CLAIMS

~~[Claim 1]~~

1. A transmitting apparatus for supplying content, comprising:

transmitting means for transmitting the content to a first receiving apparatus over a network;

manifest file receiving means for receiving a manifest file corresponding to the content indicating ~~the~~ a quality of the content, the manifest file being ~~sent~~ received from the first receiving apparatus that has received the content;

analyzing means for analyzing the received manifest file;

broadcasting means for distributing the content by on-air broadcast, different from the network, on the basis of ~~the~~ a result of analysis of the manifest file received by the analyzing means; and

distributing means for distributing the received manifest file to a second receiving apparatus over the network when the distributing means receives a request to transmit the received manifest file from the second receiving apparatus over the network, and for distributing the received manifest file to the second receiving apparatus by said on-air broadcast when the distributing means does not receive the request to transmit the received manifest file from the second receiving apparatus over the network,

wherein the second receiving apparatus determines whether to request the content from the transmitting apparatus or directly from the first receiving apparatus based on the quality of the content indicated in the received manifest file.

~~[Claim 2]~~

2. The transmitting apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the analyzing means detects whether quality degradation has occurred in the content on the basis of the

received manifest file, and

wherein if quality degradation is detected in the content, the broadcasting means distributes the content by said on-air broadcast.

~~[Claim 3]~~

3. The transmitting apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein if the content is distributed by said on-air broadcast on the basis of a result of the analysis of the received manifest file, the distributing means adds information for receiving the content by said on-air broadcast to the received manifest file and distributes the manifest file.

~~[Claim 4]~~

4. The transmitting apparatus according to Claim 2 or 3, further comprising:

reception report acquiring means for acquiring a reception report that is sent from one of the first receiving apparatus and second receiving apparatus that has received the content distributed by said on-air broadcast and that indicates that said one of the first receiving apparatus and second receiving apparatus that has received the content and determining whether distribution of the content by said on-air broadcast is to be continued on the basis of the number of the acquired reception reports.

~~[Claim 5]~~

5. The transmitting apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein if it is determined that said on-air broadcast distribution of the content is not to be continued, the reception report acquiring means controls the broadcasting means to distribute a broadcast distribution stoppage announcement indicating that the on-air broadcast distribution of the content is stopped.

6. The transmitting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein if the second receiving apparatus requests the content from the transmitting apparatus, the second receiving apparatus receives the content either by said on-air broadcast or over the network.

7. The transmitting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the manifest file includes relay quality information of the first receiving apparatus, attribute information of the content, and at least one content relay source URL of a communication port of the first receiving apparatus.

8. The transmitting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first receiving apparatus sends the manifest file only to the transmitting apparatus and receives different manifest files, corresponding to different content, only from the transmitting apparatus.

~~[Claim 6]~~

9. A transmission method for supplying content, comprising:

~~a transmitting step of~~ transmitting the content to a first receiving apparatus over a network;

~~a manifest file receiving step of~~ receiving a manifest file corresponding to the content indicating ~~the~~ a quality of the content, the manifest file being ~~sent~~ received from the first receiving apparatus that has received the content;

~~an analyzing step of~~ analyzing the received manifest file;

~~a broadcasting step of~~ distributing the content by on-air broadcast, different from the network, on the basis of ~~the~~ a result of analysis of the received manifest file; ~~and~~

~~a distributing step of~~ distributing, using distribution means, the received manifest file to a second receiving apparatus over the network when the distributing means receives a request to transmit the received manifest file

from the second receiving apparatus over the network, and;

distributing, using the distribution means, the received manifest file to the second receiving apparatus by said on-air broadcast when the distributing means does not receive the request to transmit the received manifest file from the second receiving apparatus over the network,

wherein the second receiving apparatus determines whether to request the content from the transmitting apparatus or directly from the first receiving apparatus based on the quality of the content indicated in the received manifest file.

~~[Claim 7]~~

10. ~~A transmission program for controlling a transmitting apparatus that supplies content, comprising:~~

~~code for causing a computer of the transmitting apparatus to perform a process including~~ A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium storing computer-readable instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to execute a transmitting method for supplying content, comprising:

~~a transmitting step of~~ transmitting the content to a first receiving apparatus over a network;

~~a manifest file receiving step of~~ receiving a manifest file corresponding to the content indicating ~~the~~ a quality of the content, the manifest file being ~~sent~~ received from the first receiving apparatus that has received the content;

~~an analyzing step of~~ analyzing the received manifest file;

~~a broadcasting step of~~ distributing the content by on-air broadcast, different from the network, on the basis of ~~the~~ a result of analysis of the received manifest file; and

~~a distributing step of~~ distributing, using distribution means, the received manifest file to a second receiving apparatus over the network when the distributing means receives a request to transmit the received manifest file

from the second receiving apparatus over the network, and;

distributing, using the distribution means, the received manifest file to the second receiving apparatus by said on-air broadcast when the distributing means does not receive the request to transmit the received manifest file from the second receiving apparatus over the network,

wherein the second receiving apparatus determines whether to request the content from the transmitting apparatus or directly from the first receiving apparatus based on the quality of the content indicated in the received manifest file.

~~[Claim 8]~~

11. A receiving apparatus for receiving content, comprising:

receiving means for receiving the content transmitted over a network;

sending means for generating a manifest file indicating ~~the~~ a quality of the received content and sending the manifest file to the transmitting apparatus; and

relaying means for relaying the received content to a different receiving apparatus over the network, wherein

the manifest file is distributed to the different receiving apparatus, from the transmitting apparatus, over the network when the transmitting apparatus receives a request to transmit the manifest file from the different receiving apparatus over the network,

the manifest file is distributed to the different receiving apparatus, from the transmitting apparatus, by on-air broadcast, different from the network, when the transmitting apparatus does not receive the request to transmit the manifest file from the different receiving apparatus over the network, and

the different receiving apparatus determines whether to request the content from the transmitting apparatus or directly from the receiving apparatus based on the quality of the content indicated in the manifest file.

~~[Claim 9]~~

12. The receiving apparatus according to Claim ~~8~~11, further comprising:

manifest file acquiring means for acquiring ~~the~~ another manifest file that is distributed from the transmitting apparatus and that is generated by a different receiving apparatus,

wherein the receiving means accesses the different receiving apparatus on the basis of the acquired other manifest file and receives the content relayed by the different receiving apparatus.

~~[Claim 10]~~

13. The receiving apparatus according to Claim ~~9~~12, further comprising:

converting means for converting a coding scheme for the received content,

wherein the relaying means relays the content received and having a converted coding scheme to the different receiving apparatus over the network.

~~[Claim 11]~~

14. The transmitting apparatus according to Claim ~~9~~12 or ~~10~~13, wherein the manifest file includes at least one of an amount of delay, ~~the~~a number of lost packets, and an amount of jitter as the information indicating the quality of the content.

15. The receiving apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the sending means sends the manifest file only to the transmitting apparatus, and the receiving meanse receives different manifest files, corresponding to different content, only from the transmitting apparatus.

~~[Claim 12]~~

16. A receiving method for use in a receiving apparatus for receiving content, comprising:

~~a receiving step of~~ receiving the content transmitted over a network ~~through the receiving method~~;

~~sending step of~~ generating a manifest file corresponding to the content indicating ~~the~~ a quality of the received content and sending the manifest file to ~~the~~ a transmitting apparatus; and

~~relaying step of~~ relaying the received content to a different receiving apparatus over the network, wherein

the manifest file is distributed to the different receiving apparatus, from the transmitting apparatus, over the network when the transmitting apparatus receives a request to transmit the manifest file from the different receiving apparatus over the network,

the manifest file is distributed to the different receiving apparatus, from the transmitting apparatus, by on-air broadcast, different from the network, when the transmitting apparatus does not receive the request to transmit the manifest file from the different receiving apparatus over the network, and

the different receiving apparatus determines whether to request the content from the transmitting apparatus or directly from the receiving apparatus based on the quality of the content indicated in the manifest file.

~~[Claim 13]~~

17. ~~A program for controlling a receiving apparatus for receiving content, comprising:~~

~~code for causing a computer of the receiving apparatus to perform a process including~~ A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium storing computer-readable instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to execute a receiving method for receiving content, comprising:

~~a receiving step of~~ receiving the content transmitted over a network ~~through the receiving method~~,

~~sending step of~~ generating a manifest file corresponding to the content indicating ~~the~~ a quality of

the received content and sending the manifest file to ~~the~~ a transmitting apparatus, and

relaying step of relaying the received content to a different receiving apparatus over the network, wherein

the manifest file is distributed to the different receiving apparatus, from the transmitting apparatus, over the network when the transmitting apparatus receives a request to transmit the manifest file from the different receiving apparatus over the network,

the manifest file is distributed to the different receiving apparatus, from the transmitting apparatus, by on-air broadcast, different from the network, when the transmitting apparatus does not receive the request to transmit the manifest file from the different receiving apparatus over the network, and

the different receiving apparatus determines whether to request the content from the transmitting apparatus or directly from the receiving apparatus based on the quality of the content indicated in the manifest file.

~~[Claim 14]~~

18. A content distribution system comprising:

a transmitting apparatus for transmitting content; and

a receiving apparatus for receiving the content,

wherein the transmitting apparatus includes:

transmitting means for transmitting the content to the receiving apparatus over a network,

manifest file receiving means for receiving a manifest file corresponding to the content that indicates ~~the~~ a quality of the content and that is ~~sent~~ received from the receiving apparatus that has received the content,

distributing means for distributing the received manifest file to a different receiving apparatus over the network when the distributing circuitry receives a request to transmit the received manifest file from the different receiving apparatus over the network, and distributes the received manifest file to the different receiving apparatus

by on-air broadcast, different from the network, when the distributing circuitry does not receive the request to transmit the received manifest file from the different receiving apparatus over the network,

analyzing means for analyzing the received manifest file, and

broadcasting means for distributing the content by said on-air broadcast on the basis of the result of analysis of the manifest file received by the analyzing means, and

wherein the receiving apparatus includes

content receiving means for receiving the content transmitted over the network,

sending means for generating a manifest file indicating the quality of the received content and sending the manifest file to the transmitting apparatus, and

relaying means for relaying the received content to ~~a~~ the different receiving apparatus over the network,

the different receiving apparatus determines whether to request the content from the transmitting apparatus or directly from the receiving apparatus based on the quality of the content indicated in the manifest file.