

15 mg/ml of L-cysteine to the test liquid of the control group, so that concentration of hypoxanthine is $10 \mu\text{Ci/ml}$. Each test liquid was orally administered to rats at dose of 1ml per 100 g of rat weight by oral probe. After 15, 30 and 5 60 minutes from administration, blood was taken out from caudal vein of rat of each group, and blood plasma was separated by centrifugation.

For the purpose of deproteinization, 1 ml of ice-cooled methanol was added to 0.1 ml of the plasma thus 10 obtained, followed by centrifuging at 3000 rpm for 10 minutes. 0.5 ml of supernatant was contained into a vial, and 10 ml of liquid scintillator (AQUASOL - II) was added to measure the radioactivity with liquid scintillation counter.

15 From the radioactivity obtained, the amount of absorbed hypoxanthine was estimated as the corresponding amount of $[8 - ^{14}\text{C}]$ hypoxanthine included in 1 ml of blood. Test result is shown in graph of Fig. 5. In this Fig. 5, the axis of ordinate indicates the corresponding amount of ^{14}C - hypoxanthine in blood, and the axis of abscissa 20 indicates time (min.) after oral administration of test liquid. Also, (1) and (2) in graph indicate experimental group (using the test liquid including L-cysteine) and control group (using the test liquid which does not include 25 L-cysteine), respectively. Each value is the mean for three

rats.

Also, by using L-methionine as a test compound and uracil as nucleic acid base, the test was carried out in the same manner as mentioned above. The test result is
5 shown in Fig. 6 by the same manner as the other drawings mentioned above.

In each graph, (1) and (2) in graph indicate experimental group (using the test liquid including the effective ingredient compound) and control group (using the
10 test liquid which does not include the effective ingredient compound), respectively. Each value is the mean for two to three rats.

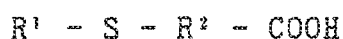
From Figs. 1 to 6, it is indicated that effective ingredient compound of this invention lowers concentration
15 of nucleic acid base in serum significantly.

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What is claimed is:

1. A composition for inhibiting absorption of nucleic acid base, which is taken into a living body to inhibit absorption of nucleic acid base in the living body, containing, as an effective ingredient, thio-lower alkanolic acid or salt thereof represented by the general formula:



wherein R^1 is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group, and R^2 is a lower alkylene group which may have an amino group.

2. The composition for inhibiting absorption of nucleic acid base according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is a hydrogen atom and R^2 is a lower alkylene group having an amino group.

3. The composition for inhibiting absorption of nucleic acid base according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is a lower alkyl group and R^2 is a lower alkylene group having an amino group.

4. The composition for inhibiting absorption of nucleic acid base according to claim 1, wherein said thio-lower alkanolic acid is L-cysteine.

5. The composition for inhibiting absorption of nucleic acid base according to claim 1, wherein said thio-lower alkanolic acid is L-methionine.

6. The composition for inhibiting absorption of nucleic acid base according to claim 1, wherein the composition is prepared to the orally taken form.

7. The composition for inhibiting absorption of
5 nucleic acid base according to claim 6, wherein R¹ is a hydrogen atom and R² is a lower alkylene group having an amino group.

8. The composition for inhibiting absorption of nucleic acid base according to claim 6, wherein R¹ is a
10 lower alkyl group and R² is a lower alkylene group having an amino group.

9. The composition for inhibiting absorption of nucleic acid base according to claim 6, wherein said thio-lower alkanolic acid is L-cysteine.

15 10. The composition for inhibiting absorption of nucleic acid base according to claim 6, wherein said thio-lower alkanolic acid is L-methionine.

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Fig. 1

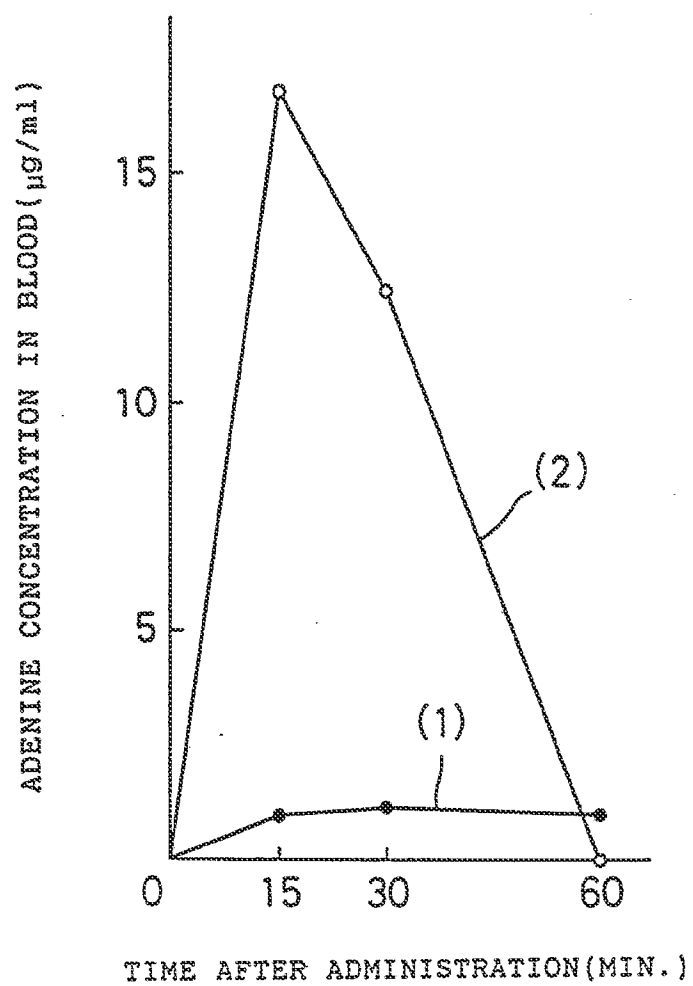


Fig. 2

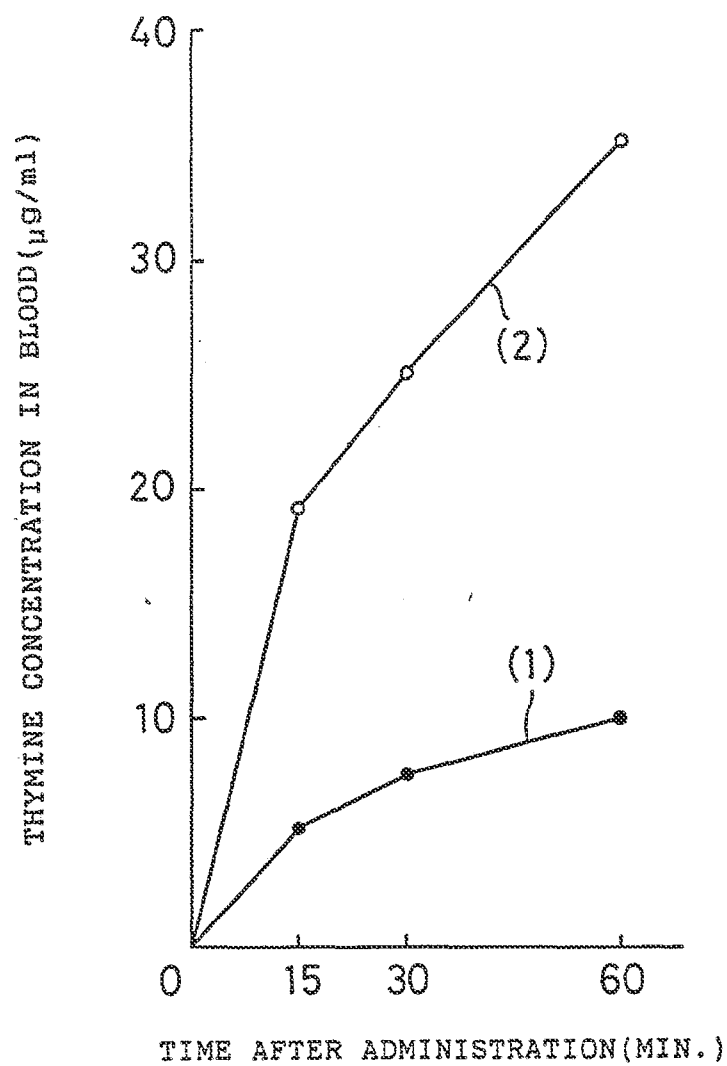


Fig. 3

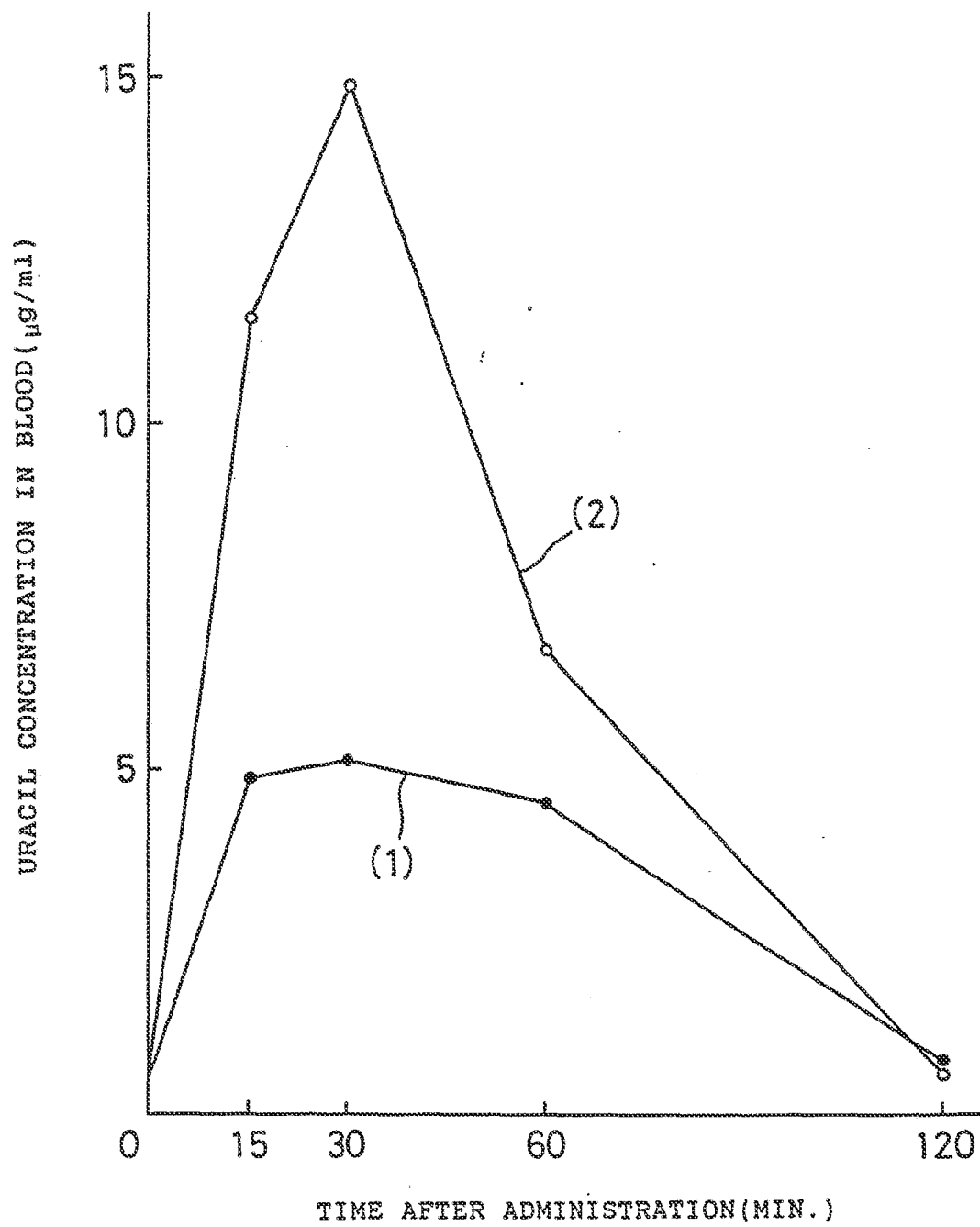


Fig. 4

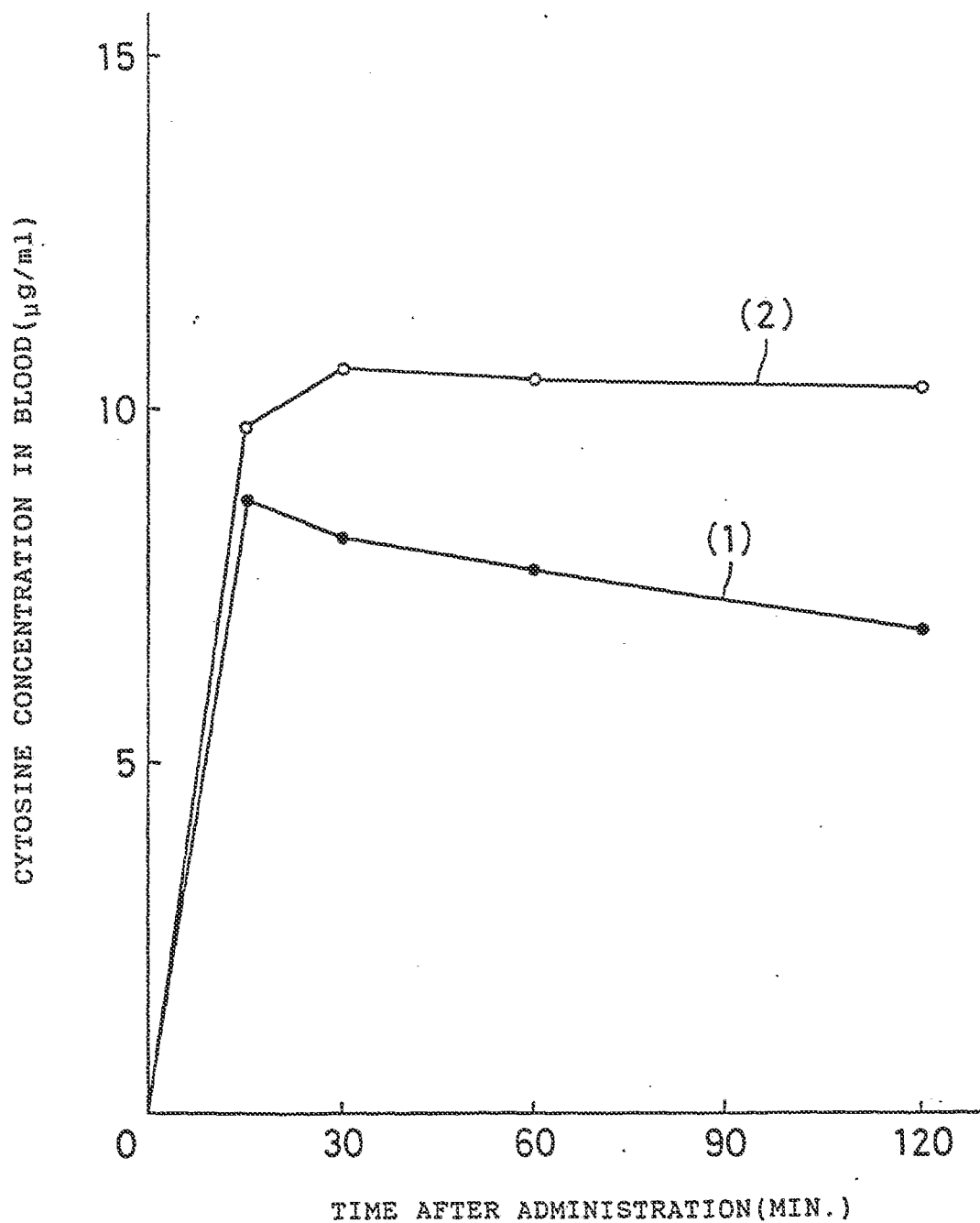


Fig. 5

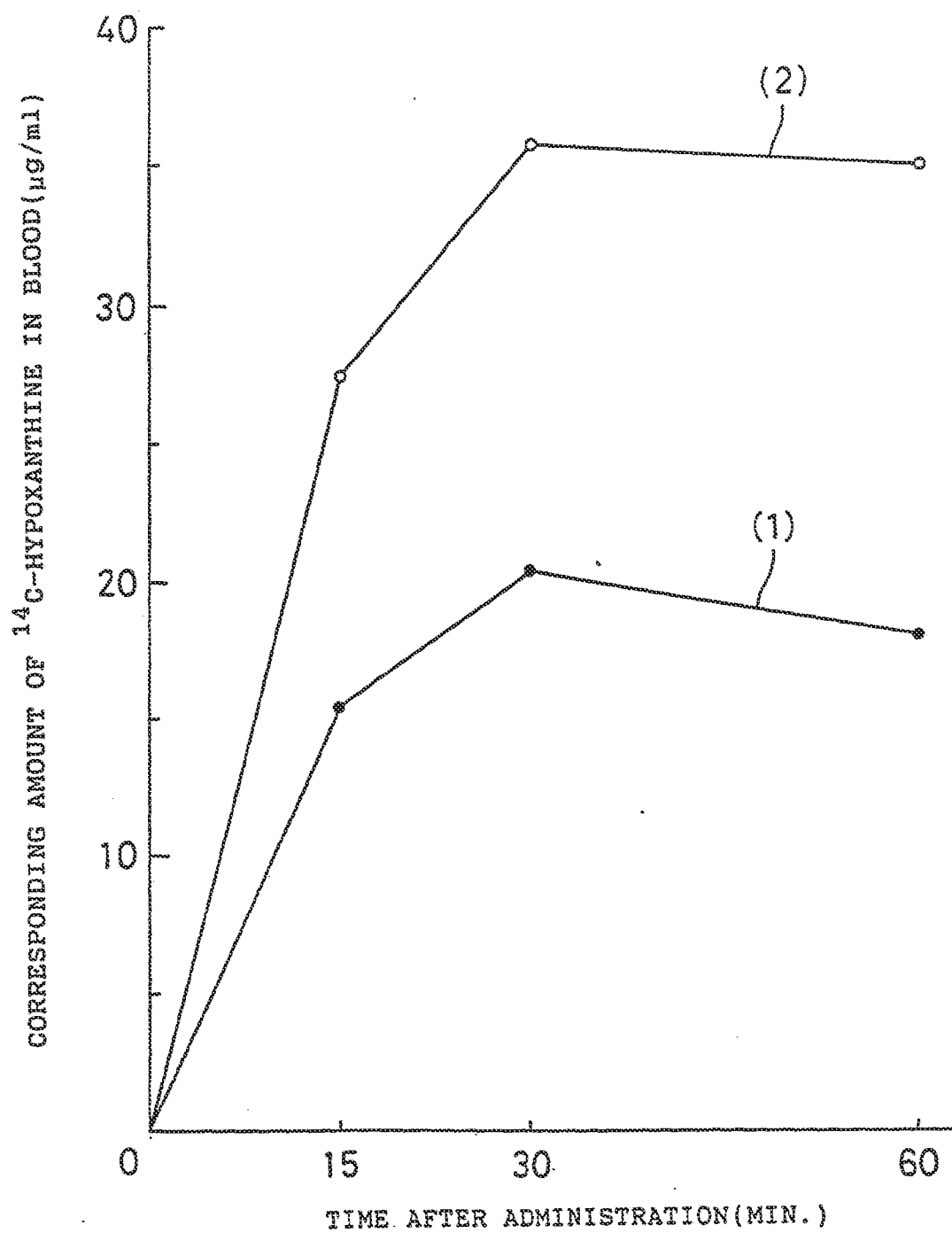
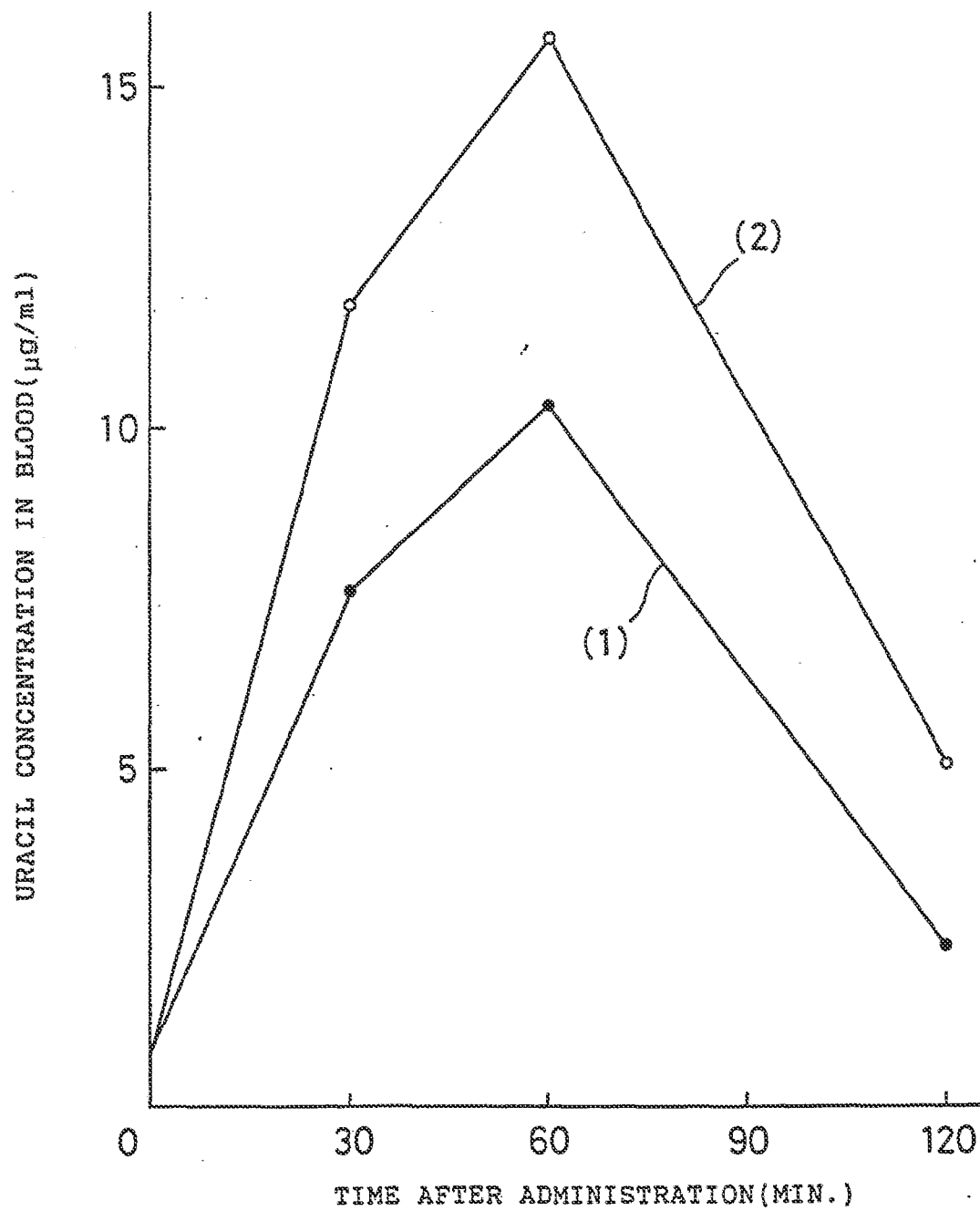


Fig. 6



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/JP89/00313

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (If several classification symbols apply, indicate all) *		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC		
Int. Cl. ⁴	A61K31/19//	A23L1/03
II. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum Documentation Searched *		
Classification System :	Classification Symbols	
IPC	A61K31/19, A23L1/03	
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched *		
III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT *		
Category *	Citation of Document, ¹¹ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹²	Relevant to Claim No. ¹³
A	Chemical Abstracts, Vol. 102, No. 7, Abstract No. 102(7):61163b, 1985, (Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A.) Amubode, F.O., et. al., J. Agric. Sci., 103(3), 497-502	1-10
A	Chemical Abstracts, Vol. 95, No. 17, Abstract No. 95(17):148998p, 1981 (Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A.) Ueda, H., et. al., Nutr. Rep. Int., 24(1), 85-94	1-10
A	Chemical Abstracts, Vol. 95, No. 5, Abstract No. 95(5):41169s, 1981, (Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A.) Aguilar, F., et. al., Bol. Soc. Quim. Peru. 45(3), 256-65	1-10
A	Chemical Abstracts, Vol. 91, No. 9, Abstract No. 91(9):73452n, 1979, (Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A.) Muramatsu, T., et. al., J. Nutr.,	1-10
* Special categories of cited documents: ¹⁴ "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "S" document member of the same patent family		
IV. CERTIFICATION		
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search	Date of Mailing of this International Search Report	
June 12, 1989 (12. 06. 89)	June 26, 1989 (26. 06. 89)	
International Searching Authority	Signature of Authorized Officer	
Japanese Patent Office		

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET

A	109(6), 1057-62 Chemical Abstracts, Vol. 81, No. 23, Abstract No. 81(23):150847t, 1974, (Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A.) Kal'nitskii, B.D., Byull. Vses. Nauchno-Issled. Inst. Fiziol., Biokhim. Pitan. Skh. Zhivotn., 7(2), 20-2	1-10
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V. ☐ OBSERVATIONS WHERE CERTAIN CLAIMS WERE FOUND UNSEARCHABLE ¹

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2) (a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claim numbers because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claim numbers because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claim numbers because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of PCT Rule 6.4(a).

VI. ☐ OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING ²

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims of the international application.
2. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims of the international application for which fees were paid, specifically claims:
3. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claim numbers:
4. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the International Searching Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	16876604			
Filing Date:	18-May-2020			
Title of Invention:	APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR MULTI-BITRATE CONTENT STREAMING			
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	DAVID F. BRUECK			
Filer:	Brett Carlson/Julie Graf			
Attorney Docket Number:	066.0141X1C10			
Filed as Large Entity				
Filing Fees for Utility under 35 USC 111(a)				
Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Miscellaneous:				
RCE- 1ST REQUEST	1801	1	1360	1360
Total in USD (\$)				1360

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	41212528
Application Number:	16876604
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	6495
Title of Invention:	APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR MULTI-BITRATE CONTENT STREAMING
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	DAVID F. BRUECK
Customer Number:	70560
Filer:	Brett Carlson/Julie Graf
Filer Authorized By:	Brett Carlson
Attorney Docket Number:	066.0141X1C10
Receipt Date:	24-NOV-2020
Filing Date:	18-MAY-2020
Time Stamp:	13:14:41
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	CARD
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$ 1360
RAM confirmation Number	E2020AND15034225
Deposit Account	
Authorized User	

The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows:

File Listing:					
Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Form (SB08)	20201116_IDS-1_066-0141X1C10.pdf	618183	no	22
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This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503. <u>New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111</u> If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application. <u>National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371</u> If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course. <u>New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office</u> If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.					



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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

70560 7590 11/12/2020
LKGLOBAL (Dish Technologies L.L.C.)
7010 E. COCHISE ROAD
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85253

EXAMINER	
PATEL, CHIRAG R	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

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DATE MAILED: 11/12/2020

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16/876,604	05/18/2020	DAVID F. BRUECK	066.0141X1C10	6495

TITLE OF INVENTION: APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR MULTI-BITRATE CONTENT STREAMING

APPLN. TYPE	ENTITY STATUS	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	UNDISCOUNTED	\$1200	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1200	02/12/2021

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the ENTITY STATUS shown above. If the ENTITY STATUS is shown as SMALL or MICRO, verify whether entitlement to that entity status still applies.

If the ENTITY STATUS is the same as shown above, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

If the ENTITY STATUS is changed from that shown above, on PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, complete section number 5 titled "Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)".

For purposes of this notice, small entity fees are 1/2 the amount of undiscounted fees, and micro entity fees are 1/2 the amount of small entity fees.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Maintenance fees are due in utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due. More information is available at www.uspto.gov/PatentMaintenanceFees.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), by mail or fax, or via EFS-Web.

By mail, send to: Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

By fax, send to: (571)-273-2885

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

70560 7590 11/12/2020
LKGLOBAL (Dish Technologies L.L.C.)
7010 E. COCHISE ROAD
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85253

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being transmitted to the USPTO via EFS-Web or by facsimile to (571) 273-2885, on the date below.

(Typed or printed name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
16/876.604	05/18/2020	DAVID F. BRUECK	066.0141X1C10	6495

TITLE OF INVENTION: APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR MULTI-BITRATE CONTENT STREAMING

APPLN. TYPE	ENTITY STATUS	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	UNDISCOUNTED	\$1200	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1200	02/12/2021

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
PATEL, CHIRAG R	2454	709-219000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-09 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) The names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,

1 _____

(2) The name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

2 _____

3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document must have been previously recorded, or filed for recordation, as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11 and 37 CFR 3.81(a). Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. Fees submitted: ☐ Issue Fee ☐ Publication Fee (if required) ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Method of Payment: (Please first reapply any previously paid fee shown above)

☐ Electronic Payment via EFS-Web ☐ Enclosed check ☐ Non-electronic payment by credit card (Attach form PTO-2038)

☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. _____

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

☐ Applicant certifying micro entity status. See 37 CFR 1.29

☐ Applicant asserting small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

☐ Applicant changing to regular undiscounted fee status.

NOTE: Absent a valid certification of Micro Entity Status (see forms PTO/SB/15A and 15B), issue fee payment in the micro entity amount will not be accepted at the risk of application abandonment.

NOTE: If the application was previously under micro entity status, checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to micro entity status.

NOTE: Checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to small or micro entity status, as applicable.

NOTE: This form must be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.31 and 1.33. See 37 CFR 1.4 for signature requirements and certifications.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
16/876,604	05/18/2020	DAVID F. BRUECK	066.0141X1C10	6495
70560	7590	11/12/2020	EXAMINER	
LKGLOBAL (Dish Technologies L.L.C.) 7010 E. COCHISE ROAD SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85253			PATEL, CHIRAG R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2454	
DATE MAILED: 11/12/2020				

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (Applications filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Office has discontinued providing a Patent Term Adjustment (PTA) calculation with the Notice of Allowance.

Section 1(h)(2) of the AIA Technical Corrections Act amended 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(3)(B)(i) to eliminate the requirement that the Office provide a patent term adjustment determination with the notice of allowance. See Revisions to Patent Term Adjustment, 78 Fed. Reg. 19416, 19417 (Apr. 1, 2013). Therefore, the Office is no longer providing an initial patent term adjustment determination with the notice of allowance. The Office will continue to provide a patent term adjustment determination with the Issue Notification Letter that is mailed to applicant approximately three weeks prior to the issue date of the patent, and will include the patent term adjustment on the patent. Any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment determination (or reinstatement of patent term adjustment) should follow the process outlined in 37 CFR 1.705.

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

OMB Clearance and PRA Burden Statement for PTOL-85 Part B

The Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 requires Federal agencies to obtain Office of Management and Budget approval before requesting most types of information from the public. When OMB approves an agency request to collect information from the public, OMB (i) provides a valid OMB Control Number and expiration date for the agency to display on the instrument that will be used to collect the information and (ii) requires the agency to inform the public about the OMB Control Number's legal significance in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.5(b).

The information collected by PTOL-85 Part B is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 30 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection, or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Notice of Allowability	Application No. 16/876,604	Applicant(s) BRUECK et al.	
	Examiner CHIRAG R PATEL	Art Unit 2454	AIA (FITF) Status No

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the response filed on.
☐ A declaration(s)/affidavit(s) under **37 CFR 1.130(b)** was/were filed on _____.

2. ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on _____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.

3. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-29. As a result of the allowed claim(s), you may be eligible to benefit from the **Patent Prosecution Highway** program at a participating intellectual property office for the corresponding application. For more information, please see http://www.uspto.gov/patents/init_events/pph/index.jsp or send an inquiry to PPHfeedback@uspto.gov.

4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

Certified copies:

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some *c) ☐ None of the:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	5. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
2. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____.	6. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
3. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material _____.	7. ☐ Other _____.
4. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date. _____.	

/CHIRAG R PATEL/ Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2454	
---	--

<i>Search Notes</i> 	Application/Control No. 16/876,604	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination BRUECK et al.
	Examiner CHIRAG R PATEL	Art Unit 2454

CPC - Searched*		
Symbol	Date	Examiner
H04N19/34, H04N19/40, H04N21/234327	07/19/2020	C.P.
H04N21/2662, H04N21/234327, H04N21/2393	07/19/2020	C.P.
H04L65/80, H04L67/2842, H04L65/4069, H04L65/607, H04L65/608	07/19/2020	C.P.

CPC Combination Sets - Searched*		
Symbol	Date	Examiner

US Classification - Searched*			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner

* See search history printout included with this form or the SEARCH NOTES box below to determine the scope of the search.

Search Notes		
Search Notes	Date	Examiner
EAST	07/19/2020	C.P.
EAST	11/05/2020	C.P.

Interference Search			
US Class/CPC Symbol	US Subclass/CPC Group	Date	Examiner
H04N	H04N21/2662, H04N21/234327, H04N21/2393	11/05/2020	C.P.
H04L	H04L65/80, H04L67/2842, H04L65/4069, H04L65/607, H04L65/608	11/05/2020	C.P.

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Issue Classification 	Application/Control No. 16/876,604	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination BRUECK et al.
	Examiner CHIRAG R PATEL	Art Unit 2454

CPC						
Symbol					Type	Version
H04L	/	65	/	607	F	2013-01-01
H04L	/	47	/	801	I	2013-01-01
H04L	/	47	/	12	I	2013-01-01
H04L	/	65	/	4069	I	2013-01-01
G06F	/	16	/	71	I	2019-01-01
G06F	/	16	/	183	I	2019-01-01
H04L	/	29	/	06027	I	2013-01-01
H04N	/	7	/	24	I	2013-01-01
H04N	/	21	/	23439	I	2013-01-01
H04N	/	21	/	4331	I	2013-01-01
H04N	/	21	/	84	I	2013-01-01
H04N	/	21	/	8456	I	2013-01-01
H04L	/	65	/	80	I	2013-01-01
H04L	/	65	/	608	I	2013-01-01
H04L	/	67	/	02	I	2013-01-01
H04L	/	65	/	1069	I	2013-01-01
H04L	/	67	/	2842	I	2013-01-01
H04L	/	67	/	32	I	2013-01-01
H04N	/	21	/	2662	I	2013-01-01

CPC Combination Sets				
Symbol	Type	Set	Ranking	Version
/				

NONE (Assistant Examiner) _____ (Date) _____		Total Claims Allowed: 29	
/CHIRAG R PATEL/ Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2454 (Primary Examiner) _____ (Date) _____		05 November 2020 O.G. Print Claim(s) 1	O.G. Print Figure 1

<i>Issue Classification</i> 	Application/Control No. 16/876,604	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination BRUECK et al.
	Examiner CHIRAG R PATEL	Art Unit 2454

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION			
CLAIMED			
H04L	/	29	/ 06

NON-CLAIMED			
/		/	

US ORIGINAL CLASSIFICATION	
CLASS	SUBCLASS

CROSS REFERENCES(S)						
CLASS	SUBCLASS (ONE SUBCLASS PER BLOCK)					

NONE		Total Claims Allowed:	
(Assistant Examiner)	(Date)	29	
/CHIRAG R PATEL/ Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2454	05 November 2020	O.G. Print Claim(s)	O.G. Print Figure
(Primary Examiner)	(Date)	1	1

Issue Classification 	Application/Control No. 16/876,604	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination BRUECK et al.
	Examiner CHIRAG R PATEL	Art Unit 2454

☒ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☒ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

CLAIMS															
Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original
	1		10		19		28								
	2		11		20		29								
	3		12		21										
	4		13		22										
	5		14		23										
	6		15		24										
	7		16		25										
	8		17		26										
	9		18		27										

NONE (Assistant Examiner) _____ (Date) _____		Total Claims Allowed: 29	
/CHIRAG R PATEL/ Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2454 (Primary Examiner) _____ (Date) _____		05 November 2020 (Date)	O.G. Print Claim(s) 1 O.G. Print Figure 1

<i>Index of Claims</i> 	Application/Control No. 16/876,604	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination BRUECK et al.
	Examiner CHIRAG R PATEL	Art Unit 2454

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

CLAIMS										
☒ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant					☐ CPA		☒ T.D.		☐ R.1.47	
CLAIM		DATE								
Final	Original	07/20/2020	11/05/2020							
	1	✓	=							
	2	✓	=							
	3	✓	=							
	4	✓	=							
	5	✓	=							
	6	✓	=							
	7	✓	=							
	8	✓	=							
	9	✓	=							
	10	✓	=							
	11	✓	=							
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	19	✓	=							
	20	✓	=							
	21	✓	=							
	22	✓	=							
	23	✓	=							
	24	✓	=							
	25	✓	=							
	26	✓	=							
	27	✓	=							
	28	✓	=							
	29	✓	=							

EAST Search History

EAST Search History (Prior Art)

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
S1	8	((("10659513") or ("9998516") or ("9571551") or ("9071668") or ("8612624") or ("8402156") or ("7818444") or ("8868772")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2020/07/19 08:58
S2	0	S1 and 600kbps	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO	OR	ON	2020/07/19 09:03
S3	1	("10469555").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2020/07/19 09:58
S4	1	("10469554").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2020/07/19 10:14
S5	285	enhancement adj layer AND bit-rate with encod\$3	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO	OR	ON	2020/07/20 01:11
S6	9	((H04N19/34 OR H04N19/40 OR H04N21/234327).CPC.) AND client near2 request with streamlet	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO	OR	ON	2020/07/20 01:13
S7	1	((H04N19/34 OR H04N19/40 OR H04N21/234327).CPC.) AND live and (streamlet chunk\$3) and enhancement AND @ad<"20040430"	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO	OR	ON	2020/07/20 01:14
S8	1	((H04N19/34 OR H04N19/40 OR H04N21/234327).CPC.) AND timeline and enhancement adj layer AND @ad<"20040430"	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO	OR	ON	2020/07/20 01:14
S9	5	timeline same playback same playlist AND enhancement AND @ad<"20040430"	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO	OR	ON	2020/07/20 01:16
S10	4	streamlets with live near2 stream	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO	OR	ON	2020/07/20 01:17
S11	49	((H04N21/2662 OR H04N21/234327 OR H04N21/2393 OR H04L65/80 OR H04L67/2842 OR H04L65/4069 OR	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO	OR	ON	2020/07/20 01:19

		H04L65/607 OR H04L65/608).CPC.) and streamlets with bitrate				
S12	3	((("7369610") or ("20050055425") or ("20030103571")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2020/07/20 11:59
S13	1	("6,496,980").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2020/07/20 12:07
S14	3	((("20030023982") or ("7,934,159") or ("5,812,786")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2020/07/20 12:13
S15	542	low near2 stream same medium near2 stream and high near2 stream	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO	OR	ON	2020/11/05 11:23
S16	49	low near2 stream same medium near2 stream and high near2 stream and streamlet	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO	OR	ON	2020/11/05 11:27
S17	41	low near2 stream same medium near2 stream and high near2 stream and streamlet and different near3 bitrates	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO	OR	ON	2020/11/05 11:35
S18	40	((H04N21/2662 OR H04N21/234327 OR H04N21/2393 OR H04L65/80 OR H04L67/2842 OR H04L65/4069 OR H04L65/607 OR H04L65/608).CPC.) and S17	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO	OR	ON	2020/11/05 11:51

EAST Search History (Interference)

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
S19	882	((H04N21/2662 OR H04N21/234327 OR H04N21/2393 OR H04L65/80 OR H04L67/2842 OR H04L65/4069 OR H04L65/607 OR H04L65/608).CPC.) and "L3"	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2020/11/05 11:51
S20	511	((H04N21/2662 OR H04N21/234327 OR H04N21/2393 OR H04L65/80 OR H04L67/2842 OR H04L65/4069 OR H04L65/607 OR H04L65/608).CPC.) and "s9"	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2020/11/05 12:04
S21	9	((H04N21/2662 OR H04N21/234327 OR H04N21/2393 OR H04L65/80 OR H04L67/2842 OR H04L65/4069 OR H04L65/607 OR H04L65/608).CPC.) and streamlet with plurality near2 bit\$2rates	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2020/11/05 12:05

S22	8	((H04N21/2662 OR H04N21/234327 OR H04N21/2393 OR H04L65/80 OR H04L67/2842 OR H04L65/4069 OR H04L65/607 OR H04L65/608).CPC.) and streamlet with plurality near2 bit\$2rates and portion near2 video	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2020/11/05 14:03
S23	34	((H04N21/2662 OR H04N21/234327 OR H04N21/2393 OR H04L65/80 OR H04L67/2842 OR H04L65/4069 OR H04L65/607 OR H04L65/608).CPC.) and streamlet with bit\$2rates and portion near2 video	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2020/11/05 14:04

11/5/2020 2:08:52 PM

C:\Users\cpatel\Documents\EAST\Workspaces\16876604.wsp

Bibliographic Data

Application No: 16/876,604

Foreign Priority claimed: ☐ Yes ☒ No

35 USC 119 (a-d) conditions met: ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Met After Allowance

Verified and Acknowledged: /CHIRAG R PATEL/

Examiner's Signature

Initials

Title:

APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR MULTI-BITRATE
CONTENT STREAMING

FILING or 371(c) DATE	CLASS	GROUP ART UNIT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
05/18/2020	709	2454	066.0141X1C10
RULE			

APPLICANTS

DISH Technologies L.L.C., Englewood, CO,

INVENTORS

DAVID F. BRUECK, SARATOGA SPRINGS, UT, UNITED STATES

MARK B. HURST, CEDAR HILLS, UT, UNITED STATES

R. DREW MAJOR, OREM, UT, UNITED STATES

CONTINUING DATA

This application is a CON of 16004056 06/08/2018 PAT 10659513

16004056 is a CON of 15414025 01/24/2017 PAT 9998516

15414025 is a CON of 14719122 05/21/2015 PAT 9571551

14719122 is a CON of 14106051 12/13/2013 PAT 9071668

14106051 is a CON of 13617114 09/14/2012 PAT 8612624

13617114 is a CON of 12906940 10/18/2010 PAT 8402156

12906940 is a CON of 11673483 02/09/2007 PAT 7818444

11673483 is a CIP of 11116783 04/28/2005 PAT 8868772

11116783 has PRO of 60566831 04/30/2004

FOREIGN APPLICATIONS

IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN LICENSE GRANTED**

05/26/2020

STATE OR COUNTRY

UNITED STATES

ADDRESS

LKGLOBAL (Dish Technologies L.L.C.)

7010 E. COCHISE ROAD
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85253
UNITED STATES

FILING FEE RECEIVED

\$7,220

Doc Code: DIST.E.FILE Document Description: Electronic Terminal Disclaimer - Filed		PTO/SB/26 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Department of Commerce	
Electronic Petition Request	TERMINAL DISCLAIMER TO OBIATE A DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION OVER A "PRIOR" PATENT		
Application Number	16876604		
Filing Date	18-May-2020		
First Named Inventor	DAVID BRUECK		
Attorney Docket Number	066.0141X1C10		
Title of Invention	APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR MULTI-BITRATE CONTENT STREAMING		
☒ Filing of terminal disclaimer does not obviate requirement for response under 37 CFR 1.111 to outstanding Office Action ☒ This electronic Terminal Disclaimer is not being used for a Joint Research Agreement.			
Owner		Percent Interest	
DISH TECHNOLOGIES LLC		100 %	
The owner(s) with percent interest listed above in the instant application hereby disclaims, except as provided below, the terminal part of the statutory term of any patent granted on the instant application which would extend beyond the expiration date of the full statutory term of prior patent number(s) 10469554 as the term of said prior patent is presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer. The owner hereby agrees that any patent so granted on the instant application shall be enforceable only for and during such period that it and the prior patent are commonly owned. This agreement runs with any patent granted on the instant application and is binding upon the grantee, its successors or assigns. In making the above disclaimer, the owner does not disclaim the terminal part of the term of any patent granted on the instant application that would extend to the expiration date of the full statutory term of the prior patent, "as the term of said prior patent is presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer," in the event that said prior patent later: - expires for failure to pay a maintenance fee; - is held unenforceable; - is found invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction; - is statutorily disclaimed in whole or terminally disclaimed under 37 CFR 1.321; - has all claims canceled by a reexamination certificate; - is reissued; or - is in any manner terminated prior to the expiration of its full statutory term as presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer. ☒ Terminal disclaimer fee under 37 CFR 1.20(d) is included with Electronic Terminal Disclaimer request.			

☐ I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4), that the terminal disclaimer fee under 37 CFR 1.20(d) required for this terminal disclaimer has already been paid in the above-identified application.	
Applicant claims the following fee status: ☐ Small Entity ☐ Micro Entity ☒ Regular Undiscounted	
I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.	
THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am: ☒ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office who is of record in this application Registration Number <u>39928</u> ☐ A sole inventor ☐ A joint inventor; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all of the inventors as evidenced by the power of attorney in the application ☐ A joint inventor; all of whom are signing this request	
Signature	/BRETT A. CARLSON/
Name	/BRETT A. CARLSON/

*Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is required if terminal disclaimer is signed by the assignee (owner).
 Form PTO/SB/96 may be used for making this certification. See MPEP § 324.

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	16876604			
Filing Date:	18-May-2020			
Title of Invention:	APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR MULTI-BITRATE CONTENT STREAMING			
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	DAVID F. BRUECK			
Filer:	Brett Carlson/Julie Graf			
Attorney Docket Number:	066.0141X1C10			
Filed as Large Entity				
Filing Fees for Utility under 35 USC 111(a)				
Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
STATUTORY OR TERMINAL DISCLAIMER	1814	1	170	170
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Extension-of-Time:				
Miscellaneous:				
Total in USD (\$)				170

Doc Code: DISQ.E.FILE

Document Description: Electronic Terminal Disclaimer – Approved

Application No.: 16876604

Filing Date: 18-May-2020

Applicant/Patent under Reexamination: BRUECK

Electronic Terminal Disclaimer filed on October 27, 2020

☒ APPROVED

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer

☐ DISAPPROVED

Approved/Disapproved by: Electronic Terminal Disclaimer automatically approved by EFS-Web

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	40953841
Application Number:	16876604
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	6495
Title of Invention:	APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR MULTI-BITRATE CONTENT STREAMING
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	DAVID F. BRUECK
Customer Number:	70560
Filer:	Brett Carlson/Julie Graf
Filer Authorized By:	Brett Carlson
Attorney Docket Number:	066.0141X1C10
Receipt Date:	27-OCT-2020
Filing Date:	18-MAY-2020
Time Stamp:	09:43:29
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	CARD
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$ 170
RAM confirmation Number	E20200Q043250944
Deposit Account	
Authorized User	

The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows:

File Listing:					
Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Terminal Disclaimer-Filed (Electronic)	eTerminal-Disclaimer.pdf	33553	no	2
			8176b674d23c172ecf8c3da359363d8b0f316a24		
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Fee Worksheet (SB06)	fee-info.pdf	30253	no	2
			70047fd44a3f4267547d79a146f1b9f60ddc403e		
Warnings:					
Information:					
Total Files Size (in bytes):			63806		
This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503. <u>New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111</u> If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application. <u>National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371</u> If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course. <u>New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office</u> If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.					

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial. No.: 16/876,604 Confirmation No.: 6495
Examiner: Chirag Patel Art Unit: 2454
Filed: May 18, 2020 Customer No.: 70560
Title: **APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR MULTI-BITRATE
CONTENT STREAMING**
Attorney Docket No.: 066.0141x1C10

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

*****FILED ELECTRONICALLY USING THE PTO-EFS SYSTEM***

Commissioner:

We hereby respond to the Office Action mailed on July 24, 2020. Nothing is amended by this response, and remarks begin on the following page (page 2).

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Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	40951092
Application Number:	16876604
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	6495
Title of Invention:	APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR MULTI-BITRATE CONTENT STREAMING
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	DAVID F. BRUECK
Customer Number:	70560
Filer:	Brett Carlson
Filer Authorized By:	
Attorney Docket Number:	066.0141X1C10
Receipt Date:	26-OCT-2020
Filing Date:	18-MAY-2020
Time Stamp:	19:20:56
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	no
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File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1		20201026_Response_066-0141X1C10.pdf	153119	yes	3
			537570db5d2089c24a88d9dd229a0b3cd92727af		

	Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description		
	Document Description	Start	End
	Applicant Arguments/Remarks Made in an Amendment	2	3
	Amendment/Req. Reconsideration-After Non-Final Reject	1	1
Warnings:			
Information:			
Total Files Size (in bytes):		153119	
This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503. <u>New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111</u> If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application. <u>National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371</u> If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course. <u>New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office</u> If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.			

REMARKS

This is a response to the above-reference application, which has been granted Track One status. No amendments are made, so no new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

We appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement that all claims are allowable but for the double patenting rejection addressed below.

Double Patenting Rejection

The only issue raised by the Office Action is a double patenting rejection as follows:

Claims 1-29 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4, 7, 11-15 of U.S. Patent No. 10,649,554. Although the claims at issue are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other.

We believe that the rejection contains a typographical error, and that the referenced patent is intended to be the issued parent to this application, US Patent No. 10,469,554. The Office Action states that the rejection can be overcome with a terminal disclaimer, which is being filed under separate cover following confirmation of the correct patent number with the Examiner.

After entry of the terminal disclaimer, the rejection is believed to be moot. If there are any issues with the terminal disclaimer or associated fee payment, however, or if any additional disclaimers are needed, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at 480.241.8219 (mobile) or 480.385.5069 (office).

Conclusion

Should any issues remain, we would welcome a telephone call to - (480) 385-5069 or an email to bcarlson@lkglobal.com. Recognizing that Internet communications are not secure, we hereby authorize the USPTO to communicate with the undersigned and practitioners in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 37 CFR 1.34 concerning any subject matter of this application via video

conferencing, instant messaging, or electronic mail. We understand that a copy of these communications will be made of record in the application file. (MPEP 502.03). Without limiting the foregoing, we further authorize the use of email for informal correspondence, including the exchange of proposed amendments or other draft documents.

Respectfully submitted,
LORENZ & KOPF, LLC

Dated: Monday, October 26, 2020

By: /Brett A. Carlson /
Brett A. Carlson
Reg. No. 39,928

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480-241-8219 (mobile)
480-385-5060 (general)

LKGLOBAL is LORENZ & KOPF, LLC
Customer No. 70560



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING OR 371(C) DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO./TITLE
16/876,604	05/18/2020	DAVID F. BRUECK	066.0141X1C10

CONFIRMATION NO. 6495

PUBLICATION NOTICE



OC000000119661768

70560
LKGLOBAL (Dish Technologies L.L.C.)
7010 E. COCHISE ROAD
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85253

Title: APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR MULTI-BITRATE CONTENT STREAMING

Publication No. US-2020-0280595-A1

Publication Date: 09/03/2020

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF APPLICATION

The above-identified application will be electronically published as a patent application publication pursuant to 37 CFR 1.211, et seq. The patent application publication number and publication date are set forth above.

The publication may be accessed through the USPTO's publically available Searchable Databases via the Internet at www.uspto.gov. The direct link to access the publication is currently <http://www.uspto.gov/patft/>.

The publication process established by the Office does not provide for mailing a copy of the publication to applicant. A copy of the publication may be obtained from the Office upon payment of the appropriate fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.19(a)(1). Orders for copies of patent application publications are handled by the USPTO's Public Records Division. The Public Records Division can be reached by telephone at (571) 272-3150 or (800) 972-6382, by facsimile at (571) 273-3250, by mail addressed to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Public Records Division, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 or via the Internet.

In addition, information on the status of the application, including the mailing date of Office actions and the dates of receipt of correspondence filed in the Office, may also be accessed via the Internet through the Patent Electronic Business Center at www.uspto.gov using the public side of the Patent Application Information and Retrieval (PAIR) system. The direct link to access this status information is currently <https://portal.uspto.gov/pair/PublicPair>. Prior to publication, such status information is confidential and may only be obtained by applicant using the private side of PAIR.

Further assistance in electronically accessing the publication, or about PAIR, is available by calling the Patent Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

Office of Data Management, Application Assistance Unit (571) 272-4000, or (571) 272-4200, or 1-888-786-0101



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
16/876,604	05/18/2020	DAVID F. BRUECK	066.0141X1C10	6495
70560	7590	07/24/2020	EXAMINER	
LKGLOBAL (Dish Technologies L.L.C.)			PATEL, CHIRAG R	
7010 E. COCHISE ROAD			ART UNIT	
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85253			PAPER NUMBER	
			2454	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	
			DELIVERY MODE	
			07/24/2020	
			ELECTRONIC	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

dish@lkglobal.com
ipdept@dish.com

Notice of Pre-AIA or AIA Status

The present application is being examined under the pre-AIA first to invent provisions.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the “right to exclude” granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on nonstatutory double patenting provided the reference application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with the examined application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement. See MPEP § 717.02 for applications subject to examination under the first inventor to file provisions of the AIA as explained in MPEP § 2159. See MPEP §§ 706.02(l)(1) - 706.02(l)(3) for applications not subject to examination under the first inventor to file provisions of the AIA. A terminal disclaimer must be signed in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(b).

The USPTO Internet website contains terminal disclaimer forms which may be used. Please visit www.uspto.gov/patent/patents-forms. The filing date of the application in which the form is filed determines what form (e.g., PTO/SB/25, PTO/SB/26, PTO/AIA/25, or PTO/AIA/26) should be used. A web-based eTerminal Disclaimer may be filled out completely online using web-screens. An eTerminal Disclaimer that meets all requirements is auto-processed and approved immediately upon submission. For more information about eTerminal Disclaimers, refer to www.uspto.gov/patents/process/file/efs/guidance/eTD-info-I.jsp.

Claims 1-29 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4, 7, 11-15 of U.S. Patent No. 10,649,554. Although the claims at issue are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other.

Claims 1, 3 and 4 of the instant application are anticipated by claims 1 and 11 of the patent. Differences are that it would have been obvious for the virtual timeline which is requested by the end-user station to be generated by the server. Other differences it would have been obvious for the one storage device storing live event video to be an archived content of the instant application.

Claim 2 of the instant application is anticipated by claim 12 of the patent.

Claim 5 of the instant application is anticipated by claim 2 of the patent.

Claim 6 of the instant application is anticipated by claim 3 of the patent.

Claim 7 of the instant application is anticipated by claim 4 of the patent.

Claim 8 of the instant application is anticipated by claim 11 of the patent.

Claim 9 of the instant application is anticipated by claim 7 of the patent.

Claim 10 of the instant application is anticipated by claim 12 of the patent.

Claim 11 of the instant application is anticipated by claim 13 of the patent.

Claim 12 of the instant application is anticipated by claim 14 of the patent.

Claim 13 of the instant application is anticipated by claim 15 of the patent.

Claims 14, 20 and 21 of the instant application is anticipated by claim 1 and 11-12 of the patent. Differences are that it would have been obvious to the request of the virtual timeline which corresponds to the currently selected one of the low quality, medium quality or high quality stream of the patent to be placed for at least one virtual times based on the selected one of the low quality stream, the medium quality stream and the high quality stream. Other differences it would have been obvious for the one storage device storing live event video to be an archived content of the instant application.

Claim 15 is an obvious variant of claim 14 as it would have been obvious for the end-user station to select streamlets from the virtual timeline once is it received by the server. These claims are an obvious variant of each other and are not patentably distinct.

Claim 16 of the instant application is anticipated by claim 2 of the patent.

Claim 17 of the instant application is anticipated by claim 3 of the patent.

Claim 18 of the instant application is anticipated by claim 12 of the patent.

Claim 19 of the instant application is anticipated by claim 13 of the patent.

Claims 22, 26 and 27 of the instant application is anticipated by claim 1, 4 and 11 of the patent. Differences are that it would have been obvious for the virtual timeline which is requested by the end-user stations of the patent to be stored on the one or more servers and obvious for the virtual timeline of the patent to be retrieved and sent to the end-user station upon the request of the end-user of the instant application. Other differences it would have been obvious for the one storage device storing live event video to be an archived content of the instant application.

Claim 23 of the instant application is anticipated by claim 4 of the patent.

Claim 24 of the instant application is anticipated by claim 2 of the patent.

Claim 25 of the instant application is anticipated by claim 3 of the patent.

Claim 28 of the instant application is anticipated by claims 1, 4 and 11 of the patent. Differences are it would have been obvious for the patent for the virtual timeline which is requested and received by the end user stations to be retrieved by the server.

Claim 29 of the instant application is anticipated by claim 11 and 12 of the instant application. The differences are that it would have been obvious for the patent to place a

streamlet request over one or more internet connect when requesting the streamlet from the virtual timeline and to receive the streamlet from the server, in response to the requests. These claims are obvious variant of each other and not patentably distinct from each other.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: A review of the prior art fails to disclose or render obvious, “wherein the first streamlet of each of the groups of streamlets has the same first duration and encodes the same first portion of the video in each of the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and the high quality stream, and wherein the first streamlet of the low quality stream encodes the same first portion of the video at a different bitrate than the first streamlet of the high quality stream and the first streamlet of the medium quality stream”.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Lango et al. - (US 2005/0055425) - Pre-computing streaming media payload method and apparatus.

Meehan et al. - (US 2003/0103571) - Combined MPEG-4 FGS and modulation algorithm for wireless video transmission.

Xu et al. – (US 7,369,610) - Enhancement layer switching for scalable video coding.

Lee et al. (US 2003/0023982) - Scalable video encoding/storage/distribution/decoding for symmetrical multiple video processors.

Rahman et al. (US 7,934,159) - Media timeline

Seazholtz et al. (US 5,812,786) - Variable rate and variable mode transmission system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chirag R Patel whose telephone number is (571)272-7966. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:00AM to 4:30PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenton Burgess, can be reached on 571-272-3949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pairedirect.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).

/Chirag R Patel/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2454

<i>Notice of References Cited</i>	Application/Control No. 16/876,604		Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination BRUECK et al.	
	Examiner CHIRAG R PATEL		Art Unit 2454	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	CPC Classification	US Classification
*	A	US-7369610-B2	05-2008	Xu; Jizheng	H04N21/2662	375/240.08
*	B	US-20050055425-A1	03-2005	Lango, Jason	H04N7/17318	709/219
*	C	US-20030103571-A1	06-2003	Meehan, Joseph	H04N19/34	375/240.27
*	D	US-20030023982-A1	01-2003	Lee, Tsu-Chang	H04N21/234363	725/116
*	E	US-7934159-B1	04-2011	Rahman; Shafiq Ur	H04N21/4825	715/716
*	F	US-5812786-A	09-1998	Seazholtz; John W.	H04M11/062	370/465
	G					
	H					
	I					
	J					
	K					
	L					
	M					

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	CPC Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

<i>Index of Claims</i> 	Application/Control No. 16/876,604	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination BRUECK et al.
	Examiner CHIRAG R PATEL	Art Unit 2454

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

CLAIMS										
☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☐ T.D. ☐ R.1.47										
CLAIM			DATE							
Final	Original	07/20/2020								
	1	✓								
	2	✓								
	3	✓								
	4	✓								
	5	✓								
	6	✓								
	7	✓								
	8	✓								
	9	✓								
	10	✓								
	11	✓								
	12	✓								
	13	✓								
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	20	✓								
	21	✓								
	22	✓								
	23	✓								
	24	✓								
	25	✓								
	26	✓								
	27	✓								
	28	✓								
	29	✓								

<i>Search Notes</i> 	Application/Control No. 16/876,604	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination BRUECK et al.
	Examiner CHIRAG R PATEL	Art Unit 2454

CPC - Searched*		
Symbol	Date	Examiner
H04N19/34, H04N19/40, H04N21/234327	07/19/2020	C.P.
H04N21/2662, H04N21/234327, H04N21/2393	07/19/2020	C.P.
H04L65/80, H04L67/2842, H04L65/4069, H04L65/607, H04L65/608	07/19/2020	C.P.

CPC Combination Sets - Searched*		
Symbol	Date	Examiner

US Classification - Searched*			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner

* See search history printout included with this form or the SEARCH NOTES box below to determine the scope of the search.

Search Notes		
Search Notes	Date	Examiner
EAST	07/19/2020	C.P.

Interference Search			
US Class/CPC Symbol	US Subclass/CPC Group	Date	Examiner

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EAST Search History

EAST Search History (Prior Art)

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
L1	3	((("7369610") or ("20050055425") or ("20030103571")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2020/07/20 11:59
L2	1	("6,496,980").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2020/07/20 12:07
L3	3	((("20030023982") or ("7,934,159") or ("5,812,786")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2020/07/20 12:13
S1	8	((("10659513") or ("9998516") or ("9571551") or ("9071668") or ("8612624") or ("8402156") or ("7818444") or ("8868772")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2020/07/19 08:58
S2	0	S1 and 600kbps	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO	OR	ON	2020/07/19 09:03
S3	1	("10469555").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2020/07/19 09:58
S4	1	("10469554").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2020/07/19 10:14
S5	285	enhancement adj layer AND bit-rate with encod\$3	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO	OR	ON	2020/07/20 01:11
S6	9	((H04N19/34 OR H04N19/40 OR H04N21/234327).CPC.) AND client near2 request with streamlet	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO	OR	ON	2020/07/20 01:13
S7	1	((H04N19/34 OR H04N19/40 OR H04N21/234327).CPC.) AND live and (streamlet chunk\$3) and enhancement AND @ad<"20040430"	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO	OR	ON	2020/07/20 01:14
S8	1	((H04N19/34 OR H04N19/40 OR H04N21/234327).CPC.) AND timeline and enhancement adj layer AND @ad<"20040430"	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO	OR	ON	2020/07/20 01:14
S9	5	timeline same playback same playlist AND enhancement AND @ad<"20040430"	US-PGPUB; USPAT;	OR	ON	2020/07/20 01:16

			USOCR; FPRS; EPO			
S10	4	streamlets with live near2 stream	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO	OR	ON	2020/07/20 01:17
S11	49	((H04N21/2662 OR H04N21/234327 OR H04N21/2393 OR H04L65/80 OR H04L67/2842 OR H04L65/4069 OR H04L65/607 OR H04L65/608).CPC.) and streamlets with bitrate	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO	OR	ON	2020/07/20 01:19

EAST Search History (Interference)

<This search history is empty>

7/20/2020 1:07:37 PM

C:\Users\cpatel\Documents\EAST\Workspaces\16876604.wsp

Bibliographic Data

Application No: 16/876,604

Foreign Priority claimed: ☐ Yes ☒ No

35 USC 119 (a-d) conditions met: ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Met After Allowance

Verified and Acknowledged: /CHIRAG R PATEL/

Examiner's Signature

Initials

Title:

APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR MULTI-BITRATE
CONTENT STREAMING

FILING or 371(c) DATE	CLASS	GROUP ART UNIT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
05/18/2020	709	2454	066.0141X1C10
RULE			

APPLICANTS

DISH Technologies L.L.C., Englewood, CO,

INVENTORS

DAVID F. BRUECK, SARATOGA SPRINGS, UT, UNITED STATES

MARK B. HURST, CEDAR HILLS, UT, UNITED STATES

R. DREW MAJOR, OREM, UT, UNITED STATES

CONTINUING DATA

This application is a CON of 16004056 06/08/2018 PAT 10659513

16004056 is a CON of 15414025 01/24/2017 PAT 9998516

15414025 is a CON of 14719122 05/21/2015 PAT 9571551

14719122 is a CON of 14106051 12/13/2013 PAT 9071668

14106051 is a CON of 13617114 09/14/2012 PAT 8612624

13617114 is a CON of 12906940 10/18/2010 PAT 8402156

12906940 is a CON of 11673483 02/09/2007 PAT 7818444

11673483 is a CIP of 11116783 04/28/2005 PAT 8868772

11116783 has PRO of 60566831 04/30/2004

FOREIGN APPLICATIONS

IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN LICENSE GRANTED**

05/26/2020

STATE OR COUNTRY

UNITED STATES

ADDRESS

LKGLOBAL (Dish Technologies L.L.C.)

7010 E. COCHISE ROAD
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85253
UNITED STATES

FILING FEE RECEIVED

\$7,220



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
16/876,604	05/18/2020	DAVID F. BRUECK	066.0141X1C10	6495
70560	7590	06/02/2020	EXAMINER	
LKGLOBAL (Dish Technologies L.L.C.) 7010 E. COCHISE ROAD SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85253				
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2454	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			06/02/2020	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

dish@lkglobal.com
ipdept@dish.com

<i>Decision Granting Request for Prioritized Examination (Track I)</i>	Application No. 16/876,604	Applicant(s) BRUECK et al.	
	Examiner CHERYL P GIBSON BAYLOR	Art Unit OPET	AIA (FITF) Status No
1. THE REQUEST FILED <u>18 May 2020</u> IS GRANTED . The above-identified application has met the requirements for prioritized examination A. ☒ for an original nonprovisional application (Track I). B. ☐ for an application undergoing continued examination (RCE). 2. The above-identified application will undergo prioritized examination. The application will be accorded special status throughout its entire course of prosecution until one of the following occurs: A. filing a <u>petition for extension of time</u> to extend the time period for filing a reply; B. filing an <u>amendment to amend the application to contain more than four independent claims, more than thirty total claims</u>, or a multiple dependent claim; C. filing a <u>request for continued examination</u> ; D. filing a notice of appeal; E. filing a request for suspension of action; F. mailing of a notice of allowance; G. mailing of a final Office action; H. completion of examination as defined in 37 CFR 41.102; or I. abandonment of the application. Telephone inquiries with regard to this decision should be directed to CHERYL GIBSON BAYLOR at (571)272-3213. In his/her absence, calls may be directed to Petition Help Desk at (571) 272-3282.			
/CHERYL GIBSON BAYLOR/ Paralegal Specialist, OPET			

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD Substitute for Form PTO-875						Application or Docket Number 16/876,604				
APPLICATION AS FILED - PART I										
(Column 1)		(Column 2)		SMALL ENTITY		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY				
FOR	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE(\$)	FEE(\$)		RATE(\$)	FEE(\$)			
BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	300			
SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (l), or (m))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	660			
EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	760			
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(j))	29	minus 20 = * 9			OR	x 100 =	900			
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(h))	4	minus 3 = * 1				x 460 =	460			
APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))	If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is \$310 (\$155 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).						0.00			
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))							0.00			
* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.			TOTAL			TOTAL	3080			
APPLICATION AS AMENDED - PART II										
(Column 1)		(Column 2)		(Column 3)		SMALL ENTITY		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY		
AMENDMENT A		CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE(\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE(\$)	RATE(\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE(\$)	
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	*	Minus	**	=	x =		OR	x =	
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus	***	=	x =		OR	x =	
	Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))							OR		
	FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR		
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	
AMENDMENT B		CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE(\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE(\$)	RATE(\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE(\$)	
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	*	Minus	**	=	x =		OR	x =	
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus	***	=	x =		OR	x =	
	Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))							OR		
	FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR		
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	
* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3. ** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20". *** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3". The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest found in the appropriate box in column 1.										



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING or 371(c) DATE	GRP ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY. DOCKET NO	TOT CLAIMS	IND CLAIMS
16/876,604	05/18/2020	2447	3080	066.0141X1C10	29	4

CONFIRMATION NO. 6495

70560

LKGLOBAL (Dish Technologies L.L.C.)
7010 E. COCHISE ROAD
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85253

FILING RECEIPT



Date Mailed: 05/27/2020

Receipt is acknowledged of this non-provisional utility patent application. The application will be taken up for examination in due course. Applicant will be notified as to the results of the examination. Any correspondence concerning the application must include the following identification information: the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF FIRST INVENTOR, and TITLE OF INVENTION. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection.

Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please submit a written request for a corrected Filing Receipt, including a properly marked-up ADS showing the changes with strike-through for deletions and underlining for additions. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" or other Notice requiring a response for this application, please submit any request for correction to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections provided that the request is grantable.

Inventor(s)

DAVID F. BRUECK, SARATOGA SPRINGS, UT;
MARK B. HURST, CEDAR HILLS, UT;
R. DREW MAJOR, OREM, UT;

Applicant(s)

DISH Technologies L.L.C., Englewood, CO

Assignment For Published Patent Application

DISH Technologies L.L.C., Englewood, CO

Power of Attorney: The patent practitioners associated with Customer Number 70560

Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant

This application is a CON of 16/004,056 06/08/2018 PAT 10659513
which is a CON of 15/414,025 01/24/2017 PAT 9998516
which is a CON of 14/719,122 05/21/2015 PAT 9571551
which is a CON of 14/106,051 12/13/2013 PAT 9071668
which is a CON of 13/617,114 09/14/2012 PAT 8612624
which is a CON of 12/906,940 10/18/2010 PAT 8402156
which is a CON of 11/673,483 02/09/2007 PAT 7818444
which is a CIP of 11/116,783 04/28/2005 PAT 8868772
which claims benefit of 60/566,831 04/30/2004

Foreign Applications for which priority is claimed (You may be eligible to benefit from the **Patent Prosecution Highway** program at the USPTO. Please see <http://www.uspto.gov> for more information.) - None.

Foreign application information must be provided in an Application Data Sheet in order to constitute a claim to foreign priority. See 37 CFR 1.55 and 1.76.

Permission to Access Application via Priority Document Exchange: Yes

Permission to Access Search Results: Yes

Applicant may provide or rescind an authorization for access using Form PTO/SB/39 or Form PTO/SB/69 as appropriate.

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted: 05/26/2020

The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is **US 16/876,604**

Projected Publication Date: 09/03/2020

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No

Title

APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR MULTI-BITRATE CONTENT STREAMING

Preliminary Class

709

Statement under 37 CFR 1.55 or 1.78 for AIA (First Inventor to File) Transition Applications: No

PROTECTING YOUR INVENTION OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

Since the rights granted by a U.S. patent extend only throughout the territory of the United States and have no effect in a foreign country, an inventor who wishes patent protection in another country must apply for a patent in a specific country or in regional patent offices. Applicants may wish to consider the filing of an international application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). An international (PCT) application generally has the same effect as a regular national patent application in each PCT-member country. The PCT process **simplifies** the filing of patent applications on the same invention in member countries, but **does not result** in a grant of "an international patent" and does not eliminate the need of applicants to file additional documents and fees in countries where patent protection is desired.

Almost every country has its own patent law, and a person desiring a patent in a particular country must make an application for patent in that country in accordance with its particular laws. Since the laws of many countries differ in various respects from the patent law of the United States, applicants are advised to seek guidance from specific foreign countries to ensure that patent rights are not lost prematurely.

Applicants also are advised that in the case of inventions made in the United States, the Director of the USPTO must issue a license before applicants can apply for a patent in a foreign country. The filing of a U.S. patent application serves as a request for a foreign filing license. The application's filing receipt contains further information and guidance as to the status of applicant's license for foreign filing.

Applicants may wish to consult the USPTO booklet, "General Information Concerning Patents" (specifically, the section entitled "Treaties and Foreign Patents") for more information on timeframes and deadlines for filing foreign

patent applications. The guide is available either by contacting the USPTO Contact Center at 800-786-9199, or it can be viewed on the USPTO website at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/doc/general/index.html>.

For information on preventing theft of your intellectual property (patents, trademarks and copyrights), you may wish to consult the U.S. Government website, <http://www.stopfakes.gov>. Part of a Department of Commerce initiative, this website includes self-help "toolkits" giving innovators guidance on how to protect intellectual property in specific countries such as China, Korea and Mexico. For questions regarding patent enforcement issues, applicants may call the U.S. Government hotline at 1-866-999-HALT (1-866-999-4258).

LICENSE FOR FOREIGN FILING UNDER

Title 35, United States Code, Section 184

Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 5.11 & 5.15

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This license is to be retained by the licensee and may be used at any time on or after the effective date thereof unless it is revoked. This license is automatically transferred to any related applications(s) filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d). This license is not retroactive.

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NOT GRANTED

No license under 35 U.S.C. 184 has been granted at this time, if the phrase "IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED" DOES NOT appear on this form. Applicant may still petition for a license under 37 CFR 5.12, if a license is desired before the expiration of 6 months from the filing date of the application. If 6 months has lapsed from the filing date of this application and the licensee has not received any indication of a secrecy order under 35 U.S.C. 181, the licensee may foreign file the application pursuant to 37 CFR 5.15(b).

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The United States represents the largest, most dynamic marketplace in the world and is an unparalleled location for business investment, innovation, and commercialization of new technologies. The U.S. offers tremendous resources and advantages for those who invest and manufacture goods here. Through SelectUSA, our nation works to promote and facilitate business investment. SelectUSA provides information assistance to the international investor community; serves as an ombudsman for existing and potential investors; advocates on behalf of U.S. cities, states, and regions competing for global investment; and counsels U.S. economic development organizations on investment attraction best practices. To learn more about why the United States is the best country in the world to develop technology, manufacture products, deliver services, and grow your business, visit <http://www.SelectUSA.gov> or call +1-202-482-6800.

TRANSMITTAL FOR POWER OF ATTORNEY TO ONE OR MORE REGISTERED PRACTITIONERS

NOTE: This form is to be submitted with the Power of Attorney by Applicant form (PTO/AIA/82B or equivalent) to identify the application to which the Power of Attorney is directed, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.5. If the Power of Attorney by Applicant form is not accompanied by this transmittal form or an equivalent, the Power of Attorney will not be recognized in the application.

Application Number	Unassigned
Filing Date	Unassigned
First Named Inventor	DAVID F. BRUECK
Title	APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR MULTI-BITRATE CONTENT STREAMING
Art Unit	Unassigned
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	066.0141X1C10

SIGNATURE of Applicant or Patent Practitioner

Signature	/BRETT A. CARLSON/	Date	2020-05-18
Name	Brett A. Carlson	Telephone	480.385.5060
Registration Number	39,928		

NOTE: This form must be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33. See 37 CFR 1.4(d) for signature requirements and certifications.

☒ *Total of 1 forms are submitted.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.31, 1.32 and 1.33. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 3 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

POWER OF ATTORNEY BY APPLICANT

I hereby revoke all previous powers of attorney given in the application identified in either the attached transmittal letter or the boxes below.

Application Number	Filing Date

(Note: The boxes above may be left blank if information is provided on form PTO/AIA/82A.)

☒ I hereby appoint the Patent Practitioner(s) associated with the following Customer Number as my/our attorney(s) or agent(s), and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith for the application referenced in the attached transmittal letter (form PTO/AIA/82A) or identified above:

70560

OR

☐ I hereby appoint Practitioner(s) named in the attached list (form PTO/AIA/82C) as my/our attorney(s) or agent(s), and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith for the patent application referenced in the attached transmittal letter (form PTO/AIA/82A) or identified above. (Note: Complete form PTO/AIA/82C.)

Please recognize or change the correspondence address for the application identified in the attached transmittal letter or the boxes above to:

☒ The address associated with the above-mentioned Customer Number

OR

☐ The address associated with Customer Number:

OR

Firm or Individual Name				
Address				
City	State	Zip		
Country				
Telephone	Email			

I am the Applicant (if the Applicant is a juristic entity, list the Applicant name in the box):

DISH Technologies L.L.C.

- ☐ Inventor or Joint Inventor (file not required below)
- ☐ Legal Representative of a Deceased or Legally Incapacitated Inventor (file not required below)
- ☒ Assignee or Person to Whom the Inventor is Under an Obligation to Assign (provide signer's title if applicant is a juristic entity)
- ☐ Person Who Otherwise Shows Sufficient Proprietary Interest (e.g., a petition under 37 CFR 1.46(b)(2) was granted in the application or is concurrently being filed with this document) (provide signer's title if applicant is a juristic entity)

SIGNATURE of Applicant for Patent

The undersigned (whose title is supplied below) is authorized to act on behalf of the applicant (e.g., where the applicant is a juristic entity).

Signature Tim Starn

Date (Optional) 7/6/2010

Name Max S. Gratton

Title Director & Senior Corporate Counsel of DISH Technologies L.L.C.

NOTE: Signature - This form must be signed by the applicant in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33. See 37 CFR 1.4 for signature requirements and certifications. If more than one applicant, use multiple forms.

☒ Total of 1 forms are submitted.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.131, 1.32, and 1.33. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 3 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1480, Alexandria, VA 22313-1480. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1480, Alexandria, VA 22313-1480.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-8198 and select option 2.

**CERTIFICATION AND REQUEST FOR PRIORITIZED EXAMINATION
UNDER 37 CFR 1.102(e) (Page 1 of 1)**

First Named Inventor:	DAVID F. BRUECK	Nonprovisional Application Number (if known):	Herewith
Title of Invention:	APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR MULTI-BITRATE CONTENT STREAMING		

APPLICANT HEREBY CERTIFIES THE FOLLOWING AND REQUESTS PRIORITIZED EXAMINATION FOR THE ABOVE-IDENTIFIED APPLICATION.

1. The processing fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(i), the prioritized examination fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(c), and if not already paid, the publication fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.18(d) have been filed with the request. The basic filing fee, search fee, examination fee, and any required excess claims and application size fees are filed with the request or have been already been paid.
2. The application contains or is amended to contain no more than four independent claims and no more than thirty total claims, and no multiple dependent claims.
3. The applicable box is checked below:

I. ☒ Original Application (Track One) - Prioritized Examination under § 1.102(e)(1)

- i. (a) The application is an original nonprovisional utility application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a). This certification and request is being filed with the utility application via EFS-Web.
---OR---
(b) The application is an original nonprovisional plant application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a). This certification and request is being filed with the plant application in paper.
- ii. An executed oath or declaration under 37 CFR 1.63 is filed with the application.

II. ☐ Request for Continued Examination - Prioritized Examination under § 1.102(e)(2)

- i. A request for continued examination has been filed with, or prior to, this form.
- ii. If the application is a utility application, this certification and request is being filed via EFS-Web.
- iii. The application is an original nonprovisional utility application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a), or is a national stage entry under 35 U.S.C. 371.
- iv. This certification and request is being filed prior to the mailing of a first Office action responsive to the request for continued examination.
- v. No prior request for continued examination has been granted prioritized examination status under 37 CFR 1.102(e)(2).

Signature /BRETT A. CARLSON/	Date 2020-05-18
Name (Print/Typed) Brett A. Carlson	Practitioner Registration Number 39,928
Note: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 11.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature. If necessary, submit multiple forms for more than one signature, see below*.	
☒ *Total of <u>1</u> forms are submitted.	

Privacy Act Statement

The **Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579)** requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (*i.e.*, GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:				
Filing Date:				
Title of Invention:	APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR MULTI-BITRATE CONTENT STREAMING			
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	DAVID F. BRUECK			
Filer:	Brett Carlson/Julie Graf			
Attorney Docket Number:	066.0141X1C10			
Filed as Large Entity				
Filing Fees for Track I Prioritized Examination - Nonprovisional Application under 35 USC 111(a)				
Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
UTILITY APPLICATION FILING	1011	1	300	300
UTILITY SEARCH FEE	1111	1	660	660
UTILITY EXAMINATION FEE	1311	1	760	760
REQUEST FOR PRIORITIZED EXAMINATION	1817	1	4000	4000
Pages:				
Claims:				
CLAIMS IN EXCESS OF 20	1202	9	100	900
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS IN EXCESS OF 3	1201	1	460	460

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
PUBL. FEE- EARLY, VOLUNTARY, OR NORMAL	1504	1	0	0
PROCESSING FEE, EXCEPT PROV. APPLS.	1830	1	140	140
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				
Miscellaneous:				
Total in USD (\$)				7220

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	39461810
Application Number:	16876604
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	6495
Title of Invention:	APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR MULTI-BITRATE CONTENT STREAMING
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	DAVID F. BRUECK
Customer Number:	70560
Filer:	Brett Carlson/Julie Graf
Filer Authorized By:	Brett Carlson
Attorney Docket Number:	066.0141X1C10
Receipt Date:	18-MAY-2020
Filing Date:	
Time Stamp:	15:07:37
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	CARD
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$ 7220
RAM confirmation Number	E20205HF08193927
Deposit Account	
Authorized User	

The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows:

File Listing:					
Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Application Data Sheet	20200518_ADS_066-0141X1C10.pdf	1823901	no	10
			2590d0539f0551580330a38322155dd05a2a094e		
Warnings:					
Information:					
2		20200518_ConAppl_066-0141X1C10.pdf	14776868	yes	37
			5af61fafba2e8480ac89b7200a5ccc1bfb1cd7ab		
	Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description				
	Document Description		Start	End	
	Specification		1	28	
	Claims		29	36	
	Abstract		37	37	
Warnings:					
Information:					
3	Oath or Declaration filed	20200518_DeclarationOfJointlnvs_066-0141X1C10.pdf	135215	no	3
			98d341969b7e66dbccf545b2f138fadf294d0db5		
Warnings:					
Information:					
4	Drawings-only black and white line drawings	20200518_Dwgs_066-0141X1C10.pdf	133801	no	11
			e3ec7077c08c48b61e561c9ae9f1f2b97f7a3624		
Warnings:					
Information:					
5	Power of Attorney	20200518_POA_066-0141X1C10.pdf	118915	no	2
			4ad7fb2d8031e419aa6436950529d69a744faed3		
Webgroup CZ a.s. Ex. 1002. Page 683 of 749					

Warnings:					
The page size in the PDF is too large. The pages should be 8.5 x 11 or A4. If this PDF is submitted, the pages will be resized upon entry into the Image File Wrapper and may affect subsequent processing					
Information:					
6	TrackOne Request	20200518_ReqForExam_066-0141X1C10.pdf	140703 4fe05ab6a296bdbc3c961540843bae0365445c	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
7	Preliminary Amendment	20200518_PreliminaryAmendment_066-0141X1C10.pdf	149199 0f7da27e5d4b54ee9f373bd2559e43b326d09dc5	no	4
Warnings:					
Information:					
8	Fee Worksheet (SB06)	fee-info.pdf	43021 4424d4be44e7dccc43437cc0f5b50850d1a60ee7	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
Total Files Size (in bytes):			17321623		
This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503. <u>New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111</u> If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application. <u>National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371</u> If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course. <u>New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office</u> If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.					

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	066.0141X1C10
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR MULTI-BITRATE CONTENT STREAMING		
The application data sheet is part of the provisional or nonprovisional application for which it is being submitted. The following form contains the bibliographic data arranged in a format specified by the United States Patent and Trademark Office as outlined in 37 CFR 1.76. This document may be completed electronically and submitted to the Office in electronic format using the Electronic Filing System (EFS) or the document may be printed and included in a paper filed application.			

Secrecy Order 37 CFR 5.2:

☐	Portions or all of the application associated with this Application Data Sheet may fall under a Secrecy Order pursuant to 37 CFR 5.2 (Paper filers only. Applications that fall under Secrecy Order may not be filed electronically.)
--------------------------	---

Inventor Information:

Inventor	1				Remove
Legal Name					
Prefix	Given Name	Middle Name	Family Name	Suffix	
	DAVID	F.	BRUECK		
Residence Information (Select One) ☒ US Residency ☐ Non US Residency ☐ Active US Military Service					
City	SARATOGA SPRINGS	State/Province	UT	Country of Residence	US

Mailing Address of Inventor:

Address 1	962 NORTH RATTLER ROAD				
Address 2					
City	SARATOGA SPRINGS	State/Province	UT		
Postal Code	84043	Country	US		

Inventor	2				Remove
Legal Name					
Prefix	Given Name	Middle Name	Family Name	Suffix	
	MARK	B.	HURST		
Residence Information (Select One) ☒ US Residency ☐ Non US Residency ☐ Active US Military Service					
City	CEDAR HILLS	State/Province	UT	Country of Residence	US

Mailing Address of Inventor:

Address 1	10639 NORTH AVALON				
Address 2					
City	CEDAR HILLS	State/Province	UT		
Postal Code	84062	Country	US		

Inventor	3				Remove
Legal Name					
Prefix	Given Name	Middle Name	Family Name	Suffix	
	R.	DREW	MAJOR		
Residence Information (Select One) ☒ US Residency ☐ Non US Residency ☐ Active US Military Service					

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	066.0141X1C10
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR MULTI-BITRATE CONTENT STREAMING		

City	OREM	State/Province	UT	Country of Residence	US
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Mailing Address of Inventor:

Address 1	363 WEST 600 SOUTH				
Address 2					
City	OREM	State/Province	UT		
Postal Code	84058	Country	US		
All Inventors Must Be Listed - Additional Inventor Information blocks may be generated within this form by selecting the Add button.					

Correspondence Information:

Enter either Customer Number or complete the Correspondence Information section below. For further information see 37 CFR 1.33(a).			
☐ An Address is being provided for the correspondence information of this application.			
Customer Number	70560		
Email Address	docketing@lkglobal.com	Add Email	Remove Email

Application Information:

Title of the Invention	APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR MULTI-BITRATE CONTENT STREAMING		
Attorney Docket Number	066.0141X1C10	Small Entity Status Claimed	☐
Application Type	Nonprovisional		
Subject Matter	Utility		
Total Number of Drawing Sheets (if any)	11	Suggested Figure for Publication (if any)	

Filing By Reference:

Only complete this section when filing an application by reference under 35 U.S.C. 111(c) and 37 CFR 1.57(a). Do not complete this section if application papers including a specification and any drawings are being filed. Any domestic benefit or foreign priority information must be provided in the appropriate section(s) below (i.e., "Domestic Benefit/National Stage Information" and "Foreign Priority Information").

For the purposes of a filing date under 37 CFR 1.53(b), the description and any drawings of the present application are replaced by this reference to the previously filed application, subject to conditions and requirements of 37 CFR 1.57(a).

Application number of the previously filed application	Filing date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Intellectual Property Authority or Country

Publication Information:

☐ Request Early Publication (Fee required at time of Request 37 CFR 1.219)
☐ Request Not to Publish. I hereby request that the attached application not be published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b) and certify that the invention disclosed in the attached application has not and will not be the subject of an application filed in another country, or under a multilateral international agreement, that requires publication at eighteen months after filing.

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	066.0141X1C10
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR MULTI-BITRATE CONTENT STREAMING		

Representative Information:

Representative information should be provided for all practitioners having a power of attorney in the application. Providing this information in the Application Data Sheet does not constitute a power of attorney in the application (see 37 CFR 1.32). Either enter Customer Number or complete the Representative Name section below. If both sections are completed the customer Number will be used for the Representative Information during processing.

Please Select One:	☒ Customer Number	☐ US Patent Practitioner	☐ Limited Recognition (37 CFR 11.9)
Customer Number	70560		

Domestic Benefit/National Stage Information:

This section allows for the applicant to either claim benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e), 120, 121, 365(c), or 386(c) or indicate National Stage entry from a PCT application. Providing benefit claim information in the Application Data Sheet constitutes the specific reference required by 35 U.S.C. 119(e) or 120, and 37 CFR 1.78. When referring to the current application, please leave the "Application Number" field blank.

Prior Application Status	Pending				Remove
Application Number	Continuity Type		Prior Application Number	Filing or 371(c) Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	
	Continuation of		16004056	2018-06-08	
Prior Application Status	Patented				Remove
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
16004056	Continuation of	15414025	2017-01-24	9998516	2018-06-12
Prior Application Status	Patented				Remove
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
15414025	Continuation of	14719122	2015-05-21	9571551	2017-02-14
Prior Application Status	Patented				Remove
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
14719122	Continuation of	14106051	2013-12-13	9071668	2015-06-30
Prior Application Status	Patented				Remove
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
14106051	Continuation of	13617114	2012-09-14	8612624	2013-12-17

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number		066.0141X1C10	
		Application Number			
Title of Invention		APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR MULTI-BITRATE CONTENT STREAMING			

Prior Application Status		Patented		Remove	
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
13617114	Continuation of	12906940	2010-10-18	8402156	2013-03-19
Prior Application Status		Patented		Remove	
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
12906940	Continuation of	11673483	2007-02-09	7818444	2010-10-19
Prior Application Status		Patented		Remove	
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
11673483	Continuation in part of	11116783	2005-04-28	8868772	2014-10-21
Prior Application Status		Expired		Remove	
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing or 371(c) Date (YYYY-MM-DD)		
11116783	Claims benefit of provisional	60566831	2004-04-30		
Additional Domestic Benefit/National Stage Data may be generated within this form by selecting the Add button.					Add

Foreign Priority Information:

This section allows for the applicant to claim priority to a foreign application. Providing this information in the application data sheet constitutes the claim for priority as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b) and 37 CFR 1.55. When priority is claimed to a foreign application that is eligible for retrieval under the priority document exchange program (PDX)ⁱ the information will be used by the Office to automatically attempt retrieval pursuant to 37 CFR 1.55(i)(1) and (2). Under the PDX program, applicant bears the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that a copy of the foreign application is received by the Office from the participating foreign intellectual property office, or a certified copy of the foreign priority application is filed, within the time period specified in 37 CFR 1.55(g)(1).

Remove			
Application Number	Country ⁱ	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Access Code ⁱ (if applicable)
Additional Foreign Priority Data may be generated within this form by selecting the Add button.			
Add			

Statement under 37 CFR 1.55 or 1.78 for AIA (First Inventor to File) Transition Applications

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	066.0141X1C10
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR MULTI-BITRATE CONTENT STREAMING		

☐ This application (1) claims priority to or the benefit of an application filed before March 16, 2013 and (2) also contains, or contained at any time, a claim to a claimed invention that has an effective filing date on or after March 16, 2013.

NOTE: By providing this statement under 37 CFR 1.55 or 1.78, this application, with a filing date on or after March 16, 2013, will be examined under the first inventor to file provisions of the AIA.

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76	Attorney Docket Number	066.0141X1C10
	Application Number	
Title of Invention	APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR MULTI-BITRATE CONTENT STREAMING	

Authorization or Opt-Out of Authorization to Permit Access:

When this Application Data Sheet is properly signed and filed with the application, applicant has provided written authority to permit a participating foreign intellectual property (IP) office access to the instant application-as-filed (see paragraph A in subsection 1 below) and the European Patent Office (EPO) access to any search results from the instant application (see paragraph B in subsection 1 below).

Should applicant choose not to provide an authorization identified in subsection 1 below, applicant **must opt-out** of the authorization by checking the corresponding box A or B or both in subsection 2 below.

NOTE: This section of the Application Data Sheet is **ONLY** reviewed and processed with the **INITIAL** filing of an application. After the initial filing of an application, an Application Data Sheet cannot be used to provide or rescind authorization for access by a foreign IP office(s). Instead, Form PTO/SB/39 or PTO/SB/69 must be used as appropriate.

1. Authorization to Permit Access by a Foreign Intellectual Property Office(s)

A. Priority Document Exchange (PDX) - Unless box A in subsection 2 (opt-out of authorization) is checked, the undersigned hereby **grants the USPTO authority** to provide the European Patent Office (EPO), the Japan Patent Office (JPO), the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), the State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China (SIPO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and any other foreign intellectual property office participating with the USPTO in a bilateral or multilateral priority document exchange agreement in which a foreign application claiming priority to the instant patent application is filed, access to: (1) the instant patent application-as-filed and its related bibliographic data, (2) any foreign or domestic application to which priority or benefit is claimed by the instant application and its related bibliographic data, and (3) the date of filing of this Authorization. See 37 CFR 1.14(h)(1).

B. Search Results from U.S. Application to EPO - Unless box B in subsection 2 (opt-out of authorization) is checked, the undersigned hereby **grants the USPTO authority** to provide the EPO access to the bibliographic data and search results from the instant patent application when a European patent application claiming priority to the instant patent application is filed. See 37 CFR 1.14(h)(2).

The applicant is reminded that the EPO's Rule 141(1) EPC (European Patent Convention) requires applicants to submit a copy of search results from the instant application without delay in a European patent application that claims priority to the instant application.

2. Opt-Out of Authorizations to Permit Access by a Foreign Intellectual Property Office(s)

☐ A. Applicant **DOES NOT** authorize the USPTO to permit a participating foreign IP office access to the instant application-as-filed. If this box is checked, the USPTO will not be providing a participating foreign IP office with any documents and information identified in subsection 1A above.

☐ B. Applicant **DOES NOT** authorize the USPTO to transmit to the EPO any search results from the instant patent application. If this box is checked, the USPTO will not be providing the EPO with search results from the instant application.

NOTE: Once the application has published or is otherwise publicly available, the USPTO may provide access to the application in accordance with 37 CFR 1.14.

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	066.0141X1C10
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR MULTI-BITRATE CONTENT STREAMING		

Applicant Information:

Providing assignment information in this section does not substitute for compliance with any requirement of part 3 of Title 37 of CFR to have an assignment recorded by the Office.

Applicant	1	Remove
If the applicant is the inventor (or the remaining joint inventor or inventors under 37 CFR 1.45), this section should not be completed. The information to be provided in this section is the name and address of the legal representative who is the applicant under 37 CFR 1.43; or the name and address of the assignee, person to whom the inventor is under an obligation to assign the invention, or person who otherwise shows sufficient proprietary interest in the matter who is the applicant under 37 CFR 1.46. If the applicant is an applicant under 37 CFR 1.46 (assignee, person to whom the inventor is obligated to assign, or person who otherwise shows sufficient proprietary interest) together with one or more joint inventors, then the joint inventor or inventors who are also the applicant should be identified in this section. Clear		
Assignee	Legal Representative under 35 U.S.C. 117	Joint Inventor
☐ Person to whom the inventor is obligated to assign.		☐ Person who shows sufficient proprietary interest
If applicant is the legal representative, indicate the authority to file the patent application, the inventor is:		
Name of the Deceased or Legally Incapacitated Inventor:		
If the Applicant is an Organization check here. ☒		
Organization Name	DISH Technologies L.L.C.	
Mailing Address Information For Applicant:		
Address 1	9601 S. Meridian Blvd.	
Address 2		
City	Englewood	State/Province
Country	US	Postal Code
Phone Number		Fax Number
Email Address		
Additional Applicant Data may be generated within this form by selecting the Add button. Add		

Assignee Information including Non-Applicant Assignee Information:

Providing assignment information in this section does not substitute for compliance with any requirement of part 3 of Title 37 of CFR to have an assignment recorded by the Office.

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	066.0141X1C10
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR MULTI-BITRATE CONTENT STREAMING		

Assignee	1		
Complete this section if assignee information, including non-applicant assignee information, is desired to be included on the patent application publication. An assignee-applicant identified in the "Applicant Information" section will appear on the patent application publication as an applicant. For an assignee-applicant, complete this section only if identification as an assignee is also desired on the patent application publication.			
Remove			
If the Assignee or Non-Applicant Assignee is an Organization check here. ☒			
Organization Name	DISH Technologies L.L.C.		
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Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	066.0141X1C10
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR MULTI-BITRATE CONTENT STREAMING		

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APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR MULTI-BITRATE CONTENT STREAMING

CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Number 11/673,483, filed on February 9, 2007, which is a continuation-in-part of Application No. 11/116,783, filed on April 28, 2005, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/566,831, filed on April 30, 2004, all of which are incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The invention relates to video streaming over packet switched networks such as the Internet, and more particularly relates to adaptive-rate shifting of streaming content over such networks.

DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

[0003] The Internet is fast becoming a preferred method for distributing media files to end users. It is currently possible to download music or video to computers, cell phones, or practically any network capable device. Many portable media players are equipped with network connections and enabled to play music or videos. The music or video files (hereinafter “media files”) can be stored locally on the media player or computer, or streamed or downloaded from a server.

[0004] “Streaming media” refers to technology that delivers content at a rate sufficient for presenting the media to a user in real time as the data is received. The data may be stored in memory temporarily until played and then subsequently deleted. The user has the immediate satisfaction of viewing the requested content without waiting for the media file to completely download. Unfortunately, the audio/video quality that can be received for real time presentation is constrained by the available bandwidth of the user’s network connection. Streaming may be used to deliver content on demand (previously recorded) or from live broadcasts.

[0005] Alternatively, media files may be downloaded and stored on persistent storage devices, such as hard drives or optical storage, for later presentation. Downloading complete media files can take large amounts of time depending on the network connection. Once downloaded, however, the content can be viewed repeatedly anytime or anywhere. Media files prepared for downloading usually are encoded with a higher quality audio/video than can be delivered in real time. Users generally dislike this option, as they tend to want to see or hear the media file instantaneously.

[0006] Streaming offers the advantage of immediate access to the content but currently sacrifices quality compared with downloading a file of the same content. Streaming also provides the opportunity for a user to select different content for viewing on an ad hoc basis, while downloading is by definition restricted to receiving a specific content selection in its entirety or not at all. Downloading also supports rewind, fast forward, and direct seek operations, while streaming is unable to fully support these functions. Streaming is also vulnerable to network failures or congestion.

[0007] Another technology, known as “progressive downloads,” attempts to combine the strengths of the above two technologies. When a progressive download is initiated, the media file download begins, and the media player waits to begin playback until there is enough of the file downloaded that playback can begin with the hope that the remainder of the file will be completely downloaded before playback “catches up.” This waiting period before playback can be substantial depending on network conditions, and therefore is not a complete or fully acceptable solution to the problem of media presentation over a network.

[0008] Generally, three basic challenges exist with regard to data transport streaming over a network such as the Internet that has a varying amount of data loss. The first challenge is reliability. Most streaming solutions use a TCP connection, or “virtual circuit,” for transmitting data. A TCP connection provides a guaranteed delivery mechanism so that data sent from one endpoint will be delivered to the destination, even if portions are lost and retransmitted. A break in the continuity of a TCP connection can have serious consequences when the data must be delivered in real-time. When a network adapter detects delays or losses in a TCP connection, the adapter “backs off” from transmission attempts for a moment and then slowly resumes the original

transmission pace. This behavior is an attempt to alleviate the perceived congestion. Such a slowdown is detrimental to the viewing or listening experience of the user and therefore is not acceptable.

[0009] The second challenge to data transport is efficiency. Efficiency refers to how well the user's available bandwidth is used for delivery of the content stream. This measure is directly related to the reliability of the TCP connection. When the TCP connection is suffering reliability problems, a loss of bandwidth utilization results. The measure of efficiency sometimes varies suddenly, and can greatly impact the viewing experience.

[0010] The third challenge is latency. Latency is the time measure from the client's point-of-view, of the interval between when a request is issued and the response data begins to arrive. This value is affected by the network connection's reliability and efficiency, and the processing time required by the origin to prepare the response. A busy or overloaded server, for example, will take more time to process a request. As well as affecting the start time of a particular request, latency has a significant impact on the network throughput of TCP.

[0011] From the foregoing discussion, it should be apparent that a need exists for an apparatus, system, and method that alleviate the problems of reliability, efficiency, and latency. Additionally, such an apparatus, system, and method would offer instantaneous viewing along with the ability to fast forward, rewind, direct seek, and browse multiple streams. Beneficially, such an apparatus, system, and method would utilize multiple connections between a source and destination, requesting varying bitrate streams depending upon network conditions.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0012] The present invention has been developed in response to the present state of the art, and in particular, in response to the problems and needs in the art that have not yet been fully solved by currently available content streaming systems. Accordingly, the present invention has been developed to provide an apparatus, system, and method for adaptive-rate content streaming that overcome many or all of the above-discussed shortcomings in the art.

[0013] The apparatus for adaptive-rate content streaming is provided with a logic unit containing a plurality of modules configured to functionally execute the necessary steps. These modules in the described embodiments include a receiving module configured to receive media content, a streamlet module configured to segment the media content and generate a plurality of sequential streamlets, and an encoding module configured to encode each streamlet as a separate content file.

[0014] The encoding module is further configured to generate a set of streamlets for each of the sequential streamlets. Each streamlet may comprise a portion of the media content having a predetermined length of time. The predetermined length of time may be in the range of between about .1 and 5 seconds.

[0015] In one embodiment, a set of streamlets comprises a plurality of streamlets having identical time indices, and each streamlet of the set of streamlets has a unique bitrate. The receiving module is configured to convert the media content to raw audio or raw video. The encoding module may include a master module configured to assign an encoding job to one of a plurality of host computing modules in response to an encoding job completion bid. The job completion bid may be based on a plurality of computing variables selected from a group consisting of current encoding job completion percentage, average encoding job completion time, processor speed, and physical memory capacity.

[0016] A system of the present invention is also presented for adaptive-rate content streaming. In particular, the system, in one embodiment, includes a receiving module configured to receive media content, a streamlet module configured to segment the media content and generate a plurality of sequential streamlets, each streamlet comprising a portion of the media content having a predetermined length of time, and an encoding

module configured to encode each streamlet as a separate content file and generate a set of streamlets.

[0017] The system also includes a plurality of streamlets having identical time indices and each streamlet of the set of streamlets having a unique bitrate. The encoding module comprises a master module configured to assign an encoding job to one of a plurality of host computing modules in response to an encoding job completion bid.

[0018] A method of the present invention is also presented for adaptive-rate content streaming. In one embodiment, the method includes receiving media content, segmenting the media content and generating a plurality of sequential streamlets, and encoding each streamlet as a separate content file.

[0019] The method also includes segmenting the media content into a plurality of streamlets, each streamlet comprising a portion of the media content having a predetermined length of time. In one embodiment, the method includes generating a set of streamlets comprising a plurality of streamlets having identical time indices, and each streamlet of the set of streamlets having a unique bitrate.

[0020] Furthermore, the method may include converting the media content to raw audio or raw video, and segmenting the content media into a plurality of sequential streamlets. The method further comprises assigning an encoding job to one of a plurality of host computing modules in response to an encoding job completion bid, and submitting an encoding job completion bid based on a plurality of computing variables.

[0021] Reference throughout this specification to features, advantages, or similar language does not imply that all of the features and advantages that may be realized with the present invention should be or are in any single embodiment of the invention. Rather, language referring to the features and advantages is understood to mean that a specific feature, advantage, or characteristic described in connection with an embodiment is included in at least one embodiment of the present invention. Thus, discussion of the features and advantages, and similar language, throughout this specification may, but do not necessarily, refer to the same embodiment.

[0022] Furthermore, the described features, advantages, and characteristics of the invention may be combined in any suitable manner in one or more embodiments. One skilled in the relevant art will recognize that the invention may be practiced without one

or more of the specific features or advantages of a particular embodiment. In other instances, additional features and advantages may be recognized in certain embodiments that may not be present in all embodiments of the invention.

[0023] These features and advantages of the present invention will become more fully apparent from the following description and appended claims, or may be learned by the practice of the invention as set forth hereinafter.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0024] In order that the advantages of the invention will be readily understood, a more particular description of the invention briefly described above will be rendered by reference to specific embodiments that are illustrated in the appended drawings.

Understanding that these drawings depict only typical embodiments of the invention and are not therefore to be considered to be limiting of its scope, the invention will be described and explained with additional specificity and detail through the use of the accompanying drawings, in which:

[0025] Figure 1 is a schematic block diagram illustrating one embodiment of a system for dynamic rate shifting of streaming content in accordance with the present invention;

[0026] Figure 2a is a schematic block diagram graphically illustrating one embodiment of a media content file;

[0027] Figure 2b is a schematic block diagram illustrating one embodiment of a plurality of streams having varying degrees of quality and bandwidth;

[0028] Figure 3a is a schematic block diagram illustrating one embodiment of a stream divided into a plurality of source streamlets;

[0029] Figure 3b is a schematic block diagram illustrating one embodiment of sets of streamlets in accordance with the present invention;

[0030] Figure 4 is a schematic block diagram illustrating in greater detail one embodiment of the content module in accordance with the present invention;

[0031] Figure 5a is a schematic block diagram illustrating one embodiment of an encoder module in accordance with the present invention;

[0032] Figure 5b is a schematic block diagram illustrating one embodiment of parallel encoding of streamlets in accordance with the present invention;

[0033] Figure 6a is a schematic block diagram illustrating one embodiment of a virtual timeline in accordance with the present invention;

[0034] Figure 6b is a schematic block diagram illustrating an alternative embodiment of a VT in accordance with the present invention;

[0035] Figure 6c is a schematic block diagram illustrating one embodiment of a QMX in accordance with the present invention;

[0036] Figure 7 is a schematic block diagram graphically illustrating one embodiment of a client module in accordance with the present invention;

[0037] Figure 8 is a schematic flow chart diagram illustrating one embodiment of a method for processing content in accordance with the present invention;

[0038] Figure 9 is a schematic flow chart diagram illustrating one embodiment of a method for viewing a plurality of streamlets in accordance with the present invention;
and

[0039] Figure 10 is a schematic flow chart diagram illustrating one embodiment of a method for requesting streamlets within an adaptive-rate shifting content streaming environment in accordance with the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0040] Many of the functional units described in this specification have been labeled as modules, in order to more particularly emphasize their implementation independence. For example, a module may be implemented as a hardware circuit comprising custom VLSI circuits or gate arrays, off-the-shelf semiconductors such as logic chips, transistors, or other discrete components. A module may also be implemented in programmable hardware devices such as field programmable gate arrays, programmable array logic, programmable logic devices or the like.

[0041] Modules may also be implemented in software for execution by various types of processors. An identified module of executable code may, for instance, comprise one or more physical or logical blocks of computer instructions which may, for instance, be organized as an object, procedure, or function. Nevertheless, the executables of an identified module need not be physically located together, but may comprise disparate instructions stored in different locations which, when joined logically together, comprise the module and achieve the stated purpose for the module.

[0042] Indeed, a module of executable code may be a single instruction, or many instructions, and may even be distributed over several different code segments, among different programs, and across several memory devices. Similarly, operational data may be identified and illustrated herein within modules, and may be embodied in any suitable form and organized within any suitable type of data structure. The operational data may be collected as a single data set, or may be distributed over different locations including over different storage devices, and may exist, at least partially, merely as electronic signals on a system or network.

[0043] Reference throughout this specification to “one embodiment,” “an embodiment,” or similar language means that a particular feature, structure, or characteristic described in connection with the embodiment is included in at least one embodiment of the present invention. Thus, appearances of the phrases “in one embodiment,” “in an embodiment,” and similar language throughout this specification may, but do not necessarily, all refer to the same embodiment.

[0044] Reference to a signal bearing medium may take any form capable of generating a signal, causing a signal to be generated, or causing execution of a program of machine-

readable instructions on a digital processing apparatus. A signal bearing medium may be embodied by a transmission line, a compact disk, digital-video disk, a magnetic tape, a Bernoulli drive, a magnetic disk, a punch card, flash memory, integrated circuits, or other digital processing apparatus memory device. In one embodiment, a computer program product including a computer useable medium having a computer readable program of computer instructions stored thereon that when executed on a computer causes the computer to carry out operations for multi-bitrate content streaming as described herein. [0045] Furthermore, the described features, structures, or characteristics of the invention may be combined in any suitable manner in one or more embodiments. In the following description, numerous specific details are provided, such as examples of programming, software modules, user selections, network transactions, database queries, database structures, hardware modules, hardware circuits, hardware chips, etc., to provide a thorough understanding of embodiments of the invention. One skilled in the relevant art will recognize, however, that the invention may be practiced without one or more of the specific details, or with other methods, components, materials, and so forth. In other instances, well-known structures, materials, or operations are not shown or described in detail to avoid obscuring aspects of the invention.

[0046] Figure 1 is a schematic block diagram illustrating one embodiment of a system 100 for dynamic rate shifting of streaming content in accordance with the present invention. In one embodiment, the system 100 comprises a content server 102 and an end user station 104. The content server 102 and the end user station 104 may be coupled by a data communications network. The data communications network may include the Internet 106 and connections 108 to the Internet 106. Alternatively, the content server 102 and the end user 104 may be located on a common local area network, wireless area network, cellular network, virtual local area network, or the like. The end user station 104 may comprise a personal computer (PC), an entertainment system configured to communicate over a network, or a portable electronic device configured to present content. For example, portable electronic devices may include, but are not limited to, cellular phones, portable gaming systems, and portable computing devices.

[0047] In the depicted embodiment, the system 100 also includes a publisher 110, and a web server 116. The publisher 110 may be a creator or distributor of content. For

example, if the content to be streamed were a broadcast of a television program, the publisher 110 may be a television or cable network channel such as NBC®, or MTV®. Content may be transferred over the Internet 106 to the content server 102, where the content is received by a content module 112. The content module 112 may be configured to receive, process, and store content. In one embodiment, processed content is accessed by a client module 114 configured to play the content on the end user station 104. In a further embodiment, the client module 114 is configured to receive different portions of a content stream from a plurality of locations simultaneously. For example, the client module 114 may request and receive content from any of the plurality of web servers 116. [0048] Content from the content server 102 may be replicated to other web servers 116 or alternatively to proxy cache servers 118. Replicating may occur by deliberate forwarding from the content server 102, or by a web, cache, or proxy server outside of the content server 102 asking for content on behalf of the client module 114. In a further embodiment, content may be forwarded directly to web 116 or proxy 118 servers through direct communication channels 120 without the need to traverse the Internet 106.

[0049] Figure 2a is a schematic block diagram graphically illustrating one embodiment of a media content (hereinafter “content”) file 200. In one embodiment, the content file 200 is distributed by the publisher 110. The content file 200 may comprise a television broadcast, sports event, movie, music, concert, etc. The content file 200 may also be live or archived content. The content file 200 may comprise uncompressed video and audio, or alternatively, video or audio. Alternatively, the content file 200 may be compressed using standard or proprietary encoding schemes. Examples of encoding schemes capable of use with the present invention include, but are not limited to, DivX®, Windows Media Video®, Quicktime Sorenson 3®, On2, OGG Vorbis, MP3, or Quicktime 6.5/ MPEG-4® encoded content.

[0050] Figure 2b is a schematic block diagram illustrating one embodiment of a plurality of streams 202 having varying degrees of quality and bandwidth. In one embodiment, the plurality of streams 202 comprises a low quality stream 204, a medium quality stream 206, and a high quality stream 208. Each of the streams 204, 206, 208 is a copy of the content file 200 encoded and compressed to varying bit rates. For example, the low quality stream 204 may be encoded and compressed to a bit rate of 100 kilobits per

second (kbps), the medium quality stream 206 may be encoded and compressed to a bit rate of 200 kbps, and the high quality stream 208 may be encoded and compressed to 600 kbps.

[0051] Figure 3a is a schematic block diagram illustrating one embodiment of a stream 302 divided into a plurality of source streamlets 303. As used herein, streamlet refers to any sized portion of the content file 200. Each streamlet 303 may comprise a portion of the content contained in stream 302, encapsulated as an independent media object. The content in a streamlet 303 may have a unique time index in relation to the beginning of the content contained in stream 302. In one embodiment, the content contained in each streamlet 303 may have a duration of two seconds. For example, streamlet 0 may have a time index of 00:00 representing the beginning of content playback, and streamlet 1 may have a time index of 00:02, and so on. Alternatively, the time duration of the streamlets 304 may be any duration smaller than the entire playback duration of the content in stream 302. In a further embodiment, the streamlets 303 may be divided according to file size instead of a time index and duration.

[0052] Figure 3b is a schematic block diagram illustrating one embodiment of sets 306 of streamlets in accordance with the present invention. As used herein, the term “set” refers to a group of streamlets having identical time indices and durations but varying bitrates. In the depicted embodiment, the set 306a encompasses all streamlets having a time index of 00:00. The set 306a includes encoded streamlets 304 having low, medium, and high 204, 206, 208 bitrates. Of course each set 306 may include more than the depicted three bitrates which are given by way of example only. One skilled in the art will recognize that any number of streams having different bitrates may be generated from the original content 200.

[0053] As described above, the duration of one streamlet 304 may be approximately two seconds. Likewise each set 306 may comprise a plurality of streamlets 304 where each streamlet 304 has a playable duration of two seconds. Alternatively, the duration of the streamlet 304 may be predetermined or dynamically variable depending upon a variety of factors including, but not limited to, network congestion, system specifications, playback resolution and quality, etc. In the depicted embodiment, the content 200 may be formed

of the plurality of sets 306. The number of sets 306 may depend on the length of the content 200 and the length or duration of each streamlet 304.

[0054] Figure 4 is a schematic block diagram illustrating in greater detail one embodiment of the content module 112 in accordance with the present invention. The content module 112 may comprise a capture module 402, a streamlet module 404, an encoder module 406, a streamlet database 408, and the web server 116. In one embodiment, the capture module 402 is configured to receive the content file 200 from the publisher 110. The capture module 402 may be configured to “decompress” the content file 200. For example, if the content file 200 arrives having been encoded with one of the above described encoding schemes, the capture module 402 may convert the content file 200 into raw audio and/or video. Alternatively, the content file 200 may be transmitted by the publisher in a format 110 that does not require decompression.

[0055] The capture module 402 may comprise a capture card configured for TV and/or video capture. One example of a capture card suitable for use in the present invention is the DRC-2500 by Digital Rapids of Ontario, Canada. Alternatively, any capture card capable of capturing audio and video may be utilized with the present invention. In a further embodiment, the capture module 402 is configured to pass the content file to the streamlet module 404.

[0056] The streamlet module 404, in one embodiment, is configured to segment the content file 200 and generate source streamlets 303 that are not encoded. As used herein, the term “segment” refers to an operation to generate a streamlet of the content file 200 having a duration or size equal to or less than the duration or size of the content file 200. The streamlet module 404 may be configured to segment the content file 200 into streamlets 303 each having an equal duration. Alternatively, the streamlet module 404 may be configured to segment the content file 200 into streamlets 303 having equal file sizes.

[0057] The encoding module 406 is configured to receive the source streamlets 303 and generate the plurality of streams 202 of varying qualities. The original content file 200 from the publisher may be digital in form and may comprise content having a high bit rate such as, for example, 2mbps. The content may be transferred from the publisher 110 to the content module 112 over the Internet 106. Such transfers of data are well known in

the art and do not require further discussion herein. Alternatively, the content may comprise a captured broadcast.

[0058] In a further embodiment, the encoding module 406 is configured to generate a plurality of sets 306 of streamlets 304. The sets 306, as described above with reference to Figure 3b, may comprise streamlets having an identical time index and duration, and a unique bitrate. As with Figure 3b, the sets 306 and subsequently the plurality of streams 202 may comprise the low quality stream 204, the medium quality stream 206, and the high quality stream 208. Alternatively, the plurality of streams 202 may comprise any number of streams deemed necessary to accommodate end user bandwidth.

[0059] The encoder module 406 is further configured to encode each source streamlet 303 into the plurality of streams 202 and streamlet sets 306 and store the streamlets in the streamlet database 408. The encoding module 406 may utilize encoding schemes such as DivX®, Windows Media Video 9®, Quicktime 6.5 Sorenson 3®, or Quicktime 6.5/MPEG-4®. Alternatively, a custom encoding scheme may be employed.

[0060] The content module 112 may also include a metadata module 412 and a metadata database 414. In one embodiment, metadata comprises static searchable content information. For example, metadata includes, but is not limited to, air date of the content, title, actresses, actors, length, and episode name. Metadata is generated by the publisher 110, and may be configured to define an end user environment. In one embodiment, the publisher 100 may define an end user navigational environment for the content including menus, thumbnails, sidebars, advertising, etc. Additionally, the publisher 110 may define functions such as fast forward, rewind, pause, and play that may be used with the content file 200. The metadata module 412 is configured to receive the metadata from the publisher 110 and store the metadata in the metadata database 414. In a further embodiment, the metadata module 412 is configured to interface with the client module 114, allowing the client module 114 to search for content based upon at least one of a plurality of metadata criteria. Additionally, metadata may be generated by the content module 112 through automated process(es) or manual definition.

[0061] Once the streamlets 304 have been received and processed, the client module 114 may request streamlets 304 using HTTP from the web server 116. Using a standard protocol such as HTTP eliminates the need for network administrators to configure

firewalls to recognize and pass through network traffic for a new, specialized protocol. Additionally, since the client module 114 initiates the request, the web server 116 is only required to retrieve and serve the requested streamlet 304. In a further embodiment, the client module 114 may be configured to retrieve streamlets 304 from a plurality of web servers 116.

[0062] Each web server 116 may be located in various locations across the Internet 106. The streamlets 304 may essentially be static files. As such, no specialized media server or server-side intelligence is required for a client module 114 to retrieve streamlets 304. Streamlets 304 may be served by the web server 116 or cached by cache servers of Internet Service Providers (ISPs), or any other network infrastructure operators, and served by the cache server. Use of cache servers is well known to those skilled in the art, and will not be discussed further herein. Thus, a highly scalable solution is provided that is not hindered by massive amounts of client module 114 requests to the web server 116 at any specific location, especially the web server 116 most closely associated with or within the content module 112

[0063] Figure 5a is a schematic block diagram illustrating one embodiment of an encoder module 406 in accordance with the present invention. In one embodiment, the encoder module 406 may include a master module 502 and a plurality of host computing modules (hereinafter "host") 504. The hosts 504 may comprise personal computers, servers, etc. In a further embodiment, the hosts 504 may be dedicated hardware, for example, cards plugged into a single computer.

[0064] The master module (hereinafter "master") 502 is configured to receive streamlets 303 from the streamlet module 404 and stage the streamlet 303 for processing. In one embodiment, the master 502 may decompress each source streamlet 303 to produce a raw streamlet. As used herein, the term "raw streamlet" refers to a streamlet 303 that is uncompressed or lightly compressed to substantially reduce size with no significant loss in quality. A lightly compressed raw streamlet can be transmitted more quickly and to more hosts. Each host 504 is coupled with the master 502 and configured to receive a raw streamlet from the master 502 for encoding. The hosts 504, in one example, generate a plurality of streamlets 304 having identical time indices and durations, and varying bitrates. Essentially each host 504 may be configured to generate a set 306 from the raw

streamlet 503 sent from the master 502. Alternatively, each host 504 may be dedicated to producing a single bitrate in order to reduce the time required for encoding.

[0065] Upon encoding completion, the host 504 returns the set 306 to the master 502 so that the encoding module 406 may store the set 306 in the streamlet database 408. The master 502 is further configured to assign encoding jobs to the hosts 504. Each host is configured to submit an encoding job completion bid (hereinafter “bid”). The master 502 assigns encoding jobs depending on the bids from the hosts 504. Each host 504 generates a bid depending upon a plurality of computing variables which may include, but are not limited to, current encoding job completion percentage, average job completion time, processor speed and physical memory capacity.

[0066] For example, a host 504 may submit a bid that indicates that based on past performance history the host 504 would be able to complete the encoding job in 15 seconds. The master 502 is configured to select from among a plurality of bids the best bid and subsequently submit the encoding job to the host 504 with the best bid. As such, the described encoding system does not require that each host 504 have identical hardware but beneficially takes advantage of the available computing power of the hosts 504. Alternatively, the master 502 selects the host 504 based on a first come first serve basis, or some other algorithm deemed suitable for a particular encoding job.

[0067] The time required to encode one streamlet 304 is dependent upon the computing power of the host 504, and the encoding requirements of the content file 200. Examples of encoding requirements may include, but are not limited to, two or multi-pass encoding, and multiple streams of different bitrates. One benefit of the present invention is the ability to perform two-pass encoding on a live content file 200. Typically, in order to perform two-pass encoding prior art systems must wait for the content file to be completed before encoding.

[0068] The present invention, however, segments the content file 200 into source streamlets 303 and the two-pass encoding to a plurality of streams 202 may be performed on each corresponding raw streamlet without waiting for a TV show to end, for example. As such, the content module 112 is capable of streaming the streamlets over the Internet shortly after the content module 112 begins capture of the content file 200. The delay

between a live broadcast transmitted from the publisher 110 and the availability of the content depends on the computing power of the hosts 504.

[0069] Figure 5b is a schematic block diagram illustrating one embodiment of parallel encoding of streamlets in accordance with the present invention. In one example, the capture module 402 (of Figure 4) begins to capture the content file and the streamlet module 404 generates a first streamlet 303a and passes the streamlet to the encoding module 406. The encoding module 406 may take 10 seconds, for example, to generate the first set 306a of streamlets 304a (304a1, 304a2, 304a3, etc. represent streamlets 304 of different bitrates). Figure 5b illustrates the encoding process generically as block 502 to graphically illustrate the time duration required to process a raw or lightly encoded streamlet 303 as described above with reference to the encoding module 406. The encoding module 406 may simultaneously process more than one streamlet 303, and processing of streamlets will begin upon arrival of the streamlet from the capture module 402.

[0070] During the 10 seconds required to encode the first streamlet 303a, the streamlet module 404 has generated five additional 2-second streamlets 303b, 303c, 303d, 303e, 303f, for encoding and the master 502 has prepared and staged the corresponding raw streamlets. Two seconds after the first set 306a is available the next set 306b is available, and so on. As such, the content file 200 is encoded for streaming over the Internet and appears live. The 10 second delay is given herein by way of example only. Multiple hosts 504 may be added to the encoding module 406 in order to increase the processing capacity of the encoding module 406. The delay may be shortened to an almost unperceivable level by the addition of high CPU powered systems, or alternatively multiple low powered systems.

[0071] A system as described above beneficially enables multi-pass encoding of live events. Multi-pass encoding systems of the prior art require that the entire content be captured (or be complete) because in order to perform multi-pass encoding the entire content must be scanned and processed more than once. This is impossible with prior art systems because content from a live event is not complete until the event is over. As such, with prior art systems, multi-pass encoding can only be performed once the event is over. Streamlets, however, may be encoded as many times as is deemed necessary.

Because the streamlet is an encapsulated media object of 2 seconds (for example), multi-pass encoding may begin on a live event once the first streamlet is captured. Shortly after multi-pass encoding of the first streamlet 303a is finished, multi-pass encoding of the second streamlet 303b finishes, and as such multi-pass encoding is performed on a live event and appears live to a viewer.

[0072] Any specific encoding scheme applied to a streamlet may take longer to complete than the time duration of the streamlet itself, for example, a very high quality encoding of a 2-second streamlet may take 5 seconds to finish. Alternatively, the processing time required for each streamlet may be less than the time duration of a streamlet. However, because the offset parallel encoding of successive streamlets are encoded by the encoding module at regular intervals (matching the intervals at which the those streamlets are submitted to the encoding module 406, for example 2 seconds) the output timing of the encoding module 406 does not fall behind the real-time submission rate of the unencoded streamlets. Conversely, prior art encoding systems rely on the very fastest computing hardware and software because the systems must generate the output immediately in lock-step with the input. A prior art system that takes 2.1 seconds to encode 2 seconds worth of content is considered a failure. The present invention allows for slower than real-time encoding processes yet still achieves a real-time encoding effect due to the parallel offset pipes.

[0073] The parallel offset pipeline approach described with reference to Figure 5b beneficially allows for long or short encoding times without “falling behind” the live event. Additionally, arbitrarily complex encoding of streamlets to multiple profiles and optimizations only lengthens the encoding time 502 without a perceptible difference to a user because the sets 306 of streamlets 304 are encoded in a time-selective manner so that streamlets are processed at regular time intervals and transmitted at these time intervals.

[0074] Returning now to Figure 5a, as depicted, the master 502 and the hosts 504 may be located within a single local area network, or in other terms, the hosts 504 may be in close physical proximity to the master 502. Alternatively, the hosts 504 may receive encoding jobs from the master 502 over the Internet or other communications network. For example, consider a live sports event in a remote location where it would be difficult to setup multiple hosts. In this example, a master performs no encoding or alternatively

light encoding before publishing the streamlets online. The hosts 504 would then retrieve those streamlets and encode the streamlets into the multiple bitrate sets 306 as described above.

[0075] Furthermore, hosts 504 may be dynamically added or removed from the encoding module without restarting the encoding job and/or interrupting the publishing of streamlets. If a host 504 experiences a crash or some failure, its encoding work is simply reassigned to another host.

[0076] The encoding module 406, in one embodiment, may also be configured to produce streamlets that are specific to a particular playback platform. For example, for a single raw streamlet, a single host 504 may produce streamlets for different quality levels for personal computer playback, streamlets for playback on cell phones with a different, proprietary codec, a small video-only streamlet for use when playing just a thumbnail view of the stream (like in a programming guide), and a very high quality streamlet for use in archiving.

[0077] Figure 6a is a schematic block diagram illustrating one embodiment of a virtual timeline 600 in accordance with the present invention. In one embodiment, the virtual timeline 600 comprises at least one quantum media extension 602. The quantum media extension (hereinafter “QMX”) 602 describes an entire content file 200. Therefore, the virtual timeline (hereinafter “VT”) 600 may comprise a file that is configured to define a playlist for a user to view. For example, the VT may indicate that the publisher desires a user to watch a first show QMX 602a followed by QMX 602b and QMX 602c. As such, the publisher may define a broadcast schedule in a manner similar to a television station.

[0078] Figure 6b is a schematic block diagram illustrating an alternative embodiment of a VT 600 in accordance with the present invention. In the depicted embodiment, the VT 600 may include a single QMX 602 which indicates that the publisher desires the same content to be looped over and over again. For example, the publisher may wish to broadcast a never-ending infomercial on a website.

[0079] Figure 6c is a schematic block diagram illustrating one embodiment of a QMX 602 in accordance with the present invention. In one embodiment, the QMX 602 contains a multitude of information generated by the content module 112 configured to describe the content file 200. Examples of information include, but are not limited to,

start index 604, end index 606, whether the content is live 608, proprietary publisher data 610, encryption level 612, content duration 614 and bitrate values 616. The bitrate values 616 may include frame size 618, audio channel 620 information, codecs 622 used, sample rate 624, and frames parser 626.

[0080] A publisher may utilize the QVT 600 together with the QMX 602 in order to prescribe a playback order for users, or alternatively selectively edit content. For example, a publisher may indicate in the QMX 602 that audio should be muted at time index 10:42 or video should be skipped for 3 seconds at time index 18:35. As such, the publisher may selectively skip offensive content without the processing requirements of editing the content.

[0081] Figure 7 is a schematic block diagram graphically illustrating one embodiment of a client module 114 in accordance with the present invention. The client module 114 may comprise an agent controller module 702, a streamlet cache module 704, and a network controller module 706. In one embodiment, the agent controller module 702 is configured to interface with a viewer 708, and transmit streamlets 304 to the viewer 708. Alternatively, the agent controller module 702 may be configured to simply reassemble streamlets into a single file for transfer to an external device such as a portable video player.

[0082] In a further embodiment, the client module 114 may comprise a plurality of agent controller modules 702. Each agent controller module 702 may be configured to interface with one viewer 708. Alternatively, the agent controller module 702 may be configured to interface with a plurality of viewers 708. The viewer 708 may be a media player (not shown) operating on a PC or handheld electronic device.

[0083] The agent controller module 702 is configured to select a quality level of streamlets to transmit to the viewer 708. The agent controller module 702 requests lower or higher quality streams based upon continuous observation of time intervals between successive receive times of each requested streamlet. The method of requesting higher or lower quality streams will be discussed in greater detail below with reference to Figure 10.

[0084] The agent controller module 702 may be configured to receive user commands from the viewer 708. Such commands may include play, fast forward, rewind, pause, and

stop. In one embodiment, the agent controller module 702 requests streamlets 304 from the streamlet cache module 704 and arranges the received streamlets 304 in a staging module 709. The staging module 709 may be configured to arrange the streamlets 304 in order of ascending playback time. In the depicted embodiment, the streamlets 304 are numbered 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. However, each streamlet 304 may be identified with a unique filename.

[0085] Additionally, the agent controller module 702 may be configured to anticipate streamlet 304 requests and pre-request streamlets 304. By pre-requesting streamlets 304, the user may fast-forward, skip randomly, or rewind through the content and experience no buffering delay. In a further embodiment, the agent controller module 702 may request the streamlets 304 that correspond to time index intervals of 30 seconds within the total play time of the content. Alternatively, the agent controller module 702 may request streamlets at any interval less than the length of the time index. This enables a “fast-start” capability with no buffering wait when starting or fast-forwarding through content file 200. In a further embodiment, the agent controller module 702 may be configured to pre-request streamlets 304 corresponding to specified index points within the content or within other content in anticipation of the end user 104 selecting new content to view. In one embodiment, the streamlet cache module 704 is configured to receive streamlet 304 requests from the agent controller module 702. Upon receiving a request, the streamlet cache module 704 first checks a streamlet cache 710 to verify if the streamlet 304 is present. In a further embodiment, the streamlet cache module 704 handles streamlet 304 requests from a plurality of agent controller modules 702. Alternatively, a streamlet cache module 704 may be provided for each agent controller module 702. If the requested streamlet 304 is not present in the streamlet cache 410, the request is passed to the network controller module 706. In order to enable fast forward and rewind capabilities, the streamlet cache module 704 is configured to store the plurality of streamlets 304 in the streamlet cache 710 for a specified time period after the streamlet 304 has been viewed. However, once the streamlets 304 have been deleted, they may be requested again from the web server 116.

[0086] The network controller module 706 may be configured to receive streamlet requests from the streamlet cache module 704 and open a connection to the web server

116 or other remote streamlet 304 database (not shown). In one embodiment, the network controller module 706 opens a TCP/IP connection to the web server 116 and generates a standard HTTP GET request for the requested streamlet 304. Upon receiving the requested streamlet 304, the network controller module 706 passes the streamlet 304 to the streamlet cache module 704 where it is stored in the streamlet cache 710. In a further embodiment, the network controller module 706 is configured to process and request a plurality of streamlets 304 simultaneously. The network controller module 706 may also be configured to request a plurality of streamlets, where each streamlet 304 is subsequently requested in multiple parts.

[0087] In a further embodiment, streamlet requests may comprise requesting pieces of any streamlet file. Splitting the streamlet 304 into smaller pieces or portions beneficially allows for an increased efficiency potential, and also eliminates problems associated with multiple full-streamlet requests sharing the bandwidth at any given moment. This is achieved by using parallel TCP/IP connections for pieces of the streamlets 304. Consequently, efficiency and network loss problems are overcome, and the streamlets arrive with more useful and predictable timing.

[0088] In one embodiment, the client module 114 is configured to use multiple TCP connections between the client module 114 and the web server 116 or web cache. The intervention of a cache may be transparent to the client or configured by the client as a forward cache. By requesting more than one streamlet 304 at a time in a manner referred to as “parallel retrieval,” or more than one part of a streamlet 304 at a time, efficiency is raised significantly and latency is virtually eliminated. In a further embodiment, the client module allows a maximum of three outstanding streamlet 304 requests. The client module 114 may maintain additional open TCP connections as spares to be available should another connection fail. Streamlet 304 requests are rotated among all open connections to keep the TCP flow logic for any particular connection from falling into a slow-start or close mode. If the network controller module 706 has requested a streamlet 304 in multiple parts, with each part requested on mutually independent TCP/IP connections, the network controller module 706 reassembles the parts to present a complete streamlet 304 for use by all other components of the client module 114.

[0089] When a TCP connection fails completely, a new request may be sent on a different connection for the same streamlet 304. In a further embodiment, if a request is not being satisfied in a timely manner, a redundant request may be sent on a different connection for the same streamlet 304. If the first streamlet request's response arrives before the redundant request response, the redundant request can be aborted. If the redundant request response arrives before the first request response, the first request may be aborted.

[0090] Several streamlet 304 requests may be sent on a single TCP connection, and the responses are caused to flow back in matching order along the same connection. This eliminates all but the first request latency. Because multiple responses are always being transmitted, the processing latency of each new streamlet 304 response after the first is not a factor in performance. This technique is known in the industry as "pipelining." Pipelining offers efficiency in request-response processing by eliminating most of the effects of request latency. However, pipelining has serious vulnerabilities. Transmission delays affect all of the responses. If the single TCP connection fails, all of the outstanding requests and responses are lost. Pipelining causes a serial dependency between the requests.

[0091] Multiple TCP connections may be opened between the client module 114 and the web server 116 to achieve the latency-reduction efficiency benefits of pipelining while maintaining the independence of each streamlet 304 request. Several streamlet 304 requests may be sent concurrently, with each request being sent on a mutually distinct TCP connection. This technique is labeled "virtual pipelining" and is an innovation of the present invention. Multiple responses may be in transit concurrently, assuring that communication bandwidth between the client module 114 and the web server 116 is always being utilized. Virtual pipelining eliminates the vulnerabilities of traditional pipelining. A delay in or complete failure of one response does not affect the transmission of other responses because each response occupies an independent TCP connection. Any transmission bandwidth not in use by one of multiple responses (whether due to delays or TCP connection failure) may be utilized by other outstanding responses.

[0092] A single streamlet 304 request may be issued for an entire streamlet 304, or multiple requests may be issued, each for a different part or portion of the streamlet. If the streamlet is requested in several parts, the parts may be recombined by the client module 114 streamlet.

[0093] In order to maintain a proper balance between maximized bandwidth utilization and response time, the issuance of new streamlet requests must be timed such that the web server 116 does not transmit the response before the client module 114 has fully received a response to one of the previously outstanding streamlet requests. For example, if three streamlet 304 requests are outstanding, the client module 114 should issue the next request slightly before one of the three responses is fully received and “out of the pipe.” In other words, request timing is adjusted to keep three responses in transit. Sharing of bandwidth among four responses diminishes the net response time of the other three responses. The timing adjustment may be calculated dynamically by observation, and the request timing adjusted accordingly to maintain the proper balance of efficiency and response times.

[0094] The schematic flow chart diagrams that follow are generally set forth as logical flow chart diagrams. As such, the depicted order and labeled steps are indicative of one embodiment of the presented method. Other steps and methods may be conceived that are equivalent in function, logic, or effect to one or more steps, or portions thereof, of the illustrated method. Additionally, the format and symbols employed are provided to explain the logical steps of the method and are understood not to limit the scope of the method. Although various arrow types and line types may be employed in the flow chart diagrams, they are understood not to limit the scope of the corresponding method. Indeed, some arrows or other connectors may be used to indicate only the logical flow of the method. For instance, an arrow may indicate a waiting or monitoring period of unspecified duration between enumerated steps of the depicted method. Additionally, the order in which a particular method occurs may or may not strictly adhere to the order of the corresponding steps shown.

[0095] Figure 8 is a schematic flow chart diagram illustrating one embodiment of a method 800 for processing content in accordance with the present invention. In one embodiment the method 800 starts 802, and the content module 112 receives 804 content

from the publisher 110. Receiving content 804 may comprise receiving 804 a digital copy of the content file 200, or digitizing a physical copy of the content file 200. Alternatively, receiving 804 content may comprise capturing a radio, television, cable, or satellite broadcast. Once received 804, the streamlet module 404 generates 808 a plurality of source streamlets 303 each having a fixed duration. Alternatively, the streamlets 303 may be generated with a fixed file size.

[0096] In one embodiment, generating 808 streamlets comprises dividing the content file 200 into a plurality of two second streamlets 303. Alternatively, the streamlets may have any length less than or equal to the length of the stream 202. The encoder module 406 then encodes 810 the streamlets 303 into sets 306 of streamlets 304, in a plurality of streams 202 according to an encoding scheme. The quality may be predefined, or automatically set according to end user bandwidth, or in response to pre-designated publisher guidelines

[0097] In a further embodiment, the encoding scheme comprises a proprietary codec such as WMV9®. The encoder module 406 then stores 812 the encoded streamlets 304 in the streamlet database 408. Once stored 812, the web server 116 may then serve 814 the streamlets 304. In one embodiment, serving 814 the streamlets 304 comprises receiving streamlet requests from the client module 114, retrieving the requested streamlet 304 from the streamlet database 408, and subsequently transmitting the streamlet 304 to the client module 114. The method 800 then ends 816.

[0098] Figure 9 is a schematic flow chart diagram illustrating one embodiment of a method 900 for viewing a plurality of streamlets in accordance with the present invention. The method 900 starts and an agent controller module 702 is provided 904 and associated with a viewer 708 and provided with a staging module 709. The agent controller module 702 then requests 906 a streamlet 304 from the streamlet cache module 704. Alternatively, the agent controller module 702 may simultaneously request 906 a plurality of streamlets 304 the streamlet cache module 704. If the streamlet is stored 908 locally in the streamlet cache 710, the streamlet cache module 704 retrieves 910 the streamlet 304 and sends the streamlet to the agent controller module 702. Upon retrieving 910 or receiving a streamlet, the agent controller module 702 makes 911 a

determination of whether or not to shift to a higher or lower quality stream 202. This determination will be described below in greater detail with reference to Figure 10.

[0099] In one embodiment, the staging module 709 then arranges 912 the streamlets 304 into the proper order, and the agent controller module 702 delivers 914 the streamlets to the viewer 708. In a further embodiment, delivering 914 streamlets 304 to the end user comprises playing video and or audio streamlets on the viewer 708. If the streamlets 304 are not stored 908 locally, the streamlet request is passed to the network controller module 706. The network controller module 706 then requests 916 the streamlet 304 from the web server 116. Once the streamlet 304 is received, the network controller module 706 passes the streamlet to the streamlet cache module 704. The streamlet cache module 704 archives 918 the streamlet. Alternatively, the streamlet cache module 704 then archives 918 the streamlet and passes the streamlet to the agent controller module 702, and the method 900 then continues from operation 910 as described above.

[0100] Referring now to Figure 10, shown therein is a schematic flow chart diagram illustrating one embodiment of a method 1000 for requesting streamlets 304 within an adaptive-rate shifting content streaming environment in accordance with the present invention. The method 1000 may be used in one embodiment as the operation 911 of Figure 9. The method 1000 starts and the agent controller module 702 receives 1004 a streamlet 304 as described above with reference to Figure 9. The agent controller module 702 then monitors 1006 the receive time of the requested streamlet. In one embodiment, the agent controller module 702 monitors the time intervals Δ between successive receive times for each streamlet response. Ordering of the responses in relation to the order of their corresponding requests is not relevant.

[0101] Because network behavioral characteristics fluctuate, sometimes quite suddenly, any given Δ may vary substantially from another. In order to compensate for this fluctuation, the agent controller module 702 calculates 1008 a performance ratio r across a window of n samples for streamlets of playback length S . In one embodiment, the performance ratio r is calculated using the equation:

$$r = S \frac{n}{\sum_{i=1}^n \Delta_i}$$

[0102] Due to multiple simultaneous streamlet processing, and in order to better judge the central tendency of the performance ratio r , the agent controller module 702 may calculate a geometric mean, or alternatively an equivalent averaging algorithm, across a window of size m , and obtain a performance factor ϕ :

$$\phi_{current} = \left(\prod_{j=1}^m r_j \right)^{\frac{1}{m}}$$

[0103] The policy determination about whether or not to upshift 1010 playback quality begins by comparing $\phi_{current}$ with a trigger threshold Θ_{up} . If $\phi_{current} \geq \Theta_{up}$, then an up shift to the next higher quality stream may be considered 1016. In one embodiment, the trigger threshold Θ_{up} is determined by a combination of factors relating to the current read ahead margin (i.e. the amount of contiguously available streamlets that have been sequentially arranged by the staging module 709 for presentation at the current playback time index), and a minimum safety margin. In one embodiment, the minimum safety margin may be 24 seconds. The smaller the read ahead margin, the larger Θ_{up} is to discourage upshifting until a larger read ahead margin may be established to withstand network disruptions. If the agent controller module 702 is able to sustain 1016 upshift quality, then the agent controller module 702 will upshift 1017 the quality and subsequently request higher quality streams. The determination of whether use of the higher quality stream is sustainable 1016 is made by comparing an estimate of the higher quality stream's performance factor, ϕ_{higher} , with Θ_{up} . If $\phi_{higher} \geq \Theta_{up}$ then use of the higher quality stream is considered sustainable. If the decision of whether or not the higher stream rate is sustainable 1016 is "no," the agent controller module 702 will not attempt to upshift 1017 stream quality. If the end of the stream has been reached 1014, the method 1000 ends 1016.

[0104] If the decision on whether or not to attempt upshift 1010 is "no", a decision about whether or not to downshift 1012 is made. In one embodiment, a trigger threshold Θ_{down} is defined in a manner analogous to Θ_{up} . If $\phi_{current} > \Theta_{down}$ then the stream quality may be adequate, and the agent controller module 702 does not downshift 1018 stream quality.

However, if $\varphi_{current} \leq \Theta_{down}$, the agent controller module 702 does downshift 1018 the stream quality. If the end of the stream has not been reached 1014, the agent controller module 702 begins to request and receive 1004 lower quality streamlets and the method 1000 starts again. Of course, the above described equations and algorithms are illustrative only, and may be replaced by alternative streamlet monitoring solutions.

[0105] The present invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from its spirit or essential characteristics. The described embodiments are to be considered in all respects only as illustrative and not restrictive. The scope of the invention is, therefore, indicated by the appended claims rather than by the foregoing description. All changes which come within the meaning and range of equivalency of the claims are to be embraced within their scope.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for adaptive-rate content streaming of video playable on one or more end user stations over the Internet, the system comprising:
 - at least one processor executing non-transitory executable instructions for generating at least one virtual timeline corresponding to the video;
 - wherein the video encoded at a plurality of different bitrates creating a plurality of streams including a low quality stream, a medium quality stream, and a high quality stream, the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and the high quality stream each comprising a group of streamlets encoded at a respective one of the plurality of different bitrates, each group of streamlets comprising at least first and second streamlets, each of the streamlets corresponding to a portion of the video;
 - wherein at least one of the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and the high quality stream is encoded at a bitrate of no less than 600 kbps; and
 - wherein the first streamlet of each of the groups of streamlets has the same first duration and encodes the same first portion of the video in each of the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and the high quality stream, and wherein the first streamlet of the low quality stream encodes the same first portion of the video at a different bitrate than the first streamlet of the high quality stream and the first streamlet of the medium quality stream.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the processor is further for generating a plurality of virtual timelines wherein each virtual timeline corresponds to each of the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and the high quality stream.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein the video is a live event video.
4. The system of claim 1, wherein the video includes archived content.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the second streamlet of each of the groups of streamlets each has the same second duration and corresponds to the same second portion of the video in the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and the high quality stream, the second streamlet of the low quality stream having the same bitrate as the first streamlet of the low quality stream.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein the first and second durations are different.

7. The system of claim 1, further comprising: a plurality of web servers located at different locations across the internet, each web server configured to: receive at least one streamlet request over one or more internet connections from the one or more end user stations to retrieve the first streamlet storing a portion of the video, wherein the at least one streamlet request from the one or more end user stations includes a request for a currently selected first streamlet from one of the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and the high quality stream based upon a determination by the end user station to select a higher or lower bitrate version of the streams; retrieve from the storage device the requested first streamlet from the currently selected one of the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and the high quality stream; and send the retrieved first streamlet from the currently selected one of the different copies to the requesting one of the end user stations over the one or more network connections.

8. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
a first web server configured to:
receive at least one virtual timeline request over the one or more internet connections from the one or more end user stations to retrieve a virtual timeline; and send the virtual timeline to the requesting one of the end user stations over the one or more network connections.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the first web server is further configured to:
receive at least one streamlet request over one or more internet connections from the one or more end user stations to retrieve the first streamlet storing the first portion of the video,

wherein the at least one streamlet request from the one or more end user stations includes a request for a currently selected first streamlet from one of the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and the high quality stream based upon a determination by the end user station to select a higher or lower bitrate version of the video; retrieve from the storage device the requested first streamlet from the currently selected one of the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and the high quality stream; and send the retrieved first streamlet from the currently selected one of the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and the high quality stream to the requesting one of the end user stations over the one or more network connections.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one virtual timeline corresponds to the currently selected one of the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and the high quality stream.

11. The system of claim 1, wherein the virtual timeline defines a playlist for a user to view.

12. The system of claim 1, wherein the virtual timeline comprises a file that is configured to define a playlist for a user to view.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the virtual timeline comprises at least one quantum media extension (QMX).

14. An end user station to stream a video over a network from a server for playback of the video, the content player device comprising:

a processor;

a digital processing apparatus memory device comprising non-transitory machine-readable instructions that, when executed, cause the processor to:

establish one or more network connections between the end user station and the server, wherein the server is configured to access at least one of a plurality of groups of streamlets;

wherein the video is encoded at a plurality of different bitrates to create a plurality of streams including at least a low quality stream, a medium quality stream, and a high quality stream, each of the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and the high quality stream comprising a group of streamlets encoded at the same respective one of the different bitrates, each group comprising at least first and second streamlets, each of the streamlets corresponding to a portion of the video;

wherein at least one of the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and the high quality stream is encoded at a bit rate of no less than 600 kbps; and wherein the first streamlets of each of the low quality stream, the medium quality stream and the high quality stream each has an equal playback duration and each of the first streamlets encodes the same portion of the video at a different one of the different bitrates;

select a specific one of the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and the high quality stream based upon a determination by the end user station to select a higher or lower bitrate version of the streams;

place at least one virtual timeline request for at least one virtual times based on the selected one of the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and the high quality stream; and

receive the at least one virtual timeline.

15. The end user station of claim 14, wherein the non-transitory machine-readable instructions that, when executed, further cause the processor to:

place one or more streamlet requests to the server over the one or more network connections for the first streamlet of the selected stream; receive the requested first streamlet from the server via the one or more network connections wherein the one or more streamlet requests are based on the at least one virtual timeline; and

provide the received first streamlet for playback of the video.

16. The end user station of claim 14, wherein the second streamlet of each of the groups of streamlets each has the same second duration and corresponds to the same second portion of the video in the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and the high quality stream, the second streamlet of the low quality stream having the same bitrate as the first streamlet of the low quality stream.

17. The end user station of claim 16, wherein the first and second durations are different.

18. The end user station of claim 18, wherein the virtual timeline corresponds to the currently selected one of the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and the high quality stream.

19. The end user station of claim 18, wherein the virtual timeline defines a playlist for a user to view.

20. The end user station of claim 14, wherein the video is a live event video.

21. The end user station of claim 14, wherein the video includes archived content.

22. A process executable by one or more servers to stream a video for playback by one or more end user stations, the process comprising:

storing, by the one or more servers, one or more virtual timelines corresponding to a plurality of streams including a low quality stream, a medium quality stream, and a high quality stream, wherein the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and the high quality stream each comprise a group of streamlets encoded at a respective one of a plurality of different bitrates, each group comprising at least first and second streamlets, each of the streamlets corresponding to a portion of the video;

wherein at least one of the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and the high quality stream is encoded at a bitrate of no less than 600 kbps; and wherein the first streamlet of each of the groups of streamlets has the same first duration and encodes the same first portion of the video in the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and

the high quality stream, the first streamlet of the low quality stream having a different one of the different bitrates than the first streamlet of the high quality stream and the first streamlet of the medium quality stream;

receiving at least one virtual timeline request over one or more internet connections from the one or more end user stations to retrieve a virtual timeline correspond to the first streamlet storing the first portion of the video,

wherein the at least one streamlet request from the one or more end user stations includes a request for a currently selected first streamlet from one of the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and the high quality stream based upon a determination by the end user station to select a higher or lower bitrate version of the video;.

retrieving from the storage device the requested virtual timeline for the currently selected one of the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and the high quality stream; and

sending the retrieved virtual timeline to the requesting one of the end user stations over the one or more network connections.

23. The process of claim 22, further comprising:

storing, by the one or more servers, a plurality of streams including a low quality stream, a medium quality stream, and a high quality stream; and

receiving at least one streamlet request over one or more internet connections from the one or more end user stations to retrieve the first streamlet storing the first portion of the video,

wherein the at least one streamlet request from the one or more end user stations includes a request for a currently selected first streamlet from one of the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and the high quality stream based upon a determination by the end user station to select a higher or lower bitrate version of the video

retrieving from the storage device the requested first streamlet from the currently selected one of the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and the high quality stream; and

sending the retrieved first streamlet from the currently selected one of the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and the high quality stream to the requesting one of the end user stations over the one or more network connections.

24. The process of claim 22, wherein the second streamlet of each of the groups of streamlets each has the same second duration and corresponds to the same second portion of the video in the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and the high quality stream, the second streamlet of the low quality stream having the same bitrate as the first streamlet of the low quality stream.

25. The process of claim 22, wherein the first and second durations are different.

26. The process of claim 22, wherein the video is a live event video.

27. The process of claim 22, wherein the video includes archived content.

28. A process executable by a content player device to stream a video over a network from a server for playback of the video by the content player device, the process comprising:
establishing one or more network connections between the content player device and the server,

wherein the server accesses a plurality of streams including a low quality stream, a medium quality stream, and a high quality stream, wherein the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and the high quality stream each comprise a group of streamlets encoded at a respective one of a plurality of different bitrates, each group comprising at least first and second streamlets, each of the streamlets corresponding to a portion of the video; wherein at least one of the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and the high quality stream is encoded at a bitrate of no less than 600 kbps; and

wherein the first streamlet of each of the groups of streamlets has the same first duration and encodes the same first portion of the video in the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and the high quality stream, the first streamlet of the low quality stream having a different bitrate than the first streamlet of the high quality stream and the first streamlet of the medium quality stream;

selecting, by the content player device, a currently selected one of the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and the high quality stream based upon a determination by the end user station to select a higher or lower bitrate version of the video;

placing a virtual time request over one or more internet connections from the one or more end user stations to retrieve at least one virtual timeline corresponding to the currently selected one of the low quality stream, the medium quality stream, and the high quality stream; and receiving the requested virtual timeline from the server via the one or more network connections.

29. The process of claim 30, further comprising:

placing a streamlet request over one or more internet connections from the one or more end user stations to retrieve the first streamlet storing the first portion of the video, wherein the streamlet request is based, at least in part, on the received virtual timeline;

receiving the requested streamlet from the server via the one or more network connections; and rendering, by the content player device, the received streamlet for playback of the video.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus for multi-bitrate content streaming includes a receiving module configured to capture media content, a streamlet module configured to segment the media content and generate a plurality of streamlets, and an encoding module configured to generate a set of streamlets. The system includes the apparatus, wherein the set of streamlets comprises a plurality of streamlets having identical time indices and durations, and each streamlet of the set of streamlets having a unique bitrate, and wherein the encoding module comprises a master module configured to assign an encoding job to one of a plurality of host computing modules in response to an encoding job completion bid. A method includes receiving media content, segmenting the media content and generating a plurality of streamlets, and generating a set of streamlets.

**DECLARATION OF JOINT INVENTORS RELATING TO PATENTS AND
APPLICATIONS ENTITLED “APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR
MULTI-BITRATE CONTENT STREAMING”**

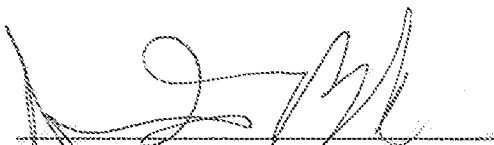
This is a joint declaration and statement made by David F. Brueck, Mark B. Hurst, and R. Drew Major. We the undersigned each hereby declare and state that, to the best of our information and belief:

1. Each of us (David F. Brueck, Mark B. Hurst, and R. Drew Major) contributed to the inventorship of the following United States Patents and the following pending application:

<u>US Patents:</u> US7818444 US8402156 US8612624 US9071668 US9571551	<u>US Patent Application</u> Serial No. 15/414,025
---	---
2. The above-identified patents and applications were made or authorized to be made by me. I believe that I am the inventor or an original joint inventor of a claimed invention in each of the applications and patents referenced above.
3. Although R. Drew Major was initially omitted as an inventor, I understand that he is now being added as a joint inventor. I agree to the change of inventorship and I have no disagreement with regard to the change in inventorship. To the best of my information and belief, Mr. Major's earlier omission was made without deceptive intent.
4. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements in this declaration are punishable under 18 U.S.C. 1001 by fine or imprisonment of not more than five (5) years, or both, and

that willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application
or any patent issued thereon.

Respectfully submitted by:



David F. Brueck

27 Oct 2017

Date

Mark B. Hurst

Date

R. Drew Major

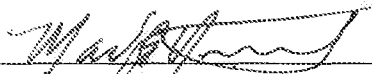
Date

1001 by fine or imprisonment of not more than five (5) years, or both, and that willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

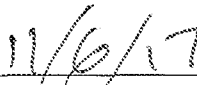
Respectfully submitted by:

David F. Brueck

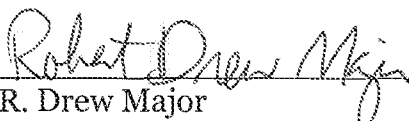
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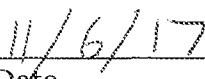
Mark B. Hurst



Date



R. Drew Major



Date

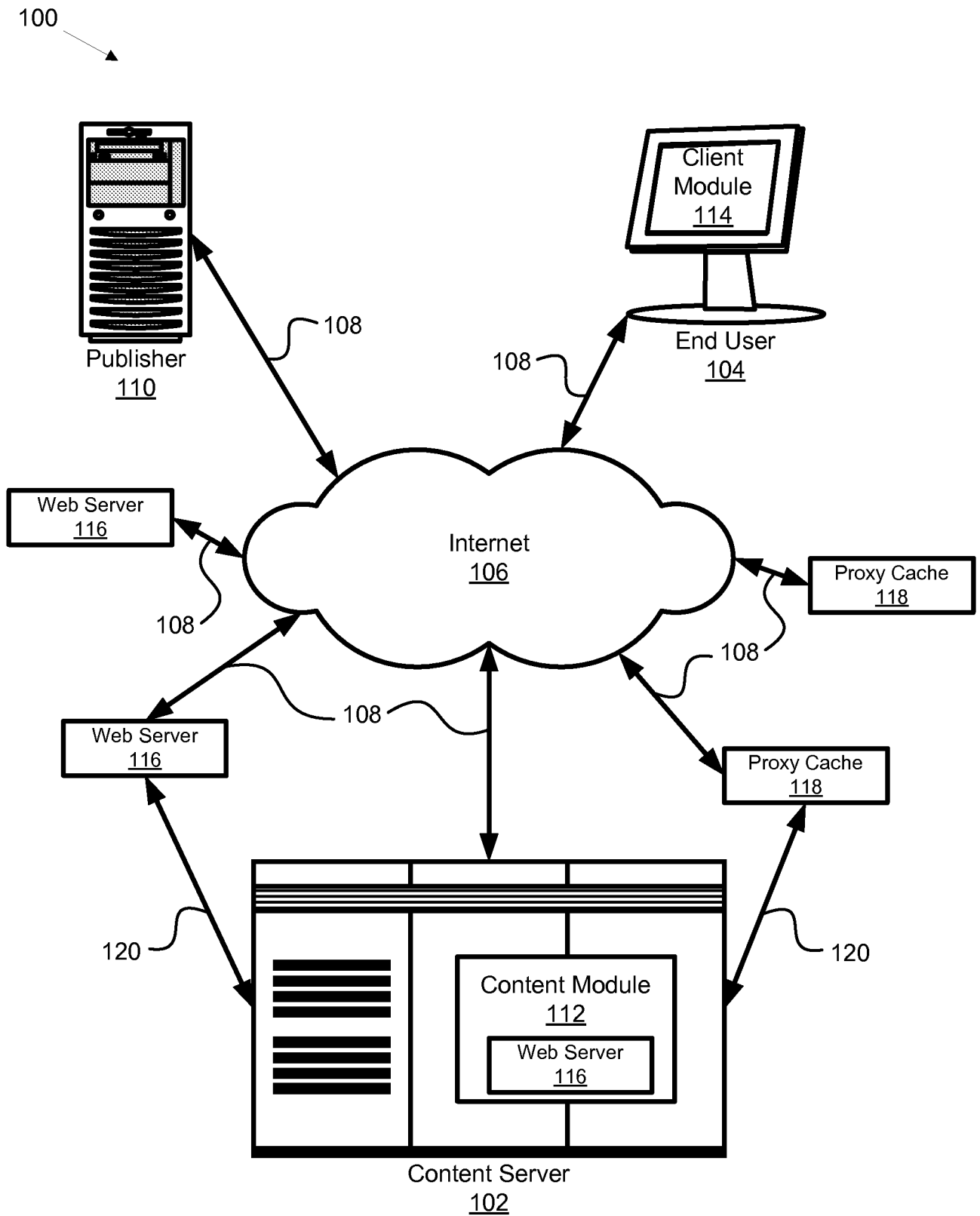


FIG. 1

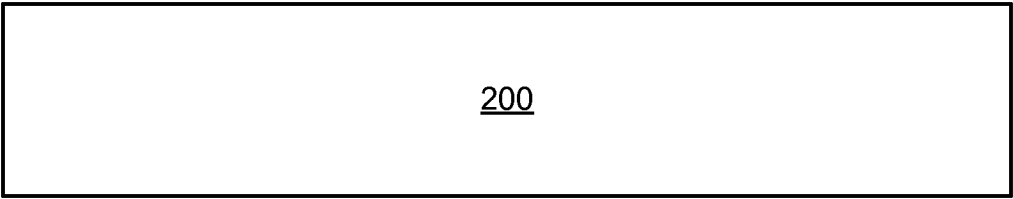


FIG. 2a

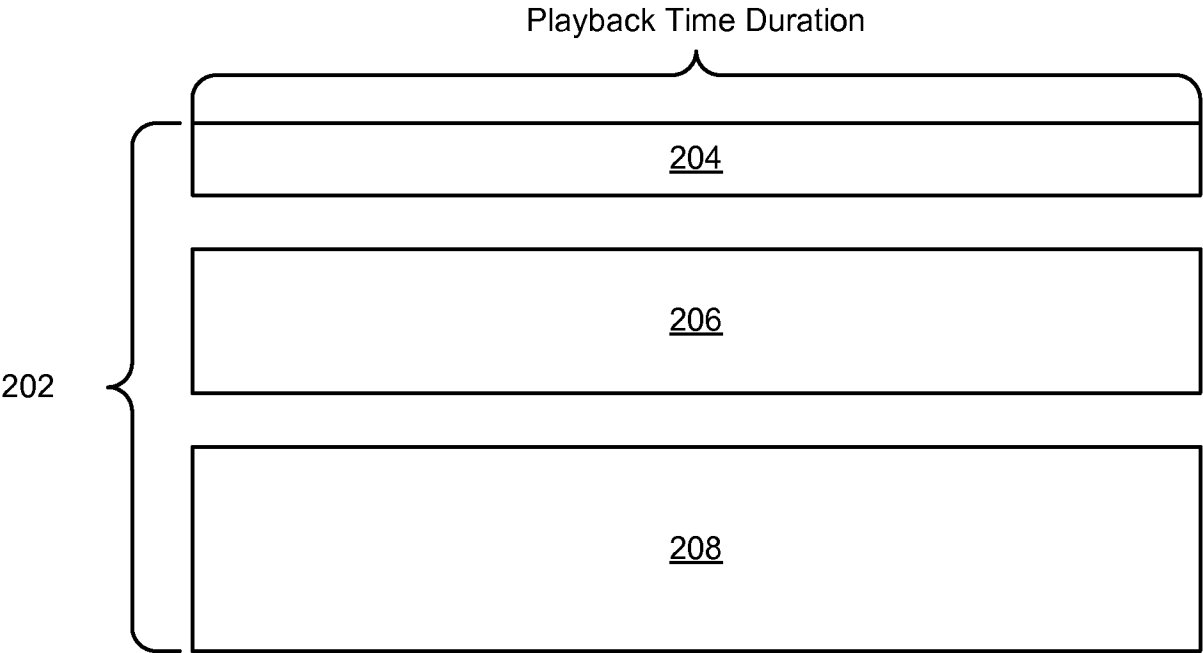


FIG. 2b

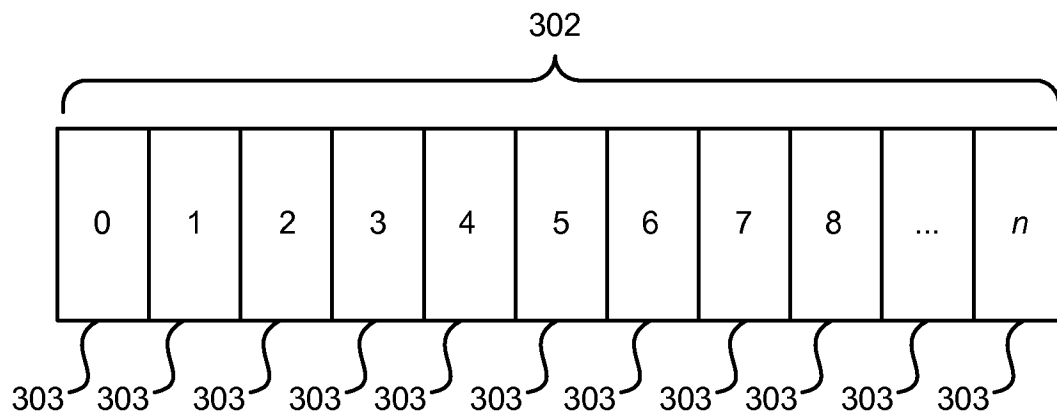


FIG. 3a

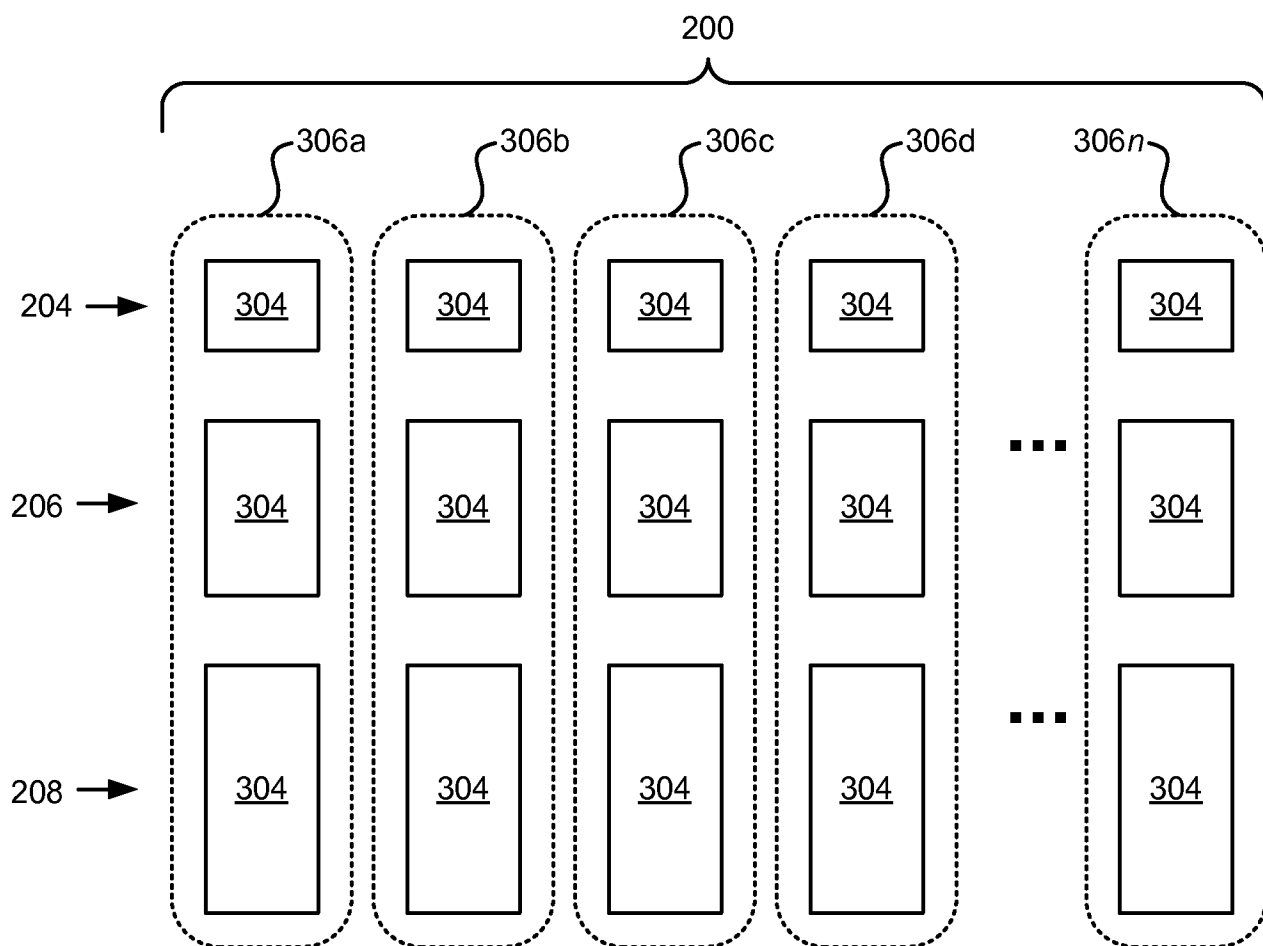


FIG. 3b

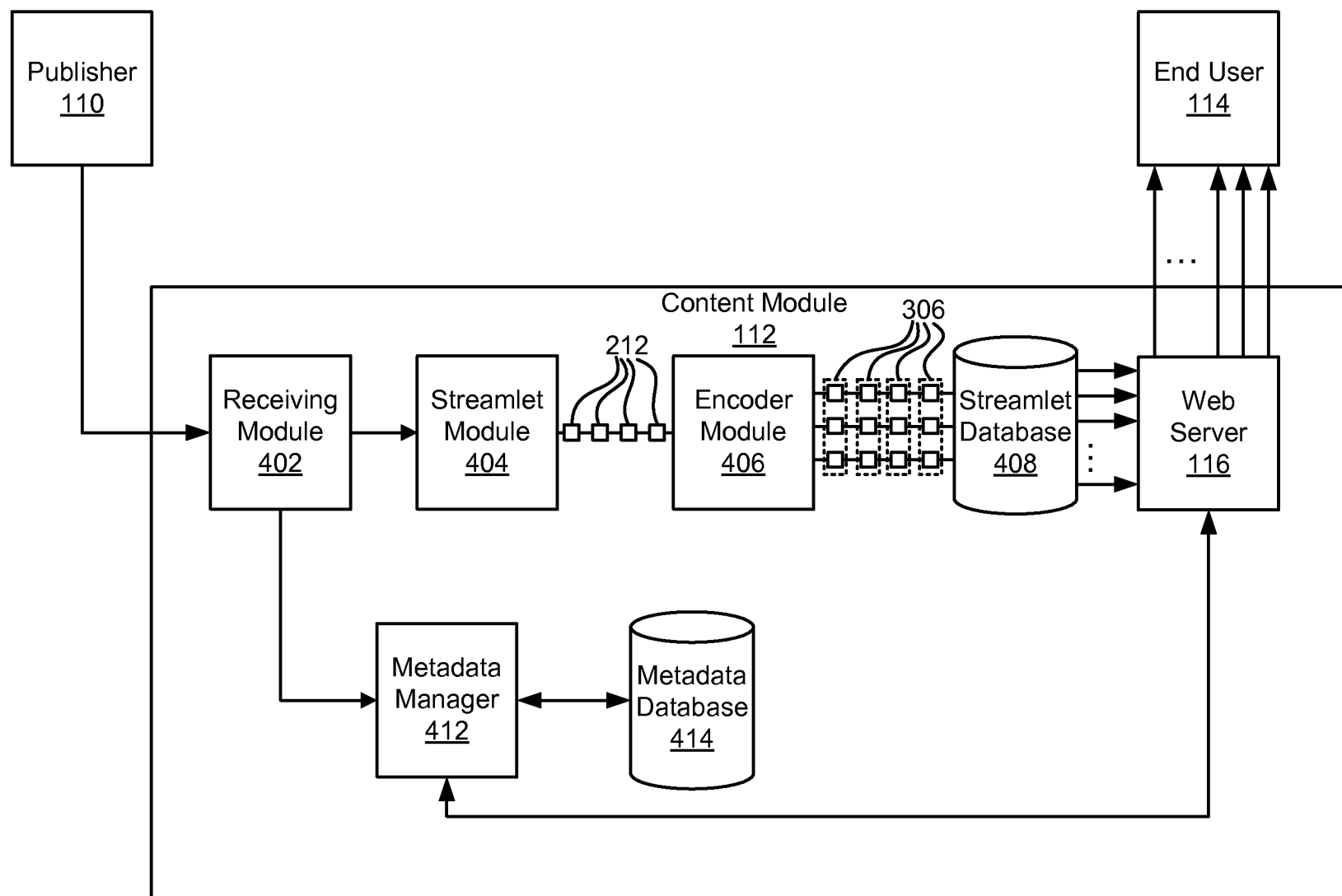


FIG. 4

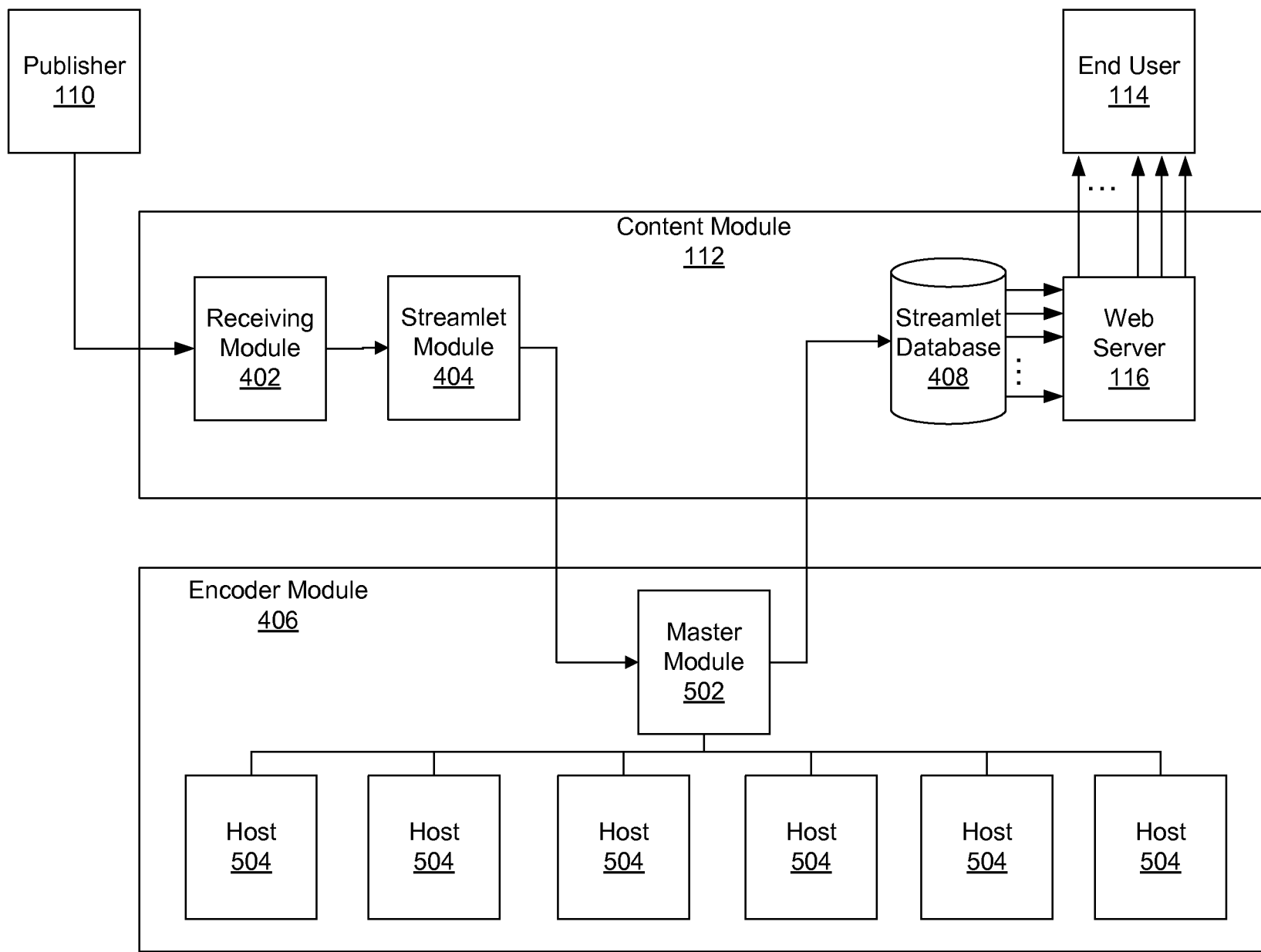


FIG. 5a

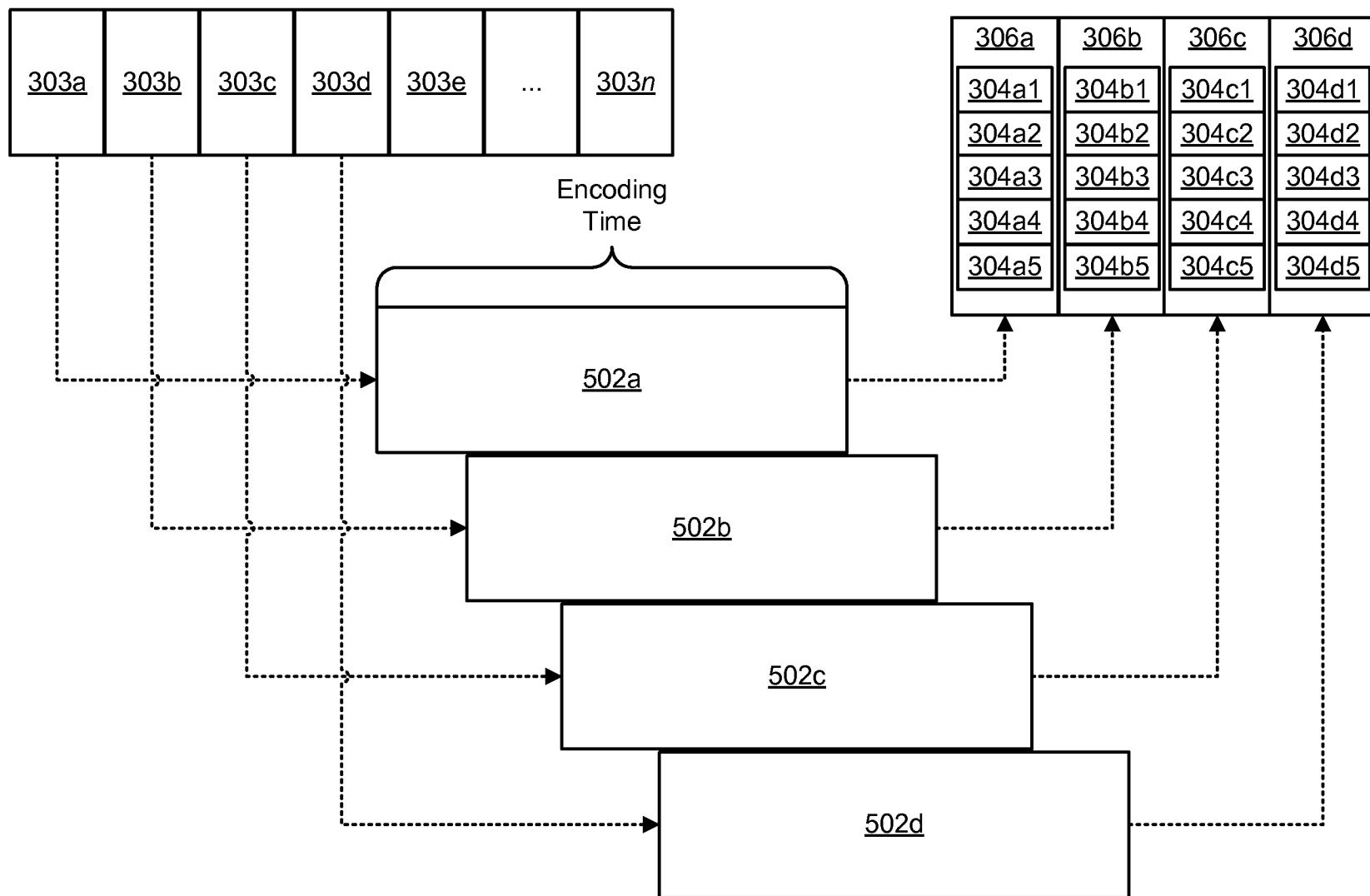


FIG. 5b

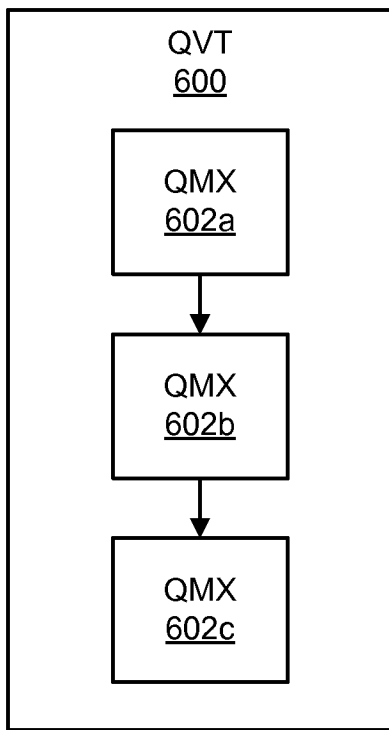


FIG. 6a

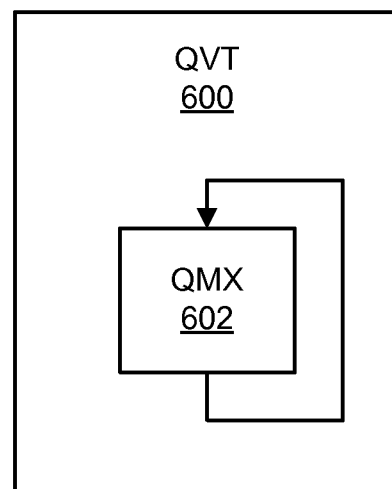


FIG. 6b

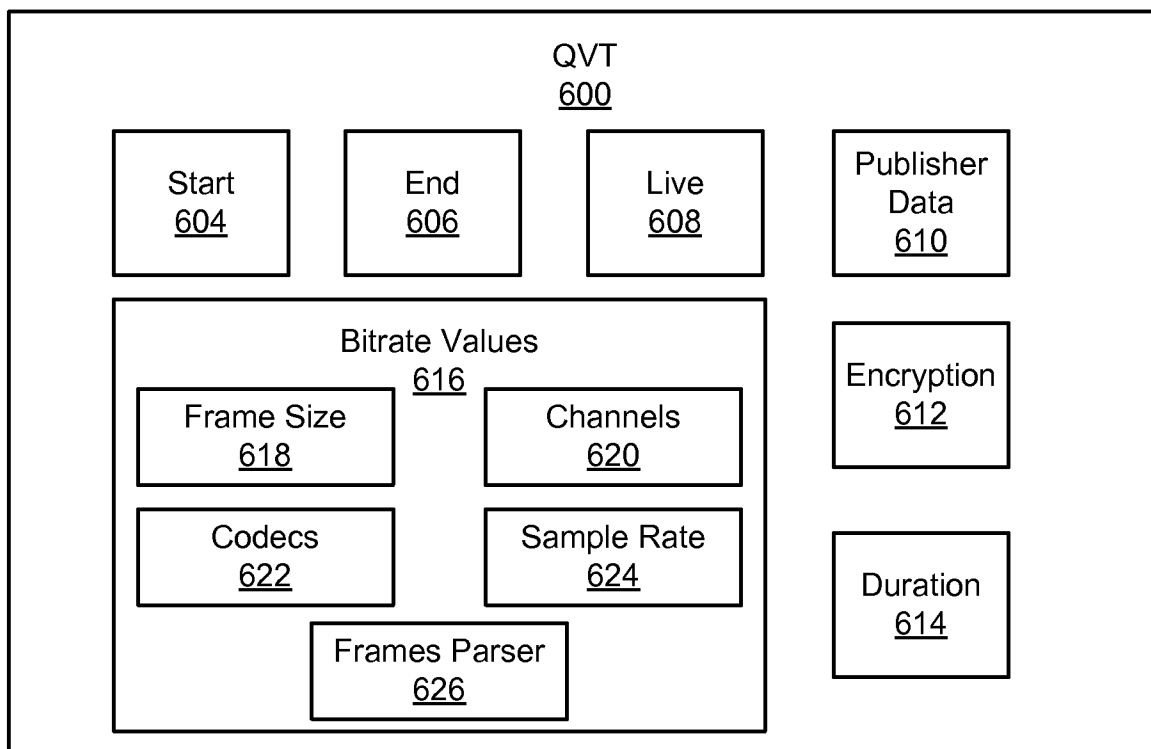


FIG. 6c

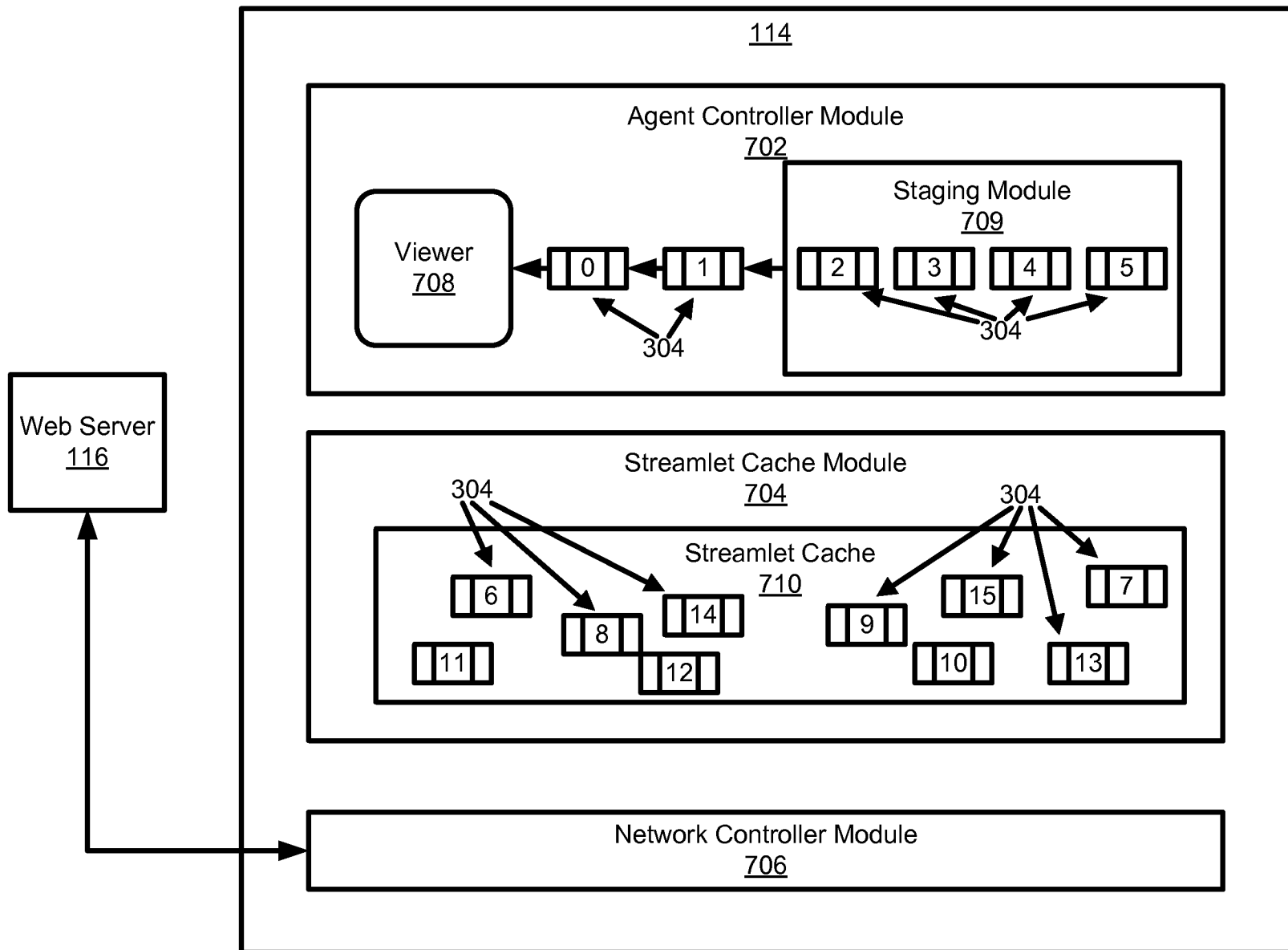


FIG. 7

800 ↘

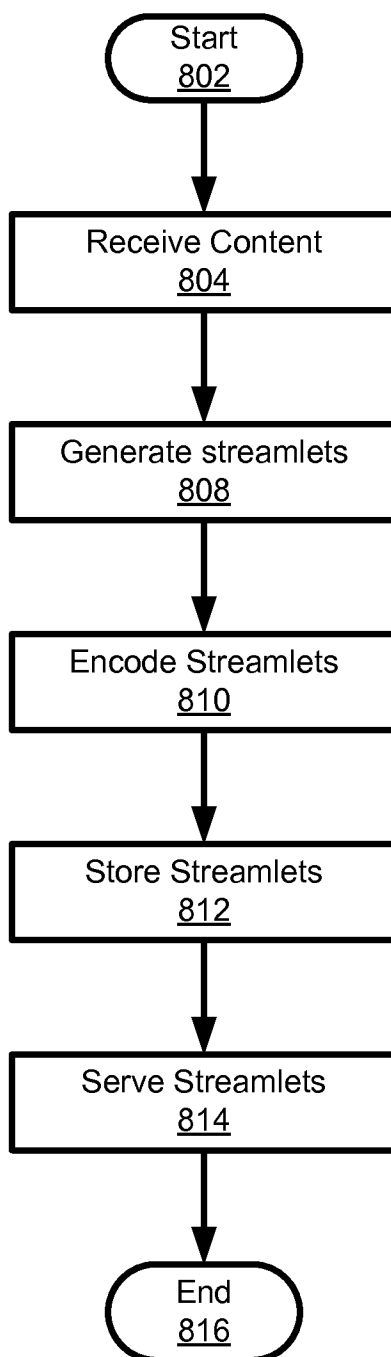


FIG. 8

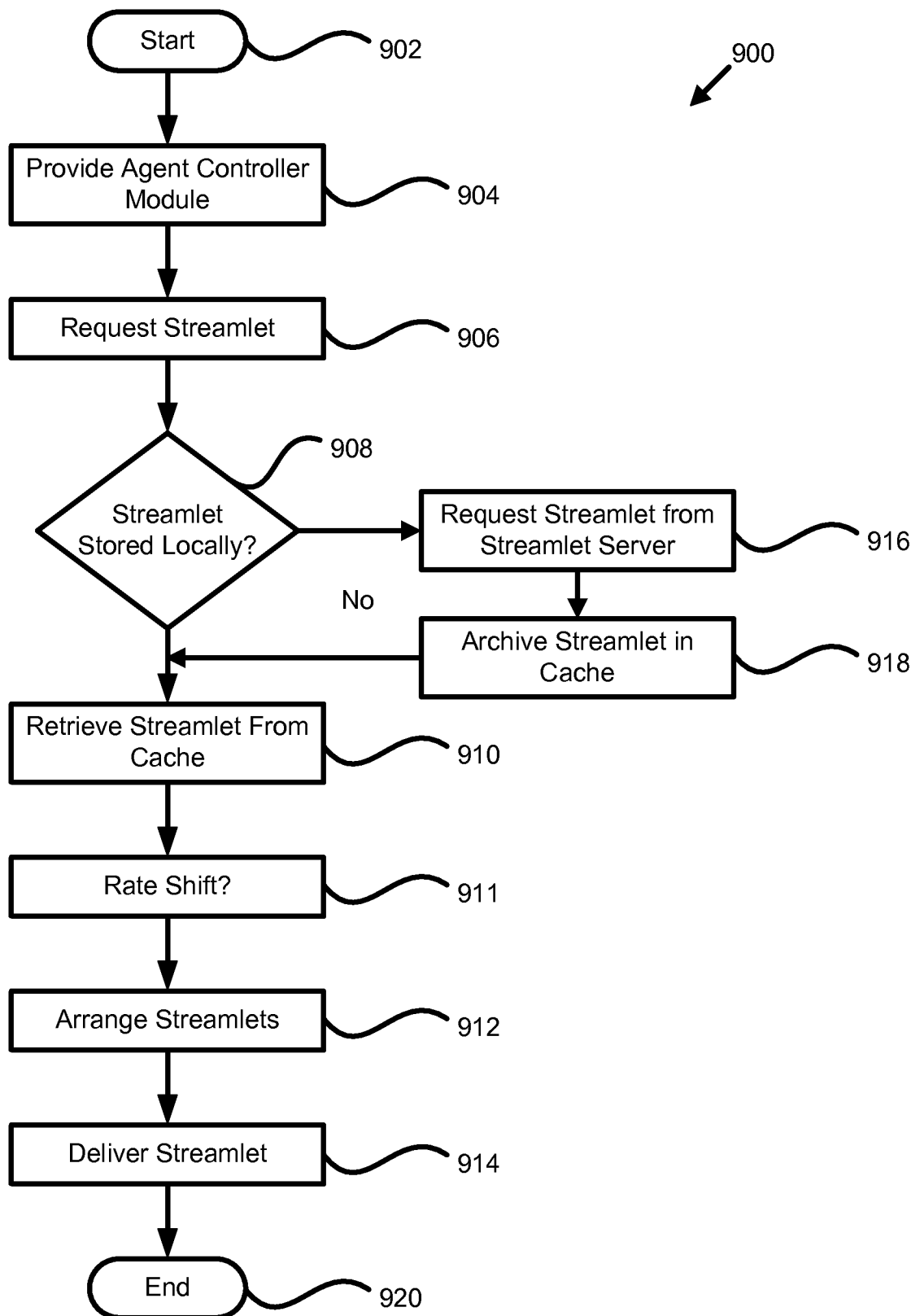


FIG. 9

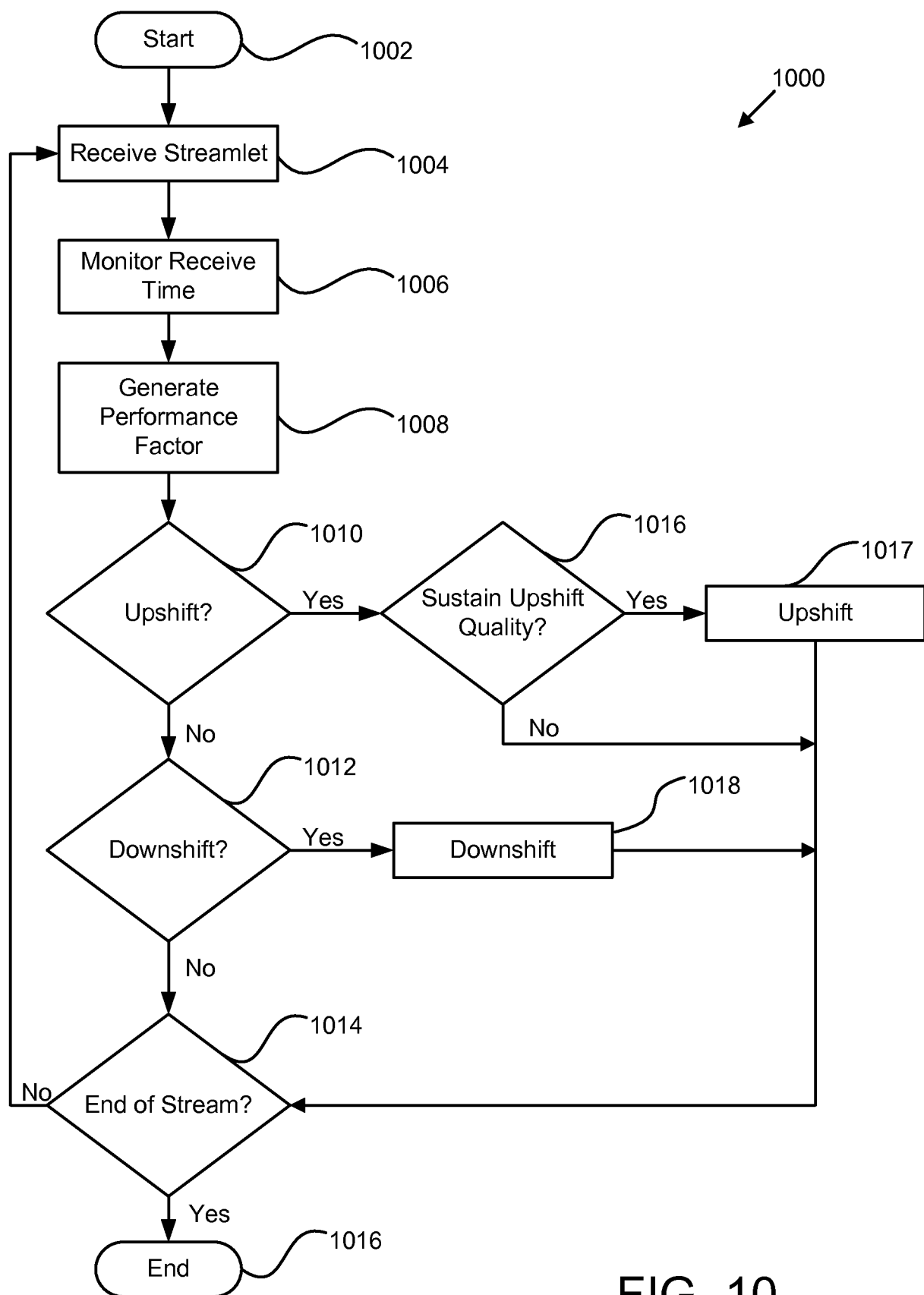


FIG. 10

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial. No.: TBD Confirmation No.: TBD
Examiner: TBD Art Unit: TBD
Filed: Herewith Customer No.: 70560
Title: **APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR MULTI-BITRATE
CONTENT STREAMING**
Attorney Docket No.: 066.0141x1C10

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

*****FILED ELECTRONICALLY USING THE PTO-EFS SYSTEM***

Commissioner:

Please amend the above-referenced application prior to examination.

Amendments to the Specification begin on the following page (page 2).

Remarks begin on page 3 of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

**PLEASE AMEND PARAGRAPH 0001 OF THE SPECIFICATION AS
FOLLOWS:**

[0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 16/004,056 filed on June 8, 2018, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 15/414,025 (now US Patent No. 9,998,516) filed on January 24, 2017, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 14/719,122 filed on May 21, 2015, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 14/106,051 filed on December 13, 2013 (now U.S. Patent No. 9,071,668), which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 13/617,114, filed on September 14, 2012 (now US Patent No. 8,612,624), which is a continuation of U.S. Patent No. 12/906,940 filed on October 18, 2010 (now US Patent No. 8,402,156), which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Number 11/673,483, filed on February 9, 2007 (now US Patent No. 7,818,444), which is a continuation-in-part of Application No. 11/116,783, filed on April 28, 2005 (now U.S. Patent No. 8,868,772), which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/566,831, filed on April 31, 2004, all of which are incorporated herein by reference.

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is being filed at the same time as the attached application to update the priority information in paragraph 0001. Please enter the foregoing amendments prior to substantive examination. No new matter has been added, and support for all of the claimed features can be found in the originally-filed application.

This application is being filed as a “Track One” application with a certification and request for prioritized examination. If any documents or fees that are required to process this application as a Track One application are not submitted herewith, ***please consider this as a petition under Rule 181 (or any other appropriate rule) for appropriate relief, and as authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fees that may be due***, including any fees to process the Track One application and any associated petitions or other documents.

Should the Examiner have any suggestions that would advance prosecution at any time during prosecution, we would welcome a telephone call to (480) 385-5069 or an email to bcarlson@lkglobal.com. Recognizing that Internet communications are not secure, we hereby authorize the USPTO to communicate with the undersigned and practitioners in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 37 CFR 1.34 concerning any subject matter of this application via video conferencing, instant messaging, or electronic mail. We understand that a copy of these communications will be made of record in the application file. (MPEP 502.03). Without limiting the foregoing, we further authorize the use of email for informal correspondence, including the exchange of proposed amendments or other draft documents.

If any additional documents or fees are required to consider this submittal or to otherwise prevent abandonment of this application, please consider this as a petition and request for any needed relief and as authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fees that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

LORENZ & KOPF, LLC

Dated: May 18, 2020

By: /Brett A. Carlson /
Brett A. Carlson
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