

AMTC IP Coverage

Internet Website Operator Transmitting Video to Personal Computers Compared to Yurt '992 Claim 41

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This visual depiction represents an example of claim coverage only. Acacia is not limited to this or any other interpretation of the claim language.

Patent 5,132,992 Claim 41:

41. A method of transmitting information to remote locations, the transmission method comprising the steps, performed by a transmission system, of:

storing items having information in a source material library;

retrieving the information in the items from the source material library;

assigning a unique identification code to the retrieved information;

placing the retrieved information into a predetermined format as formatted data;

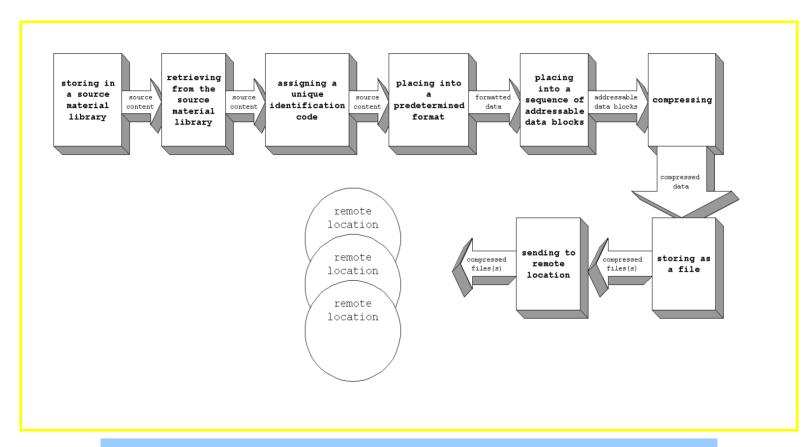
placing the formatted data into a sequence of addressable data blocks;

compressing the formatted and sequenced data blocks;

storing, as a file, the compressed, formatted, and sequenced data blocks with the assigned unique identification code; and

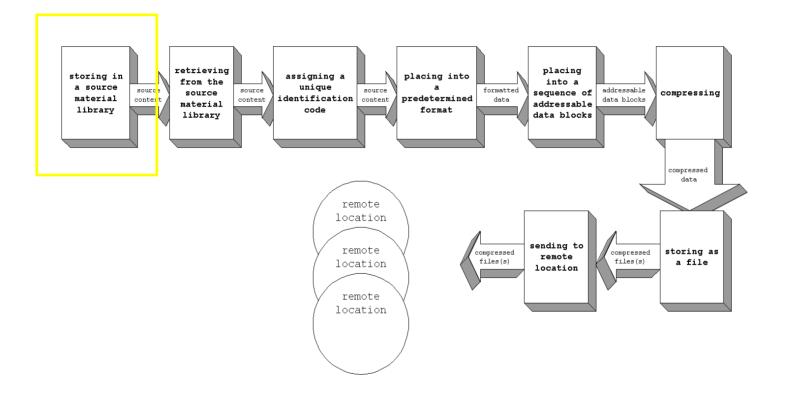
sending at least a portion of the file to one of the remote locations.

A method of transmitting information to remote locations, the transmission method comprising the steps, performed by a transmission system, of:



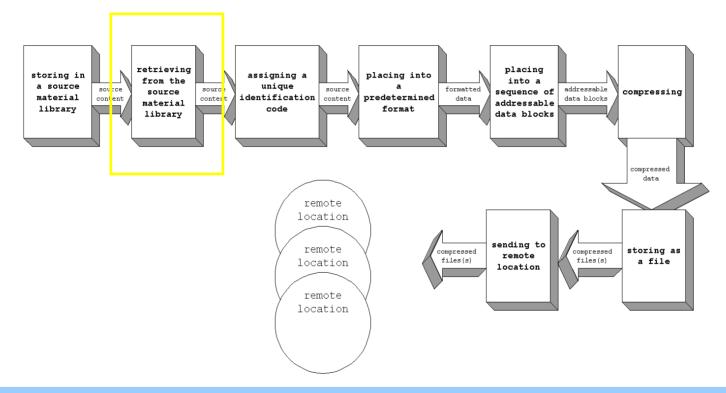
An Internet website operator transmits (e.g., downloads, streams) media (e.g., movies, news clips, music videos) over the Internet to the personal computers of its customers. This is an example of a method of transmitting information to remote locations.

storing items having information in a source material library



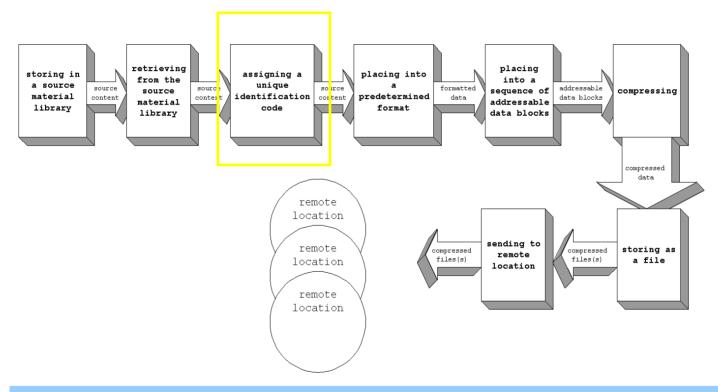
The Internet website operator receives physical media from content providers (e.g., movie studios, music companies). The Internet website operator may also produce their own physical media. This physical media is received by the Internet website operator's receiving department, logged in as received, and placed in the received media storage library. Receiving physical media into the media storage library is an example of storing items having information in a source material library.

retrieving the information in the items from the source material library;



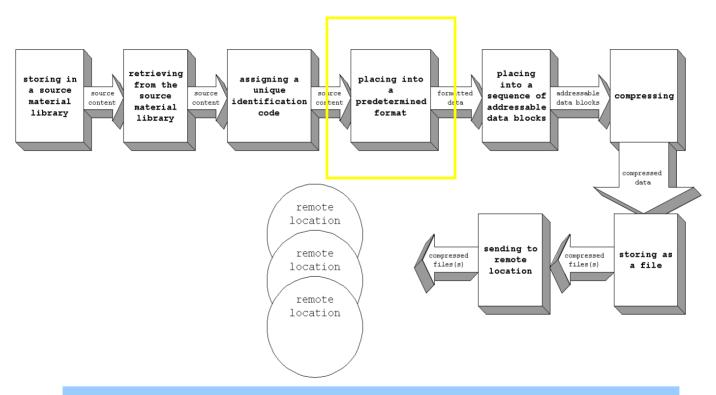
The physical media is digitized and compressed prior to distribution to customers. This digitization and compression may be done by the Internet website operator, or by an agent acting on the behalf of the Internet website operator. A tape operator(s) retrieves physical media (e.g., a videotape) from the library to be encoded. The tape operator(s) retrieving the media from the library is an example of retrieving the information in the items from the source material library.

assigning a unique identification code to the retrieved information



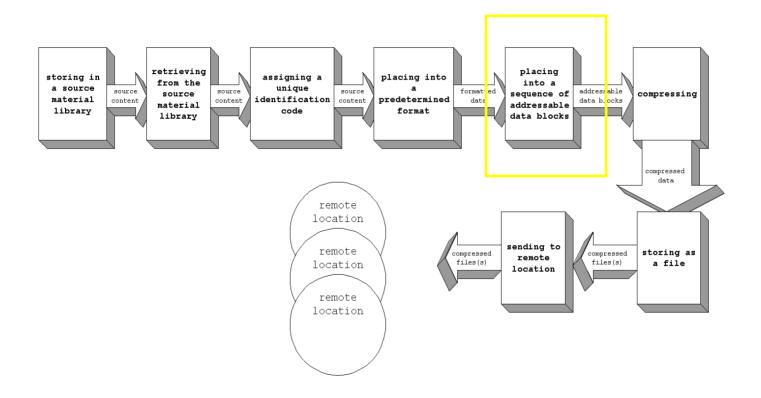
A unique file name will be assigned to identify the encoded media on a server after it has been encoded. This is an example of assigning a unique identification code to the retrieved information.

placing the retrieved information into a predetermined format as formatted data



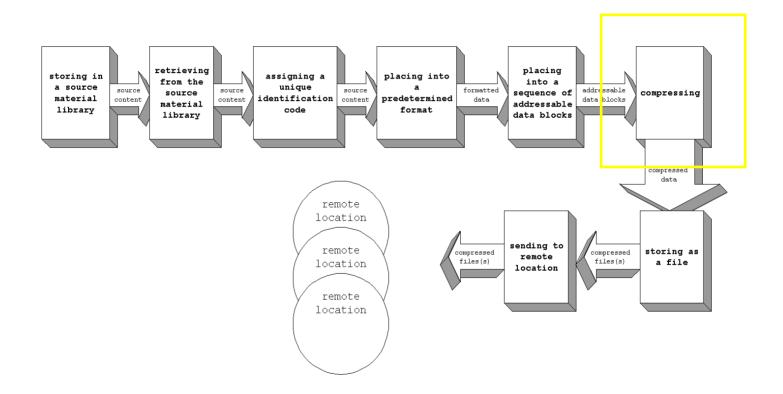
Physical media (e.g., a videotape) is placed in a tape player (i.e., an input receiver) where it is output from the player in either a digital or analog form. If in an analog form, the signal is applied to an analog input and converted to a standard digital format (such as an "AVI" file format) in an 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). This is an example of placing the retrieved information into a predetermined format.

placing the formatted data into a sequence of addressable data blocks;



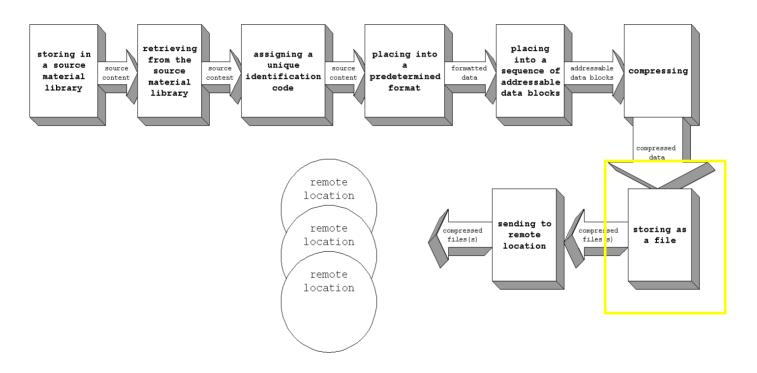
Video encoding methods organize frames into sequences of frames (data blocks) prior to compression. These frames are compressed and assigned relative time markers so that they are addressable by presentation time. Organizing frames into sequences of frames and assigning relative time markers is an example of formatting the item as a sequence of addressable data blocks.

compressing the formatted and sequenced data blocks;



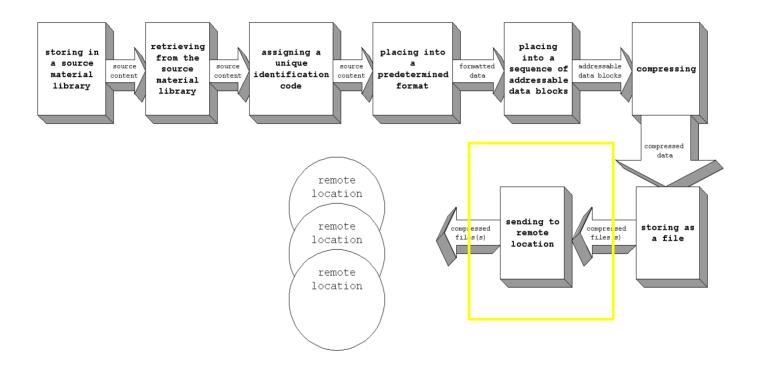
Video encoders compress video by operating on individual video frames and sequences of video frames. An Internet website operator, or an agent acting on their behalf, uses encoders by Apple, Microsoft, and/or Real to encode the media. Using encoders is an example of compressing the formatted and sequenced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

storing, as a file, the compressed, formatted, and sequenced data blocks with the assigned unique identification code; and



Once compressed, media is delivered from the content encoding location to the Internet website operator's distribution location where it is stored as files on an array of storage devices. Each file stored on the storage device is stored with its unique identification code. 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 storing compressed, formatted, and sequenced data blocks with the assigned unique identification code.

sending at least a portion of the file to one of the remote locations.



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. Transmitting video over the Internet to personal computers is an example of sending to a remote location.