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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US97/22445 (22) International Filing Date: 9 December 1997 (09.12.97) (71) Applicant: INTEL CORPORATION [US/US]; 2200 Mission College Boulevard, Santa Clara, CA 95052 (US). (72) Inventor: LOWTHERT, Jonathan; Apartment #F3043, 1000 Escalon Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94086 (US). (74) Agents: TAYLOR, Edwin, H. et al.; Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman LLP, 7th floor, 12400 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90025 (US).			(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AT (Utility model), AU (Petty patent), AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, CZ (Utility model), DE, DE (Utility model), DK, DK (Utility model), EE, EE (Utility model), ES, FI, FI (Utility model), GB, GE, GH, GM, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SK (Utility model), SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: A METHOD OF MAINTAINING A MINIMUM LEVEL OF DATA QUALITY WHILE ALLOWING BANDWIDTH-DEPENDENT QUALITY ENHANCEMENT			
(57) Abstract A method and apparatus for transferring data representing a continuous natural data type over at least one signal line. In accordance with the described method, signal data packets representing the continuous natural data type are requested (110). Enhancement data packets for providing an improved quality level are also requested (120). The receipt of a plurality of signal packets representing a discrete segment of the continuous natural data type is detected (130), and the plurality of signal data packets and a plurality of enhancement data packets are combined to reconstruct a received version of the continuous natural data type (135). A system of the present invention includes a processor coupled to a controller by a processor bus. A signal source coupled to the controller provides digital values representing a time varying signal. A memory coupled to the processor and the controller contains a request routine.			
<pre>graph TD 105[RESERVE PORTION OF BANDWIDTH FOR MINIMUM QUALITY SIGNAL] --> 110[REQUEST MINIMUM QUALITY SIGNAL DATA] 110 --> 115[RECEIVE DATA FOR DISCRETE SEGMENT] 115 --> 120[REQUEST ENHANCEMENT DATA FOR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT] 120 --> 125[RECEIVE PORTION OF ENHANCEMENT DATA] 125 --> 130{END OF SEGMENT DETECTED?} 130 -- NO --> 110 130 -- YES --> 135[RECONSTRUCT SIGNAL BY COMBINING SIGNAL AND ENHANCEMENT DATA] 135 --> 100[SERVICE MODULE]</pre>			