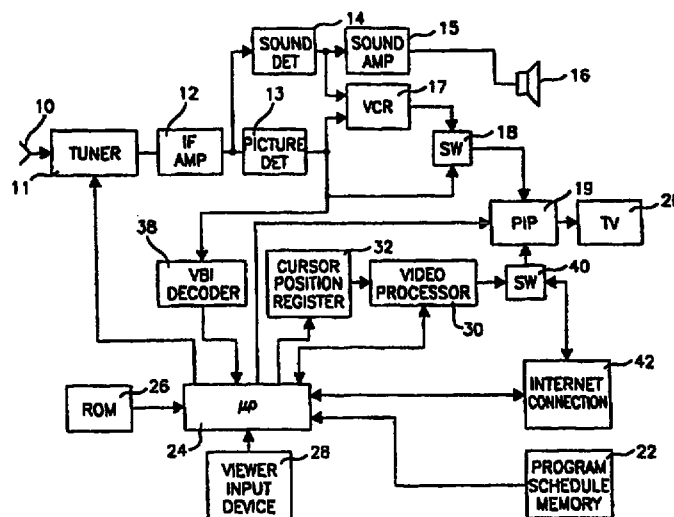




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : H04N 5/445, 5/50, 7/14	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/38321 (43) International Publication Date: 29 July 1999 (29.07.99)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/01425 (22) International Filing Date: 23 January 1999 (23.01.99) (30) Priority Data: 60/072,396 23 January 1998 (23.01.98) US (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): E GUIDE, INC. [US/US]; West Tower - 7th floor, 9100 Wilshire Boulevard, Beverly Hills, CA 90212 (US). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): YUEN, Henry, C. [US/US]; P.O. Box 438, Pasadena, CA 91102-0438 (US). WARD, Thomas, Edward, III [US/US]; 3 Viles Street, Weston, MA 02193 (US). SHALKEY, Eric [US/US]; 2 Fox Run Lane, Methuen, MA 01844 (US). SCHOAFF, P., Christopher [US/US]; 1 Sweetwood Circle, Westford, MA 01886 (US). (74) Agent: RAHN, LeRoy, T.; Christie, Parker & Hale, LLP, P.O. Box 7068, Pasadena, CA 91109-7068 (US).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, HR, 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, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, 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, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>With amended claims.</i>

(54) Title: HOME ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM AND METHOD OF ITS OPERATION



(57) Abstract

An EPG database for a home entertainment system includes files that contain information about television programs retrievable by time and channel. The files are linked to each other so information about a future television program can be obtained by accessing a file about a current television program. A current television program displayed on the screen (20) of a home entertainment system includes an announcement or advertisement (56) of a future television program. The availability of an electronic program guide function (54) is signaled during, before, or after the announcement. A command is issued to invoke the EPG function (54). The information about the future television program is retrieved from the file about the current television program in the database. The EPG function (54) is executed with the retrieved information. The EPG function can be performed with respect to a future television program without embedding information about the future television program in the television signal.