WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for encapsulating a scalable coded video signal including a base layer of a picture being decodable according to a first algorithm and at least one enhancement layer of the picture being decodable according to a second algorithm, comprising:

encoding the base layer and the at least one enhancement layer into an access unit, the access unit including:

at least one elementary data unit used for decoding, and

a scalability information elementary data unit associated with at least a portion of the access unit,

wherein the scalability information elementary data unit is configured to be ignored during decoding according to the first algorithm.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the scalability information elementary data unit is associated with a picture in the access unit.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the scalability information elementary data unit comprises information related to at least a portion of the access unit.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the information is selected from the group consisting of priority, temporal level, dependency order indicator, an indicator of whether elementary data units associated with a higher dependency order indicator require the at least a portion of the access unit for decoding, an indicator of whether the at least part of the access unit is a layer switching point wherein a different layer can switch to the current layer, and combinations thereof.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising encapsulating the scalable coded video signal into a file.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the scalable coded video signal is encapsulated into the file according to at least one file format of an ISO base media file format, AVC file format, SVC file format, 3GP file format, and 3G2 file format.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising encapsulating the scalable coded video signal into a packet stream.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the packet stream comprises an RTP stream.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the scalability information elementary data unit is configured to be ignored by at least one of a H.264/AVC decoder, an AVC file parser, a H.264/AVC RTP depayloadizer, and a SVC decoder.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising removing the associated portion of the access unit from the coded video signal based upon the scalability information elementary data unit.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising stopping the processing of the associated portion of the access unit from the coded video signal based upon the scalability information elementary data unit.

12. A computer program product encoded on a computer-readable medium for encapsulating a scalable coded video signal including a base layer of a picture being decodable according to a first algorithm and at least one enhancement layer of the picture being decodable according to a second algorithm, comprising:

computer code for encoding the base layer and the at least one enhancement layer into an access unit, the access unit including:

at least one elementary data unit used for decoding, and

a scalability information elementary data unit associated with at least a portion of the access unit,

wherein the scalability information elementary data unit is configured to be ignored during decoding according to the first algorithm.

13. The computer program product of claim 12, wherein the scalability information elementary data unit is associated with a picture in the access unit.

14. The computer program product of claim 12, wherein the scalability information elementary data unit comprises information related to at least a portion of the access unit.

15. The computer program product of claim 14, wherein the information is selected from the group consisting of priority, temporal level, dependency order indicator, an indicator of whether elementary data units associated with a higher dependency order indicator require the at least a portion of the access unit for decoding, an indicator of whether the at least part of the access unit is a layer switching point wherein a different layer can switch to the current layer, and combinations thereof.

16. The computer program product of claim 12, further comprising encapsulating the scalable coded video signal into a file.

17. The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the scalable coded video signal is encapsulated into the file according to at least one file format of the group consisting of ISO base media file format, AVC file format, SVC file format, 3GP file format, and 3G2 file format.

18. The computer program product of claim 12, further comprising encapsulating the scalable coded video signal into a packet stream.

19. The computer program product of claim 18, wherein the packet stream comprises a RTP stream.

20. The computer program product of claim 12, wherein the scalability information elementary data unit is configured to be ignored by at least one of a H.264/AVC decoder, an AVC file parser, a H.264/AVC RTP depayloadizer, and a SVC decoder.

21. The computer program product of claim 12, further comprising removing the associated portion of the access unit from the coded video signal based upon the scalability information elementary data unit.

22. The computer program product of claim 12, further comprising stopping the processing of the associated portion of the access unit from the coded video signal based upon the scalability information elementary data unit.

23. An electronic device, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory unit communicatively connected to the processor and including a computer program product for encapsulating a scalable coded video signal including a base layer of a picture being decodable according to a first algorithm and at least one enhancement layer of the picture being decodable according to a second algorithm, comprising:

computer code for encoding the base layer and the at least one enhancement layer into an access unit, the access unit including:

at least one elementary data unit used for decoding, and

a scalability information elementary data unit associated with at least a portion of the access unit,

wherein the scalability information elementary data unit is configured to be ignored during decoding according to the first algorithm.

24. An encapsulated scalable coded video signal, comprising:

an access unit including an encoded base layer of a picture being decodable according to a first algorithm and at least one enhancement layer of the picture being decodable according to a second algorithm, the access unit comprising:

at least one elementary data unit used for decoding, and

a scalability information elementary data unit associated with at least a portion of the access unit,

wherein the scalability information elementary data unit is configured to be ignored during decoding according to the first algorithm.

25. A method for decoding an encapsulated scalable coded video signal including a base layer of a picture being decodable according to a first algorithm and

at least one enhancement layer of the picture being decodable according to a second algorithm, comprising:

decoding the base layer and the at least one enhancement layer from an access unit, the access unit including:

at least one elementary data unit used for decoding, and

a scalability information elementary data unit associated with at least a portion of the access unit,

wherein the scalability information elementary data unit is configured to be ignored during decoding according to the first algorithm.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for encapsulating a scalable coded video signal including a base layer of a coded picture being decodable according to a first algorithm and at least one enhancement layer of the coded picture, comprising:

collecting at least one network abstraction layer unit of the coded picture to be encapsulated into an aggregate data unit,

encapsulating a scalability information network abstraction layer unit and the at least one network abstraction layer unit into the aggregate data unit, wherein the scalability information network abstraction layer unit is associated with one of

- the at least one network abstraction layer unit; or

- a number of network abstraction layer units succeeding the scalability information network abstraction layer unit;

the scalability information network abstraction layer unit comprising property or characteristics information that is common to all of the associated network abstraction layer units.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein, in response to the scalability information network abstraction layer unit being associated with a number of network abstraction layer units succeeding the scalability information network abstraction layer unit, the method further comprises generating an indication, wherein the indication is one of

- a number of bytes succeeding the scalability information network abstraction layer unit, wherein the number of bytes encloses the number of network abstraction layer units; or

- the number of network abstraction layer units succeeding the scalability information network abstraction layer unit.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the scalability information is selected from the group consisting of a priority identifier for an network abstraction

layer unit, temporal level, dependency order indicator, quality level, an indicator of whether network abstraction layer units associated with a higher dependency order indicator require the at least a portion of the associated network abstraction layer units for decoding, an indicator of whether the associated network abstraction layer units belong to a layer switching point wherein a different layer can switch to the current layer, and combinations thereof.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the scalability information network abstraction layer unit is configured to be ignored by at least one of a H.264/AVC decoder, an AVC file parser, a H.264/AVC RTP depayloadizer, and a SVC decoder.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the scalable coded video signal is encapsulated into a packet stream and the aggregate data unit comprises a packet payload.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the packet stream comprises an RTP stream.

7. A computer-readable medium comprising a computer program for encapsulating a scalable coded video signal including a base layer of a coded picture and at least one enhancement layer of the coded picture, the computer program comprising computer code for:

collecting at least one network abstraction layer unit on a network abstraction layer of the coded picture to be encapsulated into an aggregate data unit;

encapsulating a scalability information network abstraction layer unit and the at least one network abstraction layer unit into the aggregate data unit;

associating the scalability information network abstraction layer unit with one of

- the at least one network abstraction layer unit; or

- a number of network abstraction layer units succeeding the scalability information network abstraction layer unit,

the scalability information network abstraction layer unit comprising property or characteristics information that is common to all of the associated network abstraction layer units.

8. The computer-readable medium of claim 7, wherein the computer program comprises computer code for generating an indication in response to the scalability information network abstraction layer unit being associated with a number of network abstraction layer units succeeding the scalability information network abstraction layer unit, wherein the indication is one of

- a number of bytes succeeding the scalability information network abstraction layer unit, wherein the number of bytes encloses the number of network abstraction layer units; or

- the number of network abstraction layer units succeeding the scalability information network abstraction layer unit.

9. An electronic device, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory unit communicatively connected to the processor and including a computer program product for encapsulating a scalable coded video signal including a base layer of a coded picture and at least one enhancement layer of the coded picture, comprising:

computer code for collecting at least one network abstraction layer unit on a network abstraction layer of the coded picture to be encapsulated into an aggregate data unit;

computer code for encapsulating a scalability information network abstraction layer unit and the at least one network abstraction layer unit into the aggregate data unit;

computer code for associating the scalability information network abstraction layer unit with one of

- the at least one network abstraction layer unit; or

- a number of network abstraction layer units succeeding the scalability information network abstraction layer unit,

the scalability information network abstraction layer unit comprising property or characteristics information that is common to all of the associated network abstraction layer units.