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(54) Title: INTERACTIVE TELEVISION PROGRAM GUIDE SYSTEM THAT SERVES AS A PORTAL

(57) Abstract

A system is provided in which an interactive television program guide application and non–program–guide applications are at least partially implemented on user television equipment. A program guide program application interface is provided that is used to maintain a consistent user interface between the program guide application and the non–program–guide applications. Non–program–guide applications may be launched by the program guide application. The user may select certain non–program–guide applications as favorites and may set parental controls for certain non–program–guide applications. The program guide application may run in the background while a non–program–guide application operates. While the non–program–guide application operates, the program guide may check for events that require immediate attention. When such an event is detected, operation of the non–program–guide application may be suspended and the user may be asked whether the detected event should take place or whether operation of the non–program–guide application should be resumed.

