

AMTC IP Coverage

Cable Systems Transmitting Media to Set-top Boxes (VOD)

Compared to Yurt '720 Claim 8

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Patent 6,002,720 Claim 8:

8. A method of distributing audio/video information comprising:

transmitting compressed, digitized data representing a complete copy of at least one item of audio/video information at a non-real time rate from a central processing location to a local distribution system remote from the central processing location;

receiving, into a receiving means, the transmitted compressed, digitized data representing a complete copy of the at least one item;

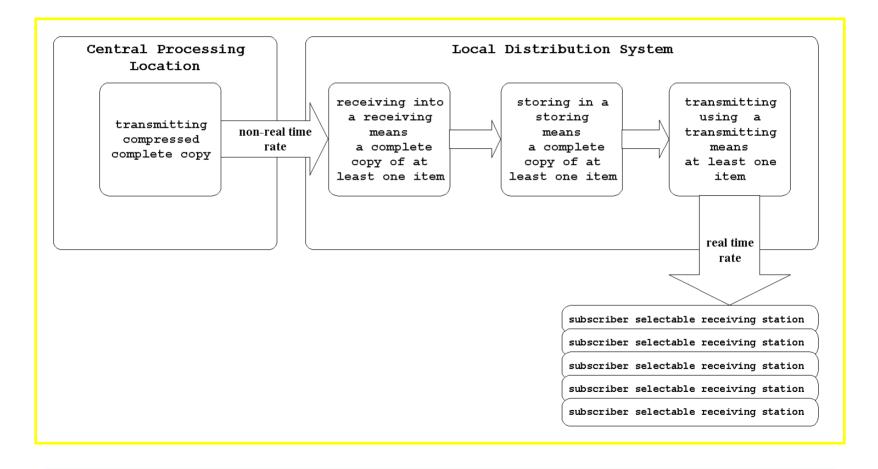
storing, in a storing means, the received compressed, digitized data representing the complete copy of the at least one item at the local distribution system; and

in response to the stored compressed, digitized data, transmitting, using a transmitting means a representation of the at least one item at a real-time rate to at least one of a plurality of subscriber selectable receiving stations coupled to the local distribution system,

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

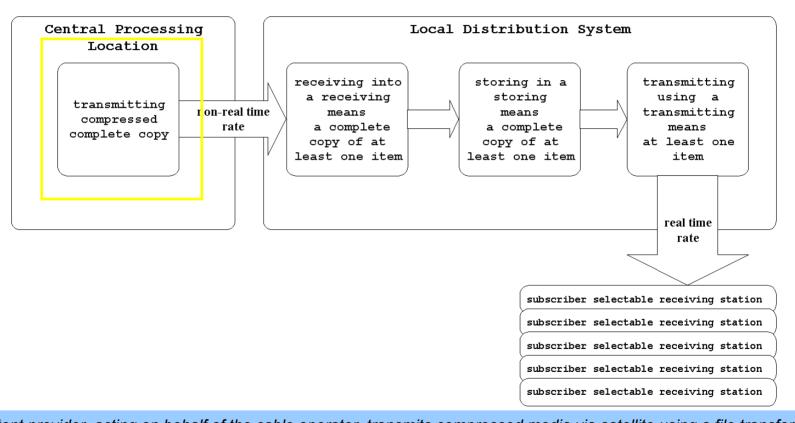
and wherein the at least one of the plurality of subscriber selectable stations is located at a premises geographically separated from the local distribution system.

A method of distributing audio/video information comprising:



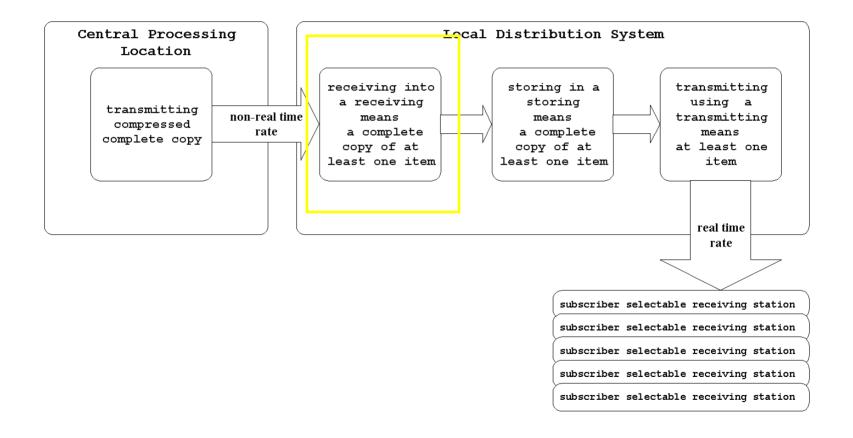
A cable video on demand system delivers media (e.g., movies) to subscriber set-top boxes. This media may be in a compressed digital format and is transmitted to the cable operators by content providers. This is an example of a method of distributing audio/video information.

transmitting compressed, digitized data representing a complete copy of at least one item of audio/video information at a non-real time rate from a central processing location to a local distribution system remote from the central processing location;



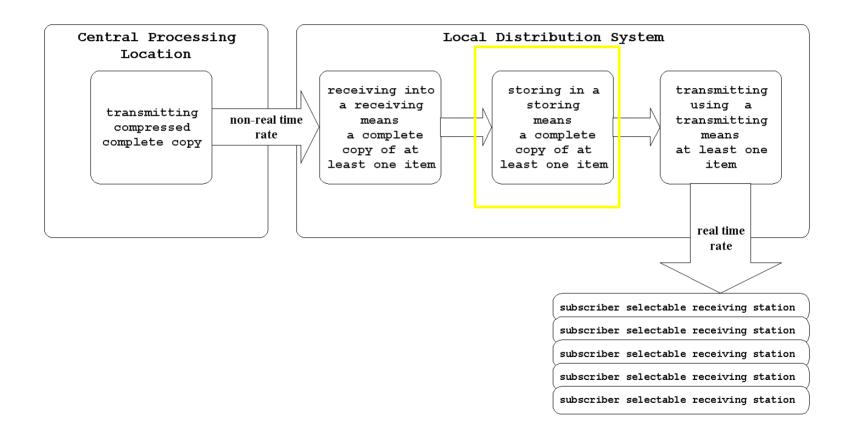
A content provider, acting on behalf of the cable operator, transmits compressed media via satellite using a file transfer method (e.g., FTP) from its central processing facility to a cable operator headend at a non-real time rate (i.e., a rate of time that is different from the rate of time necessary to view the audio/visual information. For example, transmitting a 30-second commercial in 5 seconds.). Using FTP via satellite to transfer compressed media is an example of transmitting compressed audio/video information at a non-real time rate from a central processing location to a remote local distribution system.

receiving, into a receiving means, the transmitted compressed, digitized data representing a complete copy of the at least one item;



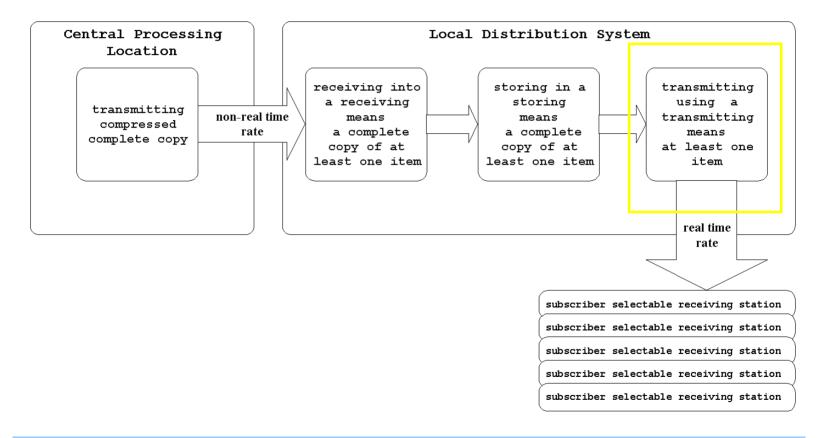
A cable operator receives compressed digitized media via a satellite receiver at a cable headend. The satellite receiver is an example of a receiving means.

storing, in a storing means, the received compressed, digitized data representing the complete copy of the at least one item at the local distribution system; and



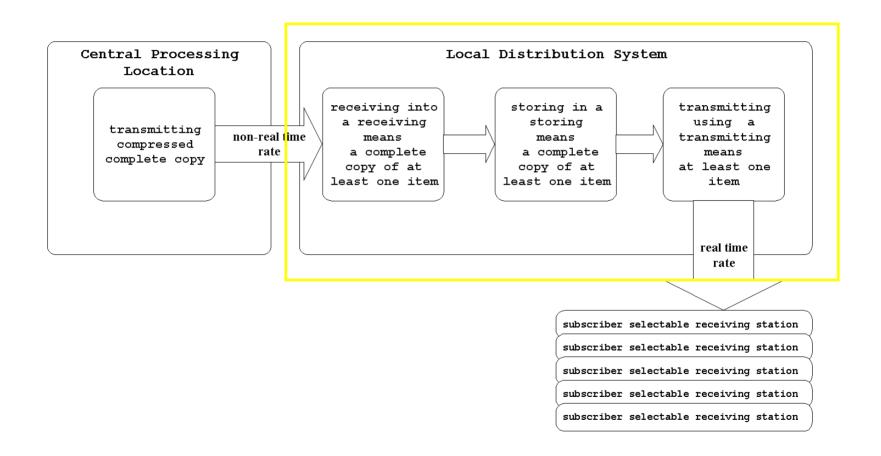
The received compressed media is stored on a server in the cable headend. The server is an example of a storing means.

in response to the stored compressed, digitized data, transmitting, using a transmitting means a representation of the at least one item at a real-time rate to at least one of a plurality of subscriber selectable receiving stations coupled to the local distribution system,



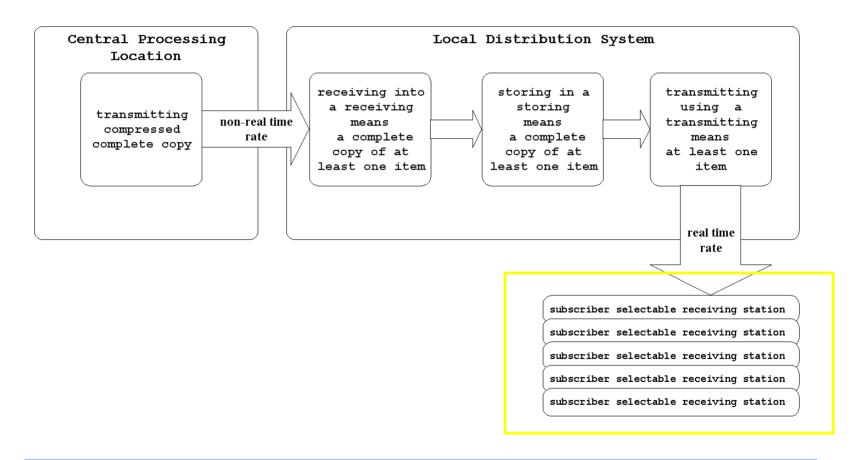
The available stored media is delivered by the cable operator to the subscribers' set-top boxes via, for example, an HFC network. The subscriber can view the media as it is being delivered. The HFC network is an example of a transmitting means. The subscriber's ability to view the media as it is being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

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



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

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