

AMTC IP Coverage

Cable System Transmitting Media
to Set-top Boxes
(VOD)
Compared to
Yurt '863 Claim 10

CONFIDENTIAL

Patent 5,550,863 Claim 10:

10. A system for providing information to be transmitted to remote locations, the transmission system comprising:

identification encoding means for assigning a unique identification code to items of information;

conversion means, coupled to the identification encoding means, for placing the retrieved information into a predetermined format as formatted data;

ordering means, coupled to the conversion means, for placing the formatted data for each item of information into a sequence of addressable data blocks;

compression means, coupled to the ordering means, for compressing the formatted and sequenced data blocks;

compressed data storing means, coupled to the data compression means, for storing as files the compressed, sequenced data blocks; and

first transmitter means, coupled to the compressed data storing means, for selectively sending at least a portion of one of the files;

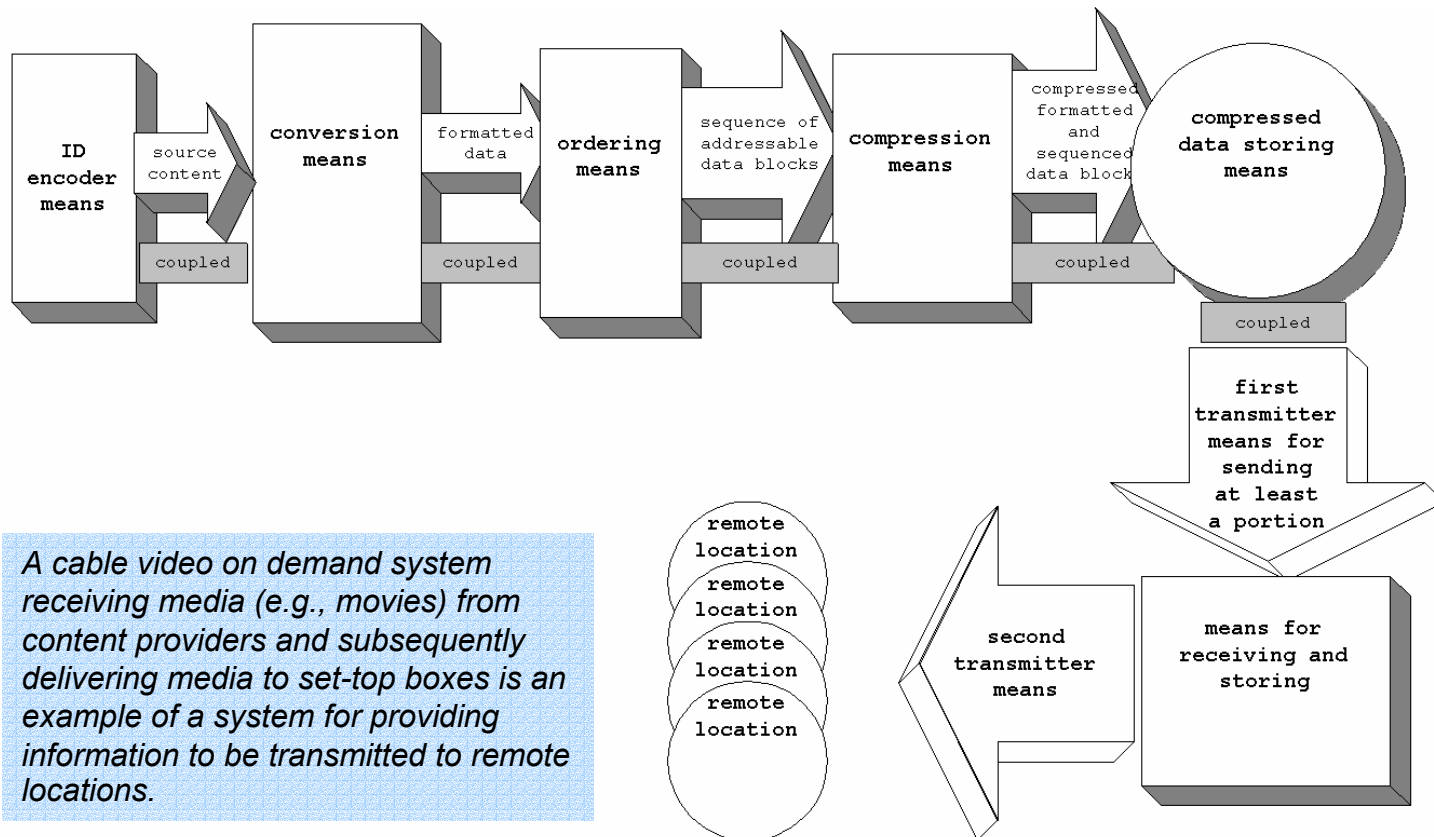
a distribution system, remote from the transmission system, the distribution system comprising:

means for receiving and storing a complete copy of the portion of one of the files sent by the first transmitter means; and

second transmitter means, responsive to the stored portion of one of the files, for transmitting a representation of the stored portion to at least one of a plurality of the remote locations.

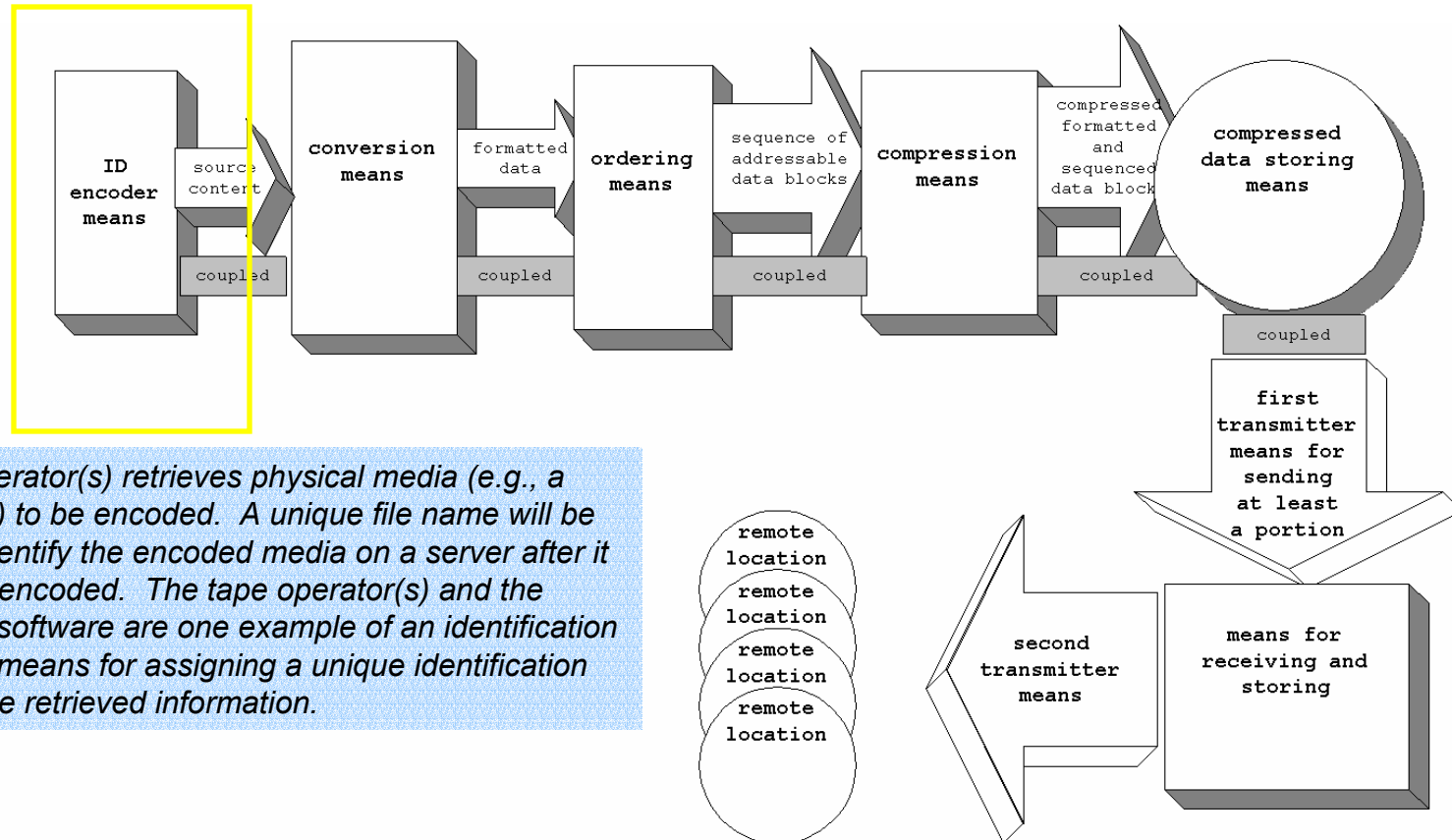
Cable System Transmitting to Set-top Boxes Compared to the '863 Patent Claim 10:

A system for providing information to be transmitted to remote locations, comprising:



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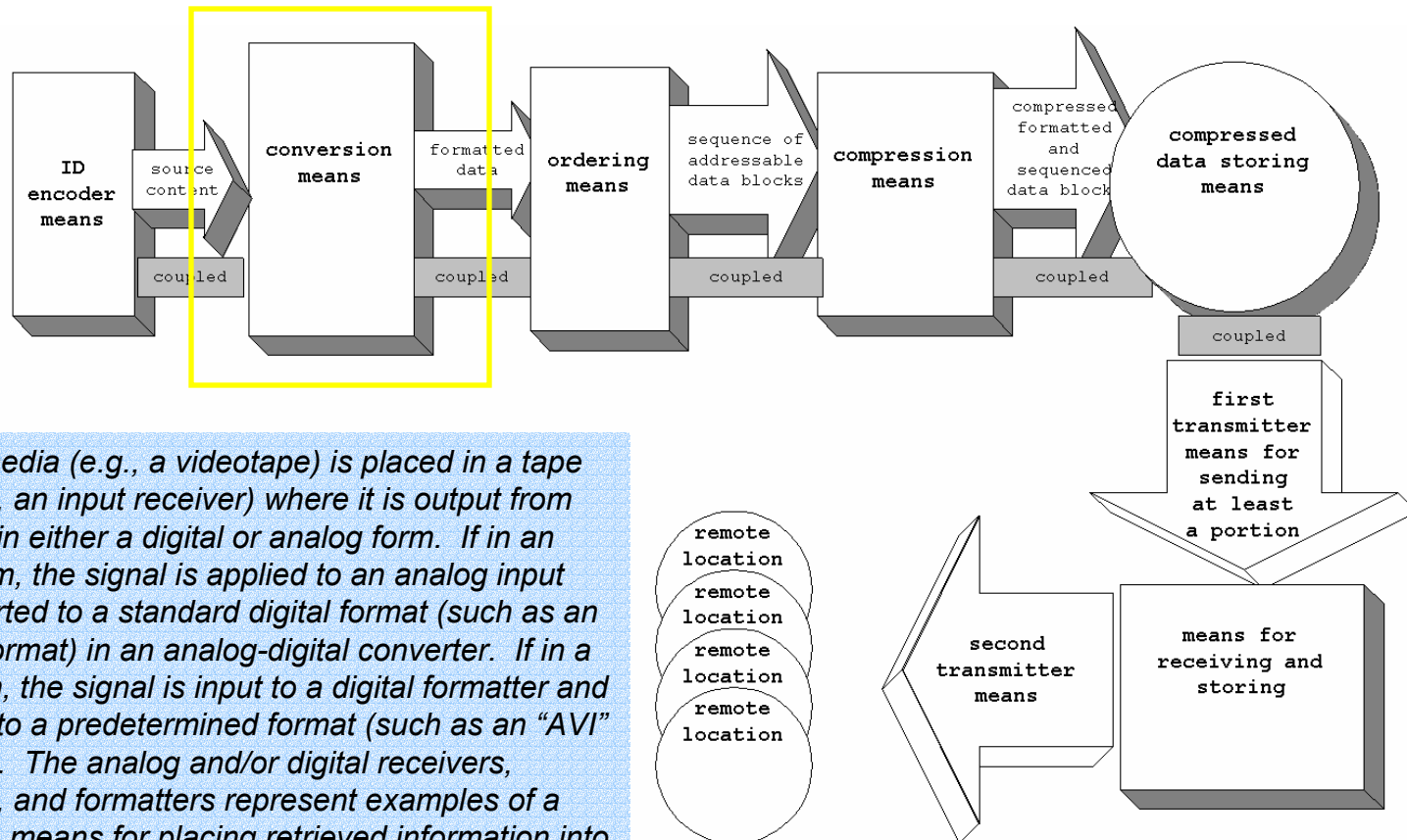
identification encoding means for assigning a unique identification code to items of information;



A tape operator(s) retrieves physical media (e.g., a videotape) to be encoded. A unique file name will be used to identify the encoded media on a server after it has been encoded. The tape operator(s) and the encoding software are one example of an identification encoding means for assigning a unique identification code to the retrieved information.

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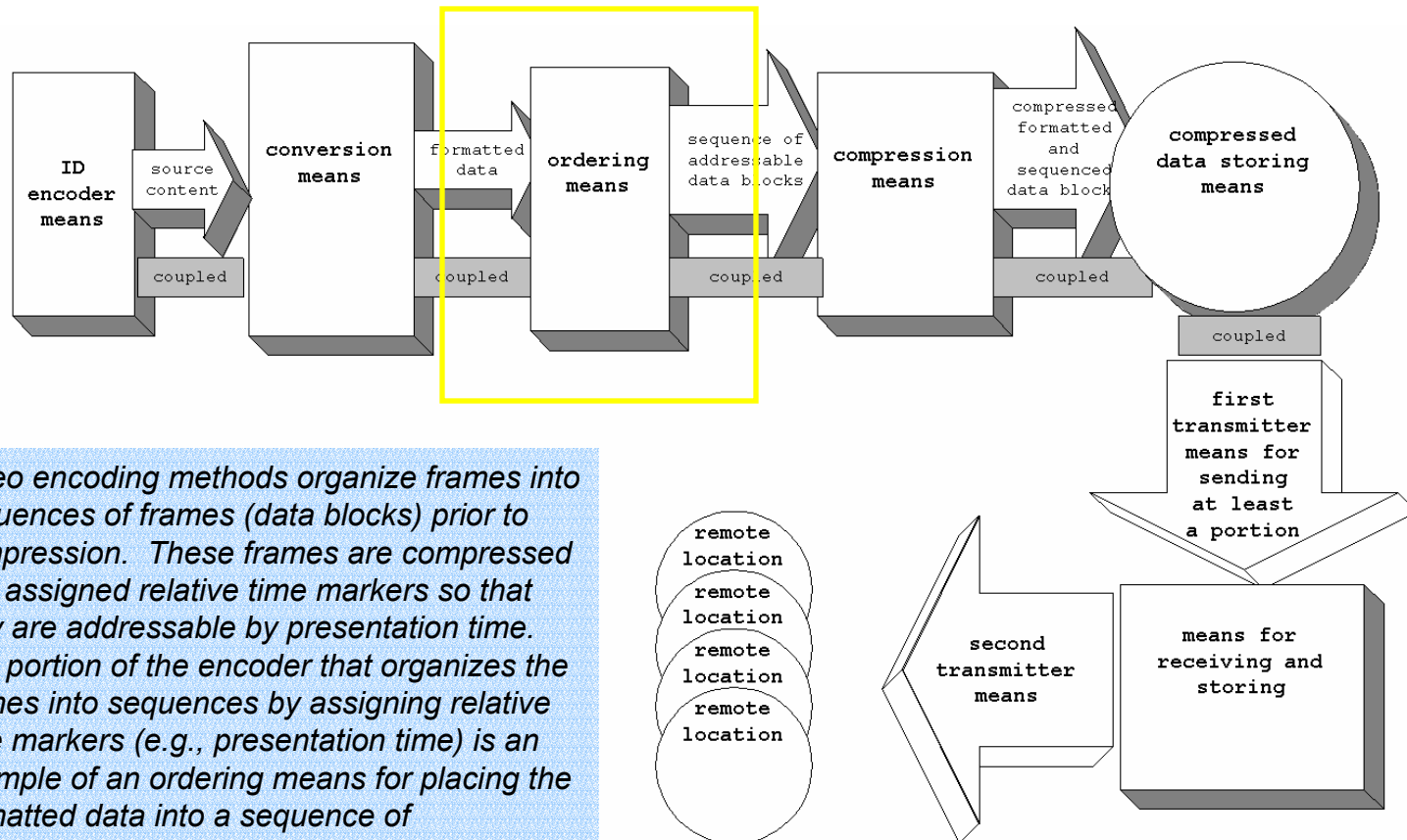
conversion means, coupled to the identification encoding means, for placing each item of information into a predetermined format as formatted data;



Physical media (e.g., a videotape) is placed in a tape player (i.e., an input receiver) where it is output from the player in either a digital or analog form. If in an analog form, the signal is applied to an analog input and converted to a standard digital format (such as an "AVI" file format) in an analog-digital converter. If in a digital form, the signal is input to a digital formatter and converted to a predetermined format (such as an "AVI" file format). The analog and/or digital receivers, converters, and formatters represent examples of a conversion means for placing retrieved information into a predetermined format as formatted data.

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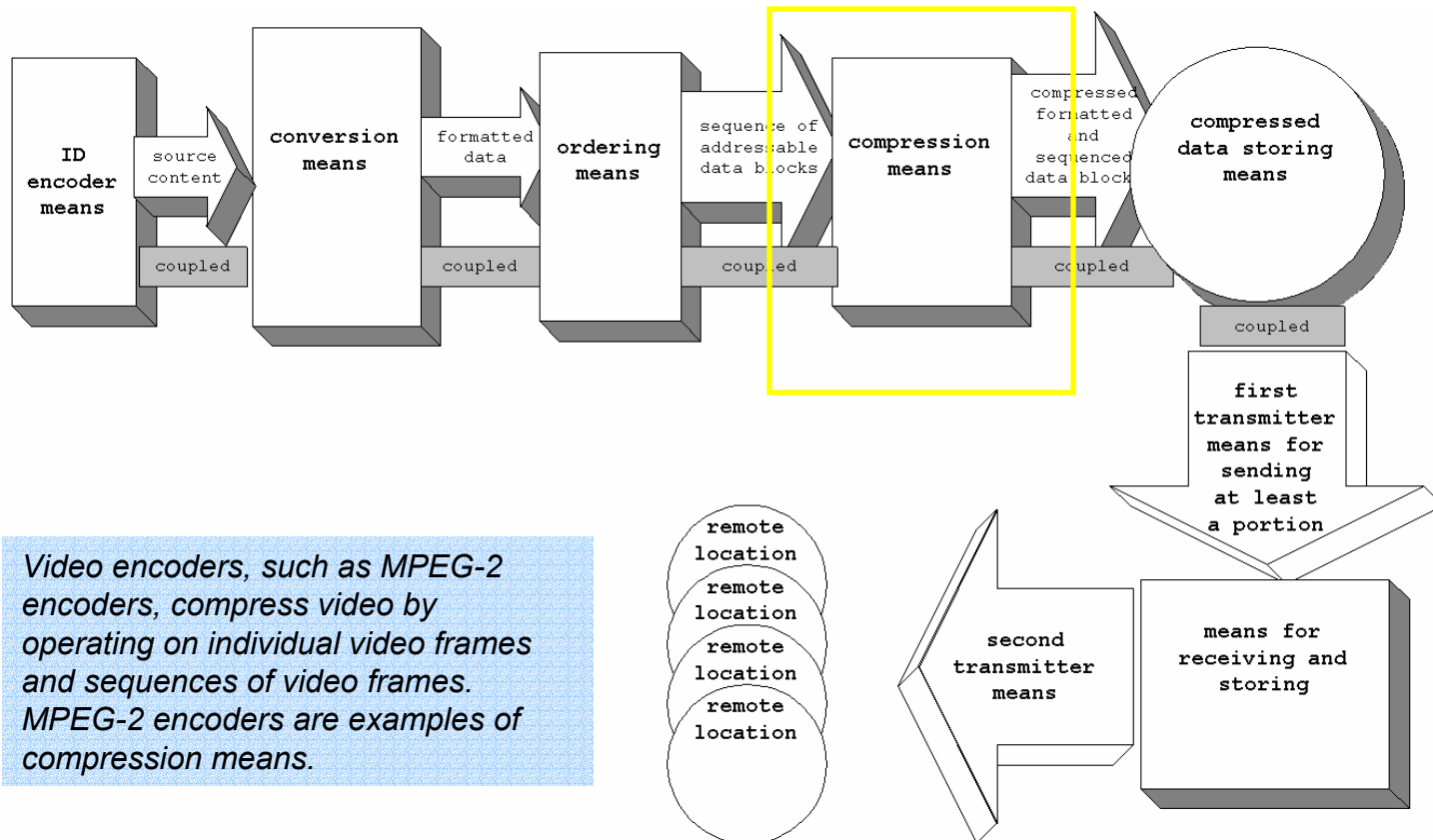
ordering means, coupled to the conversion means, for placing the formatted data into a sequence of addressable data blocks;



Video encoding methods organize frames into sequences of frames (data blocks) prior to compression. These frames are compressed and assigned relative time markers so that they are addressable by presentation time. The portion of the encoder that organizes the frames into sequences by assigning relative time markers (e.g., presentation time) is an example of an ordering means for placing the formatted data into a sequence of addressable data blocks.

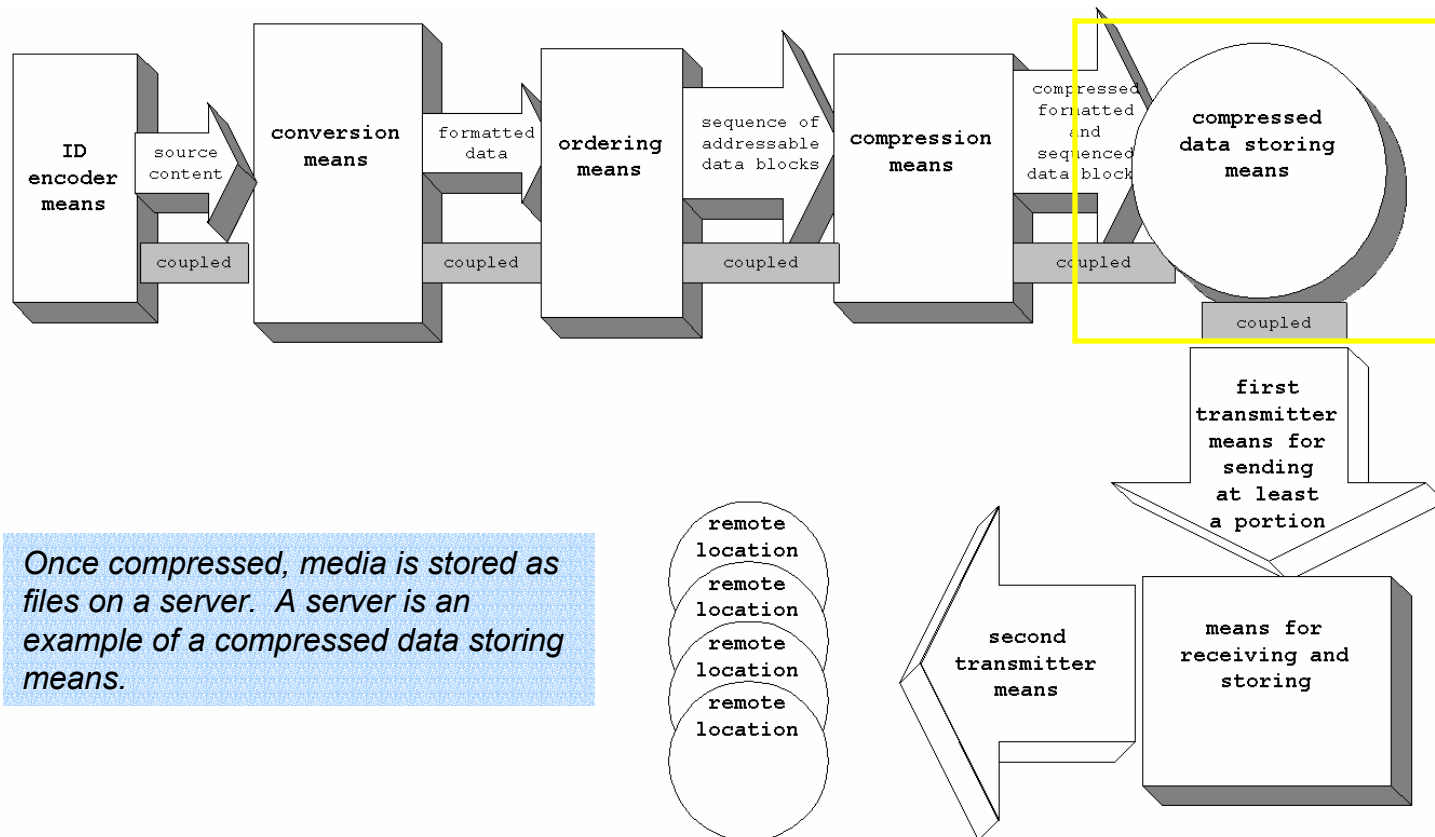
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compression means, coupled to the ordering means, for compressing the formatted and sequenced data blocks;



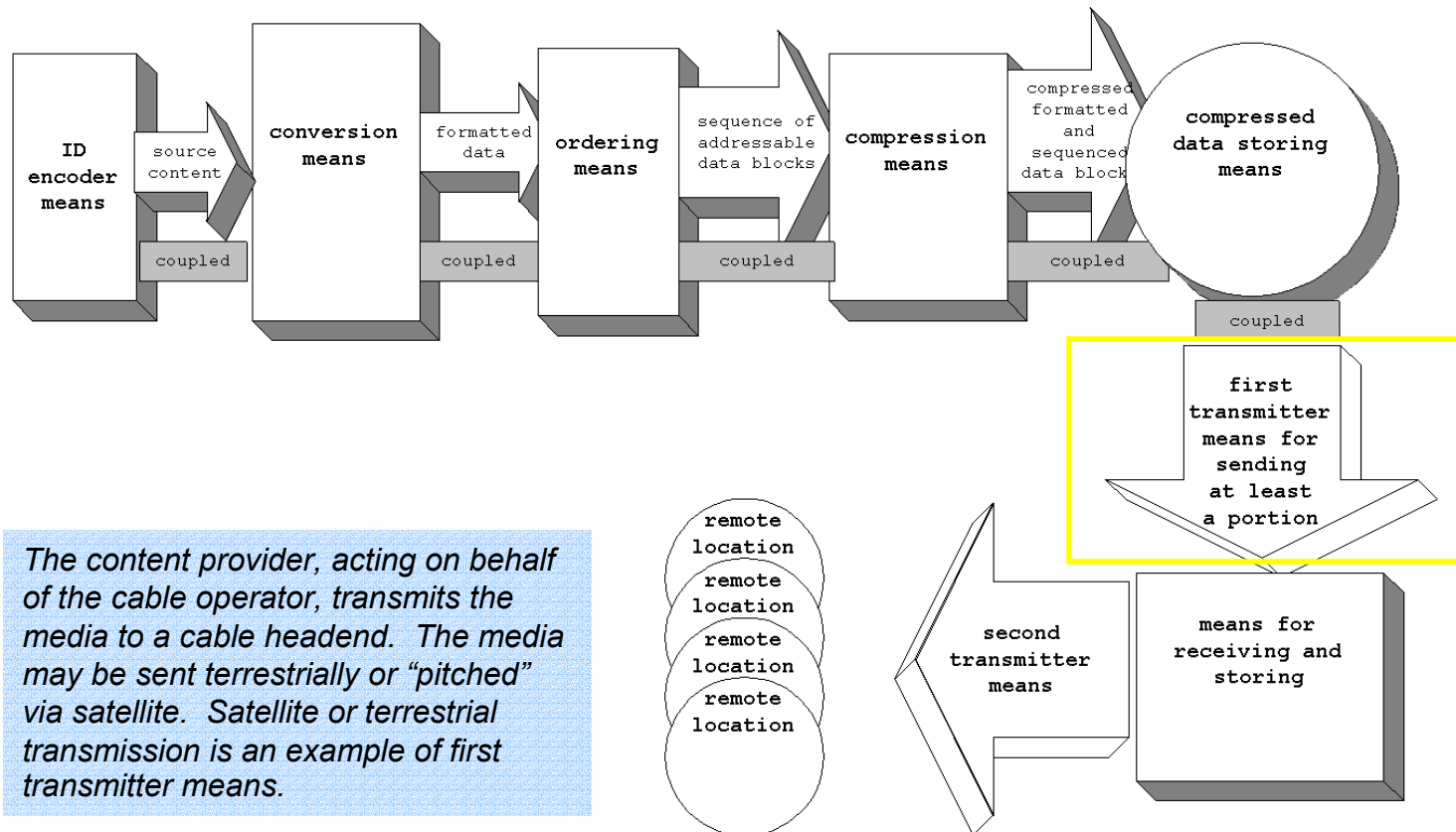
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compressed data storing means, coupled to the data compression means, for storing as files the compressed, sequenced data blocks; and



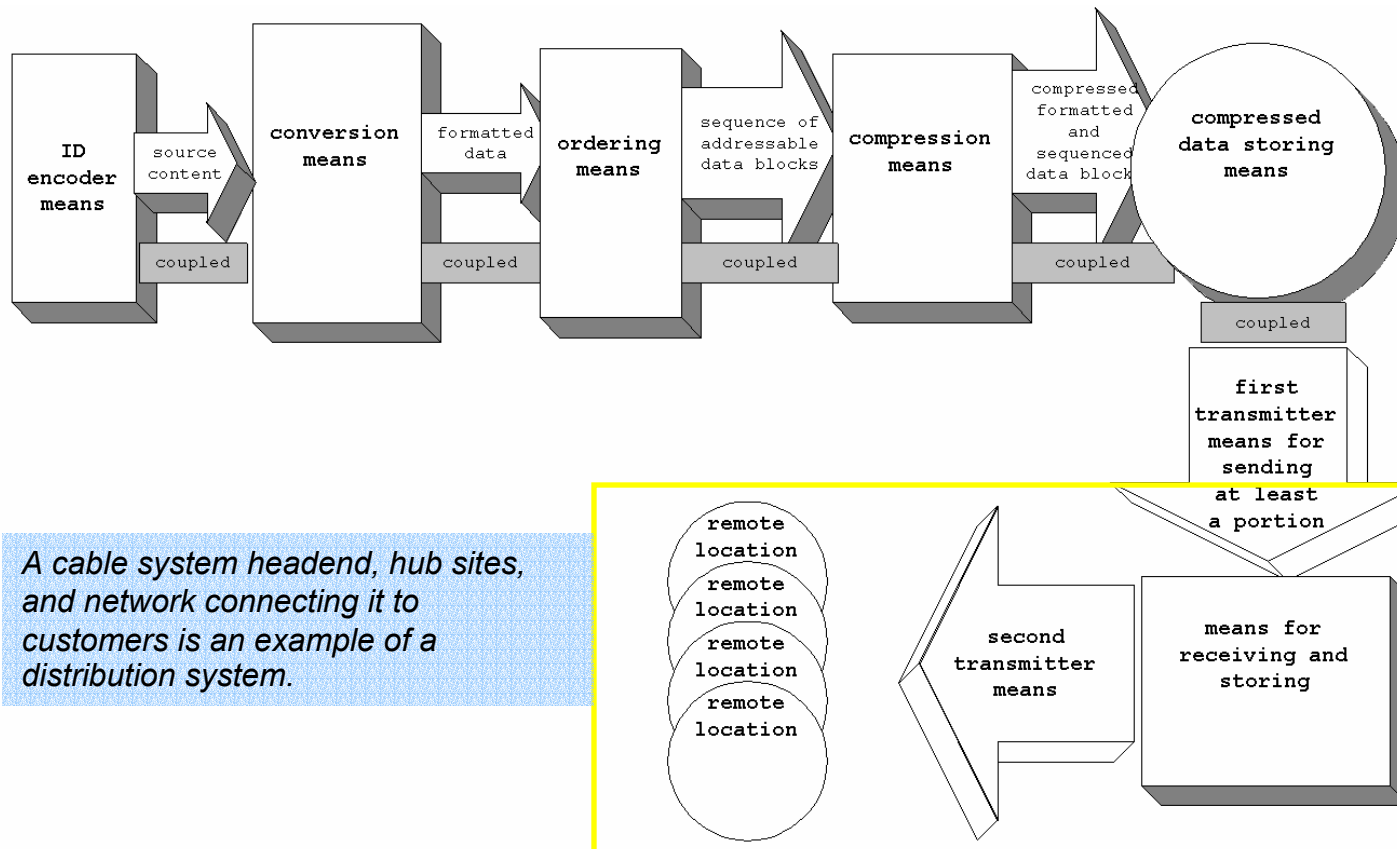
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first transmitter means, coupled to the compressed data storing means, for selectively sending at least a portion of one of the files;



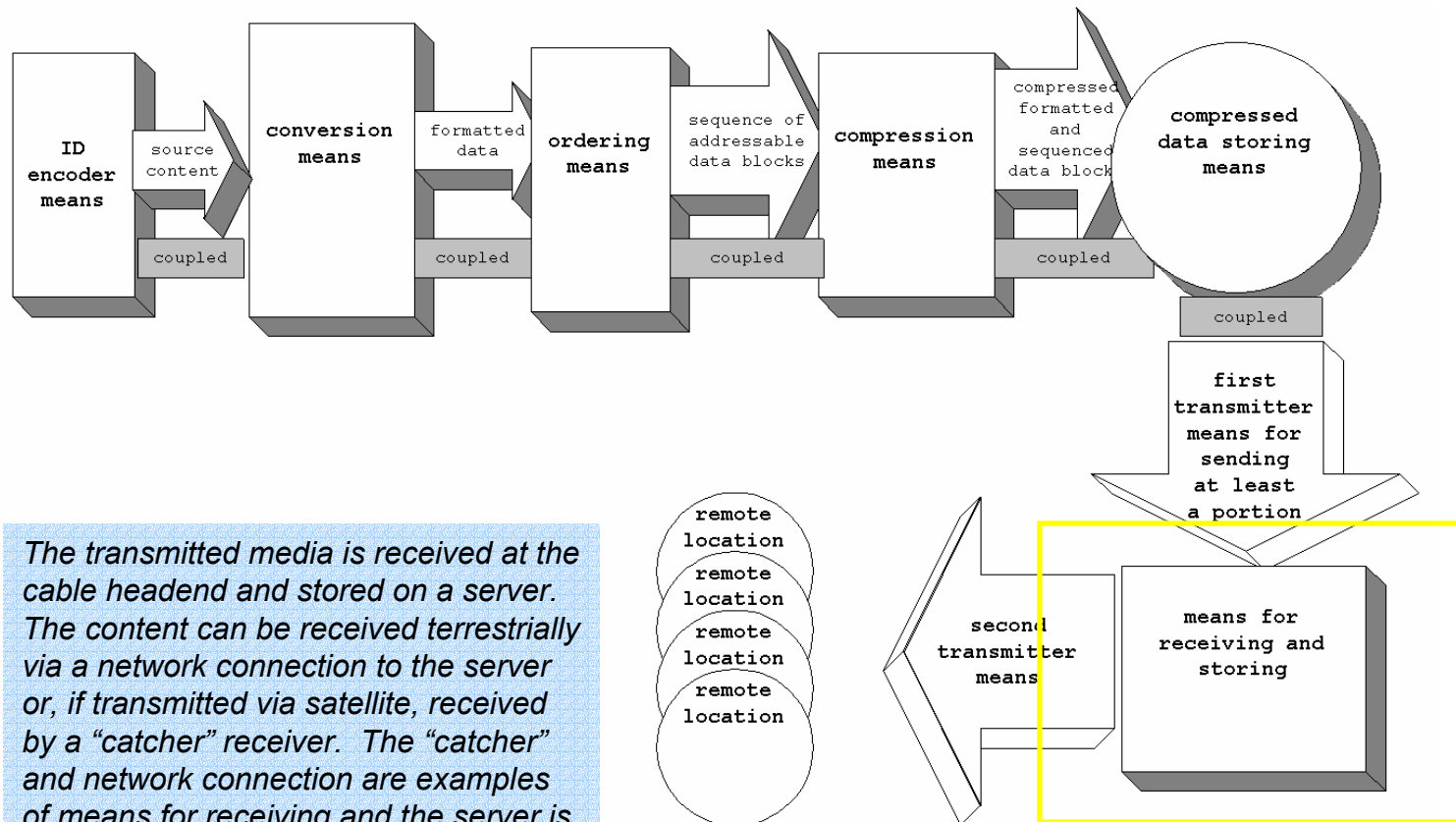
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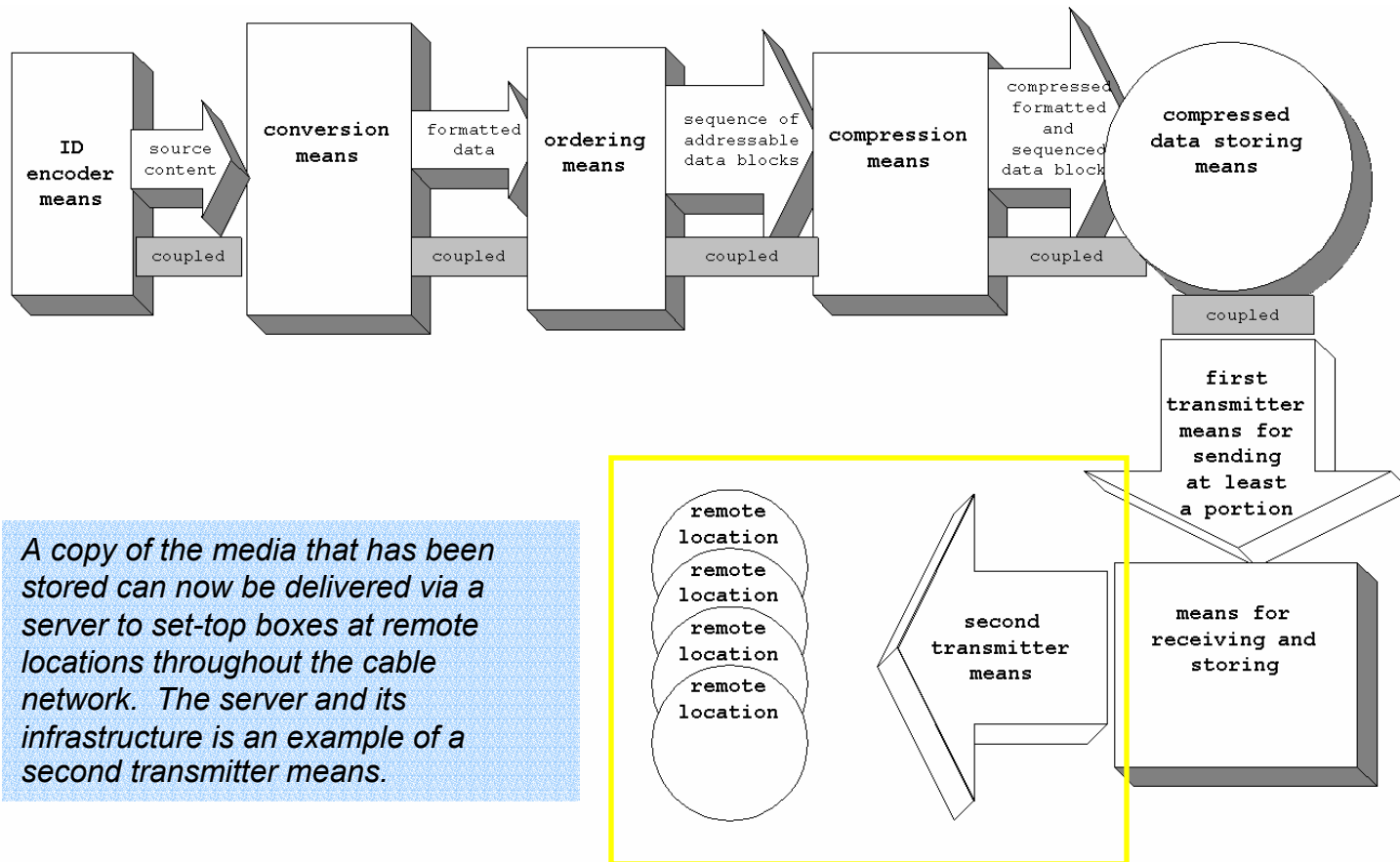
means for receiving and storing a copy of the portion of one of the files sent by the first transmitter; and



The transmitted media is received at the cable headend and stored on a server. The content can be received terrestrially via a network connection to the server or, if transmitted via satellite, received by a "catcher" receiver. The "catcher" and network connection are examples of means for receiving and the server is an example of means for storing.

Cable System Transmitting to Set-top Boxes Compared to the '863 Patent Claim 10:

second transmitter means, responsive to the stored portion of one of the files, for transmitting a representation of the stored portion to at least one of a plurality of the remote locations.



A copy of the media that has been stored can now be delivered via a server to set-top boxes at remote locations throughout the cable network. The server and its infrastructure is an example of a second transmitter means.