

Abstract

**SYSTEM FOR COMPOSING MULTIMEDIA SIGNALS FOR
INTERACTIVE TELEVISION SERVICES.**

A system for composing multimedia signals from various source
5 signals, such as still-frame video signals, full motion video signals and audio signals
includes a plurality of composing units (314), each of which is capable of composing
(in 440) a multimedia signal from selected source signals. One of such composing
units (314) is assigned for each multimedia signal to be composed. Each composing
unit (314) accepts parameters specifying various properties for each element of the
10 multimedia signal, such as size, position and precedence for each video element and
gain for each audio element. The composing units can include decompressors
(418,420,422) for decompressing source signals furnished in compressed form and a
compressor (444,446) to compress the multimedia signal to be transmitted to a user.
The source signals can be received from a packet network and the resulting
15 multimedia signals transmitted to the respective users via the same packet network.

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