AN APPARATUS FOR PRODUCING INTERACTIVE TELEVISION PROGRAMS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A Java television receiver (10) includes a Java television platform (12) that has a bidirectional Internet connection (14) capable of sending Internet data to the Java television platform (12) and transmitting data from the Java television platform (12) to an Internet provider. Additionally, a memory (13) is included to store a deck of showlet cards (15a) downloaded from the Internet. A tuner/decoder (24) connected to the Java television platform (12) is provided which can receive, tune and decode television signals. An audio/video overlay (32) connected to the Java television platform is provided to combine a showlet card (15b) from the Java television platform (12) and television signals from the tuner/decoder (24). The display of showlet cards (15b) and television signals is coordinated by a synchronization unit (30). Finally, a video output (36) and an audio output (38) sends the combined Internet data and television signals to a television (40).

Figure 1