



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11) **EP 1 463 330 A8**

(12) **CORRECTED EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

Note: Bibliography reflects the latest situation

(15) Correction information:
Corrected version no 1 (W1 A1)
Remarks

(51) Int Cl.7: **H04N 7/24**

(48) Corrigendum issued on:
19.01.2005 Bulletin 2005/03

(43) Date of publication:
29.09.2004 Bulletin 2004/40

(21) Application number: **04014074.1**

(22) Date of filing: **15.10.1997**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE CH DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC
NL PT SE**

(30) Priority: **18.10.1996 US 734629**

(62) Document number(s) of the earlier application(s) in
accordance with Art. 76 EPC:
97117818.1 / 0 837 609

(71) Applicant: **General Instrument Corporation**
Horsham, Pennsylvania 19044 (US)

(72) Inventors:
• **Chen, David**
Ivyland Pennsylvania 18974 (US)

• **Mao, Weidong**
Princeton New Jersey 08540 (US)

(74) Representative:
HOEGER, STELLRECHT & PARTNER
Patentanwälte
Uhlandstrasse 14 c
70182 Stuttgart (DE)

Remarks:

This application was filed on 16.06.2004 as a
divisional application to the application mentioned
under INID code 62.

(54) **Splicing compressed packetized video streams**

(57) A secondary packetized data stream, such as a commercial, is spliced with a primary packetized data stream, such as a network television program. The system does not require decompression of the data in the primary data stream, and is particularly suitable for use at a cable system headend to allow the insertion of commercials from local businesses into a nationally broadcast television program. When a start signal is received, a pre-splicing packet of the primary stream is determined. The pre-splicing packet is the packet closest to the start time which carries an anchor frame (e.g., I or P frame) start code. To prevent a potential discontinuity at the decoder, the pre-splicing packet is processed to discard the anchor frame data, and to insert a number of stuffing bytes which is equal to the number of bytes discarded into an adaptation field of the pre-splicing packet. To further maintain continuity at the decoder, identifying data of the primary stream such as PID and PSI data, is retrieved and provided to the secondary stream. A number of null packets are inserted into the

output stream at the transition point between the main program and the commercial to prevent a buffer overflow at a decoder which receives the output stream.

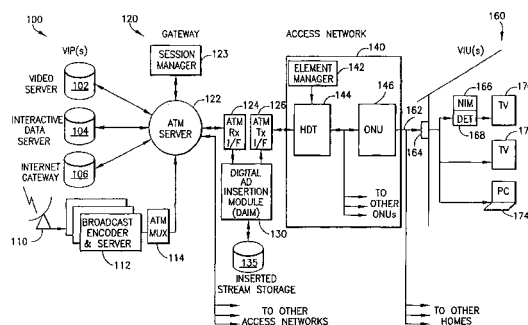


FIG. 1

EP 1 463 330 A8