

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for conserving resources associated with packet television services comprising:
 - receiving television content from a content provider over a packet network;
 - providing the television content to a television monitor for display to a viewer;
 - determining if a resource conserving process should be activated, wherein the resource conserving process determines if an action to conserve resources associated with transporting the television content over the packet network should be performed;
 - if the resource conserving process should be activated:
 - determining whether the viewer is watching the television monitor; and
 - initiating the action to conserve resources associated with transporting the television content over the packet network upon determining that the viewer is not watching the television monitor, wherein initiating the action to conserve resources comprises sending instructions to the content provider to halt delivery of a video portion of the television content, wherein the television content delivered after sending the instructions does not comprise the video portion;
 - if the resource conserving process should not be activated:
 - continue providing the television content.

2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 further comprising monitoring viewing indicia bearing on the television monitor being watched and applying the viewing indicia to resource saving criteria to determine whether the viewer is watching the television monitor.

3. **(Original)** The method of claim 2 further comprising receiving viewer input and wherein the viewing indicia comprise viewer input.
4. **(Original)** The method of claim 3 further comprising: monitoring the viewer input over time; determining viewer behavior based on the viewer input over time; and generating the resource saving criteria based on the viewer behavior, wherein the viewer input over time is used to learn the viewer behavior from which the resource saving criteria is generated.
5. **(Original)** The method of claim 2 wherein the resource saving criteria is based at least in part on preferences defined by the viewer.
6. **(Original)** The method of claim 2 wherein the viewing indicia bears on a status of a user device.
7. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein determining whether the viewer is watching the television monitor comprises determining a status of a user device, and initiating the action to conserve resources after detecting that the status of the user device is idle.
8. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 further comprising providing an alert for display on the television monitor in association with initiating the action to conserve resources.
9. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein initiating the action to conserve resources comprises sending instructions to the content provider to stop delivery of the television content, wherein delivery of the television content is stopped.
10. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein initiating the action to conserve resources further comprises providing local content to the television monitor for display to the viewer.

11. **(Canceled)**

12. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein determining if the resource conserving process should be activated is based on a programming type for a program delivered via the television content.

13. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein determining if the resource conserving process should be activated is based on viewer preferences.

14. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein determining if the resource conserving process should be activated is based on at least one of a time, date, and length of a program delivered via the television content.

15. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein determining if the resource conserving process should be activated is based on a program being delivered via the television content.

16. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus for conserving resources associated with packet television services comprising:

a first interface adapted to receive television content from a content provider over a packet network;

a second interface adapted to provide the television content to a television monitor for display to a viewer; and

a control system associated with the first and second interfaces and adapted to:
determine if a resource conserving process should be activated, wherein the resource conserving process determines if an action to conserve resources associated with transporting the television content over the packet network should be performed;

if the resource conserving process should be activated:

determine whether the viewer is watching the television monitor; and

initiate the action to conserve resources associated with transporting the television content over the packet network upon determining that the viewer is not watching the television monitor, wherein initiating the action to conserve resources comprises sending instructions to the content provider to halt delivery of a video portion of the television content, wherein the television content delivered after sending the instructions does not comprise the video portion;

if the resource conserving process should not be activated:

allow for continued providing of the television content.

17. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising a user interface associated with the control system, which is adapted to determine whether the viewer is watching the television monitor based on viewer activity detected at the user interface.

18. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 16 wherein to determine whether the viewer is watching the television monitor, the control system is further adapted to determine a status of user devices, and initiate the action to conserve resources after detecting the status of the user devices.

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