

6. ABSTRACT

Digital Karaoke Broadcasting is presented in this invention. In Karaoke application, the Karaoke background is not of significant importance to the user. Since video coding uses majority of the transmission bandwidth in a program, it will reduce the bandwidth requirements significantly when one Karaoke video background is used together with multiple Karaoke audio programs. The Karaoke video background can be designed or constructed to include advertisements. In such implementations, the user will have more choices for Karaoke songs without increasing transmission bandwidth significantly. Broadcasters will also benefit from advertising as well as providing value added Karaoke application to the viewer. To enable using one background video for various Karaoke songs, a technique of encoding the Karaoke text and its scrolling information has to be developed. Moreover, digital broadcasting allows interactive applications through OSD (On-Screen Display) and back-channel features in the decoder. This provides the opportunity to develop interactive DTV Karaoke such as song request and selection in a conventional Karaoke Application. Karaoke database is built and operated in broadcaster side, to allow users to select and place their individual request for their favorite song to be transmitted. A pre-programmed Karaoke program list is set up first for default broadcasting. Any request by users can be done through back-channel function of digital broadcasting set-top-box. Each Karaoke song is assigned to a code for the users to place request easily. The Karaoke code can be obtained from OSD (On Screen Description) function of the set-top-box. Users also can check what Karaoke song is broadcasting currently, or in later time via OSD function.

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