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(54) **PHONE BASED TELEVISION REMOTE CONTROL**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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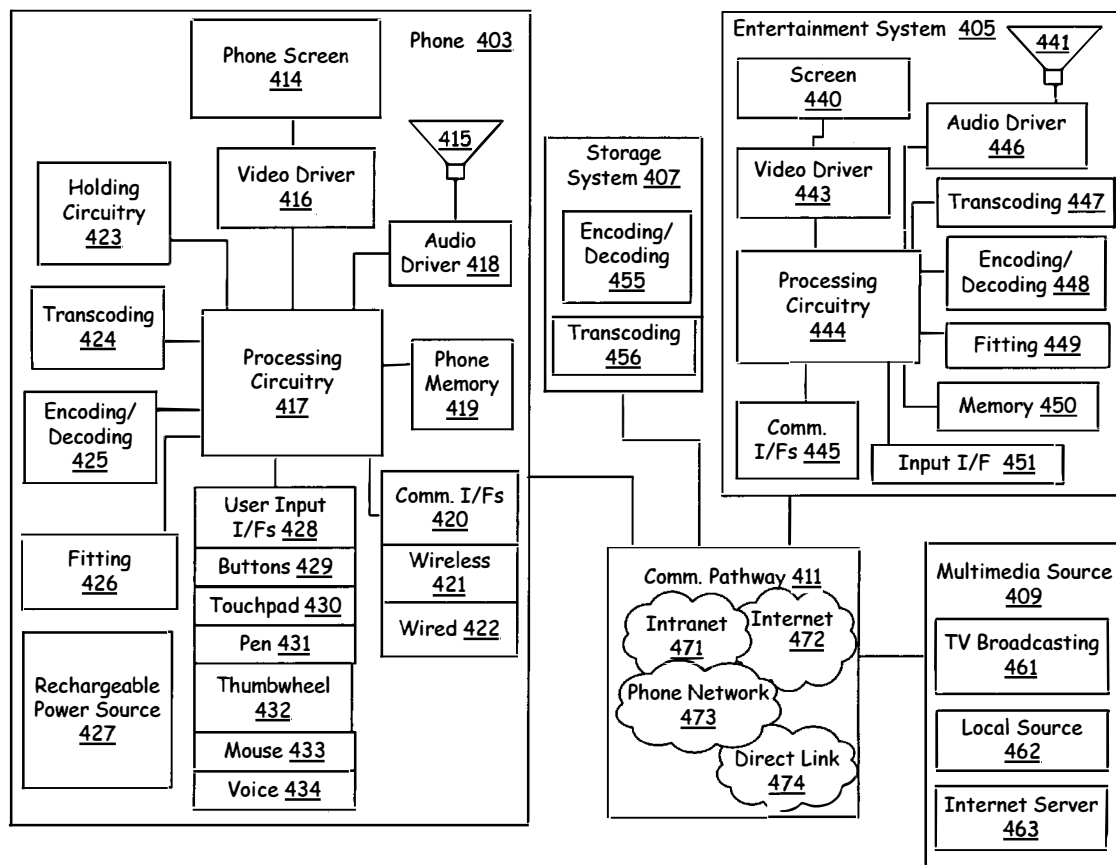
A phone that interacts with a television system. At least one module may be adapted to receive a user input identifying a video selection. At least one module may also be adapted to display video information corresponding to the video selection. At least one module may further be adapted to transmit a control signal adapted to cause the display of video information corresponding to the video selection on the television system. The phone may, for example, be adapted to receive television system setting information and provide for user control of various television system settings. Also for example, the phone may be adapted to receive media guide information, present such information to a user, provide for user selection of a media element, and transmit a control signal adapted to cause delivery of the selected media element from a multimedia source to the television system.

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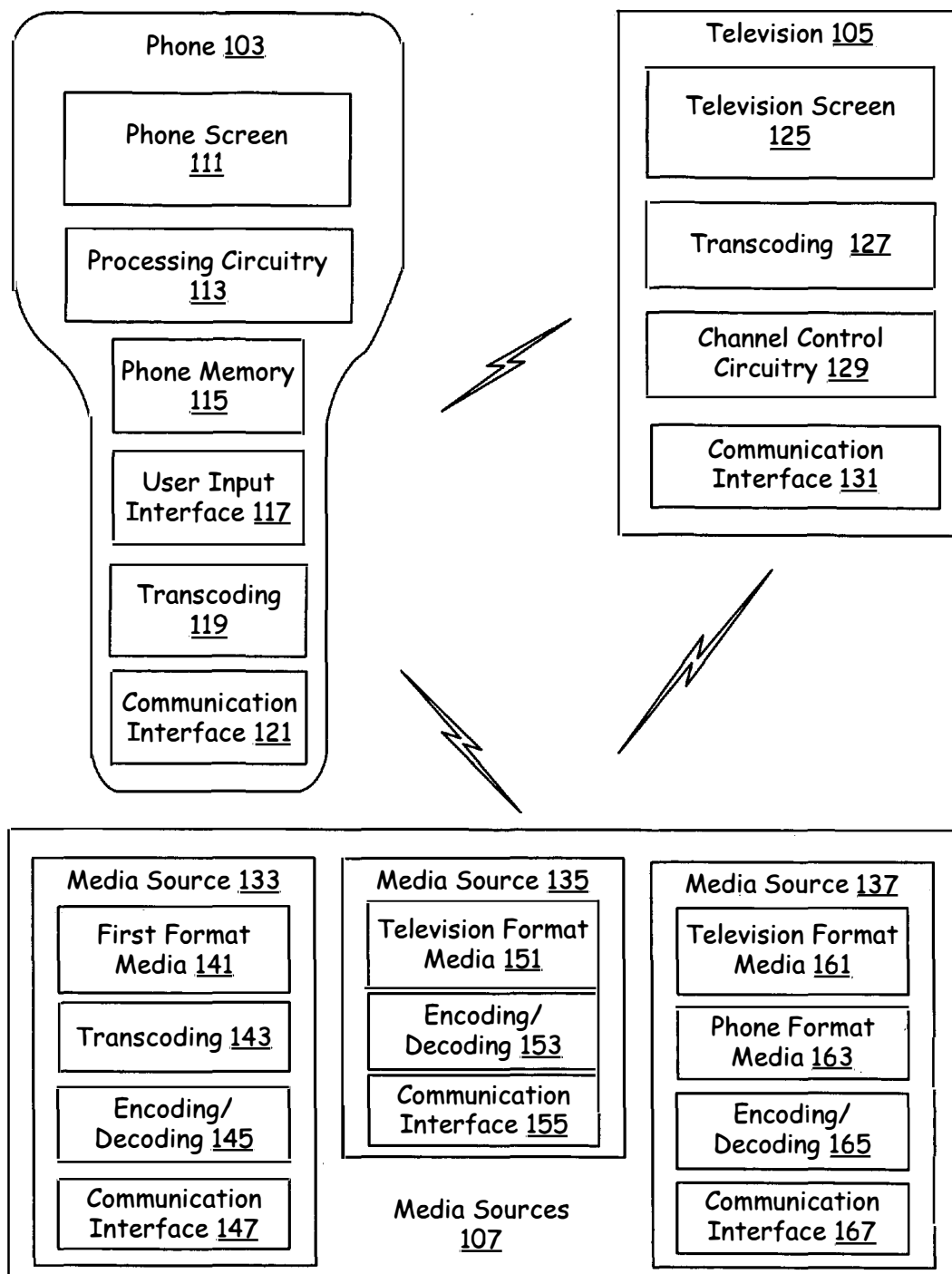


FIG. 1

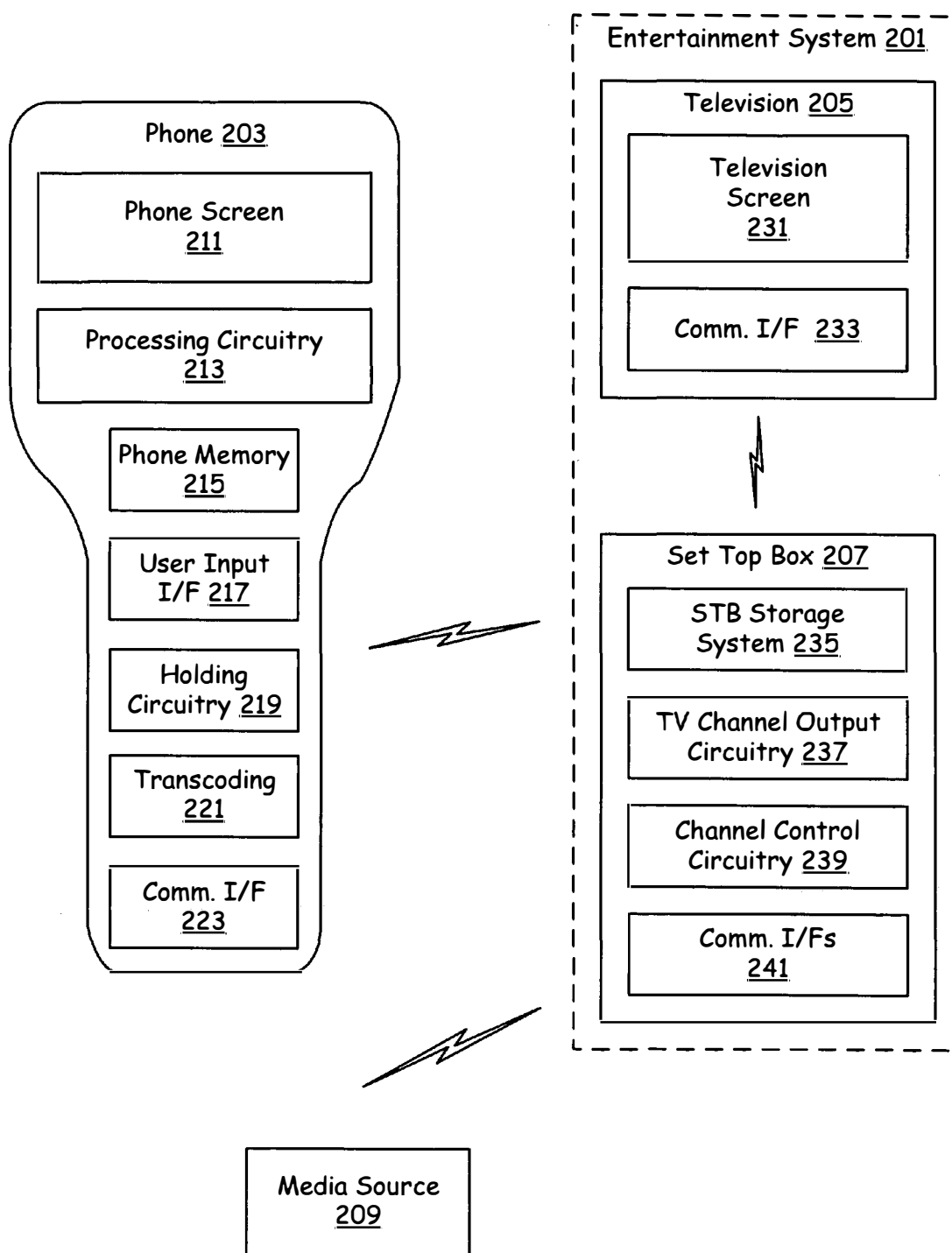


FIG. 2

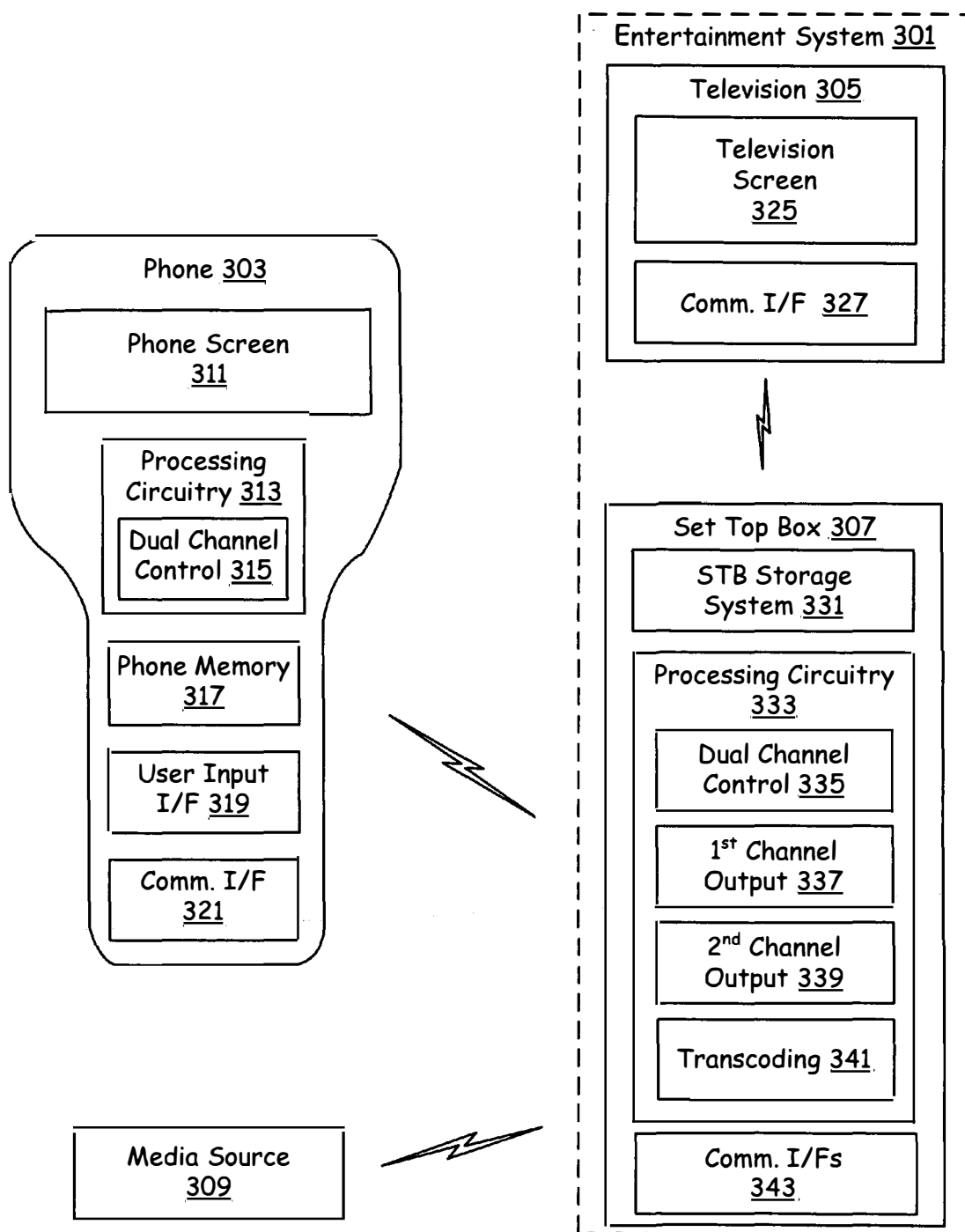


FIG. 3

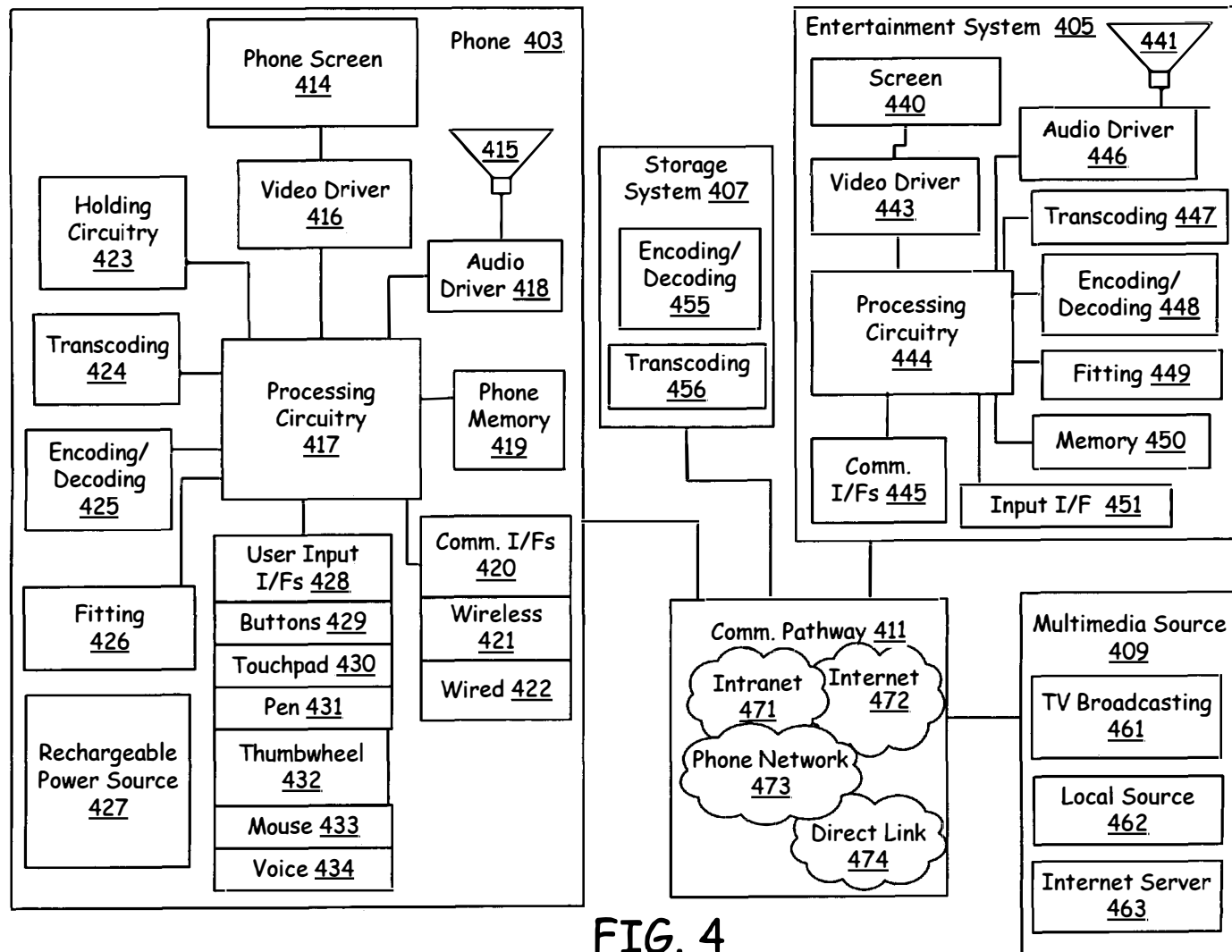


FIG. 4

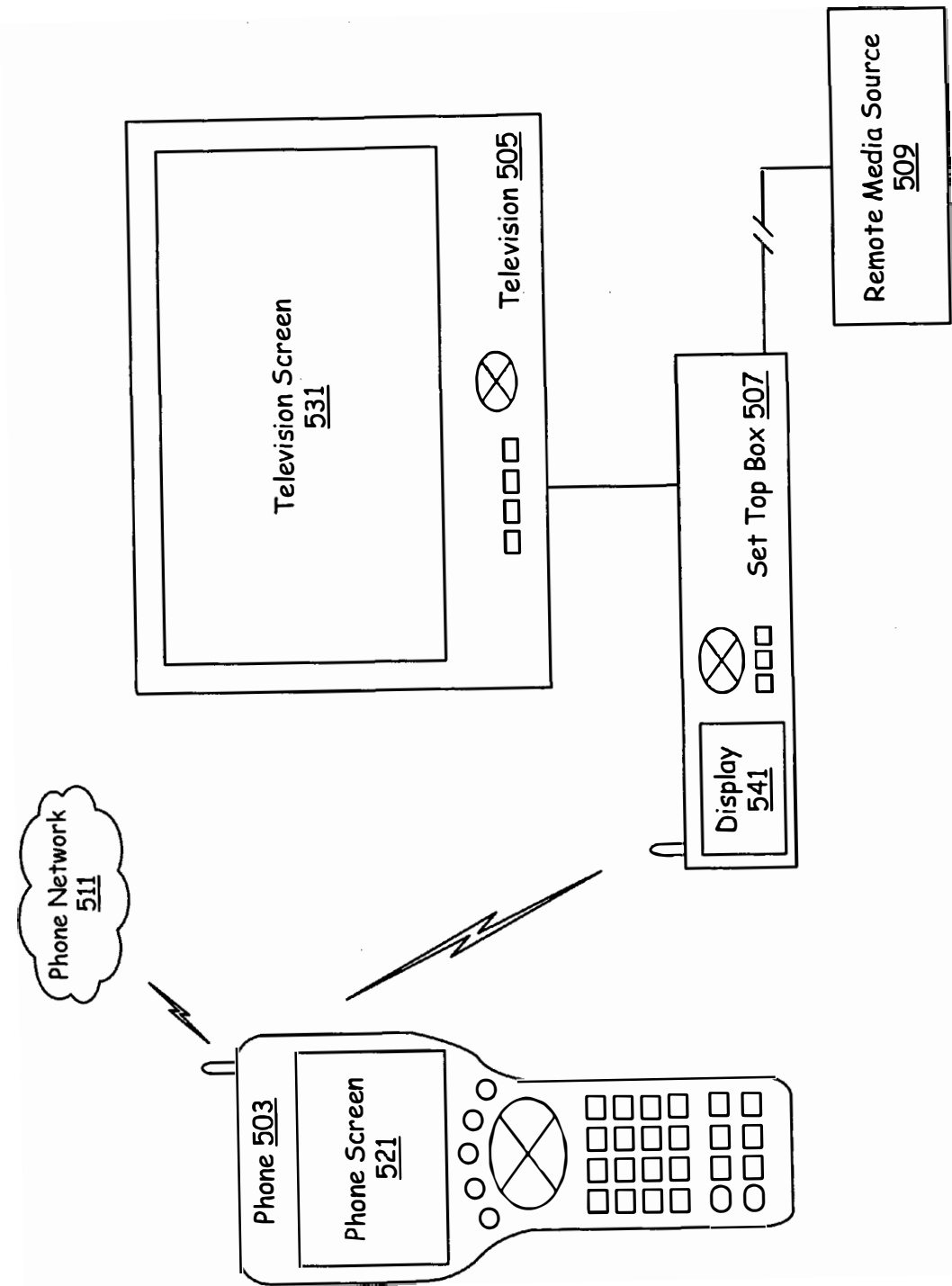


FIG. 5

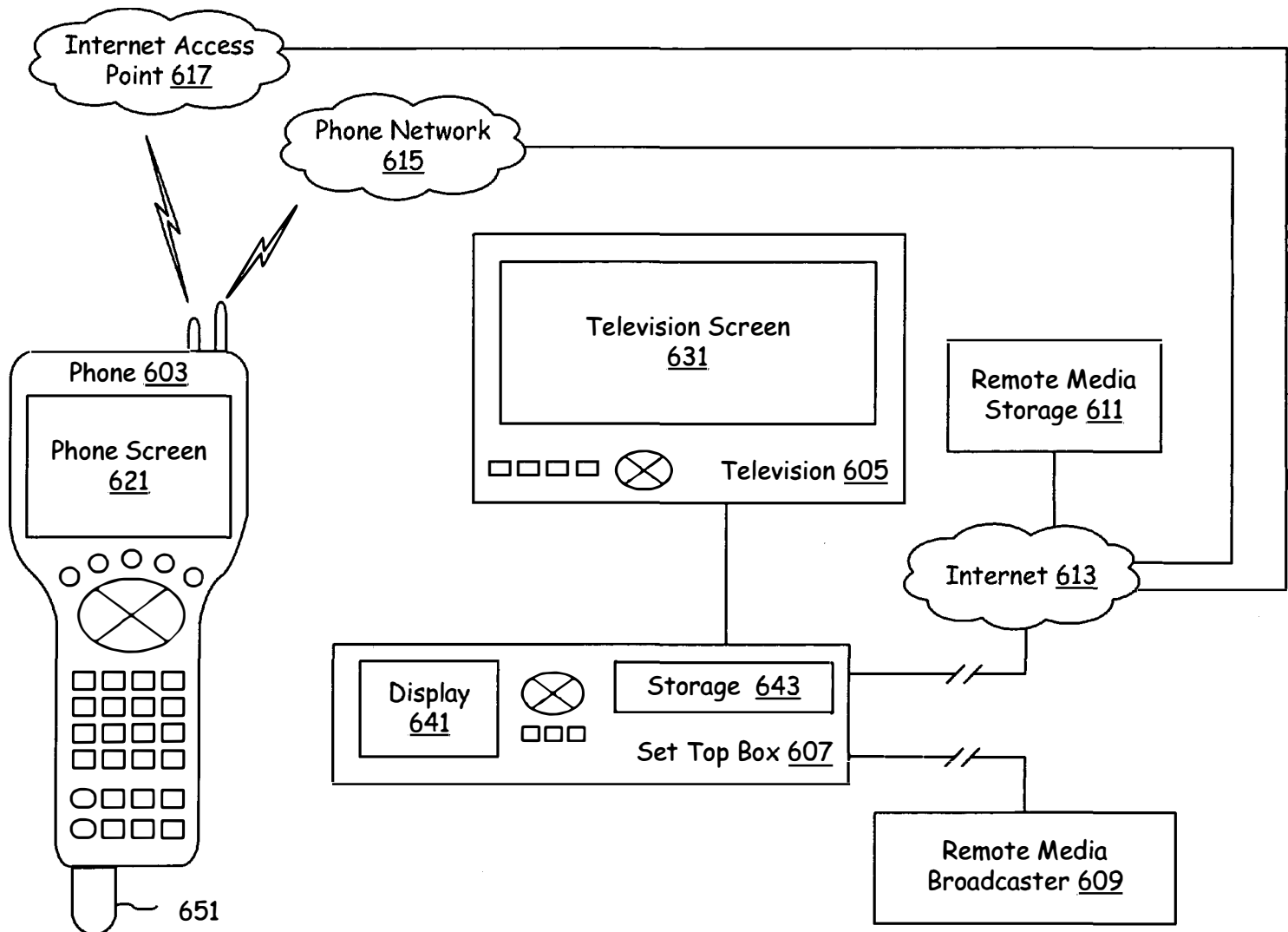


FIG. 6

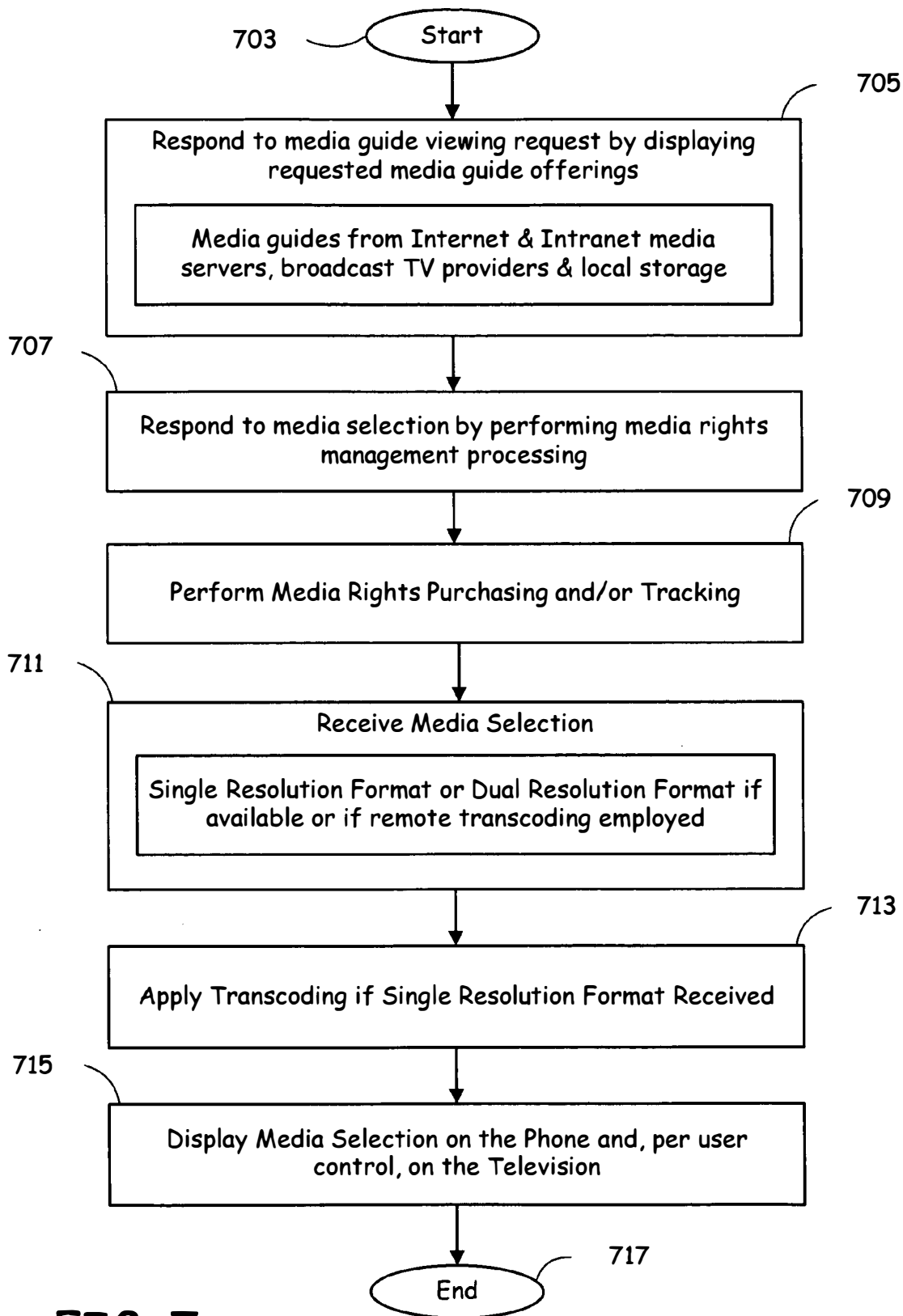


FIG. 7

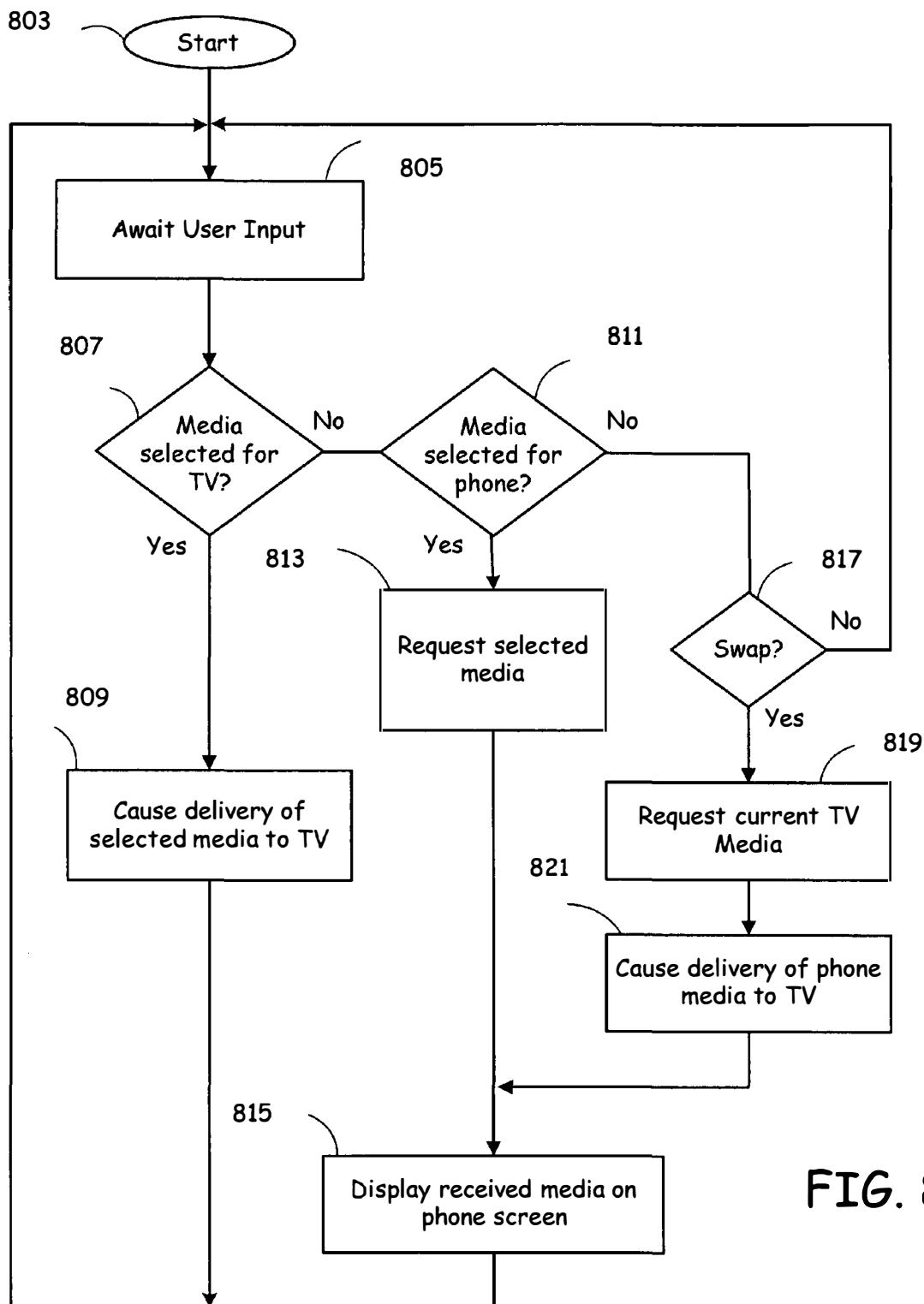


FIG. 8

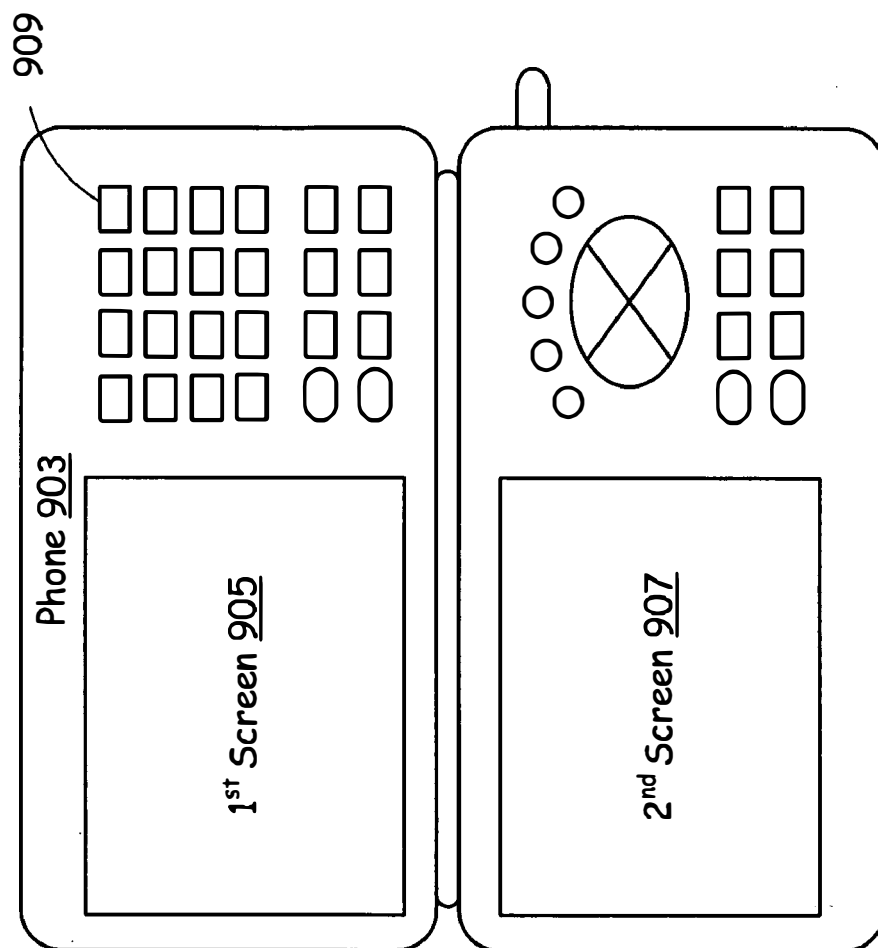


FIG. 9

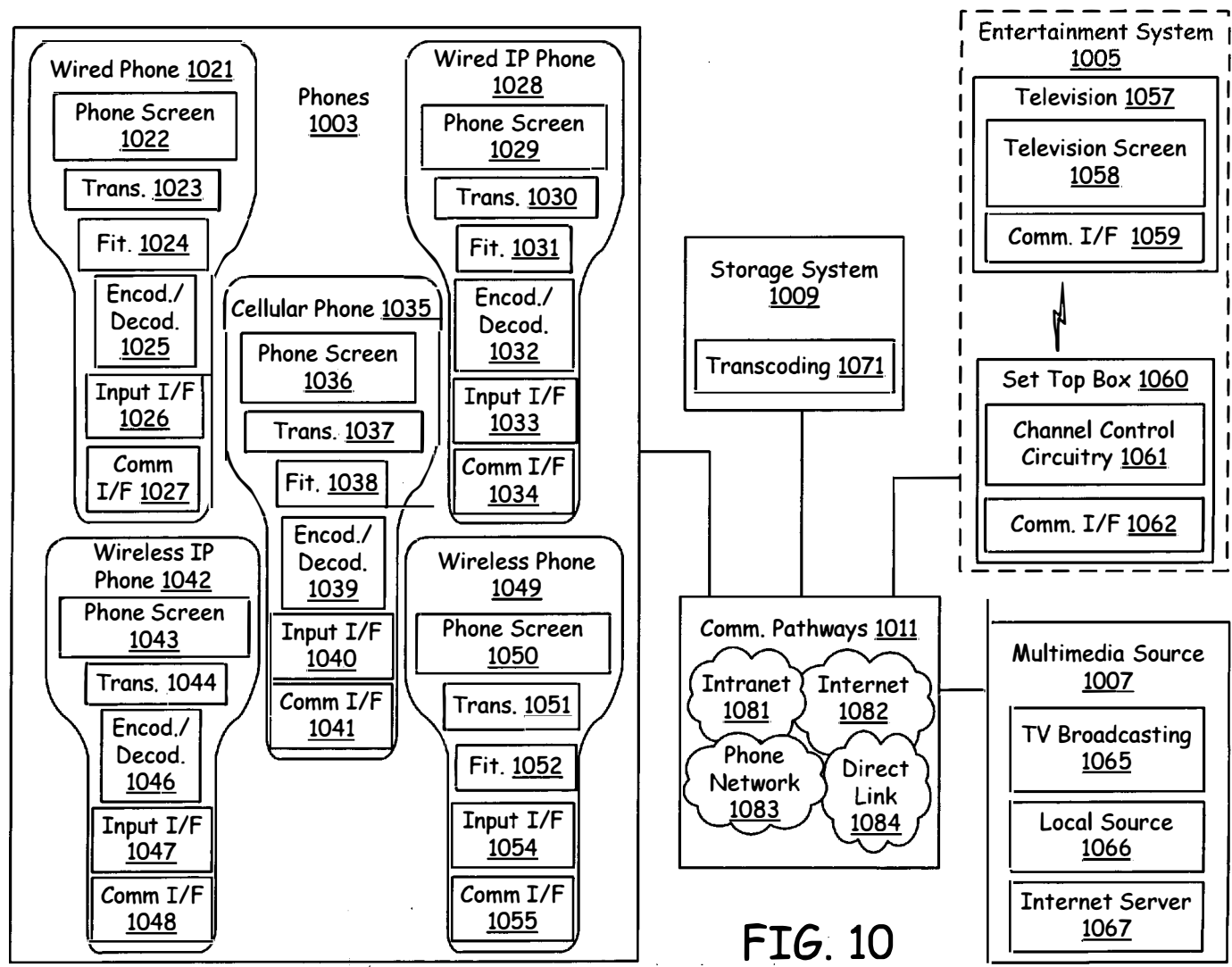


FIG. 10

PHONE BASED TELEVISION REMOTE CONTROL**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATIONS/INCORPORATION BY
REFERENCE**

[0001] The present application is related to U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. _____, filed concurrently herewith, titled "PARALLEL TELEVISION REMOTE CONTROL," with attorney docket number 16868US01, U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. _____, filed concurrently herewith, titled "CONTROL DEVICE WITH LANGUAGE SELECTIVITY," with attorney docket number 16869US01, U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. _____, filed concurrently herewith, titled "PARALLEL TELEVISION DOCKING ADAPTER," with attorney docket number 16874US01 and U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. _____, filed concurrently herewith, titled "UNIVERSAL PARALLEL TELEVISION REMOTE CONTROL," with attorney docket number 16875US01, each of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

**FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR
DEVELOPMENT**

[0002] [Not Applicable]

SEQUENCE LISTING

[0003] [Not Applicable]

MICROFICHE/COPYRIGHT REFERENCE

[0004] [Not Applicable]

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0005] 1. Field of the Invention

[0006] Various aspects of the present invention, relate to controlling delivery of multimedia information to a multimedia display system.

[0007] 2. Description of the Related Art

[0008] A typical remote control (or "Remote" as used herein) has multiple predefined buttons. A Remote is used to change TV ("Television") channels, change audio and video settings of the TV and control power supply to the TV by selecting one or more of the buttons. A Remote interacts with a TV in one direction. A remote generally sends a control signal to a TV using infrared or RF transmission. The control signal triggers the TV to implement the changes. An unobstructed view between the Remote and the TV is needed when infrared transmission is used. The Remote can however interact with the TV through obstructions, like furniture and walls, when RF transmission is used. The type of transmission used to send the control signal determines maximum allowable distance between the Remote and the TV. The maximum allowable distance in both the cases is typically only few meters.

[0009] A user generally uses multiple buttons of a Remote to control settings and display of media on a TV screen. The user receives visual information from the screen of the TV, makes a TV control choice and presses the buttons to realize the choice. Operating a Remote may be inconvenient, for

example, because a user generally looks back and forth between the Remote buttons and the TV screen to complete a task.

[0010] A TV may, for example, receive channels either directly or indirectly via a set top box from a broadcaster. Many types of media systems are used to provide supplemental or alternate video to the TV. Many of these media systems directly source locally accessed media, and others alternatively or in addition provide television broadcast tuners for managing television channel selection and video and audio settings. Exemplary media systems include cable and satellite set top boxes and DVD (Digital Video Disk) players. Each of these media systems is controlled through direct interaction or via a Remote. To interact with a user via a Remote, media systems deliver information via a TV's screen and speakers and receive information directly from the Remote. Again, as previously mentioned, such interaction usually requires a user to look back and forth between the Remote and TV Screen in attempts to locate buttons and understand the Remote's operation.

[0011] Further limitations and disadvantages of conventional and traditional approaches will become apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art through comparison of such systems with the present invention.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0012] A phone that interacts with a television system and/or media source, substantially as shown in and/or described in connection with at least one of the figures, as set forth more completely in the claims. These and other advantages, aspects and novel features of the present invention, as well as details of illustrative aspects thereof, will be more fully understood from the following description and drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0013] For various aspects of the present invention to be easily understood and readily practiced, various aspects will now be described, for purposes of illustration and not limitation, in conjunction with the following figures:

[0014] FIG. 1 is a schematic block diagram illustrating interaction between a phone that remotely controls display on a screen of a television, the television and a media source that delivers media to the television in accordance with various aspects of the present invention;

[0015] FIG. 2 is a schematic block diagram illustrating an embodiment of the phone of FIG. 1 where the phone interacts with the television via a set top box that is housed with the television in an entertainment system;

[0016] FIG. 3 is a schematic block diagram illustrating an embodiment of the phone of FIG. 2 further providing dual channel control support in the phone and in the set top box;

[0017] FIG. 4 is a schematic block diagram illustrating interaction between a phone, an entertainment system, a multimedia source and a storage system and communication paths between these elements in accordance with various aspects of the present invention;

[0018] FIG. 5 is a schematic block diagram illustrating a phone that indirectly controls display of media sourced by a

remote media source on a television screen in addition to managing phone calls over a wireless link;

[0019] FIG. 6 is a schematic block diagram illustrating an embodiment of the phone of FIG. 5 further controlling storage of media sourced by a remote media broadcaster to a storage system;

[0020] FIG. 7 is a flowchart illustrating a method of controlling selection and delivery of processed media to a television screen and to a screen of a phone-based remote control for display by the phone;

[0021] FIG. 8 is a flowchart illustrating functions of media selection and swapping of the phone-based television remote control of FIG. 7, in accordance with various aspects of the present invention;

[0022] FIG. 9 is a diagram of a phone-based remote control having two screens disposed on a housing; and

[0023] FIG. 10 is a schematic block diagram illustrating a phone with modified functionality that is capable of controlling selection and delivery of media to an entertainment system for display.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0024] FIG. 1 is a schematic block diagram illustrating interaction between a phone 103 that remotely controls display on a screen of a television 105, the television 105 and various media sources 107 that deliver media to the television 105. The phone 103 has a phone screen 111 (e.g., a video display), processing circuitry 113 (e.g., which may comprise various hardware and/or software modules), a user input interface 117 and a communication interface 121. The television 105 has a television screen 125 associated with it.

[0025] The user input interface 117 of the phone 103 receives a selection from a user (e.g., a user input identifying a video selection), the processing circuitry 113 retrieves via the communication interface 121 a first video stream (or, for example, any of a variety of types of video information) from the media sources 107, and the phone screen 111 displays the first video stream. The processing circuitry 113 of the phone 103 also delivers (e.g., transmits) a control signal via the communication interface 121 to the television 105, where the control signal is adapted to direct the display of a second video stream on the television screen 125. The first video stream is identified for the phone screen 111 and the second video stream is identified for the television screen 125 by the selection from the user. The second video stream is delivered to the television 105 from the media sources 107.

[0026] The selection by the user may, for example, identify two (or any number of) media elements where each media element has an audio portion and a video portion. The selection may be performed using a media guide. A media guide may, for example, comprise a list that identifies a plurality of media elements available with the media sources 107. A media element may generally comprise characteristics of any of a variety of selectable units of media information (e.g., multimedia information). For example and without limitation, a media element may comprise characteristics of a movie, music video, television program, television channel, sporting or other entertainment event, news

report, computer game or any of a variety of units of recorded or live multimedia information.

[0027] The communication interface 121 receives the media guide (e.g., any of a variety of types of media guide information) from the media sources 107 (or any of a variety of sources), a phone memory 115 stores the media guide, and the phone screen 111 displays the media guide. The user may, for example, select two media elements, one media element for the television 105 and another media element for the phone 103 using the media guide. The selection is entered through the user input interface 117. Subsequently, the processing circuitry 113 of the phone 103 triggers delivery of a first of the two selected media elements from the media sources 107 to the television 105 for display on the television screen 125. The processing circuitry 113 also delivers a video portion of a second of the two selected media elements to the phone screen 111 for display.

[0028] The first media element may be processed for (e.g., specifically adapted for) the television screen 125, and the second media element may be processed for (e.g., specifically adapted for) the phone screen 111. Such processing may, for example and without limitation, comprise transcoding, encoding and decoding, and/or various fitting functionalities. Any or all of such functionalities can be employed or disabled in the phone 103, in the television 105 and in the media sources 107. The phone 103 employs transcoding in block 119, the television 105 employs transcoding in block 127, and the media source 133 employs transcoding in block 143 and encoding/decoding in block 145.

[0029] The phone 103 may, for example, control various television system settings (e.g., settings related to media displayed on the television screen 125). If the user input interface 117 receives a setting perusal selection (e.g., a user input indicating that the user desires to view television system settings) from the user, the communication interface 121 receives a setting of the media displayed on the television screen 125, and the phone screen 111 displays the setting. The user may select another setting for the media displayed on the television screen 125 and enter the selection via the user input interface 117 of the phone 103. The processing circuitry 113 of the phone 103 then delivers a control signal via the communication interface 121 that directs application of the user-selected setting to the media displayed on the television screen 125.

[0030] The phone 103 is communicatively coupled to the television 105 and the media sources 107 over respective wireless links. The media sources 107 and the television 105 are communicatively coupled to each other via another wireless link. The wireless links may comprise characteristics of any of a variety of communication link types (e.g., Bluetooth, IEEE 802.11, IEEE 802.15, cellular telephony (e.g., GSM/GPRS/EDGE, CDMA, CDMA2000, UMTS, WCDMA, etc.), UltraWideBand, standard/proprietary, etc.).

[0031] The first media source 133 of the media sources 107 supports media in a first format 141. The first media source 133 employs transcoding in block 143. Transcoding is performed on the media in the first format to save bandwidth. A second media source 135 of the media sources 107 supports media in television format 151 (i.e., a format that is prescribed for the television screen 125, for example, HDTV (High Definition Television) format). A third media source 137 of the media sources 107 supports media in

television format **161** and media in phone format **163** (e.g., QVGA (Quarter Video Graphics Array) format). The media sources **133**, **135**, **137** employ encoding/decoding functionality in blocks **145**, **153** and **165**, respectively. The encoding/decoding functionality may, for example, be advantageous, when the media source handles differently encoded media.

[0032] FIG. 2 is a schematic block diagram illustrating an embodiment of the phone **103** of FIG. 1 where the phone **203** interacts with the television **205** via a set top box **207** that is housed with the television **205** in an entertainment system **201** (or, e.g., any of a variety of television system configurations). The user input interface **217** of the phone **203** receives a selection from the user. The selection may, for example, identify (e.g., directly or indirectly) a first video stream (or, e.g., any of a variety of types of video information) for the phone **203** and a second video stream for the television screen **231**. The processing circuitry **213** of the phone **203** requests via the communication interface **223** the first video stream from the set top box **207**. The set top box **207** retrieves the first video stream from the media source **209** and sends the retrieved first video stream to the processing circuitry **213**. The phone screen **211** displays the retrieved first video stream. The processing circuitry **213** delivers a control signal via the communication interface **223** to the set top box **207**. The control signal directs display of the second video stream on the television screen **231**. The set top box **207** subsequently receives the second video stream from the media source **209** and delivers the received second video stream to the television screen **231** for display.

[0033] The set top box **207** is communicatively coupled to the television **205**, the phone **203** and the media source **209** via communication interfaces **241**. The communication link between the set top box **207** and the television **205** is shown to be a wireless link. The communication link (e.g., and any communication link discussed herein) may alternatively, for example, comprise characteristics of a wired link, tethered optical link, non-tethered optical link, etc. Communication links between the set top box **207** and the television **205** and the phone **203** are, in this embodiment, wireless links. Wireless links may comprise characteristics of any of a variety of wireless link types (e.g., Bluetooth, IEEE 802.11, IEEE 802.15, UltraWideBand, any of a variety of cellular link types, any of a variety of infrared or other optical link types, standard or propriety link types, etc.).

[0034] The selection from the user may, for example, identify two media elements where each media element has an audio portion and a video portion. The selection may be performed using a media guide. A media guide may, for example, comprise a list that identifies a plurality of media elements available with the media source **209**. The two selected media elements may then, for example, correspond to any of the plurality of media elements.

[0035] The communication interface **223** of the phone **203** receives a media guide (e.g., media guide information) from the media source **209** via the set top box **207**. The phone memory **215** stores the media guide, and the phone screen **211** displays the media guide. The user scans the media guide and enters a selection through the user input interface **217** of the phone **203**. The selection from the user identifies (e.g., directly or indirectly) two media elements, one for the television **205** and another for the phone **203**.

[0036] The processing circuitry **213** of the phone **203** triggers delivery a first of the two selected media elements

from the media source **209** to the set top box **207**. The set top box **207** receives the first of the two selected media elements from the media source **209** and forwards the received media element to display driver circuitry of the television **205** for display on the television screen **231**. The processing circuitry **213** of the phone **203** also sends a request to the set top box **207** for the second of the two selected media elements. The set top box **207** receives the second of the two selected media elements from the media source **209** and forwards the received media element to the phone **203**. The phone screen **211** then displays a video portion of the second of the two selected media elements.

[0037] The processing circuitry **213** of the phone **203** manages phone calls. The phone **203** has holding circuitry **219** that pauses communication of the phone **203** with the set top box **207** and the media source **209** during call handling by the phone **203**.

[0038] FIG. 3 is a schematic block diagram illustrating an embodiment of the phone **303** of FIG. 2 further providing dual channel control support in the phone **303** and in the set top box **307**. The phone **303** controls display of a first television channel in the entertainment system **301** and display of a second television channel in the phone **303**. Each television channel has an audio portion and a video portion. The processing circuitry **313** of the phone **303** sends a control signal to the set top box **307** directing delivery of the first television channel to the television screen **325** from the media source **309**. After receiving the control signal, the set top box **307** receives the first television channel from the media source **309** and forwards the video portion of the first television channel to the television screen **325**. In this non-limiting example, the media source **309** is a television channel broadcaster.

[0039] The processing circuitry **313** of the phone **303** also receives the second television channel from the media source **309** via the set top box **307** and forwards the video portion of the received television channel to the phone screen **311** for display. The processing circuitry **313** services the phone screen **311** and the television screen **325** via the set top box **307** and hence supports dual channel control functionality **315**. Similarly, the set top box **307** services the phone screen **311** and the television screen **325**, and hence the processing circuitry **333** of the set top box **307** also supports dual channel control functionality as shown in block **335**. The first channel output **337** and the second channel output **339** are shown in the processing circuitry **333** of the set top box **307**. A first of the channel outputs **337**, **339** is forwarded by the processing circuitry **333** of the set top box **307** to the television screen **325**, and a second of the channel outputs **337**, **339** is sent to the processing circuitry **313** of the phone **303**.

[0040] The phone **303** may direct a third television channel to a STB storage system **331** of the set top box **307** on receiving a media storage command from the user through the user input interface **319** of the phone **303**. The media storage command from the user identifies the third television channel. The phone **303** sends a control signal to the set top box **307**, which subsequently receives the third television channel from the media source **309** and stores information corresponding to the received third television channel in the STB storage system **331**.

[0041] The third television channel is processed in the set top box **307** for the STB storage system **331**. Such process-

ing may, for example, comprise one or more of transcoding, encoding and decoding. Transcoding may, for example, be performed to save bandwidth occupied by the audio portion, the video portion or both of the third television channel. Encoding and decoding may, for example, be performed to make the audio and the video portion of the television channel compatible with an encoding standard used in the phone 303, in the television 305 and in the set top box 307.

[0042] FIG. 4 is a schematic block diagram illustrating interaction between a phone 403, an entertainment system 405, a multimedia source 409, a storage system 407 and communication pathways 411 between these elements. The phone 403 has a phone screen 414, a speaker 415, a phone memory 419, a communication interface 420 and a user input interface 428 that are communicatively coupled to each other via processing circuitry 417 of the phone 403. The phone 403 also comprises a rechargeable power source 427.

[0043] The communication interface 420 may be either of, or a combination of, a wireless interface 421 and a wired interface 422. The user input interface 428 may comprise one or more of: buttons 429, a touchpad 430, a pen 431, a thumbwheel 432, a mouse 433 and a voice interface 434.

[0044] The entertainment system 405 has a screen 440, a speaker 441, a memory 450, a communication interface 445 and an input interface 451 that are communicatively coupled to each other via processing circuitry 444 of the entertainment system 405. The communication interface 445 may be either of, or a combination of, a wireless interface and a wired interface. The entertainment system 405 may comprise a television and a set top box. In that case, some of the elements of the entertainment system will be housed in the television and the rest of the elements will be housed in the set top box.

[0045] The multimedia source 409 comprises television broadcasting 461, a local source 462 and an Internet server 463. The multimedia source 409 is a repository of a plurality of multimedia elements and a plurality of video streams. Each of the plurality of multimedia elements has an audio portion and a video portion. The plurality of multimedia elements may, for example, include one of, or a combination of, a television channel, a computer game, a movie and recorded multimedia. The plurality of video streams may, for example, include one or more of a recorded video, a picture, a photo, a video portion of a television channel, a video game and a live snippet.

[0046] A user uses the phone 403 to control selection and display of a multimedia element on the screen 440 of the entertainment system 405. The phone 403 receives a selection from the user via the user input interface 428. The selection may, for example, be a selection of two multimedia elements, two video streams, a multimedia element and a video stream for the phone and the entertainment system, a multimedia element for either the phone or the entertainment system, a setting selection for the entertainment system, a media storage selection for a storage system, and a media swapping selection.

[0047] Suppose the selection from the user identifies two multimedia elements, a first multimedia element for the phone 403 and a second multimedia element for the entertainment system 405. The phone 403 receives via the

communication interface 420 the first multimedia element from the multimedia source 409. The audio portion of the first multimedia element is forwarded to the speaker 415 for listening, and the video portion is forwarded to the phone screen 414 for display. The phone 403 sends a control signal to the entertainment system 405 to trigger delivery of the second multimedia element from the multimedia source 409 to the entertainment system 405. The entertainment system 405 receives via the communication interface 445 the second multimedia element from the multimedia source 409. The audio portion of the second multimedia element is forwarded to the speaker 441 for listening, and the video portion is forwarded to the screen 440 for display.

[0048] The first multimedia element is processed in the phone 403. Such processing may, for example, comprise transcoding 424, encoding and decoding 425, and fitting functionalities 426. One or more of these functionalities may be disabled depending on processing capability of the processing circuitry 417, consumption of the rechargeable power source 427 and support of similar functionalities in the entertainment system 405, the multimedia source 409 and the storage system 407. The second multimedia element is processed in the entertainment system 405. Such processing may, for example, comprise transcoding 447, encoding and decoding 448, and fitting functionalities 449. One or more these functionalities may be disabled.

[0049] Either or both of the phone 403 and the entertainment system 405 may receive only the video or audio portion of a multimedia element. Either or both of the phone 403 and the entertainment system 405 can alternately, or in addition, receive a video stream, depending on the selection.

[0050] Suppose the selection corresponds to perusal of settings of the entertainment system 405. The phone 403, for example, receives speaker and screen settings of the entertainment system 405 from the entertainment system 405 via the communication interface 420 and displays the settings on the phone screen 414. If the selection corresponds to application of a different setting for either the screen or the speaker or both of the entertainment system 405, the processing circuitry 417 of the phone 403 then delivers a control signal via the communication interface 420 that directs application of the different setting to the entertainment system 405.

[0051] Suppose the selection corresponds to a media swapping request. The phone 403 sends a request to the multimedia source 409 for a first multimedia element that is currently being presented by the entertainment system. The phone 403 sends a control signal to the multimedia source 409 that directs the multimedia source 409 to deliver a second multimedia element that is currently being presented by the phone 403 to the entertainment system 405. The multimedia source 409 delivers the second multimedia element to the entertainment system 405. The entertainment system 405 then presents the second multimedia element. The phone 403 receives the first multimedia element from the multimedia source 409 via the communication interface 420. The phone 403 then presents the first multimedia element.

[0052] Suppose the selection identifies a storage system 407 and a multimedia element. The phone 403 triggers delivery of the multimedia element from the multimedia source 409 to the storage system 407. The communication

pathway 411 connecting the phone 403, the entertainment system 405, the storage system 405 and the multimedia source 409 may, for example, comprise one of, or a combination of, a copper wire, a fiber and a wireless medium. Wireless technologies used for communication may, for example and without limitation, be one or more of a cellular transmission, 802.11, Bluetooth, and an infrared transmission. The storage system 407 may, for example, comprise one or more of a portable storage, a non-portable storage, a removable storage, a rewritable storage, a read only storage, a worm storage, a volatile storage and a nonvolatile storage.

[0053] The phone 403, the entertainment system 405, the storage system 407 and the multimedia source 409 are located in one or in two separate or in three separate or in four separate premises. The storage system 407 may be an integral part of the phone 403, or the entertainment system 405 or the multimedia source 409. The phone 403 can trigger delivery of the multimedia element from the multimedia source 409 to more than one storage system.

[0054] FIG. 5 is a schematic block diagram illustrating a phone that indirectly controls display of media sourced by a remote media source 509 on a television screen 531 in addition to managing phone calls over a wireless link. The phone 503 is part of a wireless phone network 511. The phone 503 controls delivery of media from the remote media source 509 via a set top box 507. The set top box 507 is communicatively coupled to a television 505 over a wired link and to the remote media source 509 over another wired link. The wired links are one or more of a copper link and a fiber link. The set top box 507 is communicatively connected to the phone 503 through the wireless phone network 511. The set top box 507 has a wireless communication interface and a wired communication interface.

[0055] The phone 503 receives a request from a user through buttons of the phone 503 and accordingly sends a control signal to the set top box 507. The control signal from the phone 503 to the set top box 507 identifies a media element and also identifies if the media element is meant for the television 505 or the phone 503. If the media element is meant for the phone 503, then the set top box 507 receives the media element from the remote media source 509 and forwards the received media element to the phone 503. The phone 503 then displays the media element on phone screen 521. If the media element is meant for the television 505, then the set top box 507 receives the media element from the remote media source 509 and forwards the received media element to the television 505. The media element is subsequently displayed on the television screen 531. The remote media source 509 is located at a remote premises from the phone 503, the television 505 and the set top box 507. The phone 503, the television 505 and the set top box 507 may be located at the same or different premises. The remote media source 509 is one or more of a television broadcasting source, an Internet server and an Intranet server.

[0056] FIG. 6 is a schematic block diagram illustrating an embodiment of the phone 503 of FIG. 5, further controlling storage of media sourced by a remote media broadcaster 609 to a storage system. The phone 603 manages phone calls over the phone network 615. The phone 603 is communicatively coupled to a set top box 607 that is communicatively coupled to the remote media broadcaster 609. The remote media broadcaster 609 is connected to the set top box

607 via one of, or a combination of, a wired and a wireless link. The phone 603 has two communication interfaces, one to communicate over the phone network 615 and another to communicate over the Internet 613. The set top box 607 has three communication interfaces, one to communicate to the television 605, another to communicate with the remote media broadcaster 609 and one to communicate over the Internet 613. The remote media broadcaster 609 has one communication interface to communicate with the set top box 607.

[0057] The storage system may be remote media storage 611 that is located at a remote premises and that is accessible through the Internet 613, may be storage 643 housed with the set top box 607 or may be removable media storage 651 that is attached to the phone 603. The phone 603 receives a media storage request from a user. The media storage request identifies the storage system and a media element that is available from the remote media broadcaster 609.

[0058] If the media storage request identifies the remote media storage 611, then the phone 603 sends a control signal to the set top box 607. The phone 603 may send the control signal to the set top box 607 through the Internet 613. The phone 603 may also send the control signal to the set top box 607 through the phone network 615. In that case, the set top box 607 has a fourth communication interface to communicate with the phone 603 over the phone network 615. Subsequently the set top box 607 receives the media element from the remote media broadcaster 609 and delivers the received media element to the remote media storage 611 over the Internet 613.

[0059] If the media storage request identifies the storage 643 housed with the set top box 607, then the phone 603 sends a control signal to the set top box 607 that triggers delivery of the media element from the remote media broadcaster 609 to the set top box 607. The set top box 607 receives the media element from the remote media broadcaster 609 and forwards the received media element to the storage 643 for storage. If the media storage request identifies the removable media storage 651 that is attached to the phone 603, then the phone 603 receives the media element from the remote media broadcaster 609 via the set top box 607 and forwards the received media element to the removable media storage 651 for storage.

[0060] The media storage request may identify more than one media storage, in which case, the media element is delivered to all the selected media storages. Communication links between different elements may, for example, comprise one of, or a combination of, a copper wire, a fiber, a cellular link, a Bluetooth link, an 802.11 link, an infrared link, an Internet link and an Intranet link.

[0061] FIG. 7 is a flowchart illustrating a method of controlling selection and delivery of processed media to a television screen and to a screen of a phone-based remote control for display by the phone. The method may begin at a start block 703. In a next block 705, the phone-based remote control responds to a media guide viewing request from a user. The user may enter the media guide viewing request through an input interface of the phone. In such case, the phone receives the media guide viewing request via the input interface of the phone at the block 705 and responds to the request by receiving the media guide from the media source and displaying the media guide on the screen of the

phone in step **705**. A media source may, for example, comprise one of an Internet media server, an Intranet media server, a broadcast television provider and a local media storage such as a hard drive, a DVD, a CD and a tape. The media guide identifies a plurality of media elements available with the media source. The media guide helps the user to make a media selection of one or more than one media element from the plurality of media elements. A media element may, for example, comprise a movie, a television channel, an audio-visual game, a photo, a live snippet, a video, video portion of a television channel, and a video game.

[0062] In a next step **707**, the phone receives the media selection from the user. The media selection may be based on the media guide. The media selection may identify a media element for either the phone or the television screen or for both. The media selection may alternately identify two media elements, one for the phone and another for the television screen. For example and without limitation, the media selection identifies a media element to be displayed on a screen of the phone. The phone sends a request to the media source seeking delivery of the media element selected from the media source. The selected media element may be a free-to-use media element. If the selected media element is not free, then the phone purchases the selected media element in next block **709**. Purchasing may, for example, include one of, or a combination of, key based and plastic card based purchasing. Purchasing may include one or more user interactive steps, where the user is guided through displays on the screen of the phone followed by the phone receiving entries from the user via the input interface of the phone. If the selected media element is free-to-use then the phone may not purchase the selected media element. Even then the phone may perform credential verification functionalities at the block **709**.

[0063] The phone receives the selected media element from the media source in a block **711**. The selected media element may be received in a format that may or may not be supported by the screen of the phone. If the selected media element is received in a format that is not supported by the screen of the phone, then transcoding is applied to the received media element by the phone as shown in a next step **713**, and transcoded media is generated. The phone may not be able to perform the transcoding because of limited processing capability, limited power and limited memory. In that case the phone may direct a transcoding server to perform the transcoding functionality at step **711**. The phone may send the received media element to the transcoding server or may direct the selected media element from the media source to the transcoding server and then receive the transcoded media from the transcoding server. If the transcoding is performed by the transcoding server then the phone does not apply the transcoding to the received media element in the step **713**. The phone displays the transcoded media on the screen of the phone in next and final step **715**.

[0064] The media selection may in addition identify a second media element to be displayed on the television screen. The phone sends a request to the media source seeking delivery of the second media element from the media source to the television screen. The media source sends a second media element to the television for display.

[0065] FIG. **8** is a flowchart illustrating functions of media selection and swapping of the phone-based television remote

control of FIG. **7**, in accordance with various aspects of the present invention. The method may begin at block **803**. The phone waits for a user input as shown at a block **805**. The phone receives the user input from the user in the block **805**. The user input may identify a media selection comprising a first media element for the television and/or a second media element for the phone. The user input may comprise in addition or only a media swapping request. In next step **807**, the phone checks whether the first element has been selected. If the first element has been selected then the phone triggers delivery of the first media element to the television at a next step **809**. Next the operation flow of the phone-based television remote control goes to the block **805**.

[0066] If the phone determines in the step **807** that the first media element has not been selected, then the phone checks in step **811** if the second media element has been selected. If the phone determines that the second media element has been selected, then the phone, in next step **813**, requests for the second media element. The phone may request the media source that stores the second media element for the second media element. The phone receives the second media element in the step **813**. In next step **815**, the phone displays the second media element on the phone screen. The operation flow of the phone jumps to the block **805** and the phone awaits another user input.

[0067] If the phone determines in the step **811** that the second media element has not been selected, then the phone checks in block **817** whether the user input comprises the media swapping request. If the user input does not comprise the media swapping request then process flow jumps to the block **805**. If yes, then the phone requests for a media element that is being displayed on the television screen in a next step **819** and subsequently receives the media element that is being displayed on the television screen in the step **819**. The phone also triggers delivery of another media element displayed on the screen of the phone to the television screen in step **821**. The phone displays the received media element on the screen of the phone in a next step **815**. Thus, the media element that was being displayed on the television screen is displayed on the screen of the phone and vice versa. The operation flow goes to the block **805** and phone awaits the another user input.

[0068] FIG. **9** is a diagram of a phone-based remote control of FIG. **1** having two screens disposed on a housing. The phone **903** has two screens, a first screen **905** and a second screen **907**. The phone's user input interface **909** allows media guide perusal. The phone receives a media guide from a media source, stores it temporarily in the phone's memory and displays it on one of the two screens of the phone **903**. The phone's user input interface **909** comprises one or more buttons in this figure. The phone's user input interface **909** may also, for example, comprise one or more of a touchpad, a thumbwheel, a mouse, a voice interface and a pen.

[0069] The phone's user input interface **909** permits selection of one video stream for display on one of the two screens of the phone **903** or on a television screen associated with the phone **903** or on both. A user makes the selection. The phone's user input interface **909** also permits selection of two different video streams, a first for display on the first screen of the phone **905** and a second for display on the television screen associated with the phone. The phone **903**

may display the media guide on the second screen of the phone **907** along with the one video stream displayed on the first screen of the phone **905** if the selection requires so.

[0070] The second video stream that is displayed on the television screen associated with the phone may be displayed on the second screen of the phone **907** as well.

[0071] The phone's user input interface **909** also permits selection of two different video streams, one for display on the first screen of the phone **905** and another for display on the second screen of the phone **907**.

[0072] FIG. **10** is a schematic block diagram illustrating a phone **1003** with modified functionality that is capable of controlling selection and delivery of media to an entertainment system for display. The phone **1003** is one of a wired phone **1021**, a wired Internet phone **1028**, a cellular phone **1035**, a wireless Internet phone **1042** and a wireless phone **1049**. Each of the above phones has a phone screen, a user input interface, and one or more communication interfaces. Each of the above phones implements a transcoding functionality, an encoding and decoding functionality and a formatting functionality. Any one or more of these functionalities can be disabled as and when required. The entertainment system **1005** has a television **1057** and a set top box **1060**. The television **1057** and the set top box **1060** are communicatively coupled to each other. The entertainment system **1005** is communicatively coupled to the phone **1003**. The entertainment system **1005** implements a transcoding functionality, an encoding and decoding functionality and a formatting functionality, one or more of which may be disabled.

[0073] The phone **1003** and the entertainment system **1005** are communicatively coupled to a multimedia source **1007**. The multimedia source **1007** is one or more of a television broadcasting source **1065**, a local source **1066** and an Internet server **1067**. The multimedia source **1007** supplies a media guide and a plurality of media elements to the phone **1003** and the entertainment system **1005**. The phone **1003** manages phone calls over a phone network. In addition, the phone **1003** is capable of controlling selection and delivery of the plurality of media elements from the multimedia source **1007** to the phone **1003** and the entertainment system **1005**. The phone **1003** may, in addition, control settings for media presented on the entertainment system **1005**. The plurality of media elements may, for example, include one or more of a television channel, video or audio portion of the television channel, a live snippet, a recorded video, a recorded audio, a video game, an audio-visual game, a picture, a movie and a photo. The multimedia source **1007** performs a transcoding and a formatting functionality, any or both of which may be disabled.

[0074] The phone **1003** can control selection and delivery of one or more media elements the multimedia source **1007** to a storage system **1009**. The storage system **1009** performs a transcoding functionality **1071**. The storage system **1009** may be located with either of or some of the phone **1003**, the entertainment system **1005** and the multimedia source **1007**.

[0075] Communication pathways **1011** between the phone **1003**, the entertainment system **1005**, the multimedia source **1007** and the storage system **1009** and the communication pathway between the television **1057** and the set top box **1060** of the entertainment system **1005** may, for example

and without limitation, comprise one of, or a combination of, a copper wire, a fiber, a Bluetooth link, a 802.11 link, a cellular link, an infrared link, an Internet link and an Intranet link.

We claim:

1. A phone that interacts with a television system, the television system having a first screen, the phone comprising:

a communication interface;

a user input interface adapted to receive a user input identifying a video selection;

at least one module adapted to:

manage telephone calls; and

transmit a control signal via the communication interface, where the control signal is adapted to direct the display of first video information that corresponds to the video selection on the first screen of the television system.

2. The phone according to claim 1, further comprising a video display, and wherein the at least one module is adapted to:

retrieve via the communication interface second video information that corresponds to the video selection; and

display the second video information on the video display.

3. The phone according to claim 1, wherein the at least one module is adapted to receive media guide information via the communication interface, and the user input identifying a video selection is based on the media guide information.

4. The phone according to claim 1, wherein the phone is located at a first premises, and the television system is located at a second premises.

5. The phone according to claim 1, wherein the phone and the television system are located at a first premises.

6. The phone according to claim 2, wherein the second video information is adapted for the video display.

7. The phone according to claim 6, wherein the first video information is adapted for the first screen of the television system.

8. The phone according to claim 7, wherein the second video stream is adapted for the video display via transcoding.

9. The phone according to claim 1, wherein the phone is a cellular telephone.

10. The phone according to claim 1, wherein the control signal is adapted to be received by set top box circuitry.

11. The phone according to claim 10, wherein the at least one module is adapted to retrieve video information via the set top box circuitry.

12. The phone according to claim 1, wherein the user input interface is adapted to receive a user input identifying a video storage selection.

13. The phone according to claim 12, wherein the at least one module is adapted to retrieve a second video stream that corresponds to the video storage selection via the communication interface.

14. The phone according to claim 12, wherein the video storage selection identifies a second video stream and a storage system, and the at least one module is adapted to direct the second video stream to the storage system.

15. The phone according to claim 14, wherein the storage system is located at a premises different from the phone and the television system.

16. A phone that interacts with a multimedia sourcing system, the multimedia sourcing system adapted to provide multimedia information to a television system, the phone comprising:

a communication interface adapted to receive media guide information, the media guide information identifying a plurality of media elements;

a user interface adapted to:

present the received media guide information to a user; and

receive a user input identifying a selected media element of the plurality of media elements; and at least one module adapted to:

manage phone calls; and

transmit a control signal via the communication interface, where the control signal is adapted to trigger delivery of the selected media element from the multimedia sourcing system to the television system.

17. The phone according to claim 16, wherein the at least one module is further adapted to utilize the user interface to display a video portion of a second media element of the plurality of media elements different from the selected media element.

18. The phone according to claim 17, wherein:

the user interface is adapted to receive a media swapping command; and

the at least one module is adapted to, in response to a received media swapping command, actuate swapping presentation of the selected media element and the second media element between the television system and the phone.

19. The phone according to claim 16, wherein the phone is a cellular telephone.

20. The phone according to claim 16, wherein the at least one module is adapted to pause communication of the phone with the television system and the multimedia sourcing system during call handling by the phone.

21. The phone according to claim 16, wherein the phone, the multimedia sourcing system and the television system are located at three separate premises.

22. The phone according to claim 16, wherein:

the user interface is adapted to receive a media storage command that identifies a media element available with the multimedia sourcing system and identifies a storage system; and

the at least one module is adapted to, in response to a received media storage command, trigger delivery of the identified media element to the identified storage system.

23. The phone according to claim 22, wherein the media element is adapted for the storage system.

24. A phone that interacts with a television system, the phone comprising:

a video display;

a user input interface adapted to receive a user input indicative of a desire to view television system setting information;

a communication interface adapted to receive television system setting information; and

at least one module adapted to display received television system setting information on the video display.

25. The phone according to claim 24, wherein the at least one module is adapted to transmit a control signal via the communication interface, where the control signal is adapted to cause modification of a television system setting.

26. The phone according to claim 24, wherein the phone is a cellular telephone.

27. The phone according to claim 25, wherein:

the user input interface is further adapted to receive a user input identifying a video selection; and

the at least one module is adapted to transmit a second control signal via the communication interface, where the second control signal is adapted to trigger display of first video information corresponding to the video selection on a screen of the television system.

28. The phone according to claim 27, wherein the at least one module is adapted to:

receive, via the communication interface, second video information corresponding to the video selection; and

display the received second video information on the video display.

29. The phone according to claim 28, wherein the first video information is delivered to the television via a set top box, and the second video information is delivered to the phone via the set top box.

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