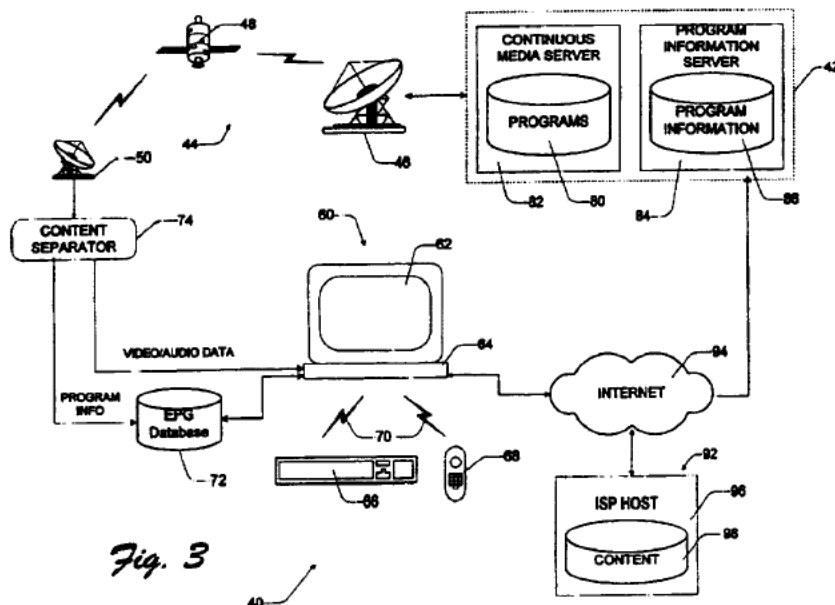


Fig. 3

GB 2 325 537

Grid Log Station Titles Actors Category Movies Sports Custom Schedule

24

22

- Business
- Childrens
- Educational
- Game Show
- Health
- Health
- Parenting
- How To
- Medical
- Miscellaneous
- Movie
- .
- .
- .
- .
- Specials
- Sports

Date	Station	Title/Episode
12/15 8:00 am	CNBC	This Morning's Business
12/15 8:00 am	USA	First Business
12/15 8:30 am	CNBC	Money Wheel
.	.	.
.	.	.

26

1/12

Fig. 1

Prior Art

34

File

Stations

Program Types

AMC
ARTS
BET
BRAVO
CNBC
CNN
COM
CRTV
CSPAN
CSPANII
DISN
DSC
EI
ESPN
FAM
HBO
HSC
HTS
LIFE
MAX
MTV
NICK

Business
Business:Business
Business: Finance
Business:Investment
Childrens
Childrens:Nature
Childrens:Science
Educational
Educational:History
Educational:Music
Educational:Science
Educational:Teach
Game Show
Health
Health:Health
Health:Parenting
How To
How To:Art
How To:Cooking
How To:Crafts
How To:Games
How To:Gardening

MPAA

Rating

G
PG
PG13
R

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..
....

Date/Time Field

Help

Preview

Begin

36

2/12

Fig. 2

Prior Art

3/12

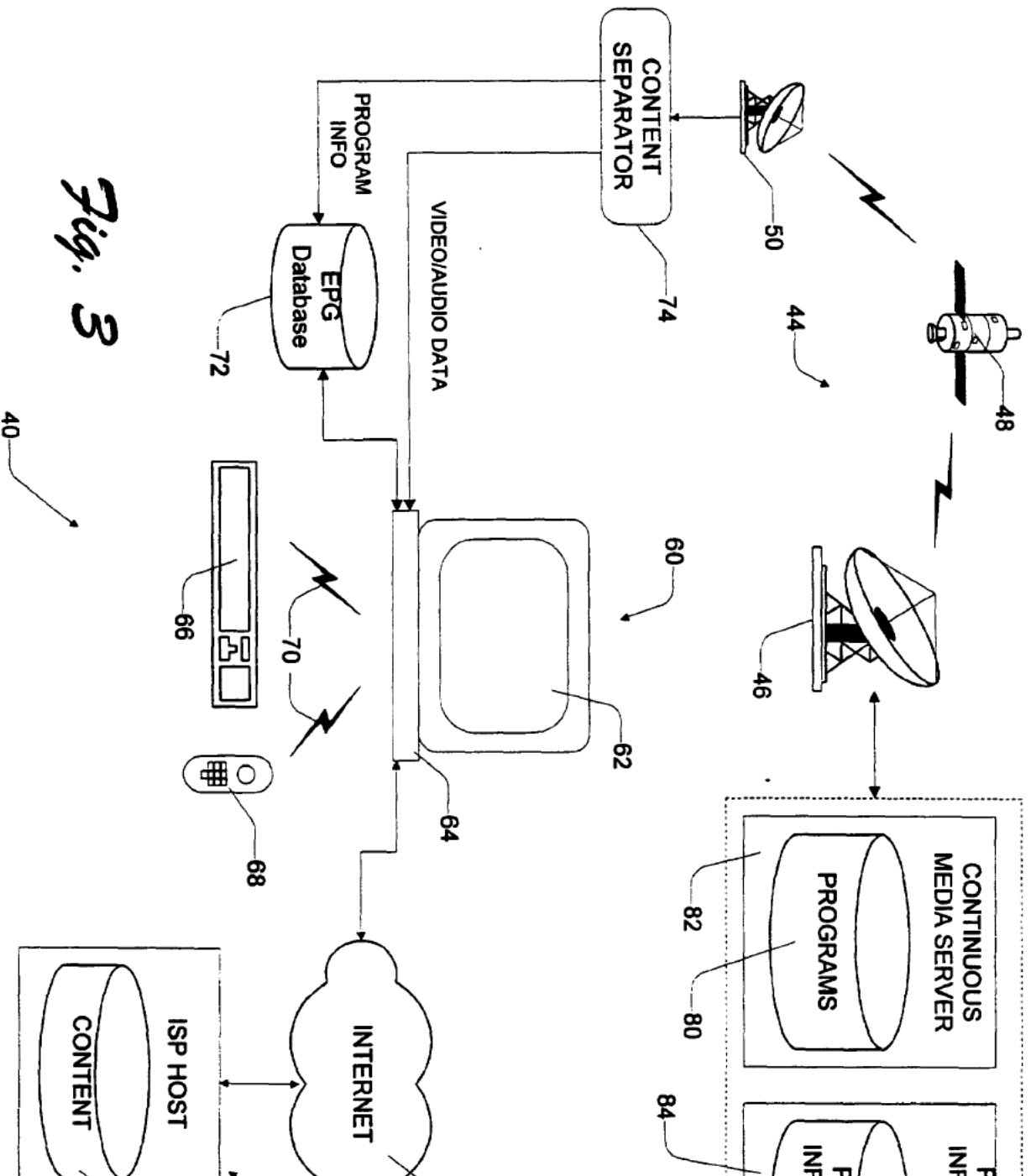


Fig. 3

4/12

STORAGE POINTER	TITLE	ACTOR	CC	STEREO	TIME	NETWORK	SUPPLEMENTAL CONTENT	DESCR
PROG1	MURDER, SHE WROTE	LANDSBURY	YES	YES	8:00 PM THURSDAY	CBS	CONTENT1	"The Secret of G
PROG2	SEINFELD	SEINFELD	YES	YES	9:00 PM THURSDAY	NBC	http://www.nbc.com/seinfeld.html	"The Friars
PROG3	STAR TREK NEXT GEN.	STEWART	YES	YES	10:00 PM FRIDAY	FOX	http://www.fox.com/startrek.html http://www.collections.com/trekicollectables.html	"Delta Vega"

90

Fig. 4

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