

DIGITAL TELEVISION AND / OR AUDIO RECEPTION DEVICE AND MOBILE PROCESSING UNIT

5 1. Technical field

The present invention relates to a digital television and / or audio reception device and a mobile processing unit.

2. The prior art

10 Mobile data processing units such as hand held computers, PDAs, intelligent mobile telephones, etc. are becoming more and more popular. One reason is that the multimedia capabilities of these devices are constantly increasing. For examples mobile telephones nowadays include a wide variety of functions which exceed the basic necessities of communication. Furthermore, the quality of the displays of the
15 devices has dramatically improved over recent years so that high resolution color screens are now widely available.

One way of effectively using mobile data processing unit is to connect them to so-called set top boxes (STBs) of digital television and / or radio systems. Typically,
20 such digital broadcast systems are capable of transmitting data with a high bandwidth from a broadcast station of a provider to a multitude of receivers, i.e. STBs, using for example a satellite link, a cable network or a terrestrial digital broadcast. The high bandwidth allows to include additional data in the stream of television and / or radio signals, for example additional information about an ongoing television show or electronic program guide information. The additional data is then
25 forwarded from the STB to a mobile processing unit using for example an electromagnetic short range transmission standard such as BLUETOOTH®. Such systems are for example known from the WO 2004/088983 A, the WO 2003/088027 A and the WO 03/088655 A.

However, the control of the presentation of the additional data by the mobile processing unit is difficult for the user of the described systems. One reason is that a mobile processing unit is typically not used for managing large amounts of structured data. The screen of a television system, on the other hand, is regarded
5 from a certain distance and does often not provide a sufficient resolution for the presentation of greater amounts of textual information or other complex media contents. This is one of the reasons, why the described systems are until now restricted to the presentation of a limited amount of content to a user of the mobile data processing unit.

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It is therefore a problem of the present invention to provide a digital television and / or audio reception device and a mobile processing unit which allow to present content by the mobile data processing unit in a way that is more intuitive for a user and easier to use than the techniques known in the prior art.

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3. Summary of the invention

According to one aspect of the invention, this problem is solved by a digital television and / or audio reception device comprising a receiving unit adapted to receive a digital television and / or audio signal, the signal including an additional
20 data stream for content to be presented by a mobile processing unit, in particular a mobile phone, an output unit for a first display means, in particular a television set, connected to or integrated with the digital television and / or audio reception device, the output unit adapted to output a signal for the display of a first plurality of selectable items on the first display means, and a transceiver unit adapted to
25 send electromagnetic signals to the mobile processing unit, the electromagnetic signals causing a second display means of the mobile processing unit to display a second plurality of selectable items, wherein the second plurality of selectable items depend on a selected one of the first plurality of selectable items displayed by the first display means.

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Preferably, the transceiver unit is further adapted to receive a request from the mobile processing unit for the content in response to the selection of one of the second plurality of items displayed by the second display means of the mobile processing. In a particularly preferred embodiment, the transceiver unit is further adapted to send the content to be presented by the mobile processing unit in response to the selection of one of the second plurality of items displayed by the second display means of the mobile processing unit.

Accordingly, the digital television and / or audio reception device therefore splits the navigation of the content between the first display means, for example the screen of a standard television set, and the second display means of the mobile processing unit. The electromagnetic signals exchanged between the digital reception device and the mobile processing unit provide a seamless link of the information presented on the two display means. As a result, a user trying to navigate through complex additional data content of a digital broadcast system is intuitively guided from the initial navigation steps on the first screen to one or more further navigation steps using the mobile processing unit.

In a preferred embodiment, the transceiver unit of the digital television and / or audio reception device is further adapted to receive control signals from the mobile processing unit for the selection of one of the first plurality of selectable items displayed by the first display means. The digital television and / or audio reception device may even be essentially fully remote controlled by the mobile processing unit. Thus, the mobile processing unit effectively replaces the standard remote control of the digital reception device (and possibly also of the attached or integrated television set) so that a user does not have to changeover between different input means for the navigation of the additional data.

The set up of the communication between the mobile data processing unit and the digital reception device can be significantly facilitated, if the transceiver unit is adapted to transmit control software to the mobile processing unit enabling the

mobile processing unit to operate as mentioned above. To this end, it is preferred, if the receiving unit of the digital reception device is capable to receive the control software in the additional data stream included in the digital television and / or audio signal. The control software might for example be included every few minutes in the data carousel of the digital broadcast system so that it is almost immediately available for download from the digital reception device to the mobile data processing unit. Alternatively, however, the control software can also be downloaded via a communication network based, for example, on the GSM or UMTS standards, etc. to which the mobile data processing unit is connected, for example in response to an initializing SMS message to a provider.

The transition of a user from the first display means connected to the output of the digital reception device to the second display means of the mobile processing unit, is particularly easy, if the output unit is further adapted to output a signal for the display of a message on the first display means drawing the attention of a user to the second display of the mobile processing unit after one of the first plurality of selectable items has been selected.

When a user wants to obtain different content to be presented by his mobile data processing unit he may change the selected one of the first plurality of selectable items. This causes preferably the transceiver unit to send electromagnetic signals to the mobile processing unit, which in turn cause the second display means of the mobile processing unit to display a different second plurality of selectable items. In other words, the selections available on the second display means are preferably like a submenu dependent on the selection of the user in the main menu, i.e. among the first plurality of selectable items.

According to a further aspect, the present invention relates to a mobile processing unit, in particular a mobile phone, comprising a first transceiver unit for communicating with a digital television and / or audio reception device as described above and a second display means to display a second plurality of selectable

items, wherein the second plurality of selectable items depend on a selected one of a first plurality of selectable items displayed by a first display means connect to or integrated with the digital television and / or audio reception device; and wherein the first transceiver unit is adapted to receive content from the digital television and / or audio reception device in response to selecting one of the second plurality of items.

Accordingly, the mobile data processing unit is the counterpart of the digital reception device of the present invention. Whereas the first plurality of selectable items are displayed by a first display means such as a television set, the second plurality of selectable items is displayed (and one of the items may finally be selected) under the control of the mobile processing unit. The split of the navigation between the first display means and the second display means of the mobile data processing unit avoids a large number of menu layers to navigate with the mobile processing unit. Therefore, a user may obtain the desired content from the digital reception device, for example a news article, on the second display of his mobile processing unit after pressing only a few buttons.

Preferably, the first transceiver unit is further adapted to transmit a signal to the digital television and / or audio reception device causing a selection of one of the first plurality of selectable items displayed in the first display means. As mentioned above, this option allows essentially to replace the standard remote control of the digital reception device and an attached or integrated television set.

In one embodiment, the mobile processing device comprises a second transceiver unit for a mobile telecommunication network, the second transceiver unit being adapted to send a request for the download of control software via the mobile telecommunication network enabling the mobile processing device to operate as described above. In another embodiment the first transceiver unit is adapted to send a request for the download of control software from the digital television and

/ or audio reception device enabling the mobile processing device to operate as mentioned above.

Further modifications of the digital reception device and the mobile data processing unit are described in further dependent claims.

4. Short description of the drawings

In the following detailed description presently preferred embodiments of the invention are described with reference to the drawings, which show:

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Fig. 1: An overview of a digital broadcasting system comprising embodiments of a digital reception device and a mobile processing unit in accordance with the present invention;

15 Fig. 2: An introductory page displayed on the screen of a television system;

Fig. 3: An embodiment of a first plurality of selectable items displayed on the television screen;

20 Fig. 4: An embodiment of a second plurality of selectable items presented on the screen of a mobile processing unit in response to the selection of one item of the first plurality of selectable items shown in Fig. 3;

25 Fig. 5: An exemplary embodiment of the content displayed on the screen of the mobile processing unit in response to the selection of an item of the second plurality; and

Fig. 6: An example of a message displayed on the screen of the television, after an item of the first plurality has been selected by a user.

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5. Detailed description of preferred embodiments

Fig. 1 presents an overview of a digital broadcasting system comprising among others a digital television and / or audio reception device (STB 100) and a mobile processing unit (mobile phone 200). Such as system is for example generally described in the EP 1 650 971 A1 of applicant.

As can be seen, digital TV signals are provided together with additional data from a content provider 10 to a broadcaster 20 . Using a satellite link 30, the convoluted signal is broadcast to the STB 100. The TV signals are used to show the TV program of a selected TV channel on the screen 102 of a television set. The additional data are filtered out by the STB 100 and are transmitted to the mobile phone 200 for display to a user. Additionally, a return channel is provided, using preferably a mobile communications network 300 to which the mobile phone is attached. In the illustrated example, SMS messages are used as a return channel, which are received by an SMS service provider 310 and forwarded to the content provider 10 to create a closed feedback loop.

Numerous modifications of the above described system are possible. The broadcast signals may for example be only audio signals of a digital radio broadcast. Further, a cable network or a digital terrestrial broadcasting system may be used to transport the convoluted signal from the broadcaster to the STB 100 instead of or in addition to the satellite link 30. The specific convolutional technique used to combine the TV and / radio signals with the additional data may also vary but is preferably in agreement with the relevant standards (DVB, DAB, DVB-T, etc.). The transmission between the STB 100 and the mobile phone 200 uses preferably a BLUETOOTH[®] based communication 150. However, other transmission techniques using for example infrared light or a WLAN are also conceivable. The return channel is only optional and can be realized in a number of different ways using instead of SMS messages a data channel of the mobile communications network, the technical details of which depend on the respective network standard (GSM, GPRS, UMTS etc.). Since the person skilled in the art is aware of the wide

variety of possible hardware implementations possible for the transceiver units of the STB 100 and the mobile phone 200, these units are not described in further detail and not specifically shown in the figures.

- 5 The STB 100 may be a standard STB, separate from the television system 102 or be integrated with this device. Apart from the specific functionality described below, the STB 100 operates for processing the received TV signals in a manner, which is well known in the art. Further, the STB 100 filters out the additional data to be transmitted to the mobile phone 200 using standard techniques, as they are
10 for example described in the prior art documents mentioned in the introductory part or in the above mentioned EP 1 650 971 A1 of applicant.

The mobile phone 200 is only one example of a large variety of mobile processing units, which can be used in the context of the present invention. PDAs with and
15 without the capability to communicate over the mobile communications network 300 can be used as well as other intelligent devices such as (sub-) notebooks or the like. However due to their widespread use, intelligent mobile phones are the preferred embodiment of the present invention.

- 20 As a preliminary step to use an STB 100 in accordance with embodiments of the present invention, a user must install a suitable control software on his mobile phone 200. There are various possibilities, how a user can obtain this control software (in the following called "browser"). One option is to download the browser via the mobile communication network, for example by sending a corresponding SMS to a supplier of this software, for example the content provider 10,
25 the broadcaster 20 or any other suitable entity.

Another option is to download the browser from the STB 100 via the BLUETOOTH® link 150. To this end, the browser software can be included in the
30 data carousel of the convoluted signal received by the STB 100 and optionally be stored in a memory of the STB (not shown) to be available for transmission to the

mobile phone 200 upon a corresponding request. The transmission of the browser to the mobile phone 200 and its subsequent installation may be performed automatically, for example in response to initializing the communication link 150 to the STB. Alternatively, the download and / or the installation is started manually
5 by a user of the mobile phone 200 inputting corresponding commands.

Clearly, there are further ways to install the browser software on the mobile phone such as a download from the Internet or some data carrier (CD, DVD, memory stick, etc.) onto a computer (not shown) from which the software is subsequently
10 transmitted to the mobile phone 200 using an infrared port, a data cable or also a BLUETOOTH® transmission.

To access the additional data in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, the user tunes the STB 100 preferably in a first step to a dedicated
15 channel using for example its remote control (not shown). The dedicated channel may for example be accessible as “channel 0” on the remote control. This leads to the display of a first menu 110 of selectable items on the screen 102 of the television set, as it is exemplary shown in Fig. 2. As can be seen, the user can select among a plurality of different categories of additional data, concerning in the pre-
20 sented exemplary embodiment entertainment, news, shopping and TV-channels. Whereas the embodiment of Fig. 1 uses a frame cursor 111 to highlight selected items, there are other options for an optical indication, which are known to the person skilled in the art.

25 Selecting one category in the menu 110 of Fig. 2 leads to the presentation of a submenu 120, as exemplary shown in Fig. 3. In this (simplified) example the user has selected the category “entertainment”. A submenu 120 is displayed with a plurality of lotteries, which can be selected for watching the latest draw or related lottery information. Again, a frame cursor 111 is shown, which allows to select
30 one of the pluralities of lotteries.

Generally, the standard remote control of the STB 100 and / or the television set (not shown) can be used to navigate the menus 110, 120 shown in Figs. 2 and 3. Pressing “up” and “down” buttons and an “enter” button allows to change the position of the frame cursor 111 and to select a desired item. In an alternative embodiment, the mobile phone 200 can be used for the navigation through the menus 110, 120 presented on the screen 102 of the television set. To this end, the mobile phone 200 sends corresponding commands via the BLUETOOTH® link to the STB 100, which are received and processed, wherein the results of the commands, however, are still presented on the screen 102 (for example moving the frame cursor 111 up or down).

This mode of operation may be more convenient, since the user will have to use the mobile phone 200 anyway for the further navigation steps described below. If the STB 100 is set up to be controlled by the mobile phone 200, the last line 115 in the display 102 shown in Figs. 2 and 3 will be different and preferably inform the user which keys of his phone 200 are adapted to control the operation of the STB 100. In one embodiment, the mobile phone 200 not only controls the STB 100 with respect to the navigation of the menus 110, 120 shown in Figs. 2 and 3 but fully replaces the standard remote control.

The concept to control an STB and / or a television set via a mobile phone is fully independent from the split navigation of additional content and may be also realized for controlling the operation of any ordinary STB and / or television or radio set.

Whereas the described example comprises only two navigation layers on the screen 102 of the television set (the menus 110 and 120), there may be less or more of such layers. For example, there could be only a single plurality of selectable menu items being presented before the navigation switches to the mobile phone 200, as explained below. Alternatively, there could be more than two layers of menus or other ways of presenting selectable items such as radio buttons or

pull-down menus, etc., which are presented on the screen 102, before the navigation changes to the mobile phone 200.

In the described embodiment, the selection of the item "LOTTO.de" in the menu
5 120 leads to the navigation of the information being handed over to the mobile phone 200. To simplify the process for the user, the screen 102 presents preferably a message 130, which directs the user to his mobile phone 200, as exemplary shown in Fig. 6. However, the message 130 is only optional and there may be other ways of drawing the attention of the user to his mobile phone 200, for ex-
10 ample an audio signal emitted by the phone 200 and / or a visual indication such as a blinking light or the like on the phone 200.

The message 130 may be present on the screen 102 as long as the mobile phone 200 navigates the further menus as described below. Alternatively, the message
15 130 may only remain on the screen 102 until the user has started to actually use his phone 200 for the further navigation steps, which is reported by sending a corresponding report signal back to the STB 100 after the first keystroke on the phone 200. In this alternative, the screen 102 may be used for other purposes, while the information concerning the selected item of the menu 120 is further
20 navigated on the phone 200. The STB 100 may for example switch back to the last selected TV channel. Alternatively, the STB 100 may go back to present the initial screen of Fig. 2 and allow another user of a further mobile phone (not shown), which also communicates with the STB 100, to start the same navigation steps described above. Since BLUETOOTH® is generally able to handle a plural-
25 ity of devices communicating with each other, more than one mobile phone 200 can be linked to the STB 100 in the described manner for navigating complex information in order to obtain desired content.

Fig. 4 presents an embodiment of an initial display of a screen 202 of the mobile
30 phone 200. Preferably, a part of the screen 202 presents an introductory message 210 and / or a picture informing the user about the further navigation steps to ob-

tain the desired content which are to be performed on the mobile phone 200. The message 210 facilitates the transition in the user navigation from the screen 102 of the television set to the screen 202 of the mobile phone 200.

5 Another part of the screen 202 (or a subsequent screen following automatically after a few seconds or a confirming input from the user) presents a further plurality of selectable items. In the embodiment of Fig. 4, this further plurality is shown as the menu 230. Selecting one item 231 of this menu 230 provides the desired content 250, which is in the example illustrated in Fig. 5 the numbers and quotes
10 of the lottery draw of February 15, 2006. Other examples may comprise also non-textual information such as images, audio files or even video clips to be presented on the screen 202.

The data of the content 250 is preferably sent from the STB 100 to the mobile
15 phone 200 only in response to the above described final selection step. For example in the embodiment of Fig. 5, the results of the draw on February 15, 2006 were sent from the STB to the mobile phone only after the user pressed a key to select the item 231 in the menu 230. However, in another embodiment, the STB 100 starts to transmit data already, when a certain submenu is presented to a user.
20 For example the STB 100 may already start to transmit lottery data corresponding to all four items of the menu 230, when the menu 230 is presented to a user.

An optimized approach for the decision when to transfer which data from the STB takes a number of parameters into account, such as the memory size of the mobile
25 phone, which is available for the browser, the bandwidth of the BLUETOOTH® link between the STB 110 and the phone 200, how often the data are updated from the content provider 10 etc.. For example in case of a comparatively small memory of the phone 200, the STB 100 will store as little data in the phone 200 as possible. By contrast, in case of a large phone memory, it might be an advantageous
30 strategy to start early the transmission of data in order to avoid long waiting times

before the desired content is downloaded from the STB 100 to the phone 200, in particular in case of large content files.

Whereas the embodiment described with respect to Figs. 4 and 5 uses only one menu 230 on the screen 202 of the mobile phone 200 to obtain the desired content 250, there may be additional navigational layers with further (sub-) menus or other navigation elements, similar to the case of the screen 102 discussed above.

The details of navigating one or more menus 230 on the screen 202 of the phone will depend on the browser running on the mobile phone 200, which in turn depends on the hardware of the phone and possibly on an operating system, which provides an intermediate layer between the application software of the browser and the hardware of the mobile phone 200.

If the user wants to subsequently select a different content, he can move back in the menu structure presented on the screen 202 of the phone. For example the screen shown in Fig. 5 presents an option 260 "Back", which will bring the mobile phone 250 back to the menu 230 shown in Fig. 4.

Moving further up, for example to a different category, can be achieved by directly navigating on the screen 102 shown in Fig. 6. As can be seen, there is a further menu 180, comprising among others the item "To portal". Selecting this option (using the remote control of the STB or the mobile phone as discussed above) brings the user directly back to the initial screen of Fig. 2. This is another advantage of the split navigation of the present invention. Selecting a different category (such a "News"), when starting from a submenu in the category "entertainment", as shown in Fig. 4, does not require a stepwise backtracking through a large number of (sub-) menus. Instead, using the first screen 102, the user can directly jump back to the general level and therefore easily and quickly reach new content to be presented on his phone 200.

In case the screen 102 no longer shows the display of Fig. 6, for example, if the STB switched (automatically) back to a TV channel, there might be a command provided in the browser, which brings the screen 102 immediately back, either into the state of Fig. 6 or directly back to the state of Fig. 2.

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When switching back to a different category in the menu 110 of the screen 102, the screen 202 of the mobile phone 200 can either freeze the presented content or continue to present the content 250 until the navigation is handed back to the mobile phone 200, as described above with respect to Figs. 4 and 5. Again, this is a strategic decision, which depends, among others, on the memory size of the mobile phone 200 and the bandwidth of the BLUETOOTH[®] link between the STB 110 and the phone 200.

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CLAIMS

1. A digital television and / or audio reception device (100) comprising:
- 5
- a. a receiving unit adapted to receive a digital television and / or audio signal, the signal including an additional data stream for content (250) to be presented by a mobile processing unit (200), in particular a mobile phone (200);
- 10
- b. an output unit for a first display means (102), in particular a television set, connected to or integrated with the digital television and / or audio reception device (100), the output unit adapted to output a signal for the display of a first plurality (110, 120) of selectable items on the first display means (102); and
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- c. a transceiver unit adapted to send electromagnetic signals (150) to the mobile processing unit (200), the electromagnetic signals (150) causing a second display means (202) of the mobile processing unit (200) to display a second plurality (230) of selectable items, wherein the second plurality (230) of selectable items depend on a selected one of the first plurality (110, 120) of selectable items displayed by the first display means (102).
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- 25 2. The digital television and / or audio reception device (100) of claim 1, wherein the transceiver unit is further adapted to receive a request from the mobile processing unit (200) for the content (250) in response to the selection of one of the second plurality (230) of items displayed by the second display means (202) of the mobile processing unit (200).

3. The digital television and / or audio reception device (100) of claim 1 or 2, wherein the transceiver unit is further adapted to send the content (250) to be presented by the mobile processing unit (200) in response to the selection of one of the second plurality (230) of items displayed by the second display means (202) of the mobile processing unit (200).
5
4. The digital television and / or audio reception device (100) of any of the preceding claims, wherein the transceiver unit is further adapted to receive control signals from the mobile processing unit (200) for the selection of one of the first plurality (110, 120) of selectable items displayed by the first display means (102).
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5. The digital television and / or audio reception device (100) of the preceding claim, further being adapted to be essentially fully remote controlled by the mobile processing unit (200).
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6. The digital television and / or audio reception device (100) of any of the preceding claims, wherein the first plurality (110, 120) of selectable items is presented as a menu (110) comprising at least one layer of submenus (120).
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7. The digital television and / or audio reception device (100) of any of the preceding claims, wherein the transceiver unit is adapted to transmit control software to the mobile processing unit (200) enabling the mobile processing unit (200) to operate as mentioned in any of the preceding claims.
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8. The digital television and / or audio reception device (100) of the preceding claim, wherein the receiving unit is capable to receive the control software in the additional data stream included in the digital television and / or audio signal.
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9. The digital television and / or audio reception device (100) of any of the preceding claims, wherein the output unit is further adapted to output a signal for the display of a message (130) on the first display means (102) drawing the attention of a user to the second display (202) of the mobile processing unit (200) after one of the first plurality (110, 120) of selectable items has been selected.
10. The digital television and / or audio reception device (100) of any of the preceding claims, wherein changing the selected one of the first plurality (110, 120) of selectable items causes the transceiver unit to send electromagnetic signals (150) to the mobile processing unit (200), the electromagnetic signals (150) causing the second display means (202) of the mobile processing unit (200) to display a different second plurality of selectable items.
11. The digital television and / or audio reception device (100) of any of the preceding claims, wherein the output unit is adapted to output signals corresponding to a plurality of television and / or radio channels and wherein the output unit outputs the signal for the display of the first plurality (110, 120) of selectable items in response to switching the digital television and / or audio reception device (100) to a dedicated channel.
12. The digital television and / or audio reception device (100) of the preceding claim, wherein switching back from the dedicated channel to one of the plurality of television and / or radio channels causes the transceiver unit to send a signal to the mobile processing unit (200) to erase or freeze the content (250) currently presented by the mobile processing unit (200).
13. A mobile processing unit (200), in particular a mobile phone (200), comprising

- a. a first transceiver unit for communicating with a digital television and / or audio reception device (100) of any of the preceding claims; and
- 5 b. a second display means (202) to display a second plurality (230) of selectable items, wherein the second plurality (230) of selectable items depend on a selected one of a first plurality (110, 120) of selectable items displayed by a first display means (102) connect to or integrated with the digital television and / or audio reception device (100); and
- 10 c. wherein the first transceiver unit is adapted to receive content (250) from the digital television and / or audio reception device (100) in response to selecting one of the second plurality (230) of items.
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14. The mobile processing device (200) of claim 13, wherein the first transceiver unit is further adapted to transmit a signal to the digital television and / or audio reception device (100) causing a selection of one of the first plurality (110, 120) of selectable items displayed in the first display means (102).
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15. The mobile processing device (200) of claim 13 or 14, comprising a second transceiver unit for a mobile telecommunication network (300), the second transceiver unit adapted to send a request for the download of control software via the mobile telecommunication network (300) enabling the mobile processing device (200) to operate as mentioned in any of the preceding claims.
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16. The mobile processing device of any of the claims 13 – 15, wherein the first transceiver unit is adapted to send a request for the download of control software from the digital television and / or audio reception device (100)
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enabling the mobile processing device (200) to operate as mentioned in any of the preceding claims.

17. The mobile processing device (200) of any of the claims 13 – 16, wherein
5 the second plurality (230) of options is presented as a menu comprising at least one layer of submenus.