

AMTC IP Coverage

Internet Website Operator
Transmitting Video to Personal
Computers
Compared to
Yurt '863 Claim 17

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Patent 5,550,863 Claim 17:

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

formatting items of audio/video information as compressed digitized data at a central processing location;

transmitting compressed, digitized data representing a complete copy of at least one item of audio/video information from the central processing location;

receiving the transmitted compressed, digitized data representing a complete copy of the at least one item of audio/video information, at a local distribution system;

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

using the stored compressed, digitized data to transmit a representation of the at least one item to a plurality of subscriber receiving stations coupled to the local distribution system;

wherein the formatting step comprises:

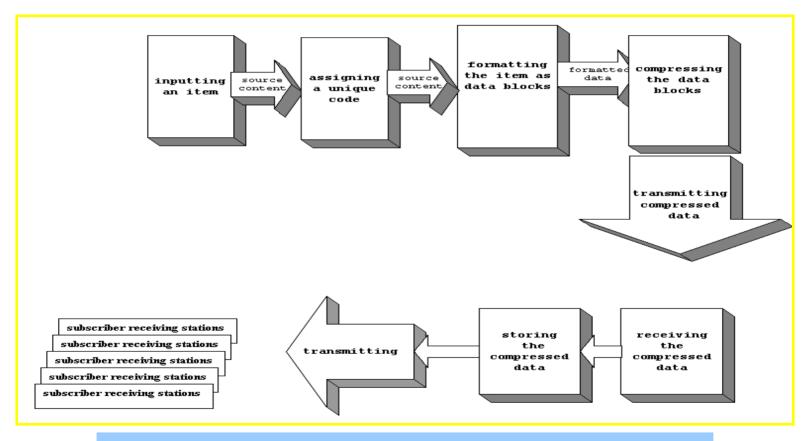
inputting an item having information into the transmission system;

assigning a unique identification code to the item having information;

formatting the item having information as a sequence of addressable data blocks;

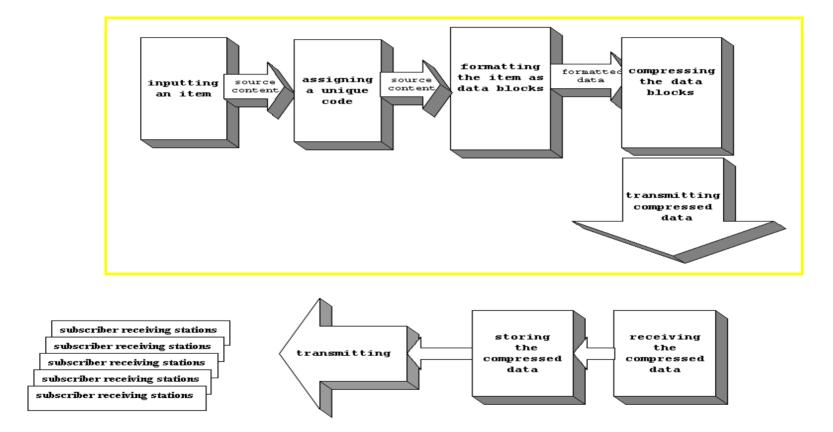
compressing the formatted and sequenced data blocks.

A method of distributing audio/video information comprising:



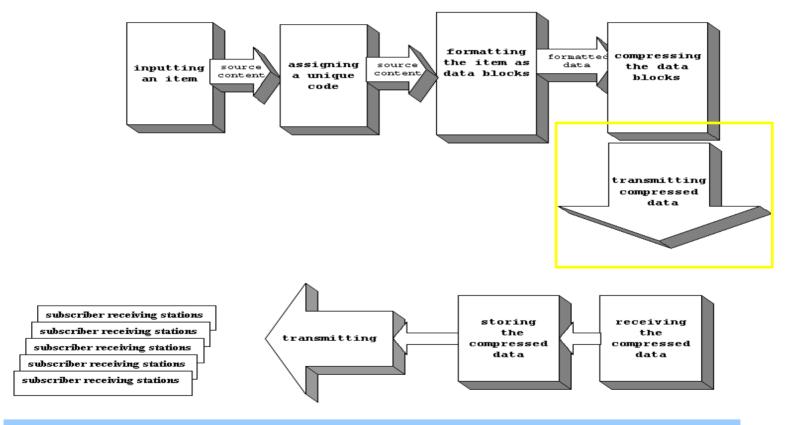
An Internet website operator transmits (e.g., downloads, streams) media (e.g., movies, news clips, music videos) over the Internet to the personal computers of its customers. This is an example of a method of distributing audio/video information.

formatting items of audio/video information as compressed digitized data at a central processing location;



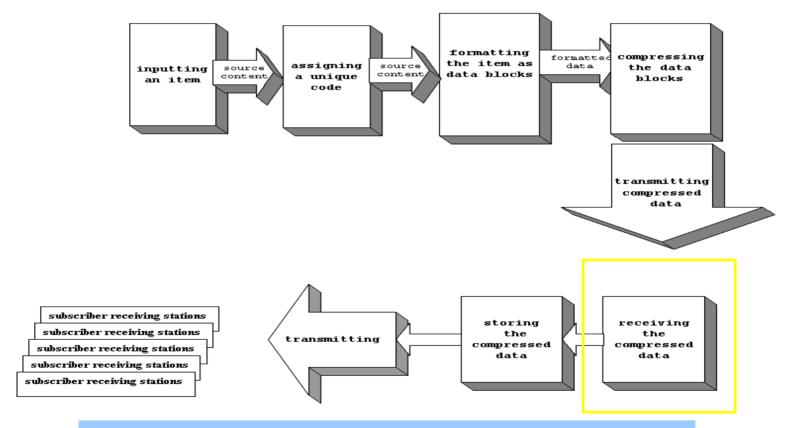
The media transmitted by the Internet website is digitized and compressed prior to distribution to customers. This digitization and compression may be done by the Internet website operator or by an agent acting on the behalf of the Internet website operator. The digitization and compression of the media is an example of formatting items of audio/video information as compressed digitized data.

transmitting compressed, digitized data representing a complete copy of at least one item of audio/video information from the central processing location;



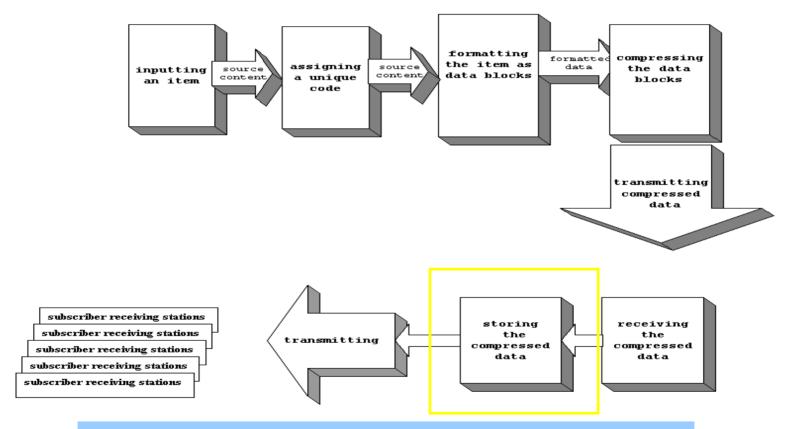
The compressed media is transmitted from the content encoding location via a file transfer method (e.g., FTP) over a network connection to the Internet website operator's distribution location. This distribution location may be managed by the website operator or by a content delivery network (CDN) or hosting provider acting on the behalf of the website operator. This is an example of transmitting compressed, digitized data from a central processing location.

receiving the transmitted compressed, digitized data representing a complete copy of the at least one item of audio/video information, at a local distribution system;



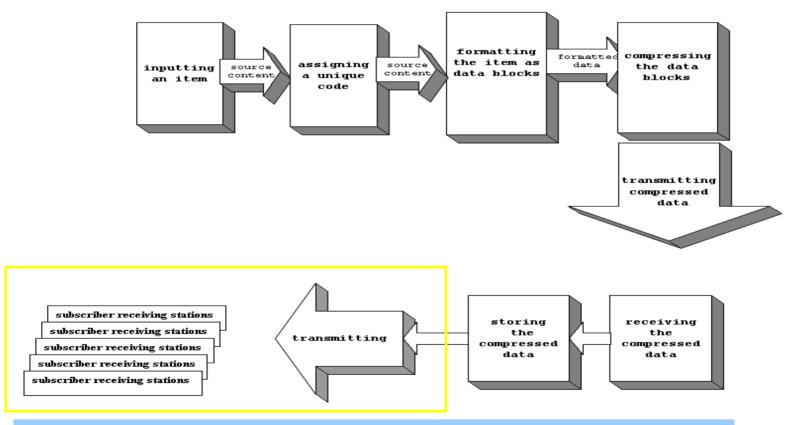
As an example, the transmitted compressed video is received via a network connection at the distribution location.

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



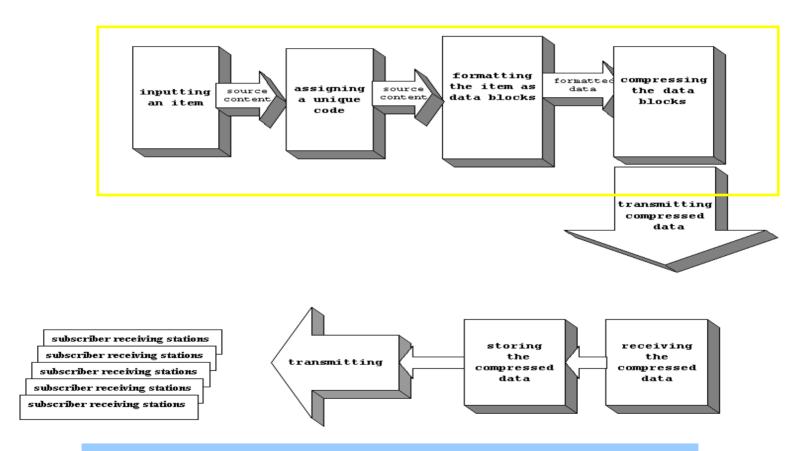
The received compressed media is stored on an array of storage devices located at the distribution location. This is an example of storing the received compressed, digitized data.

using the stored compressed, digitized data to transmit a representation of the at least one item to a plurality of subscriber receiving stations coupled to the local distribution system;



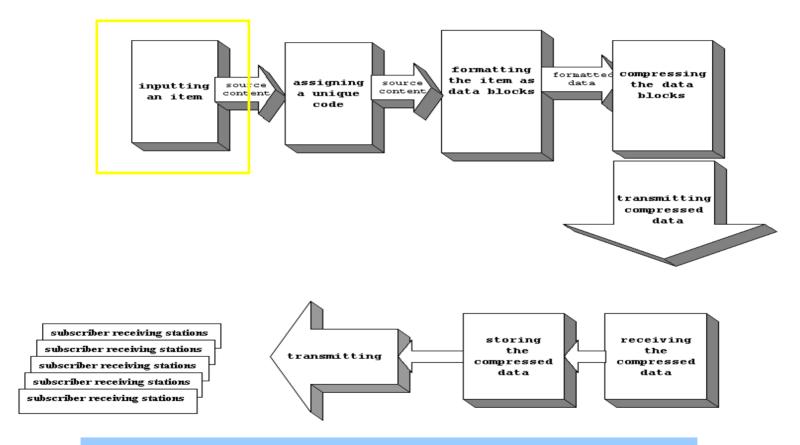
As an example, the Internet website operator transmits (e.g., streams, downloads) the video from a video server connected to the array of storage devices over the Internet to the personal computers of its users.

wherein the formatting step comprises:



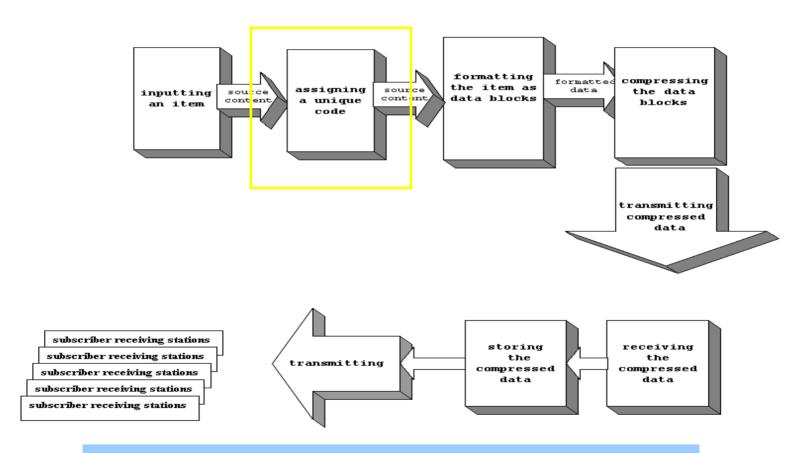
Prior to distribution to customers, the media is digitized and compressed.

inputting an item having information into the transmission system;



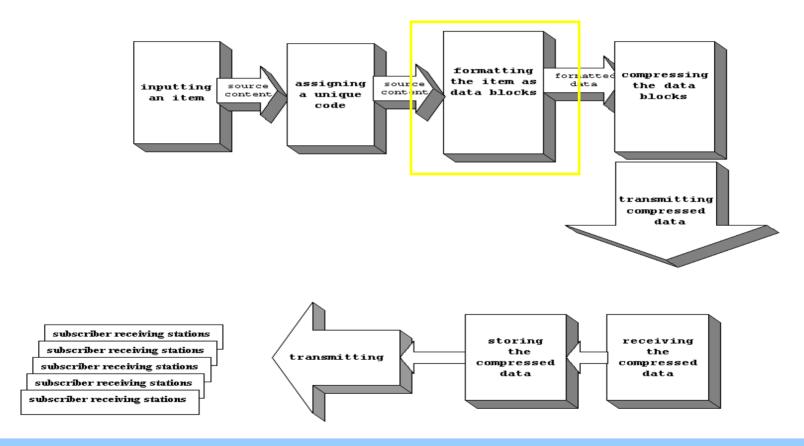
Physical media, such as a videotape, is received, logged in as received, and placed in the received media storage library. This is an example of inputting an item having information into the transmission system.

assigning a unique identification code to the item having information;



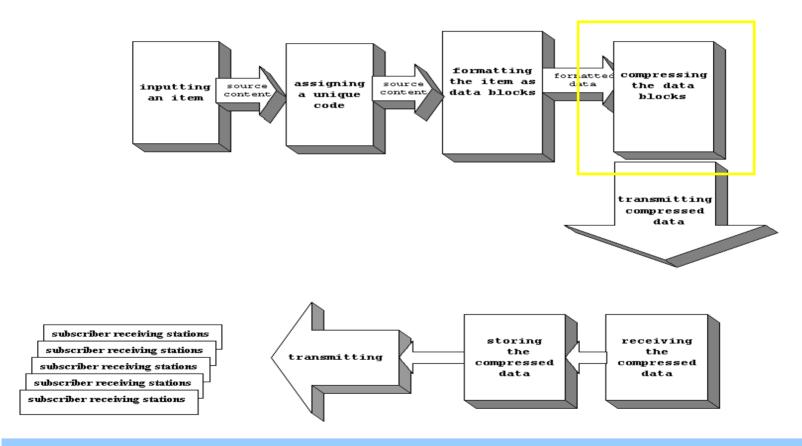
A unique file name will be used to identify the encoded media on a server after it has been encoded. This is an example of assigning a unique identification code.

formatting the item having information as 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. This is an example of formatting the item having information as a sequence of addressable data blocks.

compressing the formatted and sequenced data blocks.



Video encoders compress video by operating on individual video frames and sequences of video frames. An Internet website operator, or an agent acting on their behalf, uses encoders by Apple, Microsoft, and/or Real to encode the media. This is an example of compressing the formatted and sequenced data blocks.