SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR HANDLING MULTIMEDIA DATASTREAMS EMPLOYING SHARED LOOP ARCHITECTURE MULTIMEDIA SUBSYSTEM CLUSTERS

ABSTRACT

In order to increase the number of datastreams provided by a multimedia system, a cluster of clusters (110) of multimedia A/V server subsystems is provided. Each cluster in turn is comprised of a plurality of A/V servers (162), a shared loop architecture plurality of data storage devices (174) interconnected to the A/V servers whereby any storage device is substantially equally accessible by any of the servers in the cluster; and a highly available control server subsystem (150) interconnected to the A/V servers and the data storage devices for controlling the A/V servers and the data storage devices. Each of the clusters is interconnected to a high speed switch (186) for delivery of datastreams from the cluster to the end user. One of the control server subsystems also serves as a master control server (156) assigning a request for a datastream to one of the clusters.

Fig. 6