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(71) Applicant(s)
Microsoft Corporation
(Incorporated in USA - Washington)
One Microsoft Way, Redmond, WA 98052-6399,
United States of America

(72) Inventor(s)
James O Robarts
David S Byrne
Steve Fluegel
Gabe Newell
Dan Newell
Kenneth Abbott

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U1S S2206

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EP 0758833 A2 EP 0705036 A2 WO 97/46011 A1
WO 97/02702 A2 WO 94/14284 A1 US 5606691 A
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(74) Agent and/or Address for Service
Withers & Rogers
4 Dyer's Buildings, Holborn, LONDON, EC1N 2QP,
United Kingdom

(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.
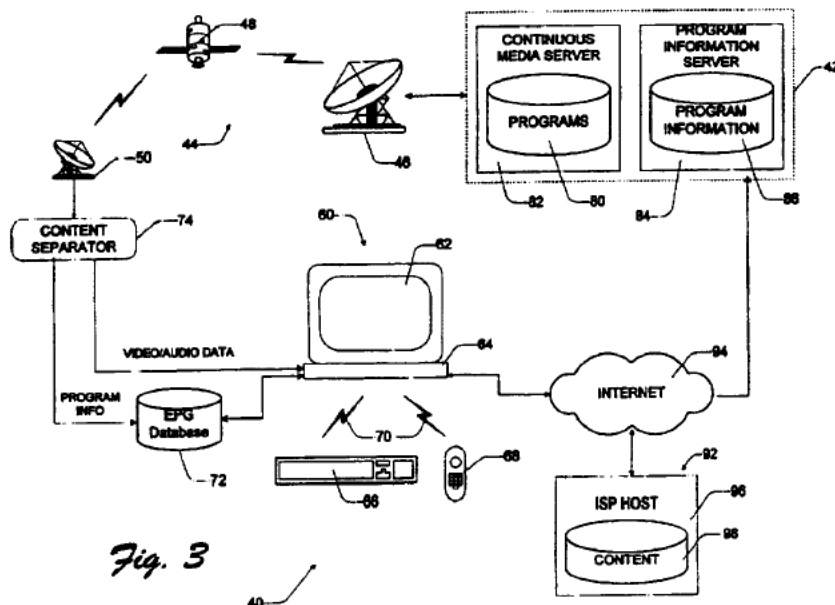
Fig. 3

GB 2 325 537

—	ETV--TVHOST, INC.

File Edit View Date Search Editorial User Help

24

22

Grid | Log | Station | Titles | Actors | Category | Movies | Sports | Custom | Schedule

Business
Childrens
Educational
Game Show
Health
How To
Parenting
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

Fig. 1
Prior Art

⊟ | Search--Untitled

File

Stations	Program Types			
AMC	Business			
ARTS	Business:Business			
BET	Business: Finance			
BRAVO	Business:Investment			
CNBC	Childrens			
CNN	Childrens:Nature			
COM	Childrens:Science			
CRTV	Educational			
CSPAN	Educational:History	MPAA	Rating	
CSPANII	Educational:Music			
DISN	Educational:Science	G	·	
DSC	Educational:Teach	PG	··	
EI	Game Show	PG13	···	
ESPN	Health	R	····	
FAM	Health:Health			
HBO	Health:Parenting			Date/Time Field
HSC	How To			
HTS	How To:Art			
LIFE	How To:Cooking			
MAX	How To:Crafts			
MTV	How To:Games			
NICK	How To:Gardening			

32

34

36

Help
Preview
Begin

Fig. 2
Prior Art
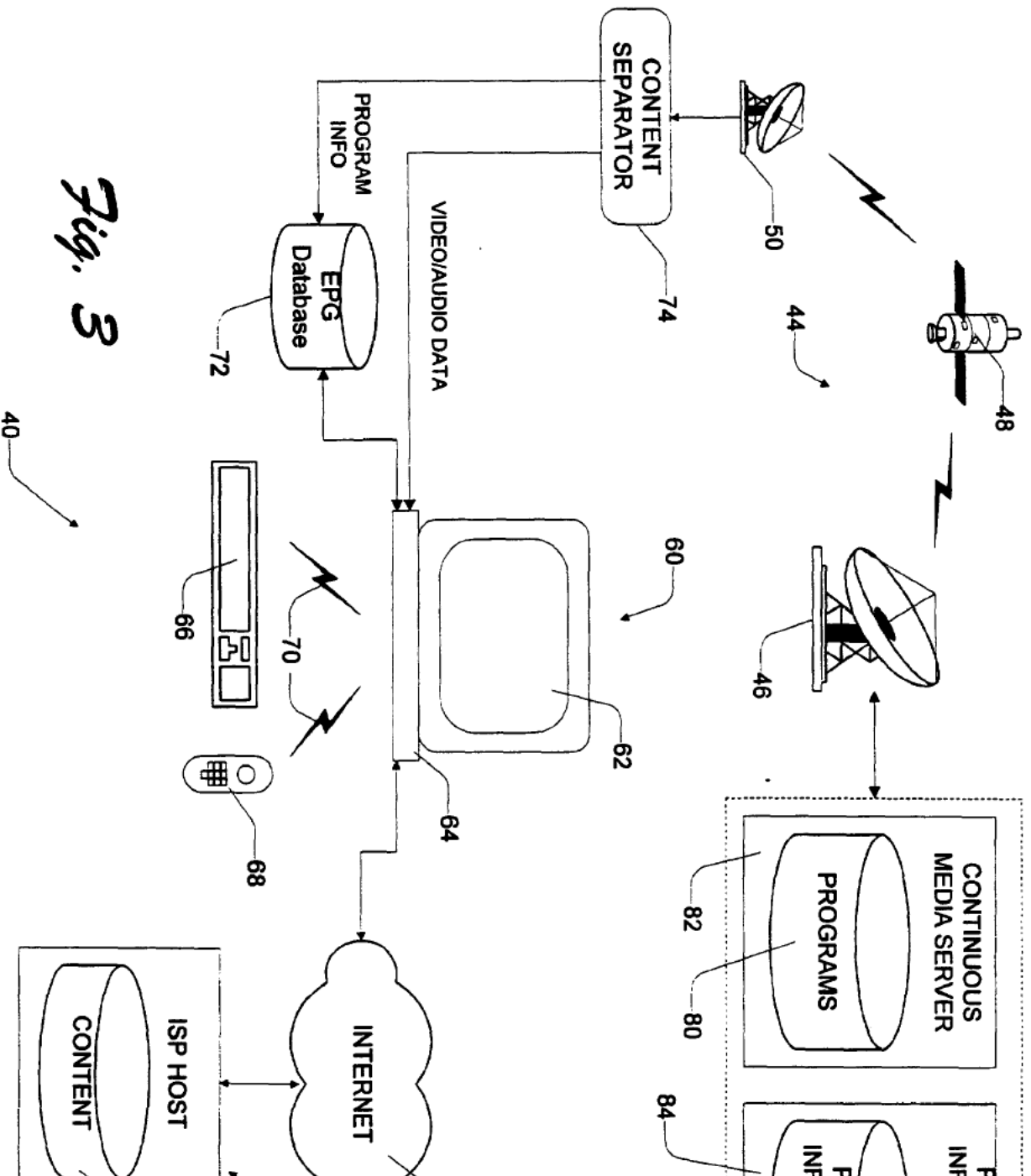
Fig. 3

4/12

STORAGE POINTER	TITLE	ACTOR	CC	STEREO	TIME	NETWORK	SUPPLEMENTAL CONTENT	DESC...
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/ trekiecollectables.html	"Delta Vega"...

90

88

Fig. 4

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