CLAIMS

1. Apparatus configured to provide a chart of content items to a plurality of user devices and configured to enable individual users to temporarily access one or more content items ~~listed in the chart~~, the apparatus comprising:

a user device interface configured to communicate with user devices applications;

a permission module configured to define user access permissions, including temporary user access permissions, relating to individual ones of the one or more items of content; and

a distribution module configured to implement permissions defined in the permission module in relation to user devices by making available one or more items of content ~~listed in the chart~~ to at least one user device application;

wherein the distribution module further comprises a fragmentation module configured to fragment each of the one or more items of content items into a plurality of components; and

wherein the distribution module makes available the one or more items of content by distributing the one or more items in fragmented form and distributes an encryption key for reconstruction of the content items by the at least one user device application in accordance with user permissions.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, configured to deliver a chart of content items including multiple content items listed in the chart to one or more user devices.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, or claim 2, configured to automatically update the chart accessible to a user device during low levels of network traffic.

4. The apparatus according to claim 2, configured to automatically update the chart of content items delivered to one or more user devices during low levels of network traffic.

5. The apparatus according to claim 3 or claim 4, configured to automatically update the chart accessible to or delivered to a user device during night, the content items making up the chart then being playable according to the permissions applying irrespective of current location or signal strength.

6. The apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the permissions module defines temporary availability to a user of at least one content item in a chart in terms of one or

more of: number of plays; number of streams; number of shares; and duration of availability to the user.

7. The apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the permissions module defines temporary availability to a user of at least one content item in a chart and is configured to update the permissions module responsive to the chart being updated.

8. The apparatus according to any preceding claim, comprising at least one sharing interface configured to implement sharing of content items from a first user to a second user according to permission set in the permissions module.

9. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the sharing interface is configured to operate via one or more of: a social network; and an email client.

10. The apparatus according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the sharing interface is configured to carry a message or link establishing content item permissions for a user of the system.

11. The apparatus according to any of claims 8 to 10, wherein permissions established via the sharing interface comprise one or more of: number of plays; number of streams; number of shares; and duration of availability to the user.

12. The apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein users are enabled to send messages to each other via the apparatus, and where a research data module comprises a sentiment engine configured to monitor behaviour and / or message content for sentiment connected to a content item.

13. The apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein users are enabled to send messages to each other via a sharing interface.

14. The apparatus according to any preceding claim, comprising a research module coupled to the user device application, wherein the research module is configured to receive from the user application metrics comprising one or more of: number of purchases by track; number of plays by track; ratio of plays to purchases by track; duration of play by track; sharing by track; who is sharing; ratio of shares to purchases; timing of plays; duration of use

of user application; geographical stamps; average number of plays of a track by a user; sentiment of messaging in relation to a track.

15. The apparatus according to any preceding claim, comprising one or more of a retail module and a purchase module configured to couple to and receive data from the user device application.

16. The apparatus according to any preceding claim, configured to convert a content item of the chart from a state of temporary availability on the user device to a state of permanent availability on the user device responsive to a trigger event.

17. The apparatus according to claim 16, configured to recognise as trigger event one or more of: a purchase event; a reward; and an alteration of permissions data.

18. The apparatus according to claim 16 or 17, configured to convert a content item from a state of temporary availability to a state permanent availability by one or more of: supplying from the apparatus to the user application a version of the content item in a format recognised by commercially available content players; changing a file extension such that the content item can be recognised by commercially available content players; converting the content item file from a secure format to a format recognised by commercially available content players; decrypting the content item; re-constituting the content item in a format recognised by commercially available content players.

19. The apparatus according to any preceding claim, comprising a payment module operable to accept payments.

20. The apparatus according to any preceding claim, comprising a chart interface configured to enable communication with one or more chart providers.

21. The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the distribution module is configured to receive the chart from the one or more chart providers.

22. The apparatus according to any preceding claim, further comprising a content data storage module configured to store the one or more items of content data listed in the chart.

23. The apparatus according to any preceding claim, configured to change a format the an items of content data responsive to a trigger event.

24. The apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the~~comprising a~~ fragmentation module is further configured to encrypt the one or more items of content data prior to transferring the one or more items of content data together with an encryption key to the at least one user device.

~~25. The apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the fragmentation module is configured to fragment each of the one or more items of content data into a plurality of components.~~

~~26~~25. The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein each component relates to a different recorded frequency range.

2~~6~~7. The apparatus according to any preceding claim, configured to record a user level record of consumption events.

2~~7~~8. The apparatus according to claim 2~~7~~6 configured to transmit some or all of the user level record to a third party device.

2~~8~~9. The apparatus according to any preceding claim, configured to automatically adjust one or more of access permissions applying to an individual and pricing of content to an individual in dependence upon a consumption event data of that individual.

2~~9~~30. The apparatus according to any preceding claims, configured to record a user level record of consumption events selected from one or more of: tagging; display content; play content; download content, play sample of content; use content in ringtone; download sample of content; share with network contact; message to network contact; make

commentary on content; purchase content; and receive any of the aforementioned from a network contact.

~~31~~30. The apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein a recorded consumption event contributes to a score indicative of consumer response to the consumed content item.

~~32~~31. The apparatus according to claim 3~~1~~0, wherein a score has contributions from consumption events selected from one or more of the following: tagging; display content; play content by stream; download, play sample of content; use content in ringtone; download sample of content; share; message to network contact; make commentary on content; purchase; and receive any of the aforementioned from a network contact.

~~33~~32. The apparatus according to claim 3~~1~~0 or 3~~2~~1, configured to automatically generate a report based on pluralities of said scores.

~~34~~33. The apparatus according to any preceding claim configured to provide a user interface that is accessible via a user device application.

~~35.~~34. The apparatus according to any preceding claim configured to provide a user interface for use in obtaining or preparing one or more charts of content items for distribution.

~~36~~35. The apparatus according to any preceding claim comprising storage for content items.

~~37~~36. The apparatus according to any preceding claim configured to provide a user interface allowing access by an administrator or operator to user information.

3~~8~~7. The apparatus according to any preceding claim configured to select users of groups of users for particular treatment.

~~39~~38. The apparatus according to claim 3~~8~~7 when dependent on claim 14 configured to select users or groups of users on the basis of information received by the research module.

~~40~~39. The apparatus according to any preceding claim configured to deliver a chart of content items without the content items to users who do not have permission to use the content items.

410. A method of providing a chart having one or more items of content to a plurality of user devices, comprising:

defining, at a server, user access permissions, including temporary user access permissions, relating to individual ones of the one or more items of content; and

distributing, based on the defined permissions, to user devices by making available at the server for transmission to one or more user devices, one or more items of content ~~listed in the chart~~ to provide temporary access to one or more items of content ~~listed in the chart~~;

wherein said distributing further comprises fragmenting each of the one or more items of content items into a plurality of components; and

wherein said distributing further comprises making available the one or more items of content by distributing the one or more items in fragmented form and distributing an encryption key for reconstruction of the content items by the at least one user device application in accordance with user permissions.

421. The method of claim 410 comprising delivering the chart of content items including multiple content items listed in the chart to one or more user devices.

432. The method of claim 40 or ~~42~~ 41 further comprising automatically updating the chart accessible to a user device during low levels of network traffic.

443. The method of claim ~~42~~ 41 comprising automatically updating the chart of content items delivered to one or more user devices during low levels of network traffic.

454. The method of any of claims ~~41~~ 40 to ~~44~~ 43 wherein defining temporary user access includes defining user accesses based one or more of the group consisting of: number of plays; number of streams; number of shares; and duration of availability to the user.

465. The method of any of claims 410 to 454 further comprising converting a content item from a state of temporary availability to a state permanent availability by one or more of the

group consisting of: supplying from the apparatus to the user application a version of the content item in a format recognised by commercially available content players; changing a file extension such that the content item can be recognised by commercially available content players; converting the content item file from a secure format to a format recognised by commercially available content players; decrypting the content item; and re-constituting the content item in a format recognised by commercially available content players.

476. The method of claim any of claims 410 to 465 further comprising receiving the chart from one or more chart providers.

487. The method of any of claims 410 to 476 further comprising encrypting the one or more items of content data prior to transferring the one or more items of content data together with an encryption key to the at least one user device.

~~49. The method of any of claims 41 to 48 further comprising fragmenting each of the one or more items of content data into a plurality of components.~~

5048. The method of claim 490 wherein each component relates to a different recorded frequency range.

5149. An article of manufacture comprising:

a machine readable storage medium; and

a first set of executable program instructions embodied in the machine readable storage medium that when executed by a programmable system cause the system to perform functions comprising:

defining user access permissions, including temporary user access permissions, relating to individual ones of the one or more items of content; and

distributing, based on the defined permissions, to user devices by making available at the server for transmission to one or more user devices, one or more items of content ~~listed in the chart~~ to provide temporary access to one or more items of content ~~listed in the chart~~

wherein said distributing further comprises fragmenting each of the one or more items of content items into a plurality of components; and

wherein said distributing further comprises making available the one or more items of content by distributing the one or more items in fragmented form and distributing an encryption key for reconstruction of the content items by the at least one user device application in accordance with user permissions.

~~52~~50. The article of manufacture of claim ~~49~~51 wherein the functions further comprise automatically updating the chart accessible to a user device during low levels of network traffic.

~~53~~51. The article of manufacture of claim ~~51~~49 wherein the function of defining temporary user access includes defining user accesses based one or more of the group consisting of: number of plays; number of streams; number of shares; and duration of availability to the user.

52~~4~~. The article of manufacture of claim ~~51~~49 further comprising the function of converting a content item from a state of temporary availability to a state permanent availability by one or more of the group consisting of: supplying from the apparatus to the user application a version of the content item in a format recognised by commercially available content players; changing a file extension such that the content item can be recognised by commercially available content players; converting the content item file from a secure format to a format recognised by commercially available content players; decrypting the content item; and re-constituting the content item in a format recognised by commercially available content players.

55~~3~~. The article of manufacture of claim ~~51~~49 further comprising the function of receiving the chart from one or more chart providers.

56~~4~~. The article of manufacture of claim ~~35~~49 further comprising the function of encrypting the one or more items of content data prior to transferring the one or more items of content data together with an encryption key to the at least one user device.

~~57. The article of manufacture of claim 51 further comprising the function of fragmenting each of the one or more items of content data into a plurality of components.~~

58~~5~~. The article of manufacture of claim ~~57~~49 wherein each component relates to a different recorded frequency range.

59~~6~~. A method in a mobile device comprising:

accessing one or more ~~charts~~ content items provided on remote apparatus~~, each chart listing one or more content items~~;

accessing permission data relating to at least one of the content items ~~in the chart~~ defining how the at least one content item may be used by a user of the device;

monitoring use of the at least one of the content items by a user of the device; and

controlling use of the at least one of the content items according to the permission data,

the method further comprising receiving at least one content item in fragmented form and reconstructing the item to enable it to be played on the device; and

receiving, separately from the at least one content item, a key defining how the content item should be reconstructed.

5760. The method of claim 596 in which the permission data defines one or more of:

how the user can play the content item,

whether the user is allowed to share the content item with other users and if so optionally how many users,

number of times the user is allowed to play the content item, and

time period during which the user is allowed to play the content item.

6158. The method of claim 596 or 6570 including recording consumption data relating to the at least one content item.

6259. The method according to claim 6158 wherein the consumption data comprises numbers and/or location of consumption events.

6360. The method according to claim 6259, wherein the consumption events comprise one or more of the group comprising:

playing whole content item,

downloading whole content item,

playing sample of content item,

downloading sample of content item,

sharing content item,

sending message relating to content item,

making commentary on content item,

purchasing content item,

and receiving any of the foregoing from a network contact.

~~64~~61. The method of any of claims ~~61~~ 58 to ~~63~~ 60 comprising transmitting the consumption data to the remote apparatus.

6~~5~~2. The method of any of claims ~~59~~ 56 to ~~64~~ 61 comprising storing the at least one content item such that it is accessible only in accordance with the permission data for the at least one content item.

6~~3~~6. The method of any of claims ~~59~~ 56 to ~~65~~ 62 comprising receiving the at least one content item in a state of temporary availability.

6~~7~~4. The method of claim ~~66~~ 63 comprising converting a content item of the chart from a state of temporary availability on the user device to a state of indefinite availability on the user device responsive to a trigger event.

6~~8~~5. The method of claim ~~67~~ 64 comprising recognising as a trigger event one or more of: a purchase event; a reward; and an alteration of permissions data.

6~~9~~6. The method of claim ~~67~~ 64 or ~~68~~ 65 wherein converting a content item from a state of temporary availability to a state permanent availability comprises one or more of: supplying from the apparatus to the user application a version of the content item in a format recognised by commercially available content players; changing a file extension such that the content item can be recognised by commercially available content players; converting the content item file from a secure format to a format recognised by commercially available content players; decrypting the content item; re-constituting the content item in a format recognised by commercially available content players.

~~70. The method of any of claims 67 or 68 comprising receiving at least one content item in fragmented form and reconstructing the item to enable it to be played on the device.~~

~~71. The method of claim 70 comprising receiving, separately from the at least one content item, a key defining how the content item should be reconstructed.~~

6772. The method of any of claims 569 to 6671 comprising providing the user with an option to tag a content item and providing the user with reminders relating to the tagged item.

~~73~~68. The method of claim 6772 when dependent on claim 61 in which the group of consumption events additionally comprise tagging of a content item.

~~74~~69. The method of any of claims ~~59~~ 56 to 6873 comprising storing content items from the chart for which there are no usage restrictions separately from content items for which use is restricted.

~~75~~70. The method of any of claims 569 to ~~76~~ 69 comprising providing for multiple levels of access by a user to one or more charts at the remote apparatus.

71~~6~~. The method of any of claims 569 to 7~~7~~0 comprising receiving input user identity information and monitoring use of the at least one content item by multiple users.

7~~7~~2. The method of any of claims 5~~9~~6 to 7~~6~~1 wherein the accessing the chart comprises receiving the chart at the device including multiple content items listed in the chart.

7~~8~~3. The method of any of claims 5~~9~~6 to 7~~7~~2 wherein the accessing the permission data comprises receiving the permission data at the device.

7~~9~~4. The method of claim 7~~7~~2 or 7~~8~~3 including requesting a further or updated chart from the remote apparatus and receiving the further and/or updated chart in response to the request.

~~80~~75. The method of any of claims 7~~7~~2 to 7~~9~~4 comprising performing a battery level check and only requesting and/or downloading a chart and/or updated chart at a time when its battery level is above a certain threshold.

~~81~~76. The method of any of claims 7~~72~~ to 7~~94~~ comprising requesting and/or downloading a chart and/or updated chart only when the network traffic levels are known to be below a certain threshold.

~~82~~77. The method of any of claims 7~~72~~ to ~~81~~ 76 comprising checking the network traffic level and requesting or downloading a chart only when the network traffic levels are below a certain threshold.

~~83~~78. The method of any of claims 5~~96~~ to ~~82~~ 77 comprising downloading the at least one content item to the device.

~~84~~79. The method of claim ~~8783~~ wherein controlling use of the comprising deleting the at least one content item in the event that use of the item is no longer permitted.

~~85. A method in a mobile device comprising:~~

~~accessing an item provided on remote apparatus,~~

~~ascertaining the size of the item,~~

~~ascertaining one or more current operating parameters that affect the ability of the device to download the item,~~

~~determining whether to download the item based on the size of the item, the current operating parameter(s) and predetermined rules relating to the downloading of items to the device.~~

~~86. A method as claimed in claim 85 in which the one or more operating parameters comprise one or more of:~~

~~battery level,~~

~~network traffic level, and~~

~~available memory capacity.~~

~~87. The method claim 85 or claim 86 comprising performing a battery level check and only downloading an item if the battery level is above a certain threshold.~~

~~88. The method of any of claims 85 to 87 comprising downloading an item only when the network traffic level is known to be below a certain threshold.~~

~~89. The method of any of claims 85 to 88 comprising checking the network traffic level and downloading an item only if the network traffic level is determined to be below a certain threshold.~~

~~90. The method of any of claims 85 to 88 in which the download of the item is associated with an application running on the device and in which memory capacity on the device is designated to the application.~~

~~91. The method of claim 90 comprising determining the available memory capacity designated to the application.~~

~~92. The method of claim 90 or 91 comprising receiving input designating an amount of memory available for the application and reserving this amount of memory to the application.~~

~~93~~80. A computer readable medium bearing code which when executed by a processor of a mobile device causes the device to implement the method of any of claims 5~~9~~6 to 79~~92~~.

~~94~~81. The computer readable medium of claim ~~93~~ 80 including a media player for use in playing content items included in the chart.

~~95~~82. A communications device configured to implement the method of any of claims 5~~9~~6 to 79~~92~~.