~~**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**~~

CLAIMS

1.- A device comprising:

a memory configured to store a plurality of audio streams and an associated level of authorization for each of the plurality of audio streams; and

one or more processors implemented in circuitry and communicatively coupled to the memory, and configured to:

select, based on the associated levels of authorization, a subset of the plurality of audio streams, the subset of the plurality of audio streams excluding at least one of the plurality of audio streams~~.~~,

wherein the associated levels of authorization comprise ranks, and wherein the one or more processors select the subset of the plurality of audio streams by:

comparing a respective rank of each of the plurality of audio streams to a rank of a user; and

selecting the subset of the plurality of audio streams based on the comparison.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein the memory is further configured to store location information associated with coordinates of an acoustical space in which a corresponding one of the plurality of audio streams was captured or synthesized.

3. The device of claim 2, wherein the device comprises an extended reality headset, and wherein the acoustical space comprises a scene represented by video data captured by a camera.

4. The device of claim 2, wherein the device comprises an extended reality headset, and wherein an acoustical space comprises a virtual world.

5. The device of claim 2, wherein the device comprises an extended reality headset, and wherein an acoustical space comprises a physical world.

6. The device of claim 2, wherein the selected subset of the plurality of audio streams is

further based on the location information.

7. The device of claim 1, wherein excluded audio streams are associated with one or more privacy zones.

8. The device of claim 1, wherein the one or more processors are further configured to output the subset of the plurality of audio streams to one or more speakers or headphones.

9. The device of claim 1, wherein the one or more processors are further configured to change a gain of one or more audio streams in the subset of the plurality of audio streams based on the associated levels of authorization.

10. The device of claim 1, wherein the one or more processors are further configured to null excluded audio streams.

11. The device of claim 1, wherein the one or more processors are further configured to send a signal to at least one of a source device or base station indicating to the at least one of the source device or the base station to stop sending excluded audio streams to the device.

12. The device of claim 1, wherein the one or more processors are further configured to combine at least two of the subset of the plurality of audio streams by at least one of mixing or interpolation.

13. The device of claim 1, wherein the one or more processors are further configured to:

obtain, from a user, a request to override at least one level of authorization; and

based on the request, add at least one of the excluded audio streams associated with the at least one level of authorization to the subset of the plurality of audio streams.

14. The device of claim 13, wherein the one or more processors are configured to:

output the subset of the plurality of audio streams to one or more speakers or headphones based upon the addition of the at least one of the excluded audio streams to the subset of the

plurality of audio streams.

15. The device of claim 1, wherein a level of authorization is received by the device from a source device.

16. The device of claim 1, wherein the one or more processors are further configured to generate the associated levels of authorization.

17. The device of claim 1, wherein the ~~associated levels of authorization comprise ranks.~~

~~18. The device of claim 14, wherein the one or more processors select the subset of the plurality of audio streams by:~~

~~comparing the rank of each of the plurality of audio streams to a rank of a user; and~~

~~selecting the subset of the plurality of audio streams based on the comparison.~~

~~19. The device of claim 1, wherein the~~ memory is further configured to store plurality of contacts, and wherein the associated levels of authorization are based on the plurality of contacts.

~~20~~18. The device of claim ~~19~~17, wherein the one or more processors select the subset of the plurality of audio streams by:

determining whether a source of one or more of the plurality of audio streams is associated with one or more of the plurality of contacts; and

selecting the subset of the plurality of audio streams based on the ~~comparison~~determination.

~~21. The device of claim 19, wherein the plurality of contacts comprise favorability rankings, and wherein the one or more processors select the subset of the plurality of audio streams by:~~

~~determining whether a source of one or more of the plurality of audio streams is associated with one or more of the plurality of contacts of at least a predetermined favorability ranking; and~~

~~selecting the subset of the plurality of audio streams based on the comparison.~~

~~22. The device of claim 1, wherein the device is a content consumer device and the content consumer device refrains from decoding an audio stream associated with a privacy zone when the privacy zone does not have an associated level of authority.~~

~~23~~19. The device of claim 1, wherein the device is a content consumer device and the subset of the plurality of audio streams comprise reproduced audio streams based on encoded information received in a bitstream that is decoded by the one or more processors.

~~24~~20. The device of claim 1, wherein the device is a source device and the plurality of audio streams are not encoded.

~~25~~21. The device of claim 1, wherein the one or more processors select the subset of the plurality of audio streams to exclude the at least one of the plurality of audio streams based on the at least one of the plurality of audio streams not being authorized for a user.

~~26~~22. The device of claim 1, wherein the associated levels of authorization are contained in metadata associated with each audio stream or are otherwise in a bitstream.

~~27~~23. The device of claim 1, further comprising a display device.

~~28~~24. The device of claim 1, further comprising a microphone, wherein the one or more processors are further configured to receive a voice command from the microphone and control a display device based on the voice command.

~~29~~25. The device of claim 1, further comprising one or more speakers.

~~30~~26. The device of claim 1, wherein the device comprises a mobile handset.

~~31~~27. The device of claim 1, further comprising a wireless transceiver, the wireless transceiver being coupled to the one or more processors and being configured to receive a wireless signal,

wherein the wireless signal is one of Bluetooth, or Wi-Fi, or conforms to fifth generation (5G) cellular protocol.

~~32~~28. The device of claim 1, wherein the selection of a subset of the plurality of audio streams is based on a comparison of the associated levels of authorization and a level of authorization of the device or a user of the device.

~~33~~29. The device of claim 1, wherein the memory is further configured to store location information associated with coordinates of an acoustical space in which a corresponding one of the plurality of audio streams was captured or synthesized, and wherein the level of authorization for the one of the plurality of audio streams is determined based on the location information.

~~34. The~~30. A device ~~of claim 33, wherein~~comprising:

a memory configured to store a plurality of ~~privacy zones are defined in the acoustical space, each privacy zone having~~ audio streams and an associated level of authorization~~, wherein the level of authorization~~ for ~~the one~~each of the plurality of audio streams ~~is determined based on the level of authorization of the privacy zone which contains the location at which the one of the~~ , and a plurality of ~~audio streams was captured or synthesized.~~

~~35. The device of claim 33, wherein the level of authorization for the one of the plurality of audio streams equals the level of authorization of the privacy zone which contains the location at which the one of the plurality of audio streams was captured or synthesized.~~

~~36. The device of claim 1, wherein the device is configured to:~~

~~receive the plurality of audio streams and the~~contacts and associated ~~level of authorization~~favorability rankings for each of the plurality of ~~audio streams~~contacts; and

~~receive a level of authorization for a user of the device,~~

~~wherein the~~ one or more processors ~~are~~implemented in circuitry and communicatively coupled to the memory, and configured to:

~~select the subset of the plurality of audio streams by selecting those audio streams that have an associated level of authorization that is not greater than the received authorization level for the user of the device; and~~

~~send the selected subset of the plurality of audio streams to an audible output device for audible output of the selected subset of the plurality of audio streams.~~

~~37. A method comprising:~~

~~storing, by a memory, a plurality of audio streams and an associated level of authorization for each of the plurality of audio streams; and~~

~~selecting, by one or more processors and~~select, based on the associated levels of authorization, a subset of the plurality of audio streams, the subset of the plurality of audio streams excluding at least one of the plurality of audio streams~~.~~,

~~38. The method of claim 37, further comprising storing, by the memory, location information associated with coordinates of an acoustical space in which a corresponding one of the plurality of audio streams was captured or synthesized.~~

~~39. The method of claim 38,~~ wherein the ~~method is performed upon an extended reality headset, and wherein the acoustical space comprises a scene represented by video data captured by a camera.~~

~~40. The method of claim 38, wherein the method is performed upon an extended reality headset, and wherein the acoustical space comprises a virtual world.~~

~~41. The method of claim 38, wherein the method is performed upon a head-mounted device configured to present the acoustical space.~~

~~42. The method of claim 37, wherein the selected~~ one or more processors select the subset of the plurality of audio streams ~~is further based on the location information.~~by:

~~43. The method of claim 37, wherein excluded streams are associated with one or more privacy zones.~~

~~44. The method of claim 37, further comprising outputting, by the one or more processors, the subset of the plurality of audio streams to one or more speakers or headphones.~~

~~45. The method of claim 37, further comprising changing, by the one or more processors, a gain of one or more of audio streams within the subset of the plurality of audio streams based on the associated levels of authorization.~~

~~46. The method of claim 37, further comprising nulling, by the one or more processors, the excluded audio streams.~~

~~47. The method of claim 37, further comprising sending, by the one or more processors, a signal to at least one of a source device or base station indicating to stop sending excluded audio streams.~~

~~48. The method of claim 37, further comprising combining, by the one or more processors, at least two of the subset of the plurality of audio streams is by at least one of mixing or interpolation.~~

~~49. The method of claim 37, further comprising:~~

~~obtaining, from a user, a request to override at least one level of authorization; and~~

~~based on the request, adding, by the one or more processors, at least one of the excluded audio streams associated with the at least one level of authorization to the subset of the plurality of audio streams.~~

~~50. The method of claim 37, further comprising outputting, by the one or more processors, the subset of the plurality of audio streams to one or more speakers or headphones based upon the addition of the at least one of the excluded audio streams to the subset of the plurality of audio streams.~~

~~51. The method of claim 37, further comprising receiving a level of authorization from a source device.~~

~~52. The method of claim 37, further comprising generating, by the one or more processors, a level of authorization.~~

~~53. The method of claim 37, wherein the associated levels of authorization comprise ranks.~~

~~54. The method of claim 37, wherein the selecting the subset of the plurality of audio streams comprises:~~

~~comparing, by the one or more processors, the rank of each of the plurality of audio streams to a rank of a user; and~~

~~selecting, by the one or more processors, the subset of the plurality of audio streams based on the comparison.~~

~~55. The method of claim 37, further comprising storing, by the memory, a plurality of contacts, and wherein associated levels of authorization are based on the plurality of contacts.~~

~~56. The method of claim 55, wherein the selecting the subset of the plurality of audio streams comprises:~~

determining~~, by the one or more processors, whether a source of one or more of the plurality of audio streams is associated with one or more of the plurality of contacts; and~~

~~selecting, by the one or more processors, the subset of the plurality of audio streams based on the comparison.~~

~~57. The method of claim 55, wherein the plurality of contacts comprise favorability rankings, and wherein the selecting the subset of the plurality of audio streams comprises:~~

~~determining, by the one or more processors,~~ whether a source of one or more of the plurality of audio streams is associated with one or more of the plurality of contacts of at least a

predetermined favorability ranking; and

selecting~~, by the one or more processors,~~ the subset of the plurality of audio streams based on the ~~comparison~~determination.

~~58. The method of claim 37, further comprising refraining from decoding an audio stream associated with a privacy zone when the privacy zone does not have an associated level of authority.~~

~~59. The method of claim 37, wherein the subset of the plurality of audio streams comprise reproduced audio streams based on encoded information received in a bitstream that is decoded by the one or more processors.~~

~~60. The method of claim 37, wherein the plurality of audio streams are not encoded.~~

~~61. The method of claim 37, wherein the selecting the subset of the plurality of audio streams to exclude the at least one of the plurality of audio streams is based on the at least one of the plurality of audio streams not being authorized for a user.~~

~~62. The method of claim 37, further comprising receiving a voice command from a microphone and controlling a display device based on the voice command.~~

~~63. The method of claim 37, wherein the method is performed upon a mobile handset.~~

~~64. The method of claim 37, further comprising receiving a wireless signal, wherein the wireless signal is one of Bluetooth, or Wi-Fi, or conforms to fifth generation (5G) cellular protocol.~~

~~65. The method of claim 37, wherein the selection of a subset of the plurality of audio streams is based on a comparison of the associated levels of authorization and a level of authorization of the device or a user of the device.~~

~~66. The method of claim 37, further comprising storing, by the memory, location information associated with coordinates of an acoustical space in which a corresponding one of the plurality of audio streams was captured or synthesized, wherein the level of authorization for the one of the plurality of audio streams is determined based on the location information.~~

~~67. The method of claim 37, wherein a plurality of privacy zones are defined in the acoustical space, each privacy zone having an associated level of authorization, wherein the level of authorization for the one of the plurality of audio streams is determined based on the level of authorization of the privacy zone which contains the location at which the one of the plurality of audio streams was captured or synthesized.~~

~~68. The method of claim 37, wherein the level of authorization for the one of the plurality of audio streams equals the level of authorization of the privacy zone which contains the location at which the one of the plurality of audio streams was captured or synthesized.~~

~~69. The method of claim 37, further comprising:~~

~~receiving, by the one or more processors, the plurality of audio streams and the associated level of authorization for each of the plurality of audio streams;~~

~~receiving, by the one or more processors, a level of authorization for a user of the device; and~~

~~sending, by the one or more processors, the selected subset of the plurality of audio streams to an audible output device for audible output of the selected subset of the plurality of audio streams,~~

~~wherein the selecting the subset of the plurality of audio streams comprises selecting those audio streams that have an associated level of authorization that is not greater than the received authorization level for the user of the device.~~

~~70~~31. A device comprising:

~~means for storing~~a memory configured to store a plurality of audio streams and an associated level of authorization for each of the plurality of audio streams; and

~~means for selecting~~one or more processors implemented in circuitry and communicatively coupled to the memory, and configured to:

select, based on the associated levels of authorization, a subset of the plurality of audio streams, the subset of the plurality of audio streams excluding at least one of the plurality of audio streams~~.~~

~~71. A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon instructions that, when executed, cause one or more processors to:~~

wherein the device is a content consumer device and the content consumer device refrains from decoding an audio stream associated with a privacy zone when the privacy zone does not have an associated level of authority.

32. A device comprising:

a memory configured to store a plurality of audio streams and an associated level of authorization for each of the plurality of audio streams; and

one or more processors implemented in circuitry and communicatively coupled to the memory, and configured to:

select, based on the associated levels of authorization, a subset of the plurality of audio streams, the subset of the plurality of audio streams excluding at least one of the plurality of audio streams~~.~~,

wherein a plurality of privacy zones are defined in an acoustical space, each privacy zone having an associated level of authorization, wherein the level of authorization for one of the plurality of audio streams is determined based on the level of authorization of the privacy zone which contains a location at which the one of the plurality of audio streams was captured or synthesized.

33. The device of claim 32, wherein the level of authorization for one of the plurality of audio streams equals a level of authorization of a privacy zone which contains a location at which the one of the plurality of audio streams was captured or synthesized.

34. A device comprising:

a memory configured to store a plurality of audio streams and an associated level of authorization for each of the plurality of audio streams; and

one or more processors implemented in circuitry and communicatively coupled to the memory, and configured to:

receive the plurality of audio streams and the associated level of authorization for each of the plurality of audio streams; receive a level of authorization for a user of the device

select a subset of the plurality of audio streams, the subset of the plurality of audio streams excluding at least one of the plurality of audio streams,

by selecting those audio streams that have an associated level of authorization that is not greater than the received authorization level for the user of the device; and

send the selected subset of the plurality of audio streams to an audible output device for audible output of the selected subset of the plurality of audio streams.