

**PROVISIONAL PATENT APPLICATION
SUBMITTED ON NOVEMBER 17, 2004**

TITLE:

**METHOD AND DEVICE FOR SAVING BANDWIDTH SENT TO A DIGITAL
SET TOP BOX**

INVENTOR:

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Attorney Docket No.: 17475ROUS01P

Invention Disclosure

Rolf Meier

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Bandwidth/Screen Saver for Network Media Gateway 2

This invention is a device and method which detects the supply current being consumed by a TV in use or turned off, and, upon sensing a current below a particular threshold, turns off the incoming sound and picture signal.

The invention consists of 1) a circuit which measures the amount of current being consumed by the TV and 2) a decision-making algorithm in the NMG which uses the current information together with other information to decide whether or not to turn off the incoming picture and sound signal.

Need for this Invention

The requirement for this invention comes about because the Network Media Gateway (hereafter called the NMG) and the network would benefit from knowing whether or not a TV is in use or turned on. If the TV is not being used, then significant downstream bandwidth and processing can be saved in the network by not sending the detailed picture information to the TV.

This invention satisfies that need by detecting whether the TV is on or not by monitoring the supply current of the TV. If the current is lower than a particular threshold, the NMG sends a message to the network to stop sending the picture and sound information for that TV.

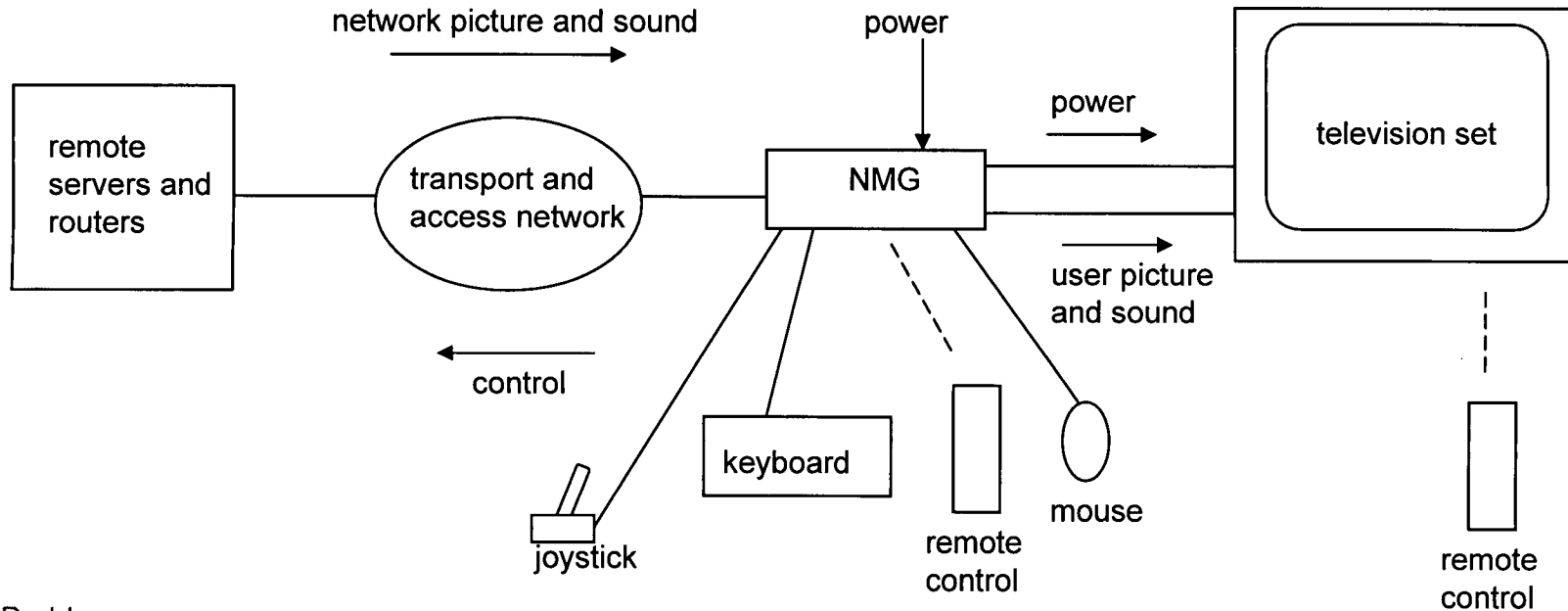
The NMG could also be call a STB (Set Top Box).

Prior Art

This invention makes use of a conventional power sensing circuit which has many generic uses.

Detailed Description of Invention

Block Diagram of Components



Problem:

If television has been turned off using its remote control, how can we ensure that the network does not waste resources by continuing to send picture and sound to the NMG? That problem is solved with this invention.

controls:
TV volume
channel change
PIP
program guide
Internet surfing
email
gaming
etc.

controls:
TV on/off
TV volume

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