

AMTC IP Coverage

Cable Systems Transmitting Media to Set-top Boxes (VOD) Compared to Yurt '720 Claim 4

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Patent 6,002,720 Claim 4:

4.A digital audio/video communication network comprising:

a reception system in data communication with a plurality of subscriber selectable receiving stations, the reception system comprising,

means for receiving compressed, digitized data representing at least one item of audio/video information at a non-real time rate,

means for storing a complete copy of the received compressed, digitized data, and

means, responsive to the stored compressed, digitized data, for transmitting a representation of the at least one item of audio/video information at a real-time rate

to at least one of a plurality of subscriber selectable receiving stations,

wherein said means for receiving, said means for storing, and said means for transmitting are positioned at the same location,

and wherein at least one of the plurality of subscriber selectable receiving stations is located at a premises geographically separated from the location of the reception system.

A digital audio/video communication network comprising:



A cable video on demand system delivering media (e.g., movies) to set-top boxes is an example of a digital audio/video communication network.

A reception system in data communication with a plurality of subscriber selectable receiving stations, the reception system comprising,



A cable operator receives media at a cable headend. This headend serves multiple subscribers with set-top boxes. The cable headend is an example of a reception system with a plurality of subscriber selectable receiving stations.

means for receiving compressed, digitized data representing at least one item of audio/video information at a non-real time rate,



A cable operator receives compressed digitized media via a satellite receiver at a cable headend at a nonreal time rate (i.e., a rate of time that is different from the rate of time necessary to view the audio/visual information. For example, transmitting a 30-second commercial in 5 seconds.). The satellite receiver is an example of a means for receiving compressed data at a non-real time rate.

means for storing a complete copy of the received compressed, digitized data, and



The received compressed media is stored on a server in the cable headend. The server is an example of means for storing a complete copy of the received compressed data.

means, responsive to the stored compressed, digitized data, for transmitting a representation of the at least one item of audio/video information at a real-time rate



The available stored media is delivered by the cable operator to subscriber set-top boxes via, for example, an HFC network. The subscriber can view the media as it is being delivered. The HFC network is an example of a means for transmitting. The subscriber's ability to view the media as it is being delivered is an example of transmitting at a real time rate.

to at least one of a plurality of subscriber selectable receiving stations,



A single cable headend can serve thousands of subscribers with set-top boxes. The set-top boxes are an example of a plurality of subscriber selectable receiving stations.

wherein said means for receiving, said means for storing, and said means for transmitting are positioned at the same location,



As an example, a cable headend has receiving, storage, and delivery at the same facility.

and wherein at least one of the plurality of subscriber selectable receiving stations is located at a premises geographically separated from the location of the reception system.



A cable headend serves many subscriber set-top boxes at distances miles away, including different cities, from the headend itself. This is an example of a plurality of subscriber selectable receiving stations at premises geographically separated from the reception system.