

[54] **METHOD AND APPARATUS THAT PROVIDES A SCALABLE MEDIA DELIVERY SYSTEM**

WO 96/14711 5/1996 WIPO .
 WO 96/23280 8/1996 WIPO .
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[51] **Int. Cl.⁶** **G06F 15/16; H04L 7/30**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **395/200.61; 345/428; 348/420**

[58] **Field of Search** 395/200.61; 370/431, 370/437; 345/302, 428; 348/17, 18, 19, 20, 384, 387, 390, 420

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides an apparatus and method for encoding, storing, transmitting and decoding multimedia information in the form of scalable, streamed digital data. A base stream containing basic informational content and subsequent streams containing additive informational content are initially created from standard digital multimedia data by a transcoder. Client computers, each of which may have different configurations and capabilities are capable of accessing a stream server that contains the scalable streamed digital data. Each different client computer, therefore, may access different stream combinations according to a profile associated with each different client computer. Thus, the streams accessed from the server are tailored to match the profile of each client computer so that the best combination of streams can be provided to maximize the resolution of the 3D, audio and video components.

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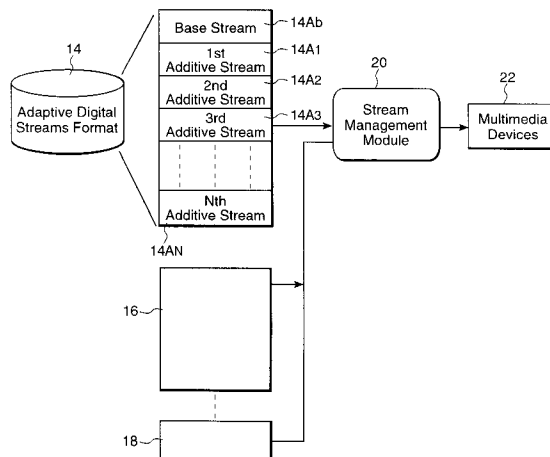
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80 Claims, 39 Drawing Sheets



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Fig. 1

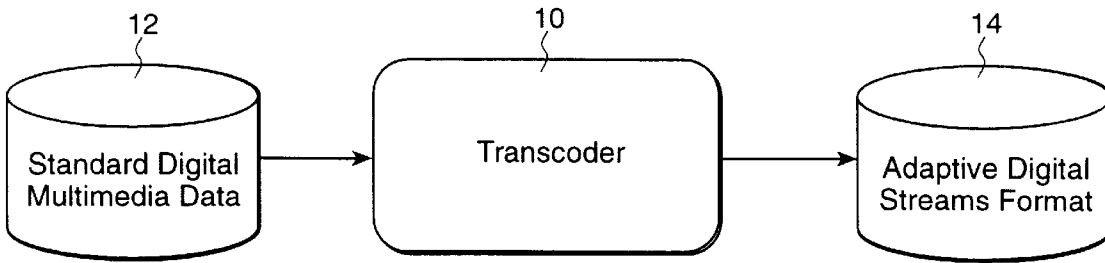


Fig. 2A

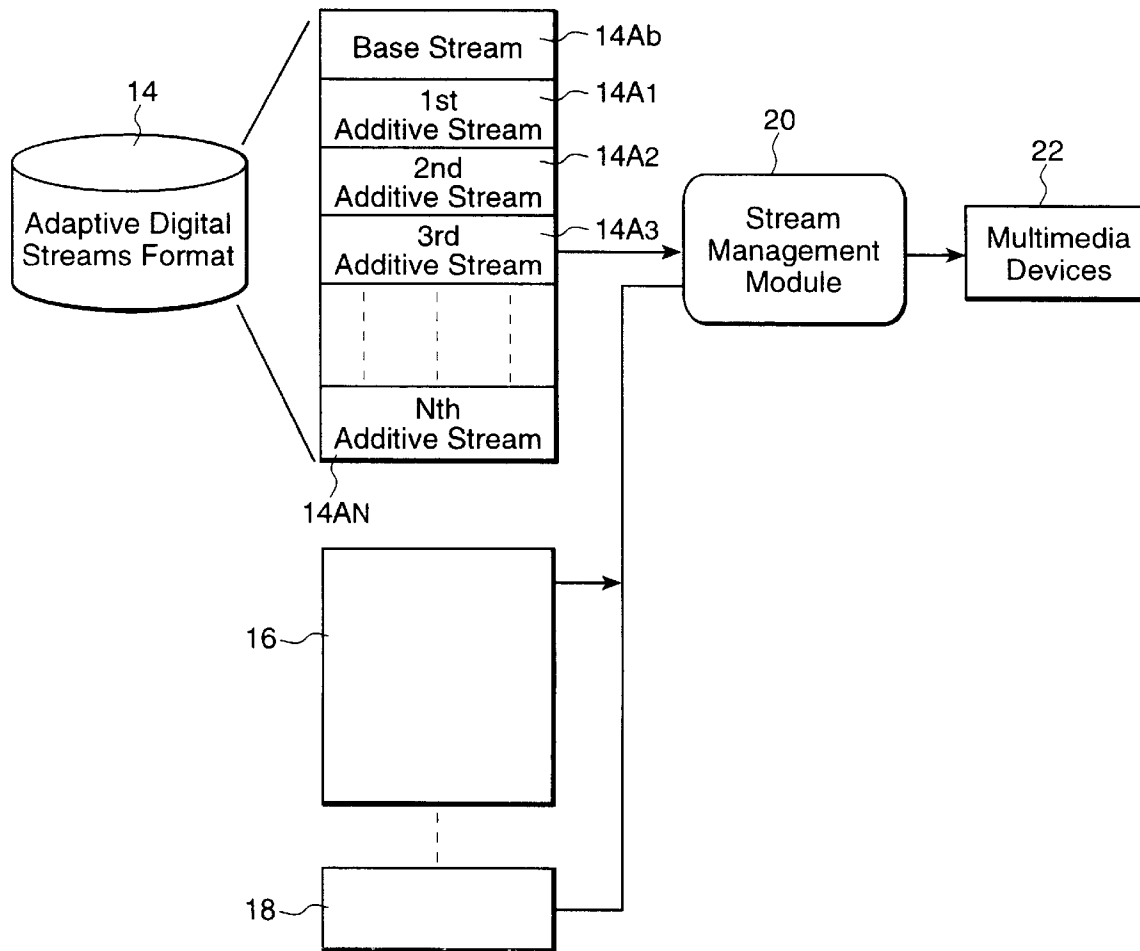


Fig. 2B

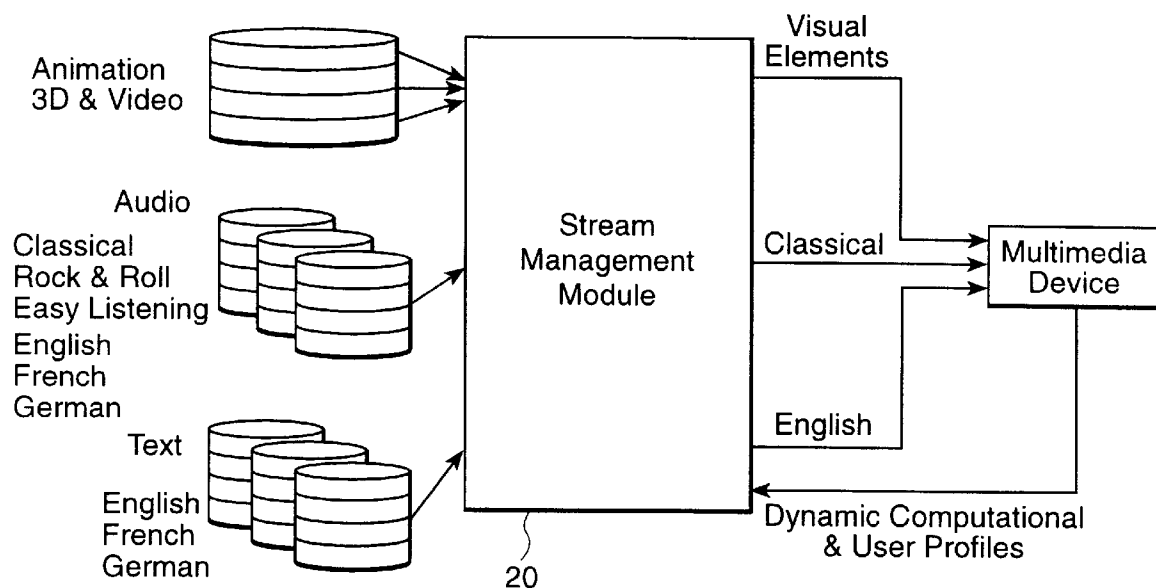


Fig. 3

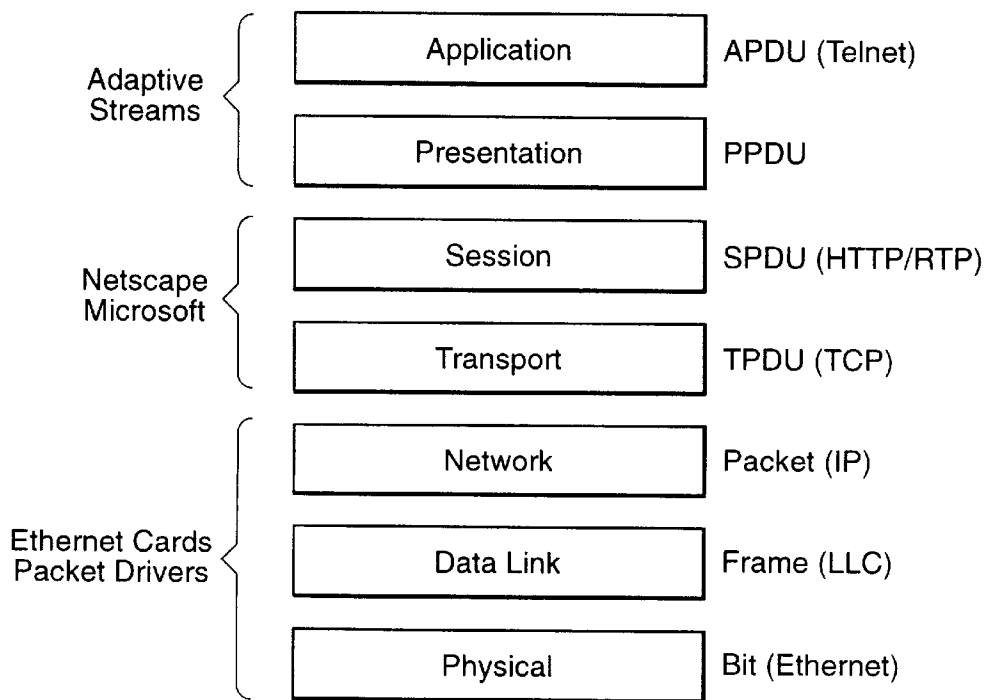
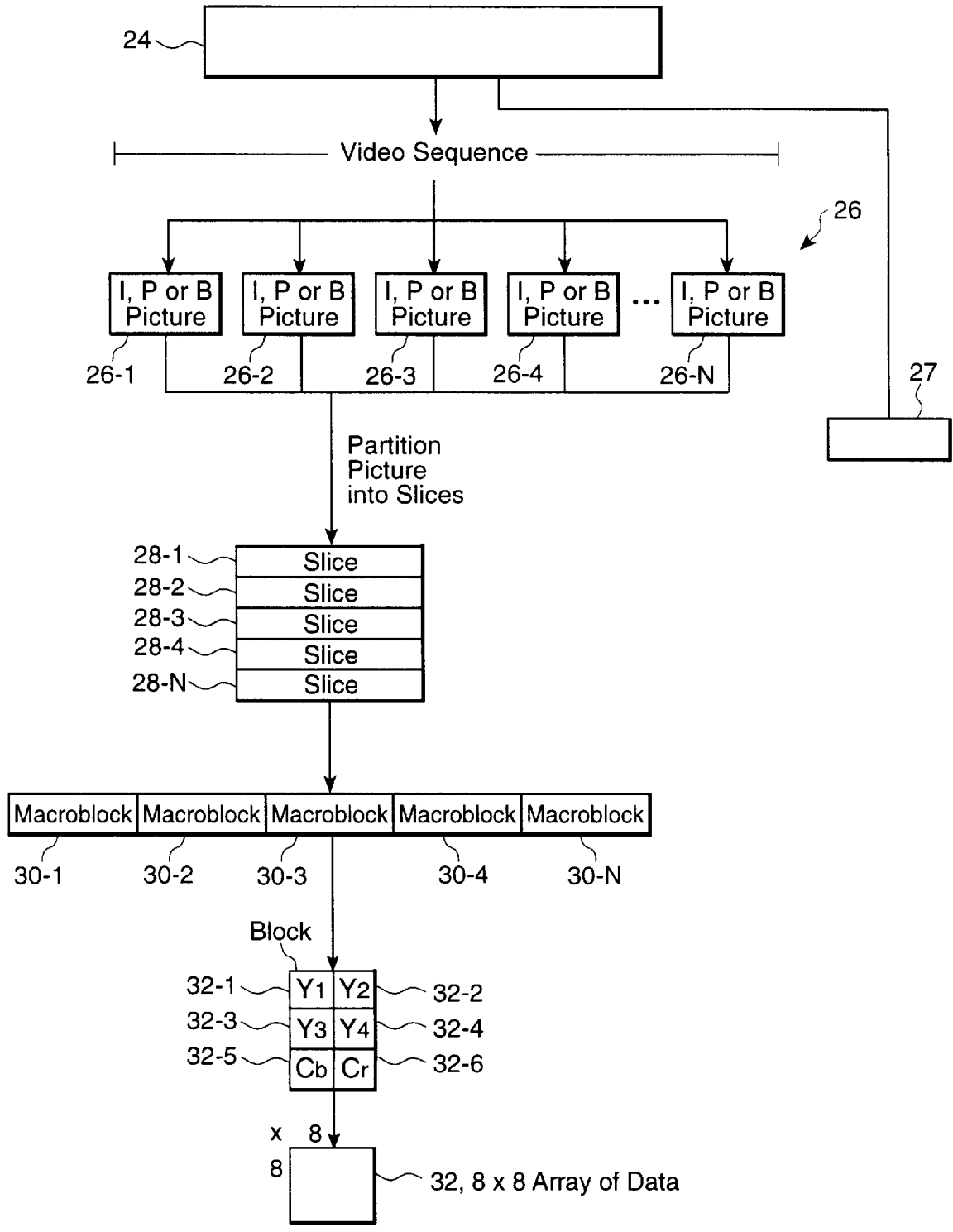


Fig. 4



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