SHARED LOOP AUDIO/VIDEO SERVER SYSTEM

ABSTRACT

A shared loop multimedia datastreaming server system is provided. A plurality of A/V servers (56, 58) have equal access to a pool of disk arrays (70, 72) interconnected in a shared loop (68) architecture such as SSA or FC-AL. Each server delivers a corresponding datastream from the loop through an isochronous broadband connection (62, 64) to appropriate A/V devices (54). The A/V servers (56, 58) are interconnected by a control loop such as an Ethernet link (52). An archive server (108) also accesses the shared storage loop and an archive storage system (117). The archive server loads titles from archive to the loop as desired and serves as a backup A/V server. A high availability control server cluster (84-86) interconnects to the A/V server and the archive server to control resource management, including distribution of titles on the loop and loading titles from the archive server and balancing the load on the A/V servers.

Fig. 3