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ABSTRACT

(Figure 3)

A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SYNCHORNIZING MULTIPLE INDEPENDENT
DATA STREAMS IN A NETWORKED COMPUTER SYSTEM

An apparatus and method for synchronizing multiple independent data streams in a networked computer system is disclosed. In a computer network having a plurality of computer systems coupled by a communication medium, one of the plurality of computer systems being a server system, a different one of the plurality of computer systems being a client system, a method for synchronizing a data stream transferred from the server system to the client system, the method comprising the steps of: 1) capturing information into a data packet, the capturing step being performed by the server system; 2) storing time information into the data packet, the time information indicating when the capturing step is complete; 3) transferring the data packet to the client system across the communication medium; 4) initializing a virtual server system clock if the data packet is a first data packet is the data stream; 5) retrieving the time information from the data packet; 6) comparing the time information with the virtual server system clock; and 7) processing the information in the data packet if the time information indicates a time equal to a time indicated by the virtual server system clock. The present invention further includes the steps of: 1) scheduling processing of the information in the data packet if the time information indicates a time later than a time indicated by the virtual server system clock; and 2) discarding the data packet if the time



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information indicates a time earlier than a time indicated by the virtual
server system clock.

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