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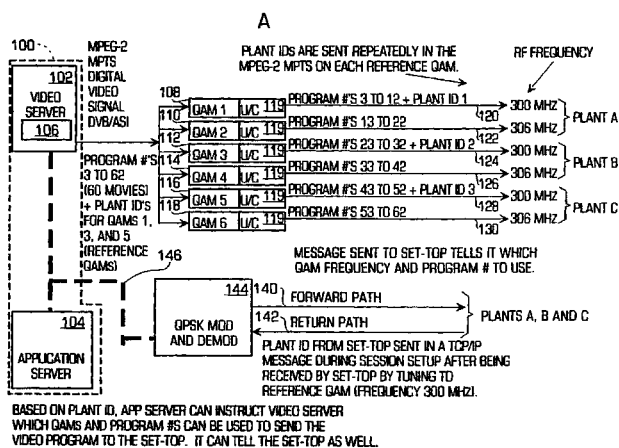
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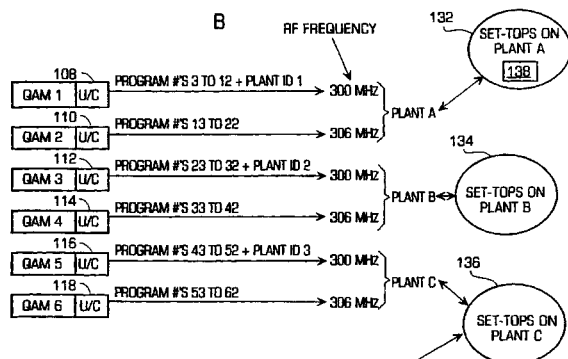
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 Not furnished 12 January 2001 (12.01.2001) US</p> <p>(71) Applicant: nCUBE CORPORATION [US/US]; 110 Marsh Drive, Foster City, CA 94044 (US).</p> <p>(72) Inventors: SCHILLER, Jay, B.; 261 Rockview Drive, Superior, CO 80027 (US). POOLE, Andrew, J., B.; 322 South Taft Court, Louisville, CO 80027 (US).</p> | <p>(74) Agent: LOHSE, Timothy, W.; Gray Cary Ware & Freidenrich LLP, 400 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301-1825 (US).</p> <p>(81) Designated States (<i>national</i>): AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.</p> <p>(84) Designated States (<i>regional</i>): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).</p> |
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- (54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR IDENTIFYING A SIGNAL ROUTE FOR DELIVERY OF VIDEO-ON-DEMAND TO A SUBSCRIBER TERMINAL**



BASED ON PLANT ID, APP SERVER CAN INSTRUCT VIDEO SERVER
WHICH GAMS AND PROGRAM #S CAN BE USED TO SEND THE
VIDEO PROGRAM TO THE SET-TOP. IT CAN TELL THE SET-TOP AS WELL



UPON SELECTING VOD SERVICE, EACH SET-TOP TUNES TO 300 MHz, READS IN THE PLANT ID AND SENDS IT VIA THE RETURN PATH DURING THE SESSION SET-UP PROCESS.

(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus for identifying an appropriate video signal path is provided for delivery of VOD data to a subscriber in a VOD system. The signal path (146) may be a portion of a hybrid fiber optic and cable (HFC) network so that other signal paths in the HFC may service subscribers in other areas. Because each path need not service every area, the total bandwidth provided by the VOD server (106) need not be provided to every area so that the bandwidth provided to each area can commensurate with the needs of that area. When a subscriber Plant A requests VOD programming, the identification received by the subscriber's terminal from the VOD server is returned to the server along with the subscriber's request. From the identification, the VOD server may determine the area of location of the requesting subscriber and the VOD server may then transmit the requested programming to the area of the subscriber's location.



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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.