MID-SERVICE SHARING

BACKGROUND

Content sharing applications have been one of the most widely used and popular applications over the Internet. At the same time, the use of wireless communication devices has become pervasive, and is rapidly overtaking the use of traditional wired devices. For example, one popular area involves the sharing of audio files and the generation and sharing of playlists among multiple mobile wireless devices. But even this amount of sharing does not give the degree of sharing that two or more friends would be able to achieve if in the same room. For example, friends in the same room can listen to the same music at the same time and comment on the current phrase or passage being played. Furthermore, when one runs an application on her mobile device and finds a remarkable result, such as a new restaurant in the vicinity, she can show that result to a friend who would be able to take the device and run the application from that point, for example to get the ratings or phone number of that restaurant. This kind of sharing involves sharing a network resource at a point of time between the beginning and the end of execution of a network service associated with the network resource, and is called herein mid-service sharing.

SOME EXAMPLE EMBODIMENTS

It is determined that there is a need for mid-service sharing of an application, such as a network resource, among diverse user nodes on the network, no matter how far separated.

According to a first aspect, there is provided a method comprising: processing a selecting an icon in a display on an apparatus, wherein the icon represents an application in a particular state of interaction with the apparatus; and causing, at least in part, a sending of at least one message specifying icon data for presenting the icon within a different user device.

According to a second aspect~~one embodiment~~, a computer-readable storage medium carries instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause an apparatus to at least perform selecting an icon in a display on the apparatus. The icon represents an application, such as a network resource, in a particular state of interaction with the apparatus. Sending a message is initiated, at least in part. The message specifies icon data for presenting the icon within a different user device.

According to a third aspect~~another embodiment~~, an apparatus comprises at least one processor and at least one memory including computer program code. The memory and the computer program code are configured to, with the processor, cause the apparatus to at least select an icon in a display on the apparatus. The icon represents an application, such as a network resource, in a particular state of interaction with the apparatus. The apparatus initiates, at least in part, sending a message that specifies icon data for presenting the icon within a different user device.

According to a fourth aspect, there is provided a system including the apparatus as defined in the third aspect, the system further comprising a different user device configured to present the icon on a display of the different user device.

According to a fifth aspect~~another embodiment~~, an apparatus includes a means for selecting an icon in a display on the apparatus. The icon represents an application, such as a network resource, in a particular state of interaction with the apparatus. The apparatus includes means for sending, at least in part, a message that specifies icon data for presenting the icon within a different user device.

According to a sixth aspect~~another embodiment~~, a method includes providing access to receive a message that comprises icon data for presenting an icon. The icon represents an application in a particular state of interaction. The message further specifies state data for a first user device to access a network resource in a state of interaction with a second user device. A media stream is transmitted. The media stream is synchronized with a media stream being transmitted to the second user device.

According to a seventh aspect~~another embodiment~~, a computer-readable storage medium carries instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause an apparatus to at least perform receiving a message that comprises icon data for presenting an icon. The icon represents an application in a particular state of interaction. The message further specifies state data for a first user device to access a network resource in a state of interaction with a second user device. Sending a media stream is initiated. The media stream is synchronized with a media stream being transmitted to the second user device.

According to an eighth aspect~~yet another embodiment~~, an apparatus includes a means for receiving a message that comprises icon data for presenting an icon. The icon represents an application in a particular state of interaction. The message further specifies state data for a first user device to access a network resource in a state of interaction with a second user device. Means for sending a media stream is also included. The media stream is synchronized with a media stream being transmitted to the second user device.

According to a ninth aspect, there is provided a computer program product carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause an apparatus to perform at least method as defined in the first and sixth aspects.

Still other aspects, features, and advantages of the ~~invention~~disclosure are readily apparent from the following detailed description, simply by illustrating a number of particular embodiments and implementations, including the best mode contemplated for carrying out the ~~invention~~disclosure. The ~~invention~~disclosure is also capable of other and different embodiments, and its several details can be modified in various obvious respects, all without departing from the spirit and scope of the ~~invention~~disclosure. Accordingly, the drawings and description are to be regarded as illustrative in nature, and not as restrictive.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The embodiments of the invention are illustrated by way of example, and not by way of limitation, in the figures of the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1A is a diagram of a system for mid-service sharing, according to one embodiment;

FIG. 1B is a diagram illustrating use of a mobile device of the system of FIG. 1A, according to one embodiment;