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Gutman

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(54) **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR CONTROLLING A PERSONALIZED VIDEO RECORDER WITH A SET-TOP BOX**

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H04N 7/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **725/37**; 725/58; 386/1; 386/46

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 725/80, 725/141, 147
See application file for complete search history.

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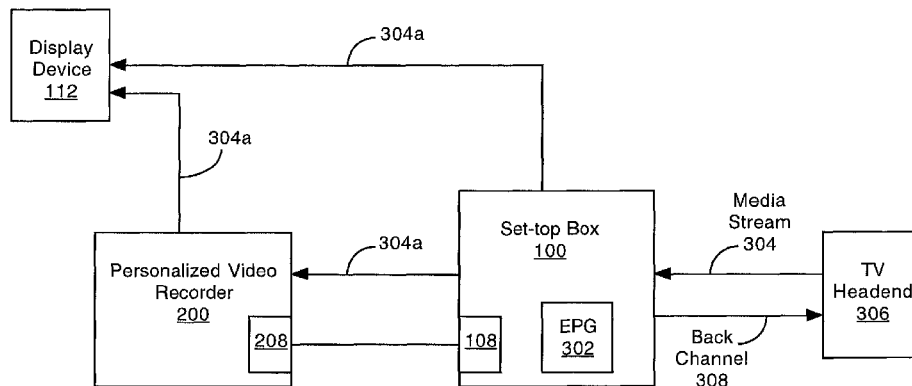|			
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

One embodiment of the present invention enables a personalized video recorder (PVR) to reliably record automatically a pay-per-view show that it receives from a set-top box. Specifically, a PVR is communicatively coupled to a set-top box thereby enabling the set-top box to request and receive from the PVR its control commands. The set-top box stores these control commands enabling it to control the functionality of the PVR. Therefore, a user may utilize an electronic programming guide (EPG) provided by the set-top box to program the PVR to record (for example) a pay-per-view show. Upon completion of the programming process, the EPG of the set-top box orders the pay-per-view show while the set-top box transmits the programming instructions to the PVR. After receiving the programming instructions, the PVR adds them to its programmable task list. Subsequently, the PVR receives the ordered pay-per-view show from the set-top box and records it.
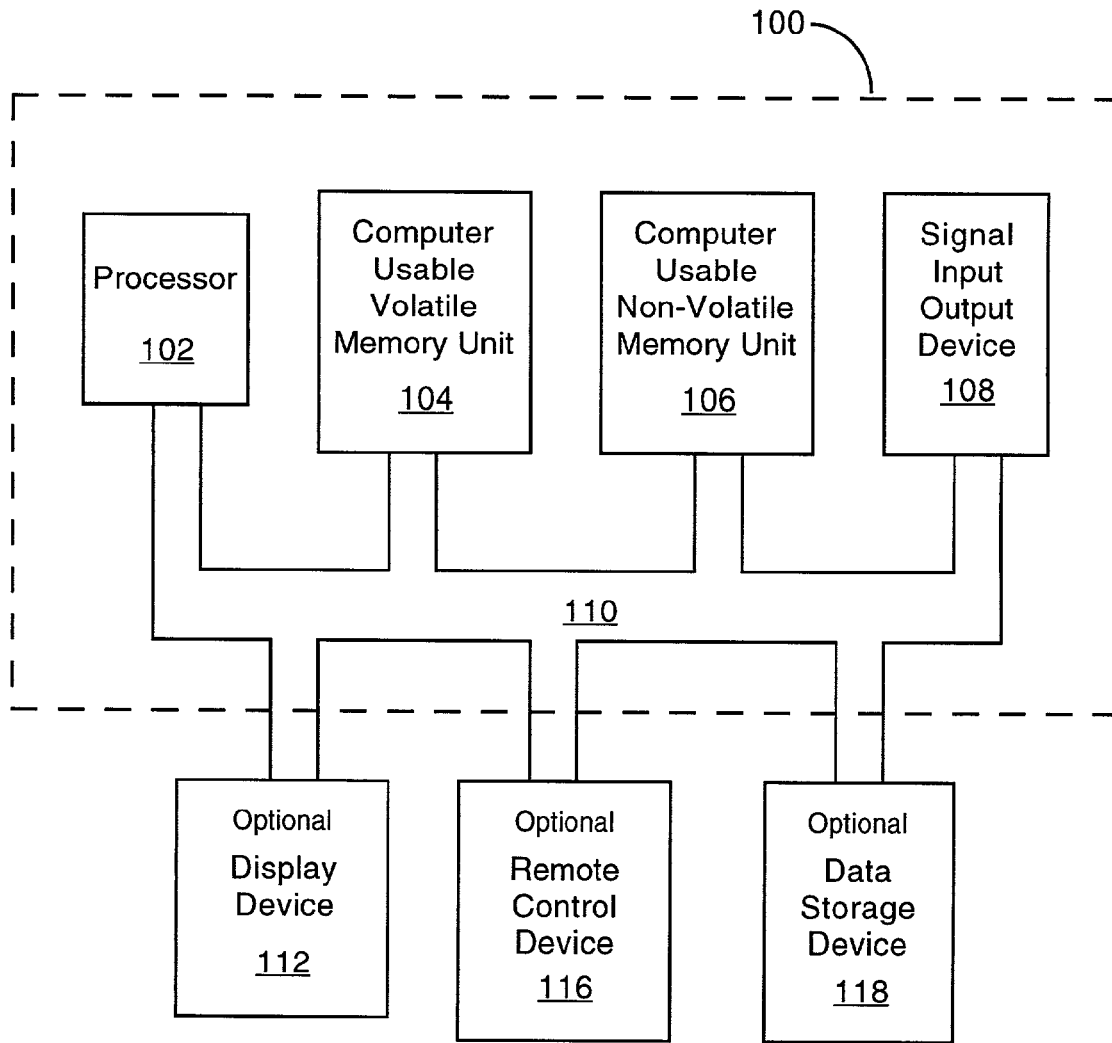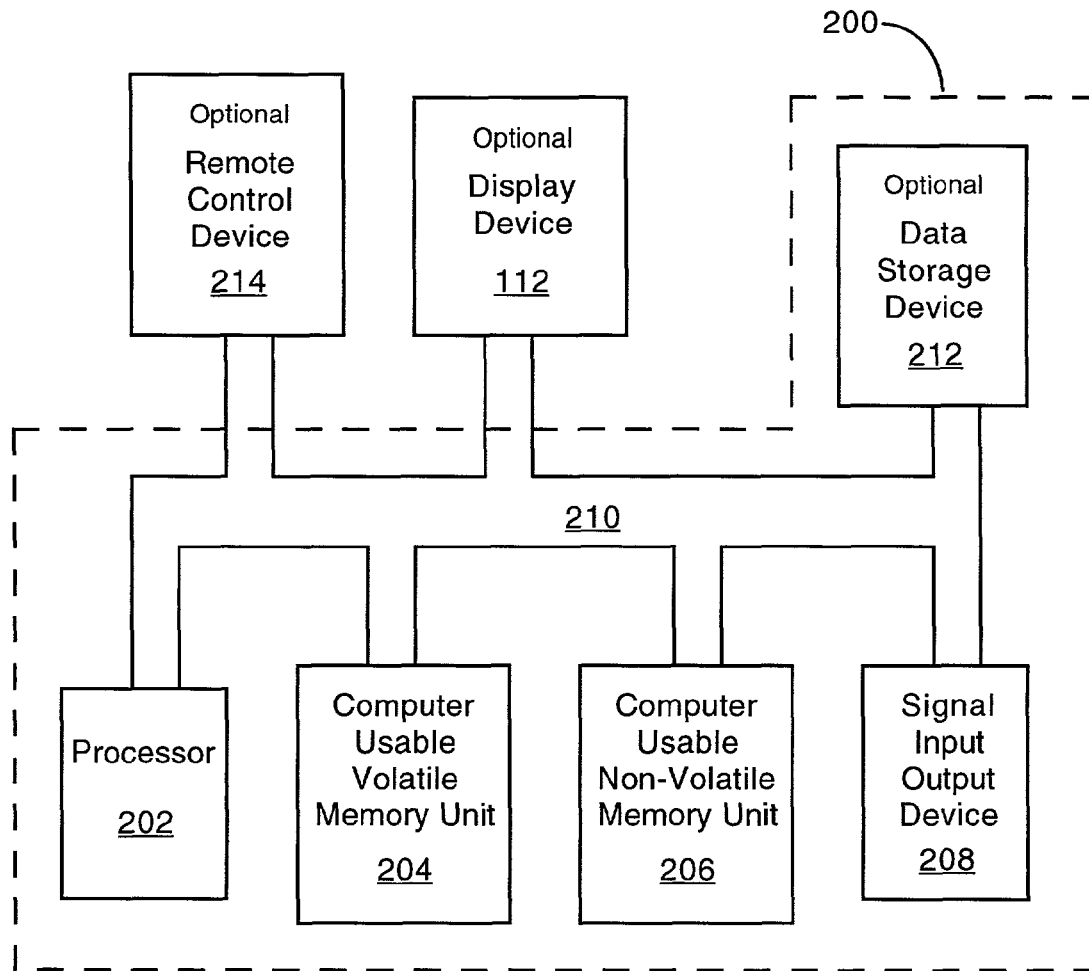
18 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets

300

100

Processor	Computer Usable Volatile Memory Unit	Computer Usable Non-Volatile Memory Unit	Signal Input Output Device
102	104	106	108

110

Optional Display Device	Optional Remote Control Device	Optional Data Storage Device
112	116	118

Fig. 1

200

Optional
Remote
Control
Device
214

Optional
Display
Device
112

Optional
Data
Storage
Device
212

210

Processor
202

Computer
Usable
Volatile
Memory Unit
204

Computer
Usable
Non-Volatile
Memory Unit
206

Signal
Input
Output
Device
208

Fig. 2

300

Fig. 3

400

START

Set-top box transmits a request to a PVR for its control commands — 402

PVR receives request and transmits control commands to set-top box — 404

Set-top box stores the received PVR control commands — 406

Programming instructions entered for PVR? — 408

No

Yes

410 — Set-top box transmits programming instructions to PVR

412 — PVR stores programming instructions and transmits acknowledge signal to set-top box

414 — PVR fulfills the functionality associated with the programming instructions
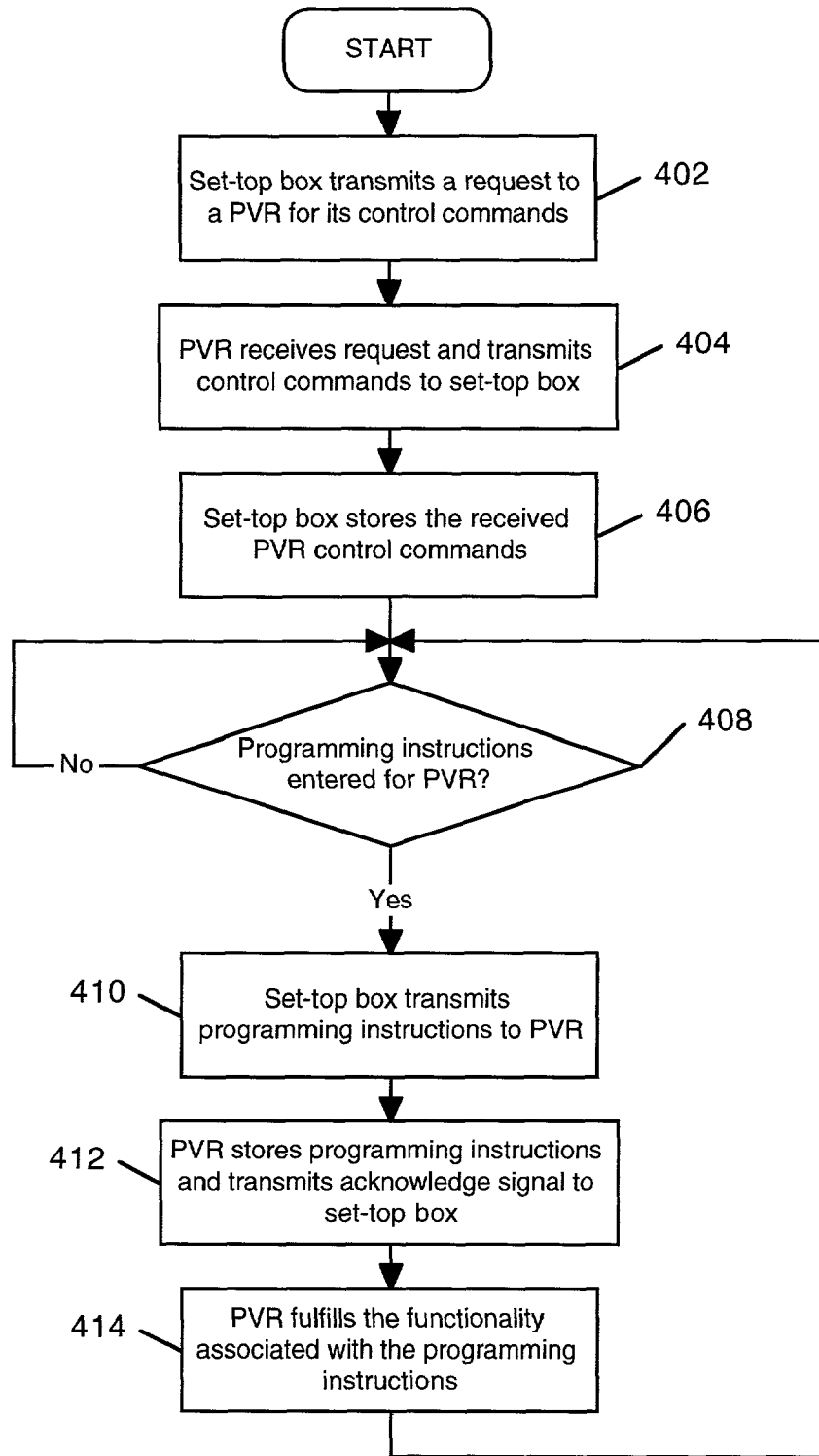
Fig. 4

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