

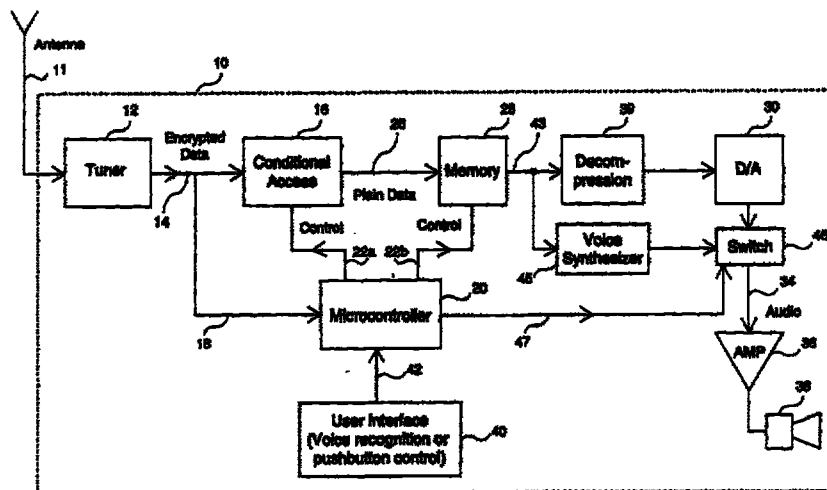


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(54) Title: A METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DIGITAL AUDIO INFORMATION BROADCASTING COMPRISING DATA COMPRESSION, ENCRYPTION AND SPEECH SYNTHESIZING



(57) Abstract

A system and method of information dissemination that permits the user to listen to the specific content of information when and where he or she wants to. A radio or television receiver system receives information from an FM subcarrier, a television vertical blanking interval transmission, an active picture area television transmission, a television separate audio program transmission or a dedicated radio channel and stores the transmitted information in a memory. A user interface allows selection from the memory of the stored information via a set of menus controlling a hierarchical database, so as to access particular items of the information. Typically the system includes RAM and/or a magnetic storage medium such as a digital audio tape, a magneto-optical mini-disk, a magnetic disk or optical disk, sufficient to store information for several hours of audio output. A decompression device accepts the accessed compressed digital audio information items and transforms them into audible speech signals. The user interface is either a voice control or a single or multi-position switch allowing scanning through and selection from the menu items. The system is also capable of transmitting alphanumeric data and converting this alphanumeric data to an audible form using a voice synthesizer.