Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A television receiver comprising:

a network interface that receives programming from a television distribution network;

an input interface that receives a portable storage device, the portable storage device storing data specifying a portion of the programming authorized for output by a second television receiver; and

a processor operable to access the data stored on the portable storage device, identify the portion of the programming authorized for viewing on the second television receiver based on the data and output the portion of the programming for presentation by a presentation device.

2. The television receiver of claim 1, wherein the input interface comprises a universal serial bus (USB) port configured to receive the portable storage device.

3. The television receiver of claim 1, wherein the data specifies at least one channel of the programming that the second television receiver is authorized to output.

4. The television receiver of claim 1, wherein the data specifies a pay-per-view program that the second television receiver is authorized to output.

5. The television receiver of claim 1, wherein the data specifies a video-on-demand program that the second television receiver is authorized to output.

6. The television receiver of claim 1, wherein the data specifies a software application authorized to operate on the second television receiver, and wherein the processor authorizes execution of the software application based on the data.

7. The television receiver of claim 6, wherein the software application is stored on the portable storage device.

8. A television receiver:

a network interface that receives programming from a television distribution network, the programming including authorized content that the television receiver is authorized to output and unauthorized content that the television receiver is not authorized to output;

a storage medium that stores first authorization information identifying the authorized content;

an input interface that receives a portable storage device, the portable storage device including second authorization information for a portion of the programming authorized for output by a second television receiver; and

a processor that receives user input requesting to output the unauthorized content, access the second authorization information stored on the portable storage device, determine whether the unauthorized content corresponds with the portion of the programming authorized for output by the second television receiver and output the unauthorized content for presentation by a presentation device responsive to determining that the unauthorized content is authorized on the second television receiver.

9. The television receiver of claim 8, wherein the input interface receives a second portable storage device and the processor is operable to initiate storage of data corresponding with the first authorization information onto the second portable storage device.

10. The television receiver of claim 8, wherein the input interface comprises a universal serial bus (USB) port configured to receive the portable storage device.

11. The television receiver of claim 8, wherein the data specifies a software application authorized to operate on the second television receiver, and wherein the processor authorizes execution of the software application based on the data.

12. The television receiver of claim 11, wherein the software application is stored on the portable storage device.

13. A method of operating a video output device, the method comprising:

identifying, in a conditional access module of a first video output device, unauthorized content that the video output device is not entitled to access;

accessing data, stored on a portable storage device communicatively coupled to the first video output device, the data specifying at least a portion of the unauthorized content that is authorized for output by a second video output device;

receiving a request, at the first video output device, to access the portion of the unauthorized content;

authorizing access to the portion of the unauthorized content based on the data; and

outputting the portion of the unauthorized content for presentation by a presentation device.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein accessing the data further comprises:

accessing the data, on the portable storage device, through a universal serial bus (USB) port configured to interface the portable storage device with the first video output device.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the first and second video output devices comprise television receivers and wherein the unauthorized content comprises video content received by the first and second video output devices from a television distribution network.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the video content comprises at least one channel distributed through the television distribution network.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the video content comprises a pay-per-view program distributed through the television distribution network.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein the video content comprises video on demand content distributed through the television distribution network.

19. The method of claim 13, wherein the unauthorized content comprises at least one software application executable by the first and second video output devices and the data comprises an authorization to execute the software application.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the software application is stored on the portable storage device.

What is claimed is:

1. A television receiver comprising:

a network interface that receives programming from a television network;

a input interface that receives a portable storage device, the portable storage device storing data specifying a portion of the programming authorized for output by a second television receiver; and

a processor operable to determine that the television receiver is not authorized to output at least part of the programming in response to a request from a user for the at least part of the programming,

access the data stored on the portable storage device in response to determining that the television receiver is not authorized to output the at least part of the programming,

identify the at least part of the programming authorized for viewing on the second television receiver based on the accessed data,

and output the at least part of the programming for presentation by a presentation device responsive to identifying that the at least part of the programming is authorized for viewing on the second television receiver.

2. The television receiver of claim 1, wherein the input interface comprises a universal serial bus (USB) port configured to receive the portable storage device.

3. The television receiver of claim 1, wherein the data specifies at least one channel of the programming that the second television receiver is authorized to output.

4. The television receiver of claim 1, wherein the data specifies a pay-per-view program that the second television receiver is authorized to output.

5. The television receiver of claim 1, wherein the data specifies a video-on-demand program that the second television receiver is authorized to output.

6. The television receiver of claim 1, wherein the data specifies a software application authorized to operate on the second television receiver, and wherein the processor authorizes execution of the software application based on the data.

7. The television receiver of claim 6, wherein the software application is stored on the portable storage device.

8. A television receiver comprising:

a network interface that receives programming from a television distribution network, the programming including authorized content that the television receiver is authorized to output and unauthorized content that the television receiver is not authorized to output;

a storage medium, within the television receiver, that stores first authorization information identifying the authorized content;

an input interface that receives a portable storage device, the portable storage device including second authorization information for a portion of the programming authorized for output by a second television receiver; and

a processor that receives user input requesting to output the unauthorized content,

determines, based on the first authorization information, that the television receiver is not authorized to output the unauthorized content,

accesses the second authorization information stored on the portable storage device,

determines whether the unauthorized content corresponds with the portion of the programming authorized for output by the second television receiver, and

outputs the unauthorized content for presentation by a presentation device responsive to determining that the unauthorized content is authorized on the second television receiver.

9. The television receiver of claim **8**, wherein the input interface receives a second portable storage device and the processor is operable to initiate storage of data corresponding with the first authorization information onto the second portable storage device.

10. The television receiver of claim **8**, wherein the input interface comprises a universal serial bus (USB) port configured to receive the portable storage device.

11. The television receiver of claim **8**, wherein the data specifies a software application authorized to operate on the second television receiver, and wherein the processor authorizes execution of the software application based on the data.

12. The television receiver of claim **11**, wherein the software application is stored on the portable storage device.

13. A method of operating a video output device, the method comprising:

receiving a request, at the first video output device, to access a portion of unauthorized content;

identifying, in a conditional access module of a first video output device, the portion of unauthorized content that the first video output device is not entitled to access;

in response to identifying the portion of unauthorized content, accessing data stored on a portable device communicatively coupled to the first video output device, the data specifying the portion of unauthorized content that is authorized for output by a second video output device;

authorizing access to the portion of unauthorized content based on the accessed data; and

outputting the portion of unauthorized content for presentation by a presentation device coupled to the first video output device.

14. The method of claim **13**, wherein accessing the data further comprises: accessing the data, on the portable storage device, through a universal serial bus (USB) port configured to interface the portable storage device with the first video output device.

15. The method of claim **13**, wherein the first and second video output devices comprise television receivers and wherein the unauthorized content comprises video content received by the first and second video output devices from a television distribution network.

16. The method of claim **15**, wherein the video content comprises at least one channel distributed through the television distribution network.

17. The method of claim **15**, wherein the video content comprises a pay-per-view program distributed through the television distribution network.

18. The method of claim **15**, wherein the video content comprises video on demand content distributed through the television distribution network.

19. The method of claim **13**, wherein the unauthorized content comprises at least one software application executable by the first and second video output devices and the data comprises an authorization to execute the software application.

20. The method of claim **19**, wherein the software application is stored on the portable storage device.