APPLICATION NO. | ISSUE DATE | PATENT NO. | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO.  
---|---|---|---|---
11/338,884 | 12/16/2014 | 8914823 | 123025-0002 | 3132

22429 | 7590 | 11/25/2014

LOWE HAUPTMAN & HAM, LLP
2318 Mill Road
Suite 1400
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

**ISSUE NOTIFICATION**

The projected patent number and issue date are specified above.

**Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)**
(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment is 1022 day(s). Any patent to issue from the above-identified application will include an indication of the adjustment on the front page.

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (http://pair.uspto.gov).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Application Assistance Unit (AAU) of the Office of Data Management (ODM) at (571)-272-4200.

APPLICANT(s) (Please see PAIR WEB site http://pair.uspto.gov for additional applicants):

Jae Joo Kim, Sungnam-si, KOREA, REPUBLIC OF;

The United States represents the largest, most dynamic marketplace in the world and is an unparalleled location for business investment, innovation, and commercialization of new technologies. The USA offers tremendous resources and advantages for those who invest and manufacture goods here. Through SelectUSA, our nation works to encourage and facilitate business investment. To learn more about why the USA is the best country in the world to develop technology, manufacture products, and grow your business, visit [SelectUSA.gov](http://SelectUSA.gov).
PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail
Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

or Fax
(571) 273-8850

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

22429 7590 1167/2014
LOWE HAUPTMAN & HAM, LLP
2318 Mill Road
Suite 1400
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

APPLICATION NO. 11/338,884
FILING DATE 01/25/2006
FIRST NAMED INVENTOR Jae Joo Kim
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 123025-0002
CONFIRMATION NO. 3132

TITLE OF INVENTION: A/V parental lock apparatus and method

APPLN. TYPE nonprovisional ENTITY STATUS UNDISCOUNTED ISSUE FEE DUE $960 PUBLICATION FEE DUE $0 PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE $0 TOTAL FEE(S) DUE $960 DATE DUE 02/09/2015

EXAMINER JOSEPH, DENNIS P
ART UNIT 2621
CLASS-SUBCLASS 725-031000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).
   □ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
   □ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required.

2. For printing on the patent front page, list
   (1) The names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,
   (2) The name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

   PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recording as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

   (A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE
   HUMAX, CO., LTD.

   (B) RESIDENCE (CITY AND STATE OR COUNTRY)
   YOUGIN CITY, KYONGGI-DO, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

   Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent):
   □ Individual  □ Corporation or other private group entity  □ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:
   □ Issue Fee
   □ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
   □ Advance Order - # of Copies

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)
   □ A check is enclosed.
   □ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
   □ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credits any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 071337 (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)
   □ Applicant certifying micro entity status. See 37 CFR 1.29
   □ Applicant asserting small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27
   □ Applicant changing to regular undiscounted fee status.

   NOTE: Absent a valid certification of Micro Entity Status (see forms PTO/SB/15A and 15B), issue fee payment in the micro entity amount will not be accepted at the risk of application abandonment.

   NOTE: If the application was previously under micro entity status, checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to micro entity status, as applicable.

   NOTE: This form must be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.31 and 1.33. See 37 CFR 1.4 for signature requirements and certifications.

Authorized Signature /Yoon S. Ham/ Date 2014-11-12
Typed or printed name Yoon S. Ham Registration No. 45307

Page 2 of 3

PTOL-85 Part B (10-13) Approved for use through 10/31/2013.
OMB 0651-0033 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
### Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

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**Title of Invention:** A/V parental lock apparatus and method

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<th>First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:</th>
<th>Jae Joo Kim</th>
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<td>Filer:</td>
<td>Yoon Ham/Sunny HAN</td>
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Filed as Large Entity

### Utility under 35 USC 111(a) Filing Fees

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| Publ. Fee- Early, Voluntary, or Normal | 1504 | 1        | 0      | 0                    |</p>
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## Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

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<td><strong>Title of Invention:</strong></td>
<td>A/V parental lock apparatus and method</td>
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<td>Jae Joo Kim</td>
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<tr>
<td>Customer Number:</td>
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<td>HAM, YOON S</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows:

- Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.16 (National application filing, search, and examination fees)
- Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.17 (Patent application and reexamination processing fees)
This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

**New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111**
If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

**National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371**
If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

**New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office**
If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.
NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

EXAMINER
JOSEPH, DENNIS P

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER
3621

DATE MAILED: 11/07/2014

APPLICATION NO. FILING DATE FIRST NAMED INVENTOR ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CONFIRMATION NO.
11/338,884 01/25/2006 Jae Joo Kim 123025-0002 3132

TITLE OF INVENTION: A/V parental lock apparatus and method

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THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the ENTITY STATUS shown above. If the ENTITY STATUS is shown as SMALL or MICRO, verify whether entitlement to that entity status still applies.

If the ENTITY STATUS is the same as shown above, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

If the ENTITY STATUS is changed from that shown above, on PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, complete section number 5 titled "Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)".

For purposes of this notice, small entity fees are 1/2 the amount of undiscounted fees, and micro entity fees are 1/2 the amount of small entity fees.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.
PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail  
Pipe Stop ISSUE FEE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
or Fax  
(571)-273-2885

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

22429 7590 11/6/2014
LOWE HAUPTMAN & HAM, LLP  
2318 Mill Road  
Suite 1400  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission
I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Depositor's name</th>
<th>Signature</th>
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APPLICATION NO.  FILING DATE  FIRST NAMED INVENTOR  ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.  CONFIRMATION NO.
11/338,884  01/25/2006  Jae Joo Kim  123025-0002  3132

TITLE OF INVENTION: A/V parental lock apparatus and method

APPLN. TYPE  ENTITY STATUS  ISSUE FEE DUE  PUBLICATION FEE DUE  PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE  TOTAL FEE(S) DUE  DATE DUE
nonprovisional  UNDISCOUNTED  $960  $0  $0  $960  02/09/2015

EXAMINER  ART UNIT  CLASS-SUBCLASS
JOSEPH, DENNIS P  2621  725-031000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).
   - Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.  
   - Fee Address” indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required.

2. For printing on the patent front page, list
   (1) The names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,  
   (2) The name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)
   PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.
   (A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE  
   (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

   Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent):  
   - Individual  
   - Corporation or other private group entity  
   - Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:  
   - Issue Fee  
   - Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)  
   - Advance Order - # of Copies  

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)
   - A check is enclosed.  
   - Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.  
   - The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credits any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number ________ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)
   - Applicant certifying micro entity status. See 37 CFR 1.29  
   - Applicant asserting small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27  
   - Applicant changing to regular undiscounted fee status.  

NOTE: Absent a valid certification of Micro Entity Status (see forms PTO/SB/15A and 15B), issue fee payment in the micro entity amount will not be accepted at the risk of application abandonment.  
NOTE: If the application was previously under micro entity status, checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to micro entity status, as applicable.

NOTE: This form must be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.31 and 1.33. See 37 CFR 1.4 for signature requirements and certifications.

Authorized Signature  
Date  
Typed or printed name  
Registration No.
Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)
(Applications filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Office has discontinued providing a Patent Term Adjustment (PTA) calculation with the Notice of Allowance.

Section 1(h)(2) of the AIA Technical Corrections Act amended 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(3)(B)(i) to eliminate the requirement that the Office provide a patent term adjustment determination with the notice of allowance. See Revisions to Patent Term Adjustment, 78 Fed. Reg. 19416, 19417 (Apr. 1, 2013). Therefore, the Office is no longer providing an initial patent term adjustment determination with the notice of allowance. The Office will continue to provide a patent term adjustment determination with the Issue Notification Letter that is mailed to applicant approximately three weeks prior to the issue date of the patent, and will include the patent term adjustment on the patent. Any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment determination (or reinstatement of patent term adjustment) should follow the process outlined in 37 CFR 1.705.

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.
The Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 requires Federal agencies to obtain Office of Management and Budget approval before requesting most types of information from the public. When OMB approves an agency request to collect information from the public, OMB (i) provides a valid OMB Control Number and expiration date for the agency to display on the instrument that will be used to collect the information and (ii) requires the agency to inform the public about the OMB Control Number’s legal significance in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.5(b).

The information collected by PTOL-85 Part B is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.
Notice of Allowability

Application No. 11/338,884
Applicant(s) KIM, JAE JOO
Examiner Dennis Joseph
Art Unit 2621
AIA (First Inventor to File) Status No

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to April 10, 2014.
   ☐ A declaration(s)/affidavit(s) under 37 CFR 1.130(b) was/were filed on _______.

2. ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on ____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.

3. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 18, 20-23 and 25-27. As a result of the allowed claim(s), you may be eligible to benefit from the Patent Prosecution Highway program at a participating intellectual property office for the corresponding application. For more information, please see http://www.uspto.gov/patents/init_events/pph/index.jsp or send an inquiry to PPHfeedback@uspto.gov.

4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   Certified copies:
   a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some    c) ☐ None of the:
   1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
   2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _______.
   3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * Certified copies not received: _______.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE “MAILING DATE” of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as “replacement sheets”) must be submitted.
   ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner’s Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ______.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner’s comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)
1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 5. ☐ Examiner’s Amendment/Comment
2. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date ______ 6. ☒ Examiner’s Statement of Reasons for Allowance
3. ☐ Examiner’s Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material 7. ☐ Other ______.
4. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date ______.

/Dennis Joseph/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2621

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
PTOL-37 (Rev. 08-13)
DETAILED ACTION

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE


2. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

AAPA teaches in Claim 18:

A method for managing information, comprising:

receiving an information signal, wherein the information signal includes audio and video and wherein data indicative of parental levels for different segments of the information signal is included in the information signal (Figure 4, [0010]-[0011], show different segments of the A/V signal, such as the first, left-most, non-shaded part, the shaded part, and then another non-shaded part. Please note one such segment is associated with a first parental level that is considered not adult, another such segment is associated with a parental level that is considered adult, etc, as shown in Figure 4);

detecting the parental levels for the information signal; comparing the parental levels to a stored level; (As disclosed above, each segment is analyzed to see if it is considered adult or not, i.e. relating it to the parental level)

when the parental level detected for the information signal is lower than the stored level, outputting the audio and video of the information signal as received (Figure 4, [0011], the
interpreted segment is at a parental level that is considered to not be adult (lower than the user setting parental level), so the video and audio are output normally); and

when the parental level detected for of the information signal is equal to or greater than the stored level, identifying a segment having audio to be replaced and outputting stored information in place of the audio and video corresponding to the identified segment (Figure 4, [0010], disclose that for the segment, the parental level is considered adult throughout this segment (higher than user setting parental level), so for this segment, there is a video blank and audio mute inserted throughout this objectionable second segment, i.e. replaced. To clarify, the identified segment is the segment that has the objectionable material and needs to be replaced), wherein:

the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to the identified segment includes a still image or moving images (Figure 4, [0010] discloses a black screen (read as still image) is output during the second segment. Please see the combination below with regards to the stored information as this part is modified); but

AAPA does not explicitly teach:

“obtaining a replacement audio from the information signal based on an audio level of different portions of the information signal, said obtaining including detecting a mute period in the audio signal of the information signal and storing replacement audio from a portion of the information signal between the detected mute period and a previously detected mute period;
the stored information to be output in place of the audio corresponding to the identified segment includes the stored replacement audio corresponding to the portion of the information signal between the detected mute period and the previously detected mute period,

the identified segment is after the detected mute periods, the parental level of the portion of the information signal between the mute periods is lower than the stored level, and

the mute periods are portions of the information signal detected by an audio level detector that has no sound.”

To summarize, AAPA teaches of inserting a black screen and muted audio during the objectionable second segment, not stored information of a prior segment in the information signal which includes stored video and stored audio.

However, in the same field of endeavor, content filtering, Durden also teaches of removing the objectionable material in segments where the content is deemed to be inappropriate (akin to AAPA’s shaded segment). In its place, Durden teaches of substituting a number of options, such as substitute alternative audio stream, substitute alternative video channel/stream, substitute alternate video and audio channel stream, delete the scene, or substitute different scene. (Durden, Columns 8-9, Lines 60-10, Table 1 as well). For purposes of interpretation, this would be akin to the claimed third segment and for AAPA, this is black video and muted audio and this is where the substitution/combination takes effect. Here, Durden teaches of using a different scene from the current program/stream to place in the objectionable segment, thus, this different scene is stored information with corresponding video and audio. As for it being derived from a
prior segment of the information signal (as opposed to a future segment perhaps), it is clear that there are a finite number of possibilities, two, for which can be substituted into the objectionable segment, either prior or future, so it would be obvious to try since one of these two would have to be selected. Respectfully, one of ordinary skill in the art would realize that a prior segment would be more feasible so as to avoid spoilers, but in any case, Durden clearly contemplates substituting a different scene, which also includes prior scenes. Furthermore, as an overlying point, it is a design choice as to what in particular is inserted during this period of questionable content as one of ordinary skill in the art would realize that a number of different choices could be inserted and what in particular is not an inventive step. To summarize, the combination between AAPA and Durden teaches:

“obtaining a replacement audio from the information signal based on an audio level of different portions of the information signal, said obtaining including detecting a mute period in the audio signal of the information signal and storing replacement audio from a portion of the information signal between the detected mute period and a previously detected mute period level

(For purposes of interpretation, Applicant claims the first audio level is no sound and the second audio level is less than a predetermined level (see below for this claim language), which is not explicitly defined in the claims. For purposes of interpretation, the first segment for Durden is the segment just before the substitute scene which clearly has audio associated with it, i.e. non-muted sound. Respectfully, the mute periods are the beginning and the ends of the substituted scene, which is clearly apparent because they are for a different scene, a scene which is substituted in. Please note that the mute periods are for the
substitute scene when it was first shown. This is clearly within Durden’s teaching of
“substitute local scene” which needs to be stored to be substituted later on);
the stored information to be output in place of the audio corresponding to the identified
segment includes the stored replacement audio corresponding to the portion of the information
signal between the detected mute period and the previously detected mute period (As described
above, the substitute scene is inserted in between two other scenes which break up the
original scene).

the identified segment is after the detected mute periods, the parental level of the portion
of the information signal between the mute periods is lower than the stored level (As noted
above, the identified segment is the segment that has the objectionable material in it and
needs to be replaced. This segment obviously occurs after the substitute scene, which was
stored earlier (with the associated mute periods) and this substitute scene clearly has a
parental level lower than the stored level as it is deemed appropriate), and

the mute periods are portions of the information signal detected by an audio level detector
that has no sound (As mentioned above, there is clearly a period in between the start and
end of the substitute scene, for which there is no sound. This is how it is recorded, in
examiner’s opinion.”

As for the parental level being lower than the stored level, respectfully, this is something Durden
would clearly have contemplated and that the purposes of the substitute different scene is to
provide for a safe viewing experience during the questionable segment. As combined with
Durden, the substitute different scene in input in between the safe segments, and in particular,
there is obviously a muted audio period as the scenes change, one at the beginning and one at the end. The above is noted simply to reinforce that notion explicitly as well as for an interpretation purpose.

Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to substitute a different scene, as taught by Durden, with AAPA’s parental control system, with the motivation that Durden teaches of a number of ways to filter out objectionable content (as noted above) and presents these options to the user to modify the objectionable material in a number of ways to make it acceptable for viewing. (Durden, Column 2, Lines 15-20).

However, the cited reference does not detail particulars of detecting a first and second mute period and to emphasize on that, “storing the video signals of the buffered segment between the detected first and second mute periods, wherein the first mute period is at the beginning of the buffered segment and the second mute period is at an end of the buffered segment”. Furthermore, please note aspects of the stored video signals, such as “storing moving images of the video signals when the size of an A/V buffer has a sufficient capacity for storing the moving images between the detected first and second mute periods; and storing a still image of the video signals when the size of the A/V buffer does not have a sufficient capacity for storing the moving images between the detected first and second mute periods.”
Prior art, taken alone or in combination, does not teach of the above claimed limitations. Similar reasoning is applied to independent claim 23. By virtue of the above, the dependent claims 20-22 and 25-27 are also allowed by extension.

Conclusions

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dennis P. Joseph whose telephone number is 571-270-1459. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Amr Awad can be reached on 571-272-7764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.
/Dennis Joseph/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2621
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**APPLICANTS**
Jae Joo Kim, Sungnam-si, KOREA, REPUBLIC OF;

**CONTINUING DATA ******************

**FOREIGN APPLICATIONS ******************
REPUBLIC OF KOREA 10-2005-0007160 01/26/2005

**IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED**
03/03/2006

- Foreign Priority claimed: Yes ☑ No ☐
- SS USC 119(a-d) conditions met: Yes ☑ No ☐
- Met after Allowance: ☐
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**ADDRESS**
LOWE HAUPTMAN & HAM, LLP
2318 Mill Road
Suite 1400
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314
UNITED STATES

**TITLE**
A/V parental lock apparatus and method

**FILING FEE RECEIVED**
1130

FEES: Authority has been given in Paper
No. __________ to charge/credit DEPOSIT ACCOUNT
No. __________ for following:

- ☐ All Fees
- ☐ 1.16 Fees (Filing)
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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL
(Submitted Only via EFS-Web)

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First Named Inventor: Jae Joo Kim
Examiner Name: JOSEPH, DENNIS P

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.
Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. The Instruction Sheet for this form is located at www.uspto.gov

SUBMISSION REQUIRED UNDER 37 CFR 1.114

Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

- Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

  - Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on ______________
  - Other Amendment filed March 25, 2014

- Enclosed
  - Amendment/Reply
  - Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
  - Affidavit(s)/ Declaration(s)
  - Other ______________

MISCELLANEOUS

- Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of months __________
  (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(l) required)

- Other ______________

FEES

The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.
- The Director is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No 071337

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

- Patent Practitioner Signature
- Applicant Signature

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

*If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.*
Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.
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The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows:
- Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.16 (National application filing, search, and examination fees)
- Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.17 (Patent application and reexamination processing fees)
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### Warnings:

This is not a USPTO supplied RCE SB30 form.

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### Warnings:

### Information:

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

**New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111**

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

**National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371**

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

**New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office**

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

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**FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(i))**

**TOTAL ADD'L FEE**

**AMENDMENT**

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**FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(i))**

**TOTAL ADD'L FEE**

* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.
** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" in this space is less than 20, enter "20".
*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" in this space is less than 3, enter "3".

The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.16. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.
Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

docketing@ipfirm.com
pair_1lhhb@firsttofile.com
The reply was filed after a final rejection. No Notice of Appeal has been filed. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114 if this is a utility or plant application. Note that RCEs are not permitted in design applications. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

a) ☐ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.

b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action; or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

c) ☐ A prior Advisory Action was mailed more than 3 months after the mailing date of the final rejection in response to a first-after-final reply filed within 2 months of the mailing date of the final rejection. The current period for reply expires 6 months from the mailing date of the prior Advisory Action or SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection, whichever is earlier.

Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a), (b) or (c). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THIS ADVISORY ACTION IS THE FIRST RESPONSE TO APPLICANT’S FIRST AFTER-FINAL REPLY WHICH WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. ONLY CHECK BOX (c) IN THE LIMITED SITUATION SET FORTH UNDER BOX (c). See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) or (c) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

The Notice of Appeal was filed on __________. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

The proposed amendments filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because:

a) ☐ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);

b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);

c) ☐ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or

d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: __________. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).

Applicant’s reply has overcome the following rejection(s): __________.

Newly proposed or amended claim(s) __________ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).

For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): (a) ☐ will not be entered, or (b) ☐ will be entered, and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

A declaration(s)/affidavit(s) under 37 CFR 1.130(b) was/were filed on __________.

The affidavit or other evidence filed after final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).

The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing the Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).

The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: __________.

Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s), (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s). __________

Other: __________.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: __________.
Claim(s) objected to: __________.
Claim(s) rejected: 18, 20-23 and 25-27.
Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: __________.

/Dennis Joseph/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2621
Applicant's request for entry into AFCP 2.0 is acknowledged, but is denied because the response cannot be reviewed and a search conducted in the limited amount of time authorized for this pilot program. Therefore, the response is being reviewed under pre-pilot practice.

Applicant's representatives are thanked for their time in an interview held March 24, 2014 to discuss the case. In light of that, claim amendments were discussed to possibly overcome the current rejection. While it does seem to examiner that the current rejection has been overcome, the new issues, namely the particulars of the buffered segment:

"storing moving images of the video signals when the size of an A/V buffer has a sufficient capacity for storing the moving images between the detected first and second mute periods; and storing a still image of the video signals when the size of the A/V buffer does not have a sufficient capacity for storing the moving images between the detected first and second mute periods"

are issues that have not been raised previously in prosecution, so the examiner does not have much of a basis to evaluate these limitations on, namely for allowability.

Respectfully, to re-iterate, examiner has not been able to fully consider the claims within the constraints of the AFCP 2.0 program and under the pre-pilot practice, the claims will not be entered because they raise new issue and have changed the scope of the claims. As a result, further search and consideration is required and respectfully, a request for reconsideration.
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: 
Jae Joo Kim et al.: Confirmation No.: 3132
Filed: January 25, 2006: Examiner: JOSEPH, DENNIS P
For: A/V parental lock apparatus and method

MAIL STOP AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Dear Sir/Madam:

In response to the Office Action dated January 13, 20143, reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the following amendments and remarks are respectfully requested.
Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):
docketing@ipfirm.com
pair_llhb@firsttofile.com
All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Attorney Kien Le (64167).

(2) Mr. Sang Yoon Kang.

(3) Dennis Joseph.

(4) ____.

Date of Interview: 24 March 2014.

Type: [ ] Telephonic  [ ] Video Conference  [x] Personal [copy given to: [ ] applicant  [x] applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: [ ] Yes  [x] No.

If Yes, brief description: ____.

Issues Discussed  [ ] 101  [ ] 112  [ ] 102  [x] 103  [ ] Others

(For each of the checked box(es) above, please describe below the issue and detailed description of the discussion)

Claim(s) discussed: 18.

Identification of prior art discussed: APA, Durden.

Substance of Interview

(For each issue discussed, provide a detailed description and indicate if agreement was reached. Some topics may include: identification or clarification of a reference or a portion thereof, claim interpretation, proposed amendments, arguments of any applied references etc....)

Discussion was made on the current rejection and possible amendments to overcome it. If the proposed concepts are filed in a response, it was agreed that it would overcome the current rejection.

Applicant recorrdation instructions: The formal written reply to the last Office action must include the substance of the interview. (See MPEP section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, applicant is given a non-extendable period of the longer of one month or thirty days from this interview date, or the mailing date of this interview summary form, whichever is later, to file a statement of the substance of the interview.

Examiner recorrdation instructions: Examiners must summarize the substance of any interview of record. A complete and proper recordation of the substance of an interview should include the items listed in MPEP 713.04 for complete and proper recordation including the identification of the general thrust of each argument or issue discussed, a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed regarding patentability and the general results or outcome of the interview, to include an indication as to whether or not agreement was reached on the issues raised.

[ ] Attachment

/Dennis Joseph/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2621
Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record
A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews
Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.
All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner’s responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No. placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the “Contents” section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant’s correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:
- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:
1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted;
2) an identification of the claims discussed;
3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner. (The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the examiner may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed; and
7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant’s record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, “Interview Record OK” on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner’s initials.
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : 
Jae Joo Kim et al. : Confirmation No.: 3132 
Filed: January 25, 2006 : Examiner: JOSEPH, DENNIS P

For: A/V parental lock apparatus and method

MAIL STOP AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Dear Sir/Madam:

In response to the Office Action dated January 13, 2014, reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the following amendments and remarks are respectfully requested.
Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

Listing of the Claims

1 – 17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method for managing information, the method comprising:

  receiving an information signal, wherein the information signal includes audio and video and wherein data indicative of parental levels for different segments of the information signal is included in the information signal;

  obtaining [[a]] replacement audio signals and video signals from the information signal based on an audio level of different portions of the information signal, wherein the [[said]] obtaining including comprises:

    detecting a first mute period and a second mute period from [[in]] the audio signal of the information signal, the second mute period subsequent to the first mute period; [[and]]

    storing the audio signals of a buffered segment replacement audio from a portion of the information signal between the detected first and second mute periods detected mute period and a previously detected mute period; and

    storing the video signals of the buffered segment between the detected first and second mute periods, wherein the first mute period is at a beginning of the buffered segment and the second mute period is at an end of the buffered segment;

    detecting the parental levels for the information signal;

    comparing the parental levels to a stored level;

    when the parental level detected for the information signal is lower than the stored level, outputting the audio and video of the information signal as received; and

    when the parental level detected for the information signal is equal to or greater than the stored level, identifying a segment having audio and video to be replaced and outputting stored
information audio and video signals of the buffered segment in place of the audio and video corresponding to the identified segment,

wherein:

the stored information video signals to be output in place of the video corresponding to the identified segment include includes a still image or moving images[[.,.]];

the stored information to be output in place of the audio corresponding to the identified segment includes the stored replacement audio corresponding to the portion of the information signal between the detected mute period and the previously detected mute period;

the identified segment is after the detected mute periods[[.,.]];

the parental level of the buffered segment portion of the information signal between the detected mute periods is lower than the stored level[[.,.]]; and

the detected mute periods are portions of the information signal detected, by an audio level detector, as having that has no sound, and

wherein the storing the video signals of the buffered segment comprises:

storing moving images of the video signals when the size of an A/V buffer has a sufficient capacity for storing the moving images between the detected first and second mute periods; and

storing a still image of the video signals when the size of the A/V buffer does not have a sufficient capacity for storing the moving images between the detected first and second mute periods.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein:

the stored information video signals to be output in place of the video corresponding to the identified segment include includes a still image, and

the still image is repeatedly output for a predetermined time.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the stored level is set by a user.
22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the data indicative of the parental levels of the information signal is included in a video line of the information signal.

23. (Currently Amended) An information management apparatus, comprising:
a storage area configured to store audio and video signals in an information signal;
a parental level detector configured to detect parental levels for different segments of the information signal, wherein data indicative of the parental levels for the different segments is included in the information signal and detected by the parental level detector;
an audio level detector configured to detect a first mute period and a second mute period from the audio signals of the information signal, the second mute period subsequent to the first mute period; after the first period, each of the first and second mute periods having a predetermined audio level, the first and second mute periods being consecutive segments having the predetermined audio level, and
a controller configured to:

determine a buffered segment between the first mute period and the second mute period detected by the audio level detector, wherein the first mute period is at a beginning of the buffered segment and the second mute period is at an end of the buffered segment,
store audio signals from the buffered segment between the detected first and second mute periods in the storage area as replacement audio,
store video signals of the buffered segment between the detected first and second mute periods in the storage area as replacement video,
compare the parental levels detected by the parental level detector of the different segments to a stored level,
output audio and video corresponding to a segment of the information signal as received when the parental level detected is lower than the stored level;
identify a segment as a segment having audio and video to be replaced when the parental level detected for the identified segment is equal to or greater than the stored level, and
outputting stored audio and video signals of the buffered segment information in place of the audio and video corresponding to the identified segment,
the stored video signals information to be output in place of the video 
corresponding to the identified segment include includes a still image or moving images,
the stored information to be output in place of the audio corresponding to the
identified segment includes the stored replacement audio form the portion of the information
signal between the detected mute period and the previously detected mute period,
the identified segment is after the detected mute periods,
the parental level of the buffered segment portion of the information signal
between the detected mute periods is lower than the stored level, and
the detected mute periods are portions of the information signal, detected by the
audio level detector, as having that has no sound, and
wherein the controller is further configured to
store moving images of the video signals when the size of an A/V buffer in the
storage area has a sufficient capacity for storing the moving images between the detected first
and second mute periods, and
store a still image of the video signals when the size of the A/V buffer does not
have a sufficient capacity for storing the moving images between the detected first and second
mute periods.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein:
the stored information video signals to be output in place of the video
corresponding to the identified segment include includes a still image, and
the controller repeatedly outputs the still image for a predetermined time.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the stored level is set
by a user.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the data indicative of
the parental levels of the information signal is included in a video line of the information signal.
28. (Canceled)
Counsel thanks Examiner Joseph for the courtesy of a personal interview held on March 24, 2014.

Applicant further appreciates the Examiner’s thorough review of the present application and respectfully requests reconsideration in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 18, 20, 23 and 24 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments. Claims 18, 20-23 and 25-27 are pending in this application.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection

Claims 18, 20-23 and 25-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over, according to the Examiner, Applicant’s Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter “AAPA”) in view of Durden (US 7,380,258, hereinafter “Durden”). Applicant traverses these rejections based, at least in part, for the following reasons.

Claim 18 now recites, among other features, “the first mute period is at a beginning of the buffered segment and the second mute period is at an end of the buffered segment.”

In the Office Action dated January 13, 2014, regarding the feature of the first and second mute periods, the Office alleged that the feature is not explicitly defined in the claims. However, in view of the amended claim language, claim 18 clearly recites the first mute period which is at a beginning of a buffered segment, and the second mute period which is at an end of the buffered segment. This feature finds support at least in original claim 5, lines 18-22 of page 7 of the original application as filed.

Furthermore, claim 18 now recites, among other features, “storing moving images of the video signals when the size of an A/V buffer has a sufficient capacity for storing the moving images between the detected first and second mute periods” and “storing a still image of the video signals when the size of the A/V buffer does not have a sufficient capacity for storing the moving images between the detected first and second mute period,” which find support at least in line 25 of page 5 through line 5 of page 6 of the original application. The applied references, i.e.,
AAPA and *Durden*, either alone or in combination, are silent in disclosing or teaching the above feature of storing, as kindly indicated by the Examiner at the interview.

Independent claim 23 also recites features which correspond to the above features of claim 18.

At least for these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the applied references, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or teach all of the features of independent claims 18 and 23. Therefore, the rejections of independent claims 18 and 23, and dependent claims 20-22 and 25-27 are believed overcome. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

**Conclusion**

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. A swift Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If any issues remain, *the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned Applicants’ attorney of record, to resolve the same.*

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN & HAM, LLP

By: /Yoon S. Ham/
Yoon S. Ham
Registration No. 45,307
Customer Number: 22429
2318 Mill Road, Suite 1400
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1111
(703) 518-5499 Facsimile
Date: March 25, 2014
YSH/SYK/shh
CERTIFICATION AND REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION UNDER THE AFTER FINAL CONSIDERATION PILOT PROGRAM 2.0

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<th>Practitioner Docket No.:</th>
<th>Application No.:</th>
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<td>123025-0002</td>
<td>11/338,884</td>
<td>01-25-2006</td>
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First Named Inventor:
Jae Joo Kim

Title:
A/V parental lock apparatus and method

APPLICANT HEREBY CERTIFIES THE FOLLOWING AND REQUESTS CONSIDERATION UNDER THE AFTER FINAL CONSIDERATION PILOT PROGRAM 2.0 (AFCP 2.0) OF THE ACCOMPANYING RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116.

1. The above-identified application is (i) an original utility, plant, or design nonprovisional application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) [a continuing application (e.g., a continuation or divisional application) is filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) and is eligible under (i)], or (ii) an international application that has entered the national stage in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 371(c).

2. The above-identified application contains an outstanding final rejection.

3. Submitted herewith is a response under 37 CFR 1.116 to the outstanding final rejection. The response includes an amendment to at least one independent claim, and the amendment does not broaden the scope of the independent claim in any aspect.

4. This certification and request for consideration under AFCP 2.0 is the only AFCP 2.0 certification and request filed in response to the outstanding final rejection.

5. Applicant is willing and available to participate in any interview requested by the examiner concerning the present response.

6. This certification and request is being filed electronically using the Office's electronic filing system (EFS-Web).

7. Any fees that would be necessary consistent with current practice concerning responses after final rejection under 37 CFR 1.116, e.g., extension of time fees, are being concurrently filed herewith. [There is no additional fee required to request consideration under AFCP 2.0.]

8. By filing this certification and request, applicant acknowledges the following:
   - Reissue applications and reexamination proceedings are not eligible to participate in AFCP 2.0.
   - The examiner will verify that the AFCP 2.0 submission is compliant, i.e., that the requirements of the program have been met (see items 1 to 7 above). For compliant submissions:
     - The examiner will review the response under 37 CFR 1.116 to determine if additional search and/or consideration (i) is necessitated by the amendment and (ii) could be completed within the time allotted under AFCP 2.0. If additional search and/or consideration is required but cannot be completed within the allotted time, the examiner will process the submission consistent with current practice concerning responses after final rejection under 37 CFR 1.116, e.g., by mailing an advisory action.
     - If the examiner determines that the amendment does not necessitate additional search and/or consideration, or if the examiner determines that additional search and/or consideration is required and could be completed within the allotted time, then the examiner will consider whether the amendment places the application in condition for allowance (after completing the additional search and/or consideration, if required). If the examiner determines that the amendment does not place the application in condition for allowance, then the examiner will contact the applicant and request an interview.
       - The interview will be conducted by the examiner, and if the examiner does not have negotiation authority, a primary examiner and/or supervisory patent examiner will also participate.
       - If the applicant declines the interview, or if the interview cannot be scheduled within ten (10) calendar days from the date that the examiner first contacts the applicant, then the examiner will proceed consistent with current practice concerning responses after final rejection under 37 CFR 1.116.

Signature
/Yoon S. Ham/

Date
2014-03-25

Name (Print/Typed)
Yoon S. Ham

Practitioner Registration No.
45307

Note: This form must be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33. See 37 CFR 1.4(d) for signature requirements and certifications. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below*.

* Total of ________ forms are submitted.
Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency’s responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.
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**Title of Invention:** A/V parental lock apparatus and method

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<td>Yoon Ham/Sunny HAN</td>
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This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

**New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111**

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

**National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371**

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**New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office**

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# PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD

**Application or Docket Number:** 11/338,884  
**Filing Date:** 01/25/2006  
**To be Mailed:** □

**ENTITY:**  
- □ LARGE  
- □ SMALL  
- □ MICRO

## APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I

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* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.

## TOTAL

## APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II

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**FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))**

**TOTAL ADD'L FEE:** 0

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**FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))**

**TOTAL ADD'L FEE:** LIE

/KIMBERLY PANNELL/

*If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.
**If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" in this space is less than 20, enter "20".
***If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" in this space is less than 3, enter "3".

The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.
NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

This is in response to the Power of Attorney filed 03/13/2014. The Power of Attorney in this application is accepted. Correspondence in this application will be mailed to the above address as provided by 37 CFR 1.33.

/sleuchti/

Office of Data Management, Application Assistance Unit (571) 272-4000, or (571) 272-4200, or 1-888-786-0101
NOTICE REGARDING CHANGE OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

This is in response to the Power of Attorney filed 03/13/2014.

• The Power of Attorney to you in this application has been revoked by the assignee who has intervened as provided by 37 CFR 3.71. Future correspondence will be mailed to the new address of record (37 CFR 1.33).

/sleutschit/

Office of Data Management, Application Assistance Unit (571) 272-4000, or (571) 272-4200, or 1-888-786-0101
Post-AIA GPA

POWER OF ATTORNEY TO PROSECUTE APPLICATIONS BEFORE THE USPTO

I hereby revoke all previous powers of attorney given in the application identified in the attached statement under 37 C.F.R. §3.73(c).

I hereby appoint practitioners associated with Customer Number: **22429**

**Lowe Hauptman Ham & Berner, LLP**

Telephone: +1-703-684-1111

Email: docketing@ipfirm.com

www.ipfirm.com

as attorney(s) or agent(s) to represent the undersigned before the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in connection with any and all patent applications assigned only to the undersigned according to the USPTO assignment records or assignment documents attached to this form in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §3.73(c).

Please change the correspondence address for the application identified in the attached statement under 37 C.F.R. §3.73(c) to the address associated with Customer Number: **22429**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Legal Name and Address of Assignee:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Name: Humax Co., Ltd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Address: Humax Village 11-4, Sunae-dong, Bundang-gu, Seongnam-si, Gyeonggi-do, 463-825 Republic of Korea</td>
</tr>
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**Note:** A copy of this form, together with a statement under 37 C.F.R. §3.73(c) is required to be filed in each application in which this form is used. The statement under 37 C.F.R. §3.73(c) may be completed by one of the practitioners appointed in this form, and must identify the application in which this Power of Attorney is to be filed.

<table>
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<th>Signature of Assignee of Record: The individual whose signature and title are supplied below is authorized to act on behalf of the assignee:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Signature:</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ryu-guang</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Paek, Ryu-guang</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Executive IP Manager</strong></td>
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</table>
STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 3.73(b)

Applicant/Patent Owner:  Jae Joo Kim

Application No./Patent No.:  11/338,884  Filed/Issue Date:  01-25-2006

Titled:  A/V parental lock apparatus and method

HUMAX, CO., LTD.  , a corporation

(Name of Assignee)  (Type of Assignee, e.g., corporation, partnership, university, government agency, etc.)

states that it is:

1.  ☐  the assignee of the entire right, title, and interest in;

2.  ☐ an assignee of less than the entire right, title, and interest in
   (The extent (by percentage) of its ownership interest is __________ %); or

3.  ☐  the assignee of an undivided interest in the entirety of (a complete assignment from one of the joint inventors was made)
   the patent application/patent identified above, by virtue of either:

A.  ☐  An assignment from the inventor(s) of the patent application/patent identified above.  The assignment was recorded in
   the United States Patent and Trademark Office at Reel 017852 , Frame 0150 , or for which a copy therefore is attached.

OR

B.  ☐  A chain of title from the inventor(s), of the patent application/patent identified above, to the current assignee as follows:

   1. From:  ____________________________ To:  ____________________________

      The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at
      Reel ____________________________ , Frame ____________________________ , or for which a copy thereof is attached.

   2. From:  ____________________________ To:  ____________________________

      The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at
      Reel ____________________________ , Frame ____________________________ , or for which a copy thereof is attached.

   3. From:  ____________________________ To:  ____________________________

      The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at
      Reel ____________________________ , Frame ____________________________ , or for which a copy thereof is attached.

☐  Additional documents in the chain of title are listed on a supplemental sheet(s).

☐  As required by 37 CFR 3.73(b)(1)(i), the documentary evidence of the chain of title from the original owner to the assignee was,
   or concurrently is being, submitted for recordation pursuant to 37 CFR 3.11.

   [NOTE: A separate copy (i.e., a true copy of the original assignment document(s)) must be submitted to Assignment Division in
   accordance with 37 CFR Part 3, to record the assignment in the records of the USPTO. See MPEP 302.08]

The undersigned (whose title is supplied below) is authorized to act on behalf of the assignee.

/Yoon S. Ham/  03-13-2014

Signature  Date

Yoon S. Ham  Attorney of Record

Printed or Typed Name  Title

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 3.73(b). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 36 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA  22313-1450.  DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA  22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.
Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

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**Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt**

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**Warnings:**

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**New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office**

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.
Office Action Summary

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☑ Responsive to communication(s) filed on October 15, 2013.
   - A declaration(s)/affidavit(s) under 37 CFR 1.130(b) was/were filed on __________.

2a) ☑ This action is FINAL.

2b) ☐ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on __________; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.

4) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims*

5) ☑ Claim(s) 18,20-23 and 25-27 is/are pending in the application.
   - 5a) Of the above claim(s) ______ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

6) ☐ Claim(s) ______ is/are allowed.

7) ☑ Claim(s) 18,20-23 and 25-27 is/are rejected.

8) ☐ Claim(s) ______ is/are objected to.

9) ☐ Claim(s) ______ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

* If any claims have been determined allowable, you may be eligible to benefit from the Patent Prosecution Highway program at a participating intellectual property office for the corresponding application. For more information, please see http://www.uspto.gov/patents/init_events/pph/index.jsp or send an inquiry to PPHfeedback@uspto.gov.

Application Papers

10) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

11) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ______ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

   Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

   Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

Certified copies:

a) ☐ All  b) ☐ Some**  c) ☐ None of the:

   1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
   2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ______.
   3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

** See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☑ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08a and/or PTO/SB/08b)
   - Paper No(s)/Mail Date ______.

3) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
   - Paper No(s)/Mail Date ______.

4) ☐ Other: ______.
DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is responsive to amendments filed for No. 11/338,884 on October 15, 2013. Claims 18, 20-23 and 25-27 are pending and have been examined.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negativized by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. The factual inquiries set forth in Graham v. John Deere Co., 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

4. Claims 18, 20-23 and 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant’s Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter referred to as AAPA) in view of Durden (7,380,258 B2).

AAPA teaches in Claim 18:

A method for managing information, comprising:
receiving an information signal, wherein the information signal includes audio and video and wherein data indicative of parental levels for different segments of the information signal is included in the information signal (Figure 4, [0010]-[0011], show different segments of the A/V signal, such as the first, left-most, non-shaded part, the shaded part, and then another non-shaded part. Please note one such segment is associated with a first parental level that is considered not adult, another such segment is associated with a parental level that is considered adult, etc, as shown in Figure 4); detecting the parental levels for the information signal; comparing the parental levels to a stored level; (As disclosed above, each segment is analyzed to see if it is considered adult or not, i.e. relating it to the parental level)

when the parental level detected for the information signal is lower than the stored level, outputting the audio and video of the information signal as received (Figure 4, [0011], the interpreted segment is at a parental level that is considered to not be adult (lower than the user setting parental level), so the video and audio are output normally); and

when the parental level detected for of the information signal is equal to or greater than the stored level, identifying a segment having audio to be replaced and outputting stored information in place of the audio and video corresponding to the identified segment (Figure 4, [0010], disclose that for the segment, the parental level is considered adult throughout this segment (higher than user setting parental level), so for this segment, there is a video blank and audio mute inserted throughout this objectionable second segment, i.e. replaced. To clarify, the identified segment is the segment that has the objectionable material and needs to be replaced), wherein:
the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to the identified segment includes a still image or moving images (Figure 4, [0010] discloses a black screen (read as still image) is output during the second segment. Please see the combination below with regards to the stored information as this part is modified); but

AAPA does not explicitly teach:

“obtaining a replacement audio from the information signal based on an audio level of different portions of the information signal, said obtaining including detecting a mute period in the audio signal of the information signal and storing replacement audio from a portion of the information signal between the detected mute period and a previously detected mute period;

the stored information to be output in place of the audio corresponding to the identified segment includes the stored replacement audio corresponding to the portion of the information signal between the detected mute period and the previously detected mute period,

the identified segment is after the detected mute periods, the parental level of the portion of the information signal between the mute periods is lower than the stored level, and

the mute periods are portions of the information signal detected by an audio level detector that has no sound.”

To summarize, AAPA teaches of inserting a black screen and muted audio during the objectionable second segment, not stored information of a prior segment in the information signal which includes stored video and stored audio.
However, in the same field of endeavor, content filtering, Durden also teaches of removing the objectionable material in segments where the content is deemed to be inappropriate (akin to AAPA’s shaded segment). In its place, Durden teaches of substituting a number of options, such as substitute alternative audio stream, substitute alternative video channel/stream, substitute alternate video and audio channel stream, delete the scene, or substitute different scene. (Durden, Columns 8-9, Lines 60-10, Table 1 as well). For purposes of interpretation, this would be akin to the claimed third segment and for AAPA, this is black video and muted audio and this is where the substitution/combination takes effect. Here, Durden teaches of using a different scene from the current program/stream to place in the objectionable segment, thus, this different scene is stored information with corresponding video and audio. As for it being derived from a prior segment of the information signal (as opposed to a future segment perhaps), it is clear that there are a finite number of possibilities, two, for which can be substituted into the objectionable segment, either prior or future, so it would be obvious to try since one of these two would have to be selected. Respectfully, one of ordinary skill in the art would realize that a prior segment would be more feasible so as to avoid spoilers, but in any case, Durden clearly contemplates substituting a different scene, which also includes prior scenes. Furthermore, as an overlying point, it is a design choice as to what in particular is inserted during this period of questionable content as one of ordinary skill in the art would realize that a number of different choices could be inserted and what in particular is not an inventive step. To summarize, the combination between AAPA and Durden teaches:
“obtaining a replacement audio from the information signal based on an audio level of different portions of the information signal, said obtaining including detecting a mute period in the audio signal of the information signal and storing replacement audio from a portion of the information signal between the detected mute period and a previously detected mute period level

(For purposes of interpretation, Applicant claims the first audio level is no sound and the second audio level is less than a predetermined level (see below for this claim language), which is not explicitly defined in the claims. For purposes of interpretation, the first segment for Durden is the segment just before the substitute scene which clearly has audio associated with it, i.e. non-muted sound. Respectfully, the mute periods are the beginning and the ends of the substituted scene, which is clearly apparent because they are for a different scene, a scene which is substituted in. Please note that the mute periods are for the substitute scene when it was first shown. This is clearly within Durden’s teaching of “substitute local scene” which needs to be stored to be substituted later on);

the stored information to be output in place of the audio corresponding to the identified segment includes the stored replacement audio corresponding to the portion of the information signal between the detected mute period and the previously detected mute period (As described above, the substitute scene is inserted in between two other scenes which break up the original scene).

the identified segment is after the detected mute periods, the parental level of the portion of the information signal between the mute periods is lower than the stored level (As noted above, the identified segment is the segment that has the objectionable material in it and needs to be replaced. This segment obviously occurs after the substitute scene, which was
stored earlier (with the associated mute periods) and this substitute scene clearly has a parental level lower than the stored level as it is deemed appropriate), and the mute periods are portions of the information signal detected by an audio level detector that has no sound. (As mentioned above, there is clearly a period in between the start and end of the substitute scene, for which there is no sound. This is how it is recorded, in examiner’s opinion).”

As for the parental level being lower than the stored level, respectfully, this is something Durden would clearly have contemplated and that the purposes of the substitute different scene is to provide for a safe viewing experience during the questionable segment. As combined with Durden, the substitute different scene in input in between the safe segments, and in particular, there is obviously a muted audio period as the scenes change, one at the beginning and one at the end. The above is noted simply to reinforce that notion explicitly as well as for an interpretation purpose.

Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to substitute a different scene, as taught by Durden, with AAPA’s parental control system, with the motivation that Durden teaches of a number of ways to filter out objectionable content (as noted above) and presents these options to the user to modify the objectionable material in a number of ways to make it acceptable for viewing. (Durden, Column 2, Lines 15-20).

AAPA and Durden teaches in Claim 20:
The method of claim 18, wherein:

the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to the identified segment includes a still image (AAPA, [0010], teaches of a black screen (read as still image), Durden teaches of a number of options that can be implemented. Respectfully, in light of the combination, it is a design choice what is substituted in as one of skill would realize that the goal is to remove the objectionable content. Also, a previous scene could also include still images as one of a plurality of images), and

the still image is repeatedly for a predetermined time. (The combination teaches to implement the substituted information for the duration of the second segment, until the level is again deemed to be acceptable/not adult)

AAPA teaches in Claim 21:

The method of claim 18, wherein the stored level is set by a user. (AAPA, [0010] discloses the stored level which is the comparison standard is a user setting parental level)

AAPA teaches in Claim 22:

The method of claim 18, wherein the data indicative of the parental levels of the information signal is included in a video line of the information signal. (AAPA, Figure 3, [0006]-[0007] disclose the parental level of the segments is stored in the video lines of the A/V signal. Looking at Figure 4, each segment is then identifiable as to if it has objectionable material or not)
AAPA teaches in Claim 23:

An information management apparatus, comprising:

- a storage area to store audio and video in an information signal (Figure 1, [0005])

disclose an A/V signal processor 10 and a memory 13. Respectfully, it is obvious, if not inherent, that a memory is part of a display device to store the information that is to be displayed):

- a first parental level detector to detect parental levels for different segments of the information signal, wherein data indicative of the parental levels for the different segments is included in the information signal and detected by the first parental level detector; (Figure 4, [0010]-[0011], show different segments of the A/V signal, such as the first, left-most, non-shaded part, the shaded part, and then another non-shaded part. Please note the fourth segment is associated with a first parental level that is considered not adult, the fifth segment is associated with a parental level that is considered adult, etc, as shown in Figure 4. Respectfully, it is clear that a detector(s) is required to analyze the content level of the scene. As for the first and second segments, please see the combination below with Durden as it will make more sense there what examiner’s interpretation is),

compare the parental levels of the different segments to a stored level (As disclosed above, each segment is analyzed to see if it is considered adult or not, i.e. relating it to the parental level),

output audio and video corresponding to a segment of the information signal as received when the parental level detected is lower than the stored level (Figure 4, [0011], the
interpreted segment is at a parental level that is considered to not be adult (lower than the user setting parental level), so the video and audio are output normally);

identify a segment as a segment having audio to be replaced muted when the parental level detected for the identified segment is equal to or greater than the stored level, and outputting stored information in place of the audio and video corresponding to the identified segment (Figure 4, [0010], disclose that for the segment, the parental level is considered adult throughout this segment (higher than user setting parental level), so for this segment, there is a video blank and audio mute inserted throughout this objectionable second segment, i.e. replaced. To clarify, the identified segment is the segment that has the objectionable material and needs to be replaced), wherein:

the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to the identified segment includes a still image or moving images (Figure 4, [0010] discloses a black screen (read as still image) is output during the second segment. Please see the combination below with regards to the stored information); but

AAPA does not explicitly teach:

“an audio level detector to detect a first mute period and a second mute period after the mute period, each of the first and second mute periods having a predetermined audio level, the first and second mute periods being consecutive segments having the predetermined audio level, and

a controller to:
determine a segment between the first mute period and the second mute period detected by the audio level detector,

store audio from the segment between the first and second mute periods in the storage area as replacement audio,

outputting stored information in place of the audio and video corresponding to the identified segment,

the stored information to be output in place of the audio corresponding to the identified segment includes the stored replacement audio from the portion of the information signal between the detected mute period and the previously detected mute period,

the parental level of the portion of the information signal between the mute periods is lower than the stored level, and

the mute periods are portions of the information signal detected by the audio level detector that has no sound.”

To summarize, AAPA teaches of inserting a black screen and muted audio during the objectionable second segment, not stored information of a prior segment in the information signal which includes stored video and stored audio.

However, in the same field of endeavor, content filtering, Durden also teaches of removing the objectionable material in segments where the content is deemed to be inappropriate (akin to AAPA’s shaded segment). In its place, Durden teaches of substituting a number of options, such as substitute alternative audio stream, substitute alternative video channel/stream, substitute
alternate video and audio channel stream, delete the scene, or substitute different scene. (Durden, Columns 8-9, Lines 60-10, Table 1 as well). For purposes of interpretation, this would be akin to the claimed third segment and for AAPA, this is black video and muted audio and this is where the substitution/combination takes effect. Here, Durden teaches of using a different scene from the current program/stream to place in the objectionable segment, thus, this different scene is stored information with corresponding video and audio. As for it being derived from a prior segment of the information signal (as opposed to a future segment perhaps), it is clear that there are a finite number of possibilities, two, for which can be substituted into the objectionable segment, either prior or future, so it would be obvious to try since one of these two would have to be selected. Respectfully, one of ordinary skill in the art would realize that a prior segment would be more feasible so as to avoid spoilers, but in any case, Durden clearly contemplates substituting a different scene, which also includes prior scenes. Furthermore, as an overlying point, it is a design choice as to what in particular is inserted during this period of questionable content as one of ordinary skill in the art would realize that a number of different choices could be inserted and what in particular is not an inventive step. To summarize, the combination between AAPA and Durden teaches:

“an audio level detector to detect a first mute period and a second mute period after the mute period, each of the first and second mute periods having a predetermined audio level, the first and second mute periods being consecutive segments having the predetermined audio level (As disclosed below, a substitute scene is determined and inserted to replace objectionable
material. Respectfully, this is clearly carried out by some hardware (read as an audio level detector), and a controller to:

determine a segment between the first mute period and the second mute period detected by the audio level detector. (For purposes of interpretation, Applicant claims the first audio level is no sound and the second audio level is less than a predetermined level (see below for this claim language), which is not explicitly defined in the claims. For purposes of interpretation, the first segment for Durden is the segment just before the substitute scene which clearly has audio associated with it, i.e. non-muted sound. Respectfully, the mute periods are the beginning and the ends of the substituted scene, which is clearly apparent because they are for a different scene, a scene which is substituted in. Please note that the mute periods are for the substitute scene when it was first shown. This is clearly within Durden’s teaching of “substitute local scene” which needs to be stored to be substituted later on),

store audio from the segment between the first and second mute periods in the storage area as replacement audio. (As described above, the substitute scene is inserted in between two other scenes which break up the original scene. Clearly then, it is stored first),

outputting stored information in place of the audio and video corresponding to the identified segment. (As described above, this information is output instead of the objectionable material),

the stored information to be output in place of the audio corresponding to the identified segment includes the stored replacement audio from the portion of the information signal
between the detected mute period and the previously detected mute period (As described above, the substitute scene is inserted in between two other scenes which break up the original scene),

the parental level of the portion of the information signal between the mute periods is lower than the stored level (As noted above, the identified segment is the segment that has the objectionable material in it and needs to be replaced. This segment obviously occurs after the substitute scene, which was stored earlier (with the associated mute periods) and this substitute scene clearly has a parental level lower than the stored level as it is deemed appropriate), and

the mute periods are portions of the information signal detected by the audio level detector that has no sound. (As mentioned above, there is clearly a period in between the start and end of the substitute scene, for which there is no sound. This is how it is recorded, in examiner’s opinion.)”

As combined with AAPA, the prior scene and corresponding video and audio data is substituted in the objectionable, second segment, so instead of having a black video and muted audio, this scene is played. Please note that for purposes of interpretation, the substituted scene is inserted during the non-shaded portion, in between the start and end of the non-shaded period, such that there is muted audio at the beginning and the end. Respectfully, is it inherent that when switching between scenes that there is a muted audio period and this is being mentioned in light of that.
As for the parental level being lower than the stored level, respectfully, this is something Durden would clearly have contemplated and that the purposes of the substitute different scene is to provide for a safe viewing experience during the questionable segment. As combined with Durden, the substitute different scene in input in between the safe segments, and in particular, there is obviously a muted audio period as the scenes change, one at the beginning and one at the end. The above is noted simply to reinforce that notion explicitly as well as for an interpretation purpose.

Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to substitute a different scene, as taught by Durden, with APA’s parental control system, with the motivation that Durden teaches of a number of ways to filter out objectionable content (as noted above) and presents these options to the user to modify the objectionable material in a number of ways to make it acceptable for viewing. (Durden, Column 2, Lines 15-20).

APA and Durden teach in Claim 25:

The apparatus of claim 23, wherein:

the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to the identified segment includes a still image (APA, [0010], teaches of a black screen (read as still image), Durden teaches of a number of options that can be implemented. Respectfully, in light of the combination, it is a design choice what is substituted in as one of skill would realize that the goal is to remove the objectionable content. Also, a previous scene could also include still images as one of a plurality of images), and
the controller repeatedly outputs the still image for a predetermined time. ( The combination teaches to implement the substituted information for the duration of the second segment, until the level is again deemed to be acceptable/not adult )

AAPA teaches in Claim 26:

The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the stored level is set by a user. ( AAPA, [0010] discloses the stored level which is the comparison standard is a user setting parental level )

AAPA teaches in Claim 27:

The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the data indicative of the parental levels the information signal is included in a video line of the information signal. ( AAPA, Figure 3, [0006]-[0007] disclose the parental level of the segments is stored in the video lines of the A/V signal. Looking at Figure 4, each segment is then identifiable as to if it has objectionable material or not )

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant’s arguments considered, but are respectfully moot in grounds of new rejection(s).

Applicant’s representative is thanked for the time in a telephone interview on October 8, 2013. In light of that interview, at the very least, it was agreed that changes to the claim language needed to be made to address the various claimed segments, that, respectfully, had 112 first
paragraph issues. In light of the amendments made, the 112 rejection has been removed and Applicants is thanked for this.

Furthermore, in light of the claim amendments, examiner’s interpretation has changed, namely because the mute periods have not been claimed in this level of detail. Please note the mute periods are no longer interpreted as being around the “identified segment” (previously the fifth segment), but is rather, around the segment that makes up the local substitute scene of Durden.

**Conclusion**

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant’s disclosure.

Cormack et al. ([US 2005/0268317 A1](https://www.google.com))

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period
will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DENNIS P. JOSEPH whose telephone number is (571)-270-1459. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Amr Awad can be reached on 571-272-7764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dennis Joseph/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2621
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### EAST Search History (Interference)

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:  
Jae Joo KIM  
Confirmation No.: 3132

Serial No.: 11/338,884  
Group Art Unit: 2691

Filed: January 25, 2006  
Examiner: Dennis P. JOSEPH

Customer No.: 34610

For: A/V PARENTAL LOCK APPARATUS AND METHOD

AMENDMENT

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Window, Mail Stop Amendment  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action of June 12, 2013, the date for reply having been extended by a Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims.

Remarks/Arguments begin after the listing of the claims.
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-17  (Canceled)

18.  (Currently Amended) A method for managing information, comprising:

receiving different segments of an information signal, wherein the information signal includes audio and video and wherein data indicative of parental levels for the different segments of the information signal is included in the information signal;

detecting a segment that has an audio level above a first predetermined audio level and a second predetermined audio level, said detecting including:

(a) detecting a first segment of the different segments of the information signal having a first predetermined audio level or second predetermined audio level;

(b) detecting a second segment of the different segments of the information signal having the first predetermined audio level or the second predetermined audio level, and

(c) locating a third segment between the first and second segments and storing audio from the third segment;
obtaining a replacement audio from the information signal based on an audio level of different portions of the information signal, said obtaining including detecting a mute period in the audio signal of the information signal and storing replacement audio from a portion of the information signal between the detected mute period and a previously detected mute period:

detecting the parental levels for the different segments of an information signal;

comparing the parental levels to a stored level;

when the parental level detected for a fourth segment of the information signal is lower than the stored level, outputting the audio and video corresponding to the fourth segment of the information signal as received; and

when the parental level detected for a fifth segment of the information signal is equal to or greater than the stored level, identifying the fifth segment as a segment having audio to be replaced and outputting stored information in place of the audio and video corresponding to the fifth-identified segment, wherein:

the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to the fifth-identified segment includes a still image or moving images,

the stored information to be output in place of the audio corresponding to the fifth-identified segment includes the stored replacement audio corresponding to the third
segment between the first and second segments the portion of the information signal
between the detected mute period and the previously detected mute period,

the fifth identified segment is after the first, second, and third
segments detected mute periods,

the parental level of the third segment portion of the information signal
between the mute periods is lower than the stored level, and

the first and second segments are detected by an audio detector which
detects audio in at least one of the first or second predetermined audio levels, and

the first predetermined audio level is no sound and the second
preetermined audio level corresponds to a level of audio lower than a predetermined level
the mute periods are portions of the information signal detected by an audio
level detector that has no sound.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein:

the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to

the fifth identified segment includes a still image, and

the still image is repeatedly output for a predetermined time.
21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the stored level is set by a user.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the data indicative of the parental levels of the different segments in the information signal is included in a video line of the information signal.

23. (Currently Amended) An information management apparatus, comprising:

   a storage area to store audio and video in an information signal;

   a first parental level detector to detect parental levels for different segments of the information signal, wherein data indicative of the parental levels for the different segments is included in the information signal and detected by the first parental level detector;

   a second audio level detector to detect a first segment mute period and a second segment mute period after the first segment mute period, each of the first and second segment mute periods having a first-predetermined audio level or a second-predetermined audio level, the first and second mute periods being consecutive segments having the predetermined audio level, and

   a controller to:
determine a third-segment between the first segment mute period and the second segment mute period detected by the second audio level detector,

store audio from the third-segment between the first and second mute periods in the storage area as replacement audio,

compare the parental levels of the different segments to a stored level,

output audio and video corresponding to a fourth-segment of the information signal as received when the parental level detected for the fourth segment is lower than the stored level;

identify a fifth-segment as a segment having audio to be replaced when the parental level detected for the fifth-identified segment is equal to or greater than the stored level, and

outputting stored information in place of the audio and video corresponding to the fifth-identified segment, wherein:

the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to the fifth-identified segment includes a still image or moving images,

the stored information to be output in place of the audio corresponding to the second-identified segment includes the stored replacement audio from the third segment

the portion of the information signal between the detected mute period and the previously detected mute period,
the parental level of the third segment portion of the information signal between the mute periods is lower than the stored level, and

the first predetermined audio level is no sound and the second predetermined audio level corresponds to a level of audio lower than a predetermined level

the mute periods are portions of the information signal detected by the audio level detector that has no sound.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein:

the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to the fifth identified segment includes a still image, and

the controller repeatedly outputs the still image for a predetermined time.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the stored level is set by a user.
27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the data indicative of the parental levels of the different segments in the information signal is included in a video line of the information signal.

28. (Canceled)
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 18, 20-23 and 25-27 are pending in this application. By this Reply, claims 18, 20, 22, 23, 25 and 27 are amended and claim 28 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims and the drawings. Withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the courtesies extended to Applicants’ representative during the telephone interview on October 8, 2013. The points discussed during the interview are incorporated herein.

The drawings stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The Examiner’s comment has been addressed in amending the claims, and hence, this objection should be withdrawn.

Claims 18, 23 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112(a), first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. As agreed during the interview, the Examiner’s comments have been addressed in amending the claims, and hence, this rejection should be withdrawn.


The proposed combination of AAPA and Durden fails to establish a *prima facie*
case of obviousness, as required under Section 103. For example, AAPA and Durden fail to teach or suggest

"obtaining a replacement audio from the information signal based on an audio level of different portions of the information signal, said obtaining including detecting a mute period in the audio signal of the information signal and storing replacement audio from a portion of the information signal between the detected mute period and a previously detected mute period...

"the stored information to be output in place of the audio corresponding to the identified segment includes the stored replacement audio corresponding to the portion of the information signal between the detected mute period and the previously detected mute period,"

and the combination thereof, as recited in amended independent claim 18, and

"an audio level detector to detect a first mute period and a second mute period after the first mute period, each of the first and second mute periods having a predetermined audio level, the first and second mute periods being consecutive segments having the predetermined audio level, and

a controller to:

determine a segment between the first mute period and the second mute detected by the audio level detector...

the stored information to be output in place of the audio corresponding to the identified segment includes the stored replacement audio from the portion of the information signal between the detected mute period and the previously detected mute period,"

and the combination thereof, as recited in amended independent claim 23.
The Patent Office concludes that the AAPA fails to disclose, in part, that the stored information to be output in place of the audio corresponding to the identified segment includes the stored replacement audio. The Patent Office relies upon Durden, but it is respectfully submitted that Durden fails to disclose the features found lacking in AAPA. As discussed during the interview, while Durden may disclose that a different scene may be substituted for segments for which parental control is necessary (See Table I, Control Value SS of Durden), Durden fails to disclose that the substitute scene is obtained based on a mute period in the received data. The Patent Office also concludes that it is inherent that a mute period is present before and after a scene, however, presence of periods having no sound does not necessitate that mute periods are used to determine the substitute scene.

For example, a substitute scene obtained without sensing the audio level as claimed may have multiple periods in the scene without sound or may even not include any sound at all. In contrast, in the present invention, the replacement audio is obtained from the information signal based on an audio level of different portions of the information signal, said obtaining including detecting a mute period in the audio signal of the information signal and storing replacement audio from a portion of the information signal between the detected mute period and a previously detected mute period, as recited in amended independent claim 18. For similar reasons, Durden fails to disclose or suggest the audio level detector to detect a first mute period and a second mute period after the first mute
period, each of the first and second mute periods having a predetermined audio level, the first and second mute periods being consecutive segments having the predetermined audio level, and a controller to determine a segment between the first mute period and the second mute detected by the audio level detector, as recited in amended independent claim 23.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 18 and 23 are allowable over AAPA and Durden, alone or in combination, and hence, the rejection of independent claims 18 and 23 should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 20-22 and 25-27 are allowable over AAPA and Durden at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 18 and 23, from which they respectively depend, as well as for their add features.
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Paul H. Kang, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP

Daniel Y.J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186
Paul H. Kang
Registration No. 66,545

Correspondence Address:
P.O. Box 8638
Reston, VA 20195
703 766-3777 DYKPHK
Date: October 15, 2013
Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610
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## Payment Information:

| Submitted with Payment | yes |
| Payment Type           | Credit Card |
| Payment was successfully received in RAM | $200 |
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**Total Files Size (in bytes):** 539224
This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

**New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111**
If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

**National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371**
If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

**New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office**
If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.
In re Application of

Jae Joo KIM

Serial No: 11/338,884

Filed: January 25, 2006

For: A/V PARENTAL LOCK APPARATUS AND METHOD

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window, MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Amendment and/or Reply in the above identified application.

☐ No additional fee is required.
☒ Also attached: Petition for Extension of Time

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

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If multiple claims newly presented, add $780.00 $0.00
Fee for extension of time $200.00

TOTAL FEE DUE $200.00

☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 16-0607 in the amount of $______. An additional copy of this transmittal sheet is submitted herewith.
☒ Please charge my Credit Card.
☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0607, including any filing fees under 37 C.F.R.§1.16 for presentation of extra claims and any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.17.

Respectfully Submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP

Daniel Y.J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186
Paul H. Kang
Registration No. 66,545

Correspondence Address:
P.O. Box 8638
Reston, VA 20195
(703) 766-3777 DYK/PHK-jjc
Date: October 15, 2013

Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610
Q:\Documents\2031-100\405468
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of
Jae Joo KIM

Confirmation No.: 3132
Group Art Unit: 2691

Serial No.: 11/338,884
Examiner: Dennis P. JOSEPH

Filed: January 25, 2006
Customer No.: 34610

For: A/V PARENTAL LOCK APPARATUS AND METHOD

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a)(1)

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Sir:

Applicant petitions the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to extend the time for response to the Office Action dated June 12, 2013 for one (1) month from September 12, 2013 to October 12, 2013.

Please charge our credit card in the amount of $200.00 for the extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a). Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 16-0607.

Respectfully Submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP

Daniel Y.J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186
Paul H. Kang
Registration No. 66,545

Correspondence Address:
P.O. Box 8638
Reston, VA 20195
703 766-3777 DYN/PHC3jic

Date: October 15, 2013
Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610
Q:\Documents\2031-100\405469
# PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD

Substitute for Form PTO-875

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**ENTITY:**  
- [ ] LARGE  
- [ ] SMALL  
- [ ] MICRO

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**TOTAL ADD'L FEE:** 0

**AMENDMENT**

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**TOTAL ADD'L FEE:** 0

* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.

** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" in this space is less than 20, enter "20".

*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" in this space is less than 3, enter "3".

The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.16. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.
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34610 7890 10/10/2013
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP
P.O. Box 8638
Reston, VA 20195

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.
All participants (applicant, applicant’s representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Attorney Paul Kang (66,545).
(2) Dennis Joseph.
(3) 
(4) 

Date of Interview: 06 October 2013.

Type: ☒ Telephonic ☐ Video Conference
☐ Personal [copy given to: ☐ applicant ☐ applicant’s representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: ☐ Yes ☒ No.
If Yes, brief description: 

Issues Discussed ☐ 101 ☐ 112 ☐ 102 ☒ 103 ☐ Others
(For each of the checked box(es) above, please describe below the issue and detailed description of the discussion)

Claim(s) discussed: 1.

Identification of prior art discussed: APAA, Durden.

Substance of Interview
(For each issue discussed, provide a detailed description and indicate if agreement was reached. Some topics may include: identification or clarification of a reference or a portion thereof, claim interpretation, proposed amendments, arguments of any applied references etc...)

Discussion was made on the current rejection and it was agreed that further consideration would be needed on the proposed claim amendments.

Applicant recordation instructions: The formal written reply to the last Office action must include the substance of the interview. (See MPEP section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, applicant is given a non-extendable period of the longer of one month or thirty days from this interview date, or the mailing date of this interview summary form, whichever is later, to file a statement of the substance of the interview.

Examiner recordation instructions: Examiners must summarize the substance of any interview of record. A complete and proper recordation of the substance of an interview should include the items listed in MPEP 713.04 for complete and proper recordation including the identification of the general thrust of each argument or issue discussed, a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed regarding patentability and the general results or outcome of the interview, to include an indication as to whether or not agreement was reached on the issues raised.

☐ Attachment

/Dennis Joseph/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2621
Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record
A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews
Paragraph (b)
In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.
All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.
It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No. placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:
- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:
1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
2) An identification of the claims discussed,
3) An identification of the specific prior art discussed,
4) An identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
5) A brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner.
   (The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
6) A general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
7) If appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.
Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.
### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

1) [x] Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 July 2012.
   
2a) [ ] A declaration(s)/affidavit(s) under 37 CFR 1.130(b) was/were filed on ______.
   
2b) [x] This action is FINAL.
   
3) [ ] This action is non-final.
   
4) [ ] An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on ______; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.
   
4) [ ] Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

5) [x] Claim(s) 18, 20-23 and 25-28 is/are pending in the application.
   
5a) Of the above claim(s) ______ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
   
6) [ ] Claim(s) ______ is/are allowed.
   
7) [x] Claim(s) 18, 20-23 and 25-28 is/are rejected.
   
8) [ ] Claim(s) ______ is/are objected to.
   
9) [ ] Claim(s) ______ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

* If any claims have been determined allowable, you may be eligible to benefit from the Patent Prosecution Highway program at a participating intellectual property office for the corresponding application. For more information, please see http://www.uspto.gov/patents/init_events/pph/index.jsp or send an inquiry to PPHfeedback@uspto.gov.

### Application Papers

10) [ ] The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

11) [x] The drawing(s) filed on 25 January 2006 is/are: a) [x] accepted or b) [ ] objected to by the Examiner.

   Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

   Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) [x] Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

### Certified copies:

a) [x] All  b) [ ] Some  c) [ ] None of the:

1. [x] Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. [ ] Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ______.

3. [ ] Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Interim copies:

a) [ ] All  b) [ ] Some  c) [ ] None of the:  Interim copies of the priority documents have been received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) [ ] Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) [ ] Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
   
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date ______.

3) [ ] Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
   
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date ______.

4) [ ] Other: ______.
DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is responsive to amendments filed for No. 11/338,884 on July 24, 2012. Claims 18, 20-23 and 25-28 are pending and have been examined.

Continued Examination

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant’s submission filed on July 24, 2012 has been entered.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the various segments must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). Respectfully, examiner does not see where in the drawings the various segments are shown. No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must
be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 112(a):
(a) IN GENERAL.—The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same, and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor or joint inventor of carrying out the invention.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 112 (pre-AIA), first paragraph:
The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

5. Claims 18, 23 and 28 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112(a) or 35 U.S.C. 112 (pre-AIA), first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor or a joint inventor, or for pre-AIA the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.
Claim 18 recites therein of new limitations such as

“detecting a segment that has an audio level above a first predetermined audio level and a second predetermined audio level, said detecting including:

(a) detecting a first segment of the different segments of the information signal having a first predetermined audio level or second predetermined audio level,

(b) detecting a second segment of the different segments of the information signal having the first predetermined audio level or the second predetermined audio level, and

(c) locating a third segment between the first and second segments and storing audio from the third segment”

“identifying the fifth segment”

“the first and second segments are detected by an audio detector which detects audio in at least one of the first or second predetermined audio levels, and the first predetermined audio level is no sound and the second predetermined audio level corresponds to a level of audio lower than a predetermined level”

Respectfully, examiner does not see where the support for these limitations are, such as the first and second predetermined audio level (disclosure indicates predetermined video level), the multiple segments (namely the fourth and fifth segments), etc.
From looking at the remarks and from past prosecution, examiner's interpretation here is that Applicant is trying to claim the segments that represent the recorded audio and video which are used in the buffer, but it is unclear and respectfully, there doesn't seem to be support for details this explicit. Furthermore, in light of the lack of support, examiner is having trouble with which segment relates to what part of the information signal. It seems the fifth segment is the objectionable material that needs to be replaced and it is done so with the third segment. The fourth segment seems to be the regular, safe material that is lower than the parental level. This leaves a question as to what the first and second segments are. Examiner realizes the third segment is between the first and second, so are the first segments and second segments supposed to be the checkpoints between the stored information that is recorded for future use, i.e. the third segment?

**Similar issues exist in Claim 23.** namely with regards to the plurality of segments. Appropriate correction is required, thank you.

Claim 23 also recites therein of “*a second detector* to detect a first segment and a second segment after the first segment, each of the first and second segments having a first predetermined audio level or a second predetermined audio level”

Respectfully, there does not seem to be support for a second detector. Rather, the disclosure at Figure 5, [0030] refers to an audio mute detecting unit 23, but as the figure shows, there is only one such unit, not a second unit.
In examiner's opinion, there are multiple mute periods, perhaps? For example, one at the beginning and one at the end, and not really two detectors.

Appropriate correction is required, thank you.

Claim 28 recites therein “wherein the second predetermined audio level corresponds to a level of audio lower than an audio level of the third segment.”

Respectfully, examiner does not see where support for this limitation is either. Applicant is kindly requested to point out the support for this as well, thank you.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. The factual inquiries set forth in Graham v. John Deere Co., 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

8. Claims 18, 20-23 and 25-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant’s Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter referred to as AAPA) in view of Durden (7,380,258 B2).

AAPA teaches in Claim 18:

A method for managing information, comprising:

receiving different segments of an information signal, wherein the information signal includes audio and video and wherein data indicative of parental levels for the different segments is included in the information signal (Figure 4, [0010]-[0011], show different segments of the A/V signal, such as the first, left-most, non-shaded part (read as a fourth segment as discussed below), the shaded part (read as a fifth segment as discussed below), and then another non-shaded part. Please note the fourth segment is associated with a first parental level that is considered not adult, the fifth segment is associated with a parental level that is considered adult, etc, as shown in Figure 4);

detecting the parental levels for the different segments of an information signal;
comparing the parental levels to a stored level; (As disclosed above, each segment is analyzed to see if it is considered adult or not, i.e. relating it to the parental level)

when the parental level detected for a fourth segment of the information signal is lower than the stored level, outputting the audio and video corresponding to the fourth segment of the information signal as received (Figure 4, [0011], the interpreted segment is at a parental
level that is considered to not be adult (lower than the user setting parental level), so the video and audio are output normally); and when the parental level detected for a fifth segment of the information signal is equal to or greater than the stored level, identifying the fifth segment as a segment having audio to be replaced and outputting stored information in place of the audio and video corresponding to the fifth segment (Figure 4, [0010], disclose that for the second segment, the parental level is considered adult throughout this segment (higher than user setting parental level), so for this segment, there is a video blank and audio mute inserted throughout this objectionable second segment, i.e. replaced), wherein: the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to the second fifth segment includes a still image or moving images (Figure 4, [0010] discloses a black screen (read as still image) is output during the second segment. Please see the combination below with regards to the stored information); but

AAPA does not explicitly teach:
“detecting a segment that has an audio level above a first predetermined audio level and a second predetermined audio level, said detecting including:

(a) detecting a first segment of the different segments of the information signal having a first predetermined audio level or second predetermined audio level,

(b) detecting a second segment of the different segments of the information signal having the first predetermined audio level or the second predetermined audio level, and

(c) locating a third segment between the first and second segments and storing audio from the third segment”

and

“the stored information to be output in place of the audio corresponding to the fifth segment includes the stored audio corresponding to the third segment between the first and second segments,

the fifth segment is after the first, second and third segments,

the parental level of the third segment is lower than the stored level the first and second segments are detected by an audio detector which detects audio in at least one of the first or second predetermined audio levels, and

the first predetermined audio level is no sound and the second predetermined audio level corresponds to a level of audio lower than a predetermined level.”

To summarize, AAPA teaches of inserting a black screen and muted audio during the objectionable second segment, not stored information of a prior segment in the information signal which includes stored video and stored audio.
However, in the same field of endeavor, content filtering, Durden also teaches of removing the objectionable material in segments where the content is deemed to be inappropriate (akin to AAPA’s fifth segment). In its place, Durden teaches of substituting a number of options, such as substitute alternative audio stream, substitute alternative video channel/stream, substitute alternate video and audio channel stream, delete the scene, or substitute different scene. (Durden, Columns 8-9, Lines 60-10, Table 1 as well). For purposes of interpretation, this would be akin to the claimed third segment and for AAPA, this is black video and muted audio and this is where the substitution/combination takes effect. Here, Durden teaches of using a different scene from the current program/stream to place in the objectionable segment, thus, this different scene is stored information with corresponding video and audio. As for it being derived from a prior segment of the information signal (as opposed to a future segment perhaps), it is clear that there are a finite number of possibilities, two, for which can be substituted into the objectionable segment, either prior or future, so it would be obvious to try since one of these two would have to be selected. Respectfully, one of ordinary skill in the art would realize that a prior segment would be more feasible so as to avoid spoilers, but in any case, Durden clearly contemplates substituting a different scene, which also includes prior scenes. Furthermore, as an overlying point, it is a design choice as to what in particular is inserted during this period of questionable content as one of ordinary skill in the art would realize that a number of different choices could be inserted and what in particular is not an inventive step. To summarize, the combination between AAPA and Durden teaches:
“detecting a segment that has an audio level above a first predetermined audio level and a second predetermined audio level, said detecting including (Please see below for a detailed explanation of the included steps):

(a) detecting a first segment of the different segments of the information signal having a first predetermined audio level or second predetermined audio level (For purposes of interpretation, Applicant claims the first audio level is no sound and the second audio level is less than a predetermined level (see below for this claim language), which is not explicitly defined in the claims. For purposes of interpretation, the first segment for Durden is the segment just before the substitute scene which clearly has audio associated with it, i.e. non-muted sound. Please note the alternative),

(b) detecting a second segment of the different segments of the information signal having the first predetermined audio level or the second predetermined audio level (For purposes of interpretation, the second segment for Dudren is the segment just after the substitute scene which also clearly has audio associated with it, i.e. non-muted sound. Please note the alternative), and

(c) locating a third segment between the first and second segments and storing audio from the third segment (For purposes of interpretation, the third segment for Dudren is the substitute scene)”

and

“the stored information to be output in place of the audio corresponding to the fifth segment includes the stored audio corresponding to the third segment between the first and second segments (The combination teaches to replace the objectionable material with the
substitute scene (third segment) of Durden. So instead of a muted, black video scene, a substitute scene is provided.

the fifth segment is after the first, second and third segments (The first, second and third segments are for the earlier scene, according to examiner’s interpretation, so this would clearly be before the objectionable fifth segment material, which is to be replaced),

the parental level of the third segment is lower than the stored level the first and second segments are detected by an audio detector which detects audio in at least one of the first or second predetermined audio levels ([0009] of AAPA and Durden are both concerned with inappropriate content, both video and language-wise and seek to block this objectionable material. Respectfully, it is clear that the substitute scene has been deemed appropriate, which is why it is substituted in. Please note the alternative and that it is clear that there is audio associated with this (non-muted)), and

the first predetermined audio level is no sound and the second predetermined audio level corresponds to a level of audio lower than a predetermined level. (Please note that the second audio level is not defined explicitly and that the substitute scene of Durden clearly has sound, i.e. non-muted and this could be less than a “predetermined level”)

As combined with AAPA, the prior scene and corresponding video and audio data is substituted in the objectionable, second segment, so instead of having a black video and muted audio, this scene is played. Please note that for purposes of interpretation, the substituted scene is inserted during the non-shaded portion, in between the start and end of the non-shaded period, such that there is muted audio at the beginning and the end. Respectfully, is it inherent that when
switching between scenes that there is a muted audio period and this is being mentioned in light of that.

As for the parental level being lower than the stored level, respectfully, this is something Durden would clearly have contemplated and that the purposes of the substitute different scene is to provide for a safe viewing experience during the questionable segment. As combined with Durden, the substitute different scene in input in between the safe segments, and in particular, there is obviously a muted audio period as the scenes change, one at the beginning and one at the end. The above is noted simply to reinforce that notion explicitly as well as for an interpretation purpose.

Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to substitute a different scene, as taught by Durden, with AAPA’s parental control system, with the motivation that Durden teaches of a number of ways to filter out objectionable content (as noted above) and presents these options to the user to modify the objectionable material in a number of ways to make it acceptable for viewing, ( Durden, Column 2, Lines 15-20 ).

AAPA and Durden teaches in Claim 20:

The method of claim 18, wherein:

the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to the fifth segment includes a still image (AAPA, [0010], teaches of a black screen (read as still image), Durden teaches of a number of options that can be implemented. Respectfully, in light of
the combination, it is a design choice what is substituted in as one of skill would realize that
the goal is to remove the objectionable content. Also, a previous scene could also include
still images as one of a plurality of images), and

the still image is repeatedly for a predetermined time. (The combination teaches to
implement the substituted information for the duration of the second segment, until the
level is again deemed to be acceptable/not adult)

AAPA teaches in Claim 21:

The method of claim 18, wherein the stored level is set by a user. (AAPA, [0010]
discloses the stored level which is the comparison standard is a user setting parental level)

AAPA teaches in Claim 22:

The method of claim 18, wherein the data indicative of the parental levels of the different
segments in the information signal is included in a video line of the information signal. (AAPA,
Figure 3, [0006]-[0007] disclose the parental level of the segments is stored in the video lines
of the A/V signal. Looking at Figure 4, each segment is then identifiable as to if it has
objectionable material or not)

AAPA teaches in Claim 23:

An information management apparatus, comprising:

a storage area to store audio and video in an information signal (Figure 1, [0005]
disclose an A/V signal processor 10 and a memory 13. Respectfully, it is obvious, if not
inherent, that a memory is part of a display device to store the information that is to be displayed;

a first detector to detect parental levels for different segments of the information signal, wherein data indicative of the parental levels for the different segments is included in the information signal and detected by the first detector; a second detector to detect a first segment and a second segment after the first segment (Figure 4, [0010]-[0011], show different segments of the A/V signal, such as the first, left-most, non-shaded part (read as a fourth segment as discussed below), the shaded part (read as a fifth segment as discussed below), and then another non-shaded part. Please note the fourth segment is associated with a first parental level that is considered not adult, the fifth segment is associated with a parental level that is considered adult, etc, as shown in Figure 4. Respectfully, it is clear that a detector(s) is required to analyze the content level of the scene. As for the first and second segments, please see the combination below with Durden as it will make more sense there what examiner’s interpretation is),

compare the parental levels of the different segments to a stored level (As disclosed above, each segment is analyzed to see if it is considered adult or not, i.e. relating it to the parental level),

output audio and video corresponding to a fourth segment of the information signal as received when the parental level detected for the first fourth segment is lower than the stored level (Figure 4, [0011], the interpreted segment is at a parental level that is considered to not be adult (lower than the user setting parental level), so the video and audio are output normally);
identify a fifth segment as a segment having audio to be replaced muted when the parental level detected for the fifth segment is equal to or greater than the stored level, and outputting stored information in place of the audio and video corresponding to the fifth segment (Figure 4, [0010], disclose that for the second segment, the parental level is considered adult throughout this segment (higher than user setting parental level), so for this segment, there is a video blank and audio mute inserted throughout this objectionable second segment, i.e. replaced), wherein:

the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to the fifth segment includes a still image or moving images (Figure 4, [0010] discloses a black screen (read as still image) is output during the second segment. Please see the combination below with regards to the stored information); but

AAPA does not explicitly teach:

“each of the first and second segments having a first predetermined audio level or a second predetermined audio level (Please see below for a detailed explanation of the included steps), and

a controller to:

determine a third segment between the first segment and the second segment detected by the second detector (For purposes of interpretation, Applicant claims the first audio level is no sound and the second audio level is less than a predetermined level (see below for this claim language), which is not explicitly defined in the claims. For purposes of
interpretation, the first segment for Durden is the segment just before the substitute scene which clearly has audio associated with it, i.e. non-muted sound. The second segment for Dudren is the segment just after the substitute scene which also clearly has audio associated with it, i.e. non-muted sound. The third segment for Durden is the substitute scene, store audio from the third segment in the storage area (Please note that the substitute scene replaces the objectionable material, as the combination teaches. Please note that this clearly needs to be stored somehow)."

and "the stored information to be output in place of the audio corresponding to the second segment includes the stored audio from the third segment (The combination teaches to replace the objectionable material with the substitute scene (third segment) of Durden. So instead of a muted, black video scene, a substitute scene is provided)."

the parental level of the third segment is lower than the stored level ([0009] of AAPA and Durden are both concerned with inappropriate content, both video and language-wise and seek to block this objectionable material. Respectfully, it is clear that the substitute scene has been deemed appropriate, which is why it is substituted in. Please note the alternative and that it is clear that there is audio associated with this (non-muted)."

and the first predetermined audio level is no sound and the second predetermined audio level corresponds to a level of audio lower than a predetermined level lower than a predetermined level is output (Please note that the second audio level is not defined explicitly and that the substitute scene of Durden clearly has sound, i.e. non-muted and this could be less than a "predetermined level")."
AAPA does not explicitly teach:

“each of the first and second segments having a first predetermined audio level or a second predetermined audio level, and a controller to:

determine a third segment between the first segment and the second segment detected by the second detector,

store audio from the third segment in the storage area”

and

“the stored information to be output in place of the audio corresponding to the second segment includes the stored audio from the third segment,

the parental level of the third segment is lower than the stored level, and

the first predetermined audio level is no sound and the second predetermined audio level corresponds to a level of audio lower than a predetermined level lower than a predetermined level is output.”

To summarize, AAPA teaches of inserting a black screen and muted audio during the objectionable second segment, not stored information of a prior segment in the information signal which includes stored video and stored audio.
However, in the same field of endeavor, content filtering, Durden also teaches of removing the objectionable material in segments where the content is deemed to be inappropriate (akin to AAPA’s fifth segment). In its place, Durden teaches of substituting a number of options, such as substitute alternative audio stream, substitute alternative video channel/stream, substitute alternate video and audio channel stream, delete the scene, or substitute different scene. (Durden, Columns 8-9, Lines 60-10, Table 1 as well). For purposes of interpretation, this would be akin to the claimed third segment and for AAPA, this is black video and muted audio and this is where the substitution/combination takes effect. Here, Durden teaches of using a different scene from the current program/stream to place in the objectionable segment, thus, this different scene is stored information with corresponding video and audio. As for it being derived from a prior segment of the information signal (as opposed to a future segment perhaps), it is clear that there are a finite number of possibilities, two, for which can be substituted into the objectionable segment, either prior or future, so it would be obvious to try since one of these two would have to be selected. Respectfully, one of ordinary skill in the art would realize that a prior segment would be more feasible so as to avoid spoilers, but in any case, Durden clearly contemplates substituting a different scene, which also includes prior scenes. Furthermore, as an overlying point, it is a design choice as to what in particular is inserted during this period of questionable content as one of ordinary skill in the art would realize that a number of different choices could be inserted and what in particular is not an inventive step. To summarize, the combination between AAPA and Durden teaches:
“each of the first and second segments having a first predetermined audio level or a second predetermined audio level (Please see below for a detailed explanation of the included steps), and

a controller to:

determine a third segment between the first segment and the second segment detected by the second detector (For purposes of interpretation, Applicant claims the first audio level is no sound and the second audio level is less than a predetermined level (see below for this claim language), which is not explicitly defined in the claims. For purposes of interpretation, the first segment for Durden is the segment just before the substitute scene which clearly has audio associated with it, i.e. non-muted sound. The second segment for Dudren is the segment just after the substitute scene which also clearly has audio associated with it, i.e. non-muted sound. The third segment for Durden is the substitute scene).

store audio from the third segment in the storage area (Please note that the substitute scene replaces the objectionable material, as the combination teaches. Please note that this clearly needs to be stored somehow)”

and

“the stored information to be output in place of the audio corresponding to the second segment includes the stored audio from the third segment (The combination teaches to replace the objectionable material with the substitute scene (third segment) of Durden. So instead of a muted, black video scene, a substitute scene is provided).

the parental level of the third segment is lower than the stored level ([0009] of AAPA and Durden are both concerned with inappropriate content, both video and language-wise
and seek to block this objectionable material. Respectfully, it is clear that the substitute scene has been deemed appropriate, which is why it is substituted in. Please note the alternative and that it is clear that there is audio associated with this (non-muted), and the first predetermined audio level is no sound and the second predetermined audio level corresponds to a level of audio lower than a predetermined level lower than a predetermined level is output (Please note that the second audio level is not defined explicitly and that the substitute scene of Durden clearly has sound, i.e. non-muted and this could be less than a “predetermined level”.)

As combined with AAPA, the prior scene and corresponding video and audio data is substituted in the objectionable, second segment, so instead of having a black video and muted audio, this scene is played. Please note that for purposes of interpretation, the substituted scene is inserted during the non-shaded portion, in between the start and end of the non-shaded period, such that there is muted audio at the beginning and the end. Respectfully, is it inherent that when switching between scenes that there is a muted audio period and this is being mentioned in light of that.

As for the parental level being lower than the stored level, respectfully, this is something Durden would clearly have contemplated and that the purposes of the substitute different scene is to provide for a safe viewing experience during the questionable segment. As combined with Durden, the substitute different scene in input in between the safe segments, and in particular, there is obviously a muted audio period as the scenes change, one at the beginning and one at the
end. The above is noted simply to reinforce that notion explicitly as well as for an interpretation purpose.

Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to substitute a different scene, as taught by Durden, with AAPA’s parental control system, with the motivation that Durden teaches of a number of ways to filter out objectionable content (as noted above) and presents these options to the user to modify the objectionable material in a number of ways to make it acceptable for viewing. (Durden, Column 2, Lines 15-20).

AAPA and Durden teach in Claim 25:

The apparatus of claim 23, wherein:

the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to the fifth segment includes a still image (AAPA, [0010], teaches of a black screen (read as still image), Durden teaches of a number of options that can be implemented. Respectfully, in light of the combination, it is a design choice what is substituted in as one of skill would realize that the goal is to remove the objectionable content. Also, a previous scene could also include still images as one of a plurality of images), and

the controller repeatedly outputs the still image for a predetermined time. (The combination teaches to implement the substituted information for the duration of the second segment, until the level is again deemed to be acceptable/not adult)

AAPA teaches in Claim 26:
The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the stored level is set by a user. (AAPA, [0010] discloses the stored level which is the comparison standard is a user setting parental level)

AAPA teaches in Claim 27:

The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the data indicative of the parental levels of the different segments in the information signal is included in a video line of the information signal. (AAPA, Figure 3, [0006]-[0007] disclose the parental level of the segments is stored in the video lines of the A/V signal. Looking at Figure 4, each segment is then identifiable as to if it has objectionable material or not)

AAPA and Durden teach in Claim 28:

The method of claim 18, wherein the second predetermined audio level corresponds to a level of audio lower than an audio level of the third segment. (Respectfully, the second predetermined audio level was not defined explicitly in the claims, i.e. there is no minimum level, particular level, maximum level. Therefore, and still being consistent with the interpretation of Claim 18, if this second predetermined audio level (which is lower than “a predetermined level” as required by Claim 18) is at a particular level, the audio level of the substitute scene (interpreted third segment of Durden) could still be higher than this)

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant’s arguments considered, but are respectfully not persuasive.
Applicant’s representative Samuel Nitros (39,318) is thanked for his time on July 17, 2012 to discuss this case. In light of that, significant amendments were made and examiner’s interpretation, namely of the various segments, has changed. While some of the segments have simply been renamed, Applicant has claimed an additional couple of segments which were not previously considered. However, examiner does not see support for these claim limitations and to be honest, it is a little difficult to follow the claim language since the disclosure and/or drawings, do not provide support, or at the very least, an adequate support for interpretation. Still, examiner has made an honest effort to address the claim language.

Applicant’s representative is more than welcome to call the examiner if it will help expedite prosecution of the case.

Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DENNIS P. JOSEPH whose telephone number is (571)-270-1459. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Amr Awad can be reached on 571-272-7764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dennis Joseph/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2691
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### Search Notes

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/DENNIS JOSEPH/
Primary Examiner Art Unit 2691

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.114

DOCKET NUMBER: LT-0098
Prior Appln Serial No.: 11/338,884
Filed: January 25, 2006
Inventor(s): Jae Joo KIM
Confirmation No.: 3132
Group Art Unit: 4147
Examiner: John J. MORRIS

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop RCE
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Sir:


1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. §1.114
   a. □ Previously submitted
      i. □ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 previously filed on ___
         (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
      ii. □ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on ___
   b. ☒ Enclosed
      i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
      ii. □ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
      iii. □ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

2. Fees ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e); Small Entity $465.00, Large Entity $930.00.
       Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§1.136 and 1.17)

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RCE Fee 930.00
Extension of Time Fee -0-
TOTAL FEE DUE $930.00

Payment by:

☒ Please charge my Credit Card.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any deficiency in the above fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 16-0607.

Respectfully submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP

[Signature]
Daniel Y.J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186
Samuel W. Nuiros
Registration No. 39,318

Correspondence Address:
P.O. Box 8638
Reston, VA 20195
703 766-3777 DYK/SWN/krf
Date: July 24, 2012
Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:          Confirmation No: 3132
Jae Joo KIM                  Group Art Unit: 2629
Serial No: 11/338,884        Examiner: Joseph, D.
Filed: January 25, 2006       Customer No: 34610

For:  A/V PARENTAL LOCK APPARATUS AND METHOD

SUBMISSION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.114

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window, Mail Stop RCE
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are submitted with a Request for Continued
Examination (RCE), filed after issuance of the Final Office Action mailed on April 24, 2012, in
connection with the above-identified application.

Amendments to the Claims are in the Listing of Claims beginning on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 7.
18. (Currently Amended) A method for managing information, comprising:

receiving parental levels for different segments of an information signal, wherein the information signal includes audio and video and wherein data indicative of the parental levels for the different segments is included in the information signal;

detecting a segment that has an audio level above a first predetermined audio level and a second predetermined audio level, said detecting including:

(a) detecting a first segment of the different segments of the information signal having a first predetermined audio level or second predetermined audio level,

(b) detecting a second segment of the different segments of the information signal having the first predetermined audio level or the second predetermined audio level, and

(c) locating a third segment between the first and second segments and storing audio from the third segment;

detecting the parental levels for the different segments of an information signal;

comparing the parental levels to a stored level;

when the parental level detected for a first fourth segment of the information signal is lower than the stored level, outputting the audio and video corresponding to the first fourth segment of the information signal as received; and
when the parental level detected for a second fifth segment of the information signal is equal to or greater than the stored level, identifying the second fifth segment as a segment having audio to be replaced muted and outputting stored information in place of the audio and video corresponding to the second fifth segment, wherein:

the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to the second fifth segment includes a still image or moving images,

the stored information to be output in place of the audio corresponding to the second fifth segment includes the stored audio corresponding to the third segment between the first and second segments,

the fifth segment is after the first, second, and third segments.

the stored information to be output in place of the audio and video corresponding to the second segment includes audio and video derived from a prior segment of the information signal

the parental level of the prior third segment is lower than the stored level,

the first and second segments are detected by an audio detector which detects audio in at least one of the first or second predetermined audio levels, and

the first predetermined audio level is no sound and the second predetermined audio level corresponds to the prior segment is between two segments in the information signal, and said two segments are segments in which no audio is output or in which audio having a level of audio lower than a predetermined level is output.

19. (Canceled)
20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein:

the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to the

second fifth segment includes a still image, and

the still image is repeatedly output for a predetermined time.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the stored level is set

by a user.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the data indicative of

the parental levels of the different segments in the information signal is included in a video line

of the information signal.

23. (Currently Amended) An information management apparatus, comprising:

a storage area to store audio and video in an information signal;

a first detector to detect parental levels for different segments of the

information signal, wherein data indicative of the parental levels for the different segments is

included in the information signal and detected by the first detector;

a second detector to detect a first segment and a second segment after the first

segment, each of the first and second segments having a first predetermined audio level or a

second predetermined audio level, and

a controller to:
determine a third segment between the first segment and the second segment detected by the second detector,

store audio from the third segment in the storage area,

compare the parental levels of the different segments to a stored level,

output audio and video corresponding to a first fourth segment of the information signal as received when the parental level detected for the first fourth segment is lower than the stored level;

identify a second fifth segment as a segment having audio to be replaced muted when the parental level detected for the second fifth segment is equal to or greater than the stored level, and

outputting stored information in place of the audio and video corresponding to the second fifth segment, wherein:

the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to the second fifth segment includes a still image or moving images,

the stored information to be output in place of the audio corresponding to the second segment includes the stored audio from the third segment,

the stored information to be output in place of the audio and video corresponding to the second segment includes audio and video derived from a prior segment of the information signal

the parental level of the prior third segment is lower than the stored level, and

the first predetermined audio level is no sound and the second predetermined audio level corresponds to a level of audio lower than a predetermined level the prior segment is
24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein:

the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to the
second fifth segment includes a still image, and

the controller repeatedly outputs the still image for a predetermined time.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the stored level is set
by a user.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the data indicative of
the parental levels of the different segments in the information signal is included in a video line
of the information signal.

28. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the second predetermined audio level
corresponds to a level of audio lower than an audio level of the third segment.
REMARKS

Claims 18, 20-23, and 25-28 are pending.

At the outset, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for graciously extending Applicants’ representative an interview to discuss the rejections in the Final Office Action. During the interview, amendments were proposed to distinguish the cited references. The proposed amendments were prepared to provide a more specific recitation of distinguishing features the Examiner indicated to be vaguely recited in the claims.

At the conclusion of the interview, the Examiner indicated that a more specific recitation of the differences of the invention were still required. As pointing out during the interview, the claimed embodiments a segment of an information signal that is to be replaced because, for example, the segment has profane language. This detection operation is performed by detecting segments that level no sound or an audio level lower than a predetermined level. Once these segments are detected, then a segment between them is identified and its audio is stored.

When an offensive segment is detected later on, the claimed embodiments output the stored audio - which is not muted audio. On the contrary, the output audio is, for example, at a normal or high audio level as it corresponds to the stored audio between the two segments identified as having lower or no sound.

Conversely, the purpose of AAPA is to output no audio when an offensive segment is detected. AAPA does not at any time detect a segment of muted audio; rather, AAPA merely detects an offensive segment and then merely turns off the speakers for the duration of this segment so no small children can hear profane language.
The claims as presented in this paper have been amended to emphasize these differences. At the conclusion of the interview, the Examiner indicated that he would postpone his decision concerning allowability of the claims pending consideration of this paper. A more detailed discussion of the rejections is provided below.

Claims 18, 20-23, and 25-27 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) based on a combination of Figure 4 disclosed in Applicants’ specification (identified as AAPA) and the Durden patent. Applicants request the Examiner to withdraw this rejection as follows.

AAPA discloses displaying a black frame and no audio in place of adult material. But, as previously mentioned, AAPA at no time detects mute periods or even periods of lower audio level. Rather, AAPA merely turns off speakers when an offensive segment is detected.

The Durden patent discloses displaying a different scene of a video during a time when adult material is being shown. However, these references do not individually or collectively teach or suggest features added by amendment to claim 18 including:

1) “detecting a segment that has an audio level above a first predetermined audio level and a second predetermined audio level, said detecting including:

(a) detecting a first segment of the different segments of the information signal having a first predetermined audio level or second predetermined audio level,

(b) detecting a second segment of the different segments of the information signal having the first predetermined audio level or the second predetermined audio level, and

(c) locating a third segment between the first and second segments and storing audio from the third segment;”
2) “the stored information to be output in place of the audio corresponding to the fifth segment includes the stored audio corresponding to the third segment between the first and second segments,"

3) “the first and second segments are detected by an audio detector which detects audio in at least one of the first or second predetermined audio levels,” and

4) “the first predetermined audio level is no sound and the second predetermined audio level corresponds to a level of audio lower than a predetermined level.” (See, for example, Figures 5, 6, and 7 and corresponding portions of the specification for support).

Based on these differences, it is submitted that claim 18 is allowable over the cited combination. Furtherance of claim 18 and its dependent claims to allowance is requested.

Claim 23 has been amended to recite

1) “a second detector to detect a first segment and a second segment after the first segment, each of the first and second segments having a first predetermined audio level or a second predetermined audio level,”

2) “determine a third segment between the first segment and the second segment detected by the second detector,”

3) “store audio from the third segment in the storage area;”

4) “the stored information to be output in place of the audio corresponding to the second segment includes the stored audio from the third segment,” and

5) “the first predetermined audio level is no sound and the second predetermined audio level corresponds to a level of audio lower than a predetermined level.” These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.
Based on these differences, it is submitted that claim 23 is allowable over the cited combination. Furtherance of claim 23 and its dependent claims to allowance is requested.

New claim 28 recites that “the second predetermined audio level corresponds to a level of audio lower than an audio level of the third segment.” The third segment is a segment of normal or higher audio level (it is because otherwise the audio detector would have detected the third segment as the second segment). Thus, support for these features may be found in Figures 5, 6, and 7. These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP

[Signature]
Daniel Y. J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186

Samuel W. Ntiros
Registration No. 39,318

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
(703) 766-3777 DYN/SWN/kaf
Date: July 24, 2012
Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610
# Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

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**Title of Invention:** A/V parental lock apparatus and method

**First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:** Jae Joo Kim

**Filer:** Beyong Chun Ahn/Kim Flanagan

**Attorney Docket Number:** LT-0098

Filed as Large Entity

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**Total Files Size (in bytes):** 456316

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

**New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111**

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

**National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371**

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

**New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office**

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.
PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD
Substitute for Form PTO-875

APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I
(Column 1) (Column 2) SMALL ENTITY □ OR OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY

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APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))
If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is $250 ($125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).

MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))

TOTAL

APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II
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FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))

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FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))

TOTAL ADD'L FEE

* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.
** If the “Highest Number Previously Paid For” in THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter “20”.
*** If the “Highest Number Previously Paid For” in THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter “3”.

The “Highest Number Previously Paid For” (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.

Legal Instrument Examiner: /BONNIE COLE/

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.16. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.
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07/19/2012
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP
P.O. Box 8638
Reston, VA 20195

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.
All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

1. **Dennis Joseph**

2. **Attorney Samuel W. Nitros (39,318)**

Date of Interview: **17 July 2012**.

Type: ☒ Telephonic ☐ Video Conference
☐ Personal [copy given to: ☐ applicant ☐ applicant’s representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: ☐ Yes ☒ No.
If Yes, brief description: _____.

Issues Discussed ☐101 ☐112 ☐102 ☒103 ☐Others
(For each of the checked box(es) above, please describe below the issue and detailed description of the discussion)

Claim(s) discussed: **18 and 23**.

Identification of prior art discussed: **AAPA, Durden**.

Substance of Interview
(For each issue discussed, provide a detailed description and indicate if agreement was reached. Some topics may include: identification or clarification of a reference or a portion thereof, claim interpretation, proposed amendments, arguments of any applied references etc...)

**Discussion was made on proposed claim amendments and specifically, Applicant wanted to make a distinction about the audio mute detector detecting the audio mute period and not just outputting it, Initially, no agreement has been made, but examiner will reconsider the proposed amendment and contact the Applicant for another interview if needed**.

**Applicant recordation instructions**: The formal written reply to the last Office action must include the substance of the interview. (See MPEP section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, applicant is given a non-extendable period of the longer of one month or thirty days from this interview date, or the mailing date of this interview summary form, whichever is later, to file a statement of the substance of the interview.

**Examiner recordation instructions**: Examiners must summarize the substance of any interview of record. A complete and proper recordation of the substance of an interview should include the items listed in MPEP 713.04 for complete and proper recordation including the identification of the general thrust of each argument or issue discussed, a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed regarding patentability and the general results or outcome of the interview, to include an indication as to whether or not agreement was reached on the issues raised.
Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must Be Made of Record
A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews
Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR § 1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.
All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.
It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner’s responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No. placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the “Contents” section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant’s correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:
- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:
1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
2) an identification of the claims discussed,
3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant’s record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner’s version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, “Interview Record OK” on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner’s initials.
Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.
Office Action Summary

Application No. 11/338,884
Applicant(s) KIM, JAE JOO

Examiner Dennis Joseph
Art Unit 2629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(s) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply to the notification will result in ABANDONMENT of this application unless timely correcting action is taken. See 37 CFR 1.137(b).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 April 2012
2a)☒ This action is FINAL.
2b)☐ This action is non-final.
3)☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on _____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.
4)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

5)☒ Claim(s) 18,20-23 and 25-27 is/are pending in the application.
   5a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
6)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
7)☒ Claim(s) 18,20-23 and 25-27 is/are rejected.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
9)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

10)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
11)☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 April 2012 is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a)☒ All  b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
      1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6)☐ Other: _____.
DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is responsive to amendments filed for No. 11/338,884 on April 17, 2012. Claims 18, 20-23 and 25-27 are pending and have been examined.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

   (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. The factual inquiries set forth in Graham v. John Deere Co., 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

   1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
   2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
   3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
   4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

4. Claims 18, 20-23 and 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant’s Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter referred to as AAPA) in view of Durden (7,380,258 B2).

AAPA teaches in Claim 18:
A method for managing information, comprising:

detecting parental levels for different segments of an information signal, wherein the information signal includes audio and video and wherein data indicative of the parental levels for the different segments is included in the information signal (Figure 4, [0010]-[0011], show different segments of the A/V signal, such as the first, left-most, non-shaded part (read as first segment), the shaded part (read as second segment), and then another non-shaded part (read as third segment). Please note the first segment is associated with a first parental level that is considered not adult, the shaded part is associated with a parental level that is considered adult, etc, as shown in Figure 4);

comparing the parental levels to a stored level; when the parental level detected for a first segment of the information signal is lower than the stored level, output-ring the audio and video corresponding to the first segment of the information signal as received (Figure 4, [0011], the first segment is at a parental level that is considered to not be adult (lower than the user setting parental level), so the video and audio are output normally);

when the parental level detected for a second segment of the information signal is equal to or greater than the stored level, identifying the second segment as a segment having audio to be muted (Figure 4, [0010], disclose that for the second segment, the parental level is considered adult throughout this segment (higher than user setting parental level), so for this segment, there is a video blank and audio mute inserted throughout this objectionable second segment. Please see the combination below with regards to the stored information), wherein:

the information to be output in place of the video corresponding to the second segment
includes a still image or moving images (Figure 4, [0010] discloses a black screen (read as still image) is output during the second segment. Please see the combination below with regards to the stored information); but

AAPA does not explicitly teach “and outputting stored information in place of the audio and video corresponding to the second segment” and to emphasize on the stored information, “the stored information to be output in place of the audio corresponding to the second segment includes stored audio, the stored information to be output in place of the audio and video corresponding to the second segment includes audio and video derived from a prior segment of the information signal, the parental level of the prior segment is lower than the stored level, the prior segment is between two segments in the information signal, and said two segments in which no audio is output or in which audio having a level lower than a predetermined level is output.”

To summarize, AAPA teaches of inserting a black screen and muted audio during the objectionable second segment, not stored information of a prior segment in the information signal which includes stored video and stored audio.

However, in the same field of endeavor, content filtering, Durden also teaches of removing the objectionable material in segments where the content is deemed to be inappropriate. In its place, Durden teaches of substituting a number of options, such as substitute alternative audio stream, substitute alternative video channel/stream, substitute alternate video and audio channel stream,
delete the scene, or substitute different scene, (Durden, Columns 8-9, Lines 60-10, Table 1 as well). Here, Durden teaches of using a different scene from the current program/stream to place in the objectionable segment, thus, this different scene is stored information with corresponding video and audio. As for it being derived from a prior segment of the information signal (as opposed to a future segment perhaps), it is clear that there are a finite number of possibilities, two, for which can be substituted into the objectionable segment, either prior or future, so it would be obvious to try since one of these two would have to be selected. Respectfully, one of ordinary skill in the art would realize that a prior segment would be more feasible so as to avoid spoilers, but in any case, Durden clearly contemplates substituting a different scene, which also includes prior scenes. Furthermore, as an overlying point, it is a design choice as to what in particular is inserted during this period of questionable content as one of ordinary skill in the art would realize that a number of different choices could be inserted and what in particular is not an inventive step. As combined with AAPA, the prior scene and corresponding video and audio data is substituted in the objectionable, second segment, so instead of having a black video and muted audio, this scene is played. Please note that for purposes of interpretation, the substituted scene is inserted during the non-shaded portion, in between the start and end of the non-shaded period, such that there is muted audio at the beginning and the end. Respectfully, is it inherent that when switching between scenes that there is a muted audio period and this is being mentioned in light of that.

As for the parental level being lower than the stored level, respectfully, this is something Durden would clearly have contemplated and that the purposes of the substitute different scene is to
provide for a safe viewing experience during the questionable segment. As combined with Durden, the substitute different scene in input in between the safe segments, and in particular, there is obviously a muted audio period as the scenes change, one at the beginning and one at the end. The above is noted simply to reinforce that notion explicitly as well as for an interpretation purpose.

Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to substitute a different scene, as taught by Durden, with AAPA’s parental control system, with the motivation that Durden teaches of a number of ways to filter out objectionable content (as noted above) and presents these options to the user to modify the objectionable material in a number of ways to make it acceptable for viewing, (Durden, Column 2, Lines 15-20).

AAPA and Durden teaches in Claim 20:

The method of claim 18, wherein:

the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to the second segment includes a still image (AAPA, [0010], teaches of a black screen (read as still image), Durden teaches of a number of options that can be implemented. Respectfully, in light of the combination, it is a design choice what is substituted in as one of skill would realize that the goal is to remove the objectionable content. Also, a previous scene could also include still images as one of a plurality of images), and

the still image is repeatedly for a predetermined time. (The combination teaches to
implement the substituted information for the duration of the second segment, until the level is again deemed to be acceptable/not adult.

AAPA teaches in Claim 21:

The method of claim 18, wherein the stored level is set by a user. (AAPA, [0010] discloses the stored level which is the comparison standard is a user setting parental level)

AAPA teaches in Claim 22:

The method of claim 18, wherein the data indicative of the parental levels of the different segments in the information signal is included in a video line of the information signal. (AAPA, Figure 3, [0006]-[0007] disclose the parental level of the segments is stored in the video lines of the A/V signal. Looking at Figure 4, each segment is then identifiable as to if it has objectionable material or not)

AAPA teaches in Claim 23:

An information management apparatus, comprising:

a storage area to store audio and video in an information signal (Figure 1, [0005] disclose an A/V signal processor 10 and a memory 13. Respectfully, it is obvious, if not inherent, that a memory is part of a display device to store the information that is to be displayed);

a detector to detect parental levels for different segments of the information signal, wherein data indicative of the parental levels for the different segments is included in
the information signal and detected by the detector (Figure 4, [0010]-[0011], show different segments of the A/V signal, such as the first, left-most, non-shaded part (read as first segment), the shaded part (read as second segment), and then another non-shaded part (read as third segment). Please note the first segment is associated with a first parental level that is considered not adult, the shaded part is associated with a parental level that is considered adult, etc, as shown in Figure 4. Also, please see Figure 1 for the parental level detecting unit 11); and

a controller to:

compare the parental levels of the different segments to a stored level, output audio and video corresponding to a first segment of the information signal as received when the parental level detected for the first segment is lower than the stored level (Figure 4, [0011], the first segment is at a parental level that is considered to not be adult (lower than the user setting parental level), so the video and audio are output normally);

identify a second segment as a segment having audio to be muted when the parental level detected for the second segment is equal to or greater than the stored level, (Figure 4, [0010], disclose that for the second segment, the parental level is considered adult throughout this segment (higher than user setting parental level), so for this segment, there is a video blank and audio mute inserted throughout this objectionable second segment. Please see the combination below with regards to the stored information), wherein:

the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to the second segment includes a still image or moving images (Figure 4, [0010] discloses a black screen (read as still image) is output during the second segment. Please see the combination below
with regards to the stored information); but

AAPA does not explicitly teach “and outputting stored information in place of the audio and video corresponding to the second segment” and to emphasize on the stored information, “the stored information to be output in place of the audio corresponding to the second segment includes stored audio, the stored information to be output in place of the audio and video corresponding to the second segment includes audio and video derived from a prior segment of the information signal, the parental level of the prior segment is lower than the stored level, the prior segment is between two segments in the information signal, and said two segments in which no audio is output or in which audio having a level lower than a predetermined level is output.”

To summarize, AAPA teaches of inserting a black screen and muted audio during the objectionable second segment, not stored information of a prior segment in the information signal which includes stored video and stored audio.

However, in the same field of endeavor, content filtering, Durden also teaches of removing the objectionable material in segments where the content is deemed to be inappropriate. In its place, Durden teaches of substituting a number of options, such as substitute alternative audio stream, substitute alternative video channel/stream, substitute alternate video and audio channel stream, delete the scene, or substitute different scene, (Durden, Columns 8-9, Lines 60-10, Table 1 as well). Here, Durden teaches of using a different scene from the current program/stream to place
in the objectionable segment, thus, this different scene is stored information with corresponding video and audio. As for it being derived from a prior segment of the information signal (as opposed to a future segment perhaps), it is clear that there are a finite number of possibilities, two, for which can be substituted into the objectionable segment, either prior or future, so it would be obvious to try since one of these two would have to be selected. Respectfully, one of ordinary skill in the art would realize that a prior segment would be more feasible so as to avoid spoilers, but in any case, Durden clearly contemplates substituting a different scene, which also includes prior scenes. Furthermore, as an overlying point, it is a design choice as to what in particular is inserted during this period of questionable content as one of ordinary skill in the art would realize that a number of different choices could be inserted and what in particular is not an inventive step. As combined with AAPA, the prior scene and corresponding video and audio data is substituted in the objectionable, second segment, so instead of having a black video and muted audio, this scene is played. Please note that for purposes of interpretation, the substituted scene is inserted during the non-shaded portion, in between the start and end of the non-shaded period, such that there is muted audio at the beginning and the end. Respectfully, is it inherent that when switching between scenes that there is a muted audio period and this is being mentioned in light of that.

As for the parental level being lower than the stored level, respectfully, this is something Durden would clearly have contemplated and that the purposes of the substitute different scene is to provide for a safe viewing experience during the questionable segment. As combined with Durden, the substitute different scene in input in between the safe segments, and in particular,
there is obviously a muted audio period as the scenes change, one at the beginning and one at the end. The above is noted simply to reinforce that notion explicitly as well as for an interpretation purpose.

Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to substitute a different scene, as taught by Durden, with AAPA’s parental control system, with the motivation that Durden teaches of a number of ways to filter out objectionable content (as noted above) and presents these options to the user to modify the objectionable material in a number of ways to make it acceptable for viewing, (Durden, Column 2, Lines 15-20).

AAPA and Durden teach in Claim 25:
The apparatus of claim 23, wherein:
the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to the second segment includes a still image (AAPA, [0010], teaches of a black screen (read as still image), Durden teaches of a number of options that can be implemented. Respectfully, in light of the combination, it is a design choice what is substituted in as one of skill would realize that the goal is to remove the objectionable content. Also, a previous scene could also include still images as one of a plurality of images, and
the controller repeatedly outputs the still image for a predetermined time. (The combination teaches to implement the substituted information for the duration of the second segment, until the level is again deemed to be acceptable/not adult)
AAPA teaches in Claim 26:

The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the stored level is set by a user. (*AAPA, [0010] disclosure the stored level which is the comparison standard is a user setting parental level *)

AAPA teaches in Claim 27:

The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the data indicative of the parental levels of the different segments in the information signal is included in a video line of the information signal. (*AAPA, Figure 3, [0006]-[0007] disclose the parental level of the segments is stored in the video lines of the A/V signal. Looking at Figure 4, each segment is then identifiable as to if it has objectional material or not *)

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant’s arguments considered, but are respectfully not persuasive.

Applicant has amended the claim language and points to 3 items, labeled 1), 2) and 3) and argues that the combination does not teach these elements. However, for item 1, respectfully, it is clear that Durden is concerned with blocking questionable content and clearly set aside the substituted different scene with the intentions that this segment would not contain questionable content. In addition, ordinary skill in the art must be considered here as well and examiner feels that there is a strong enough reasoning to believe that the substituted different scene would have a parental level lower than the stored level.
As for the item 2, the claim language calls for this substituted different scene, interpreted as the prior segment, to be placed between two segments in the information signal. It does not explicitly claim details of these segments in particular and examiner notes that these do not have to necessarily correspond to the different segments claimed earlier, though they could be; the claim language is broad in this regard.

As for item 3, the claim language is broad here and examiner feels that a reasonable interpretation, broadest reasonable interpretation, can be applied here to read on this claim language. It seems obvious that when switching between two scenes that there has to be a muted audio period, no matter how short it is. A different scene is simply starting and with it, a muted audio while the change occurs. Obviously, this would occur at the beginning and end of a scene, so it can be argued that there have to be muted audio periods in between the substituted different scene. Examiner feels this satisfies the claim language.

Another valid interpretation is as follows: It can be seen from AAPA, Figure 6 that there is an audio mute period associated with the start and stopping of the shaded area. Thus, in light of the combination, the examiner can propose a modification in that the substituted different scene is placed within the shaded region, just after it starts and just before it ends. As AAPA notes, this is a muted audio period. This also would satisfy the claim language.

Examiner feels that both of these interpretations are valid using broadest reasonable interpretation.

Conclusion
6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DENNIS P. JOSEPH whose telephone number is (571)-270-1459. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Amr Awad can be reached on 571-272-7764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dennis Joseph/
Examiner, Art Unit 2629

/Amr Awad/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2629
# Index of Claims

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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  Part of Paper No.: 20120419
## EAST Search History

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Jae Joo KIM

Confirmation No: 3132

Group Art Unit: 2629

Serial No: 11/338,884

Examiner: Joseph, D.

Filed: January 25, 2006

Customer No: 34610

For: A/V PARENTAL LOCK APPARATUS AND METHOD

AMENDMENT

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are submitted in reply to the Office Action mailed on January 18, 2012, in connection with the above-identified application.

Amendments to the Claims are in the Listing of Claims beginning on page 2.

Amendments to the Drawings are discussed on page 6.

Remarks begin on page 7.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet Fig. 4
Listing of Claims

1.17 (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method for managing information, comprising:
detecting parental levels for different segments of an information signal, wherein the information signal includes audio and video and wherein data indicative of the parental levels for the different segments is included in the information signal;
comparing the parental levels to a stored level;
when the parental level detected for a first segment of the information signal is lower than the stored level, outputting the audio and video corresponding to the first segment of the information signal as received; and
when the parental level detected for a second segment of the information signal is equal to or greater than the stored level, identifying the second segment as a segment having audio to be muted and outputting stored information in place of the audio and video corresponding to the second segment, wherein:
the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to the second segment includes a still image or moving images,
the stored information to be output in place of the audio corresponding to the second segment includes stored audio, and
the stored information to be output in place of the audio and video corresponding to the second segment includes audio and video derived from a prior segment of the information signal,

the parental level of the prior segment is lower than the stored level,
the prior segment is between two segments in the information signal, and
said two segments are segments in which no audio is output or in which audio having a level lower than a predetermined level is output.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein:

the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to the second segment includes a still image, and

the still image is repeatedly output in place of the video corresponding to the second segment for a predetermined time that corresponds to a duration of the second segment.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the stored level is set by a user.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the data indicative of the parental levels of the different segments in the information signal is included in a video line of the information signal.

23. (Currently Amended) An information management apparatus, comprising:

a storage area to store audio and video in an information signal;

a detector to detect parental levels for different segments of the information signal, wherein data indicative of the parental levels for the different segments is included in the information signal and detected by the detector; and

a controller to:

compare the parental levels of the different segments to a stored level,
output audio and video corresponding to a first segment of the information signal as received when the parental level detected for the first segment is lower than the stored level;

identify a second segment as a segment having audio to be muted when the parental level detected for the second segment is equal to or greater than the stored level, and outputting stored information in place of the audio and video corresponding to the second segment, wherein:

the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to the second segment includes a still image or moving images,

the stored information to be output in place of the audio corresponding to the second segment includes stored audio, and

the stored information to be output in place of the audio and video corresponding to the second segment includes audio and video derived from a prior segment of the information signal

the parental level of the prior segment is lower than the stored level,

the prior segment is between two segments in the information signal, and

said two segments are segments in which no audio is output or in which audio having a level lower than a predetermined level is output.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein:

the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to the second segment includes a still image, and
the controller repeatedly outputs the still image in place of the video corresponding to the second segment for a predetermined time that corresponds to a duration of the second segment.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the stored level is set by a user.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the data indicative of the parental levels of the different segments in the information signal is included in a video line of the information signal.
Amendments to the Drawings

A Replacement Sheet for Figure 4 has been submitted to include a legend.
Claims 18, 20-23, and 25-27 are pending.

A Replacement Sheet for Fig. 4 has been submitted to overcome the drawing objection.

In the Office Action, claims 18-27 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) based on a combination of Figure 4 disclosed in Applicants’ specification (identified as AAPA) and the Durden patent. Applicants request the Examiner to withdraw this rejection as follows.

AAPA discloses displaying a black frame and no audio in place of adult material.

The Durden patent discloses displaying a different scene of a video during a time when adult material is being shown. However, these references do not individually or collectively teach or suggest the features added by amendment to claim 18.

As amended, claim 18 recites a specific type of stored information that is to be displayed in place of audio and video corresponding to the second segment (e.g., a segment having subject matter higher than a predetermined rating). This specific type of stored information corresponds to audio and video from a prior segment, where:

1) “the parental level of the prior segment is lower than the stored level,”

2) “the prior segment is between two segments in the information signal,” and

3) “said two segments are segments in which no audio is output or in which audio having a level lower than a predetermined level is output.” (See, for example, page 8, lines 1-7, of the specification for support). The references forming the current § 103 rejection do not teach or suggest features 2) and 3) of amended claim 18.

The features added claim 18 require the audio and video from the prior segment to be located between two segments in the information signal that are mute or low audio level periods. Such segments may be two prior mute periods (not including the current second segment), or a prior mute period and the second segment.
The Durden patent discloses outputting a prior scene in place of a segment that includes objectionable material. (See the control function corresponding to the SS control value in Table 1). However, Durden does not teach or suggest that the different scene to be substituted is a scene between two prior scenes (or segments) in the same information signal that are muted or which have a lower-level audio than audio containing the objectionable material.

Thus, in the Durden system, it is possible for the different scene to have curse words. The audio in this different scene (having the curse words) may be used to replace an illicit sex scene which is inappropriate for small children to view. Thus, with Durden, one form of inappropriate subject matter may still replace another form of inappropriate subject matter.

In contrast, amended claim 18 expressly recites the type of stored information of the prior segment to be used to replace the second segment having the inappropriate subject matter. The problem of Durden of replacing one type of inappropriate subject matter (illicit sex scene) with another form of inappropriate audio (one containing profanity) is prevented from occurring. The embodiment of claim 18, therefore, provides an enhanced level of protection for young children compared with an AAPA-Durden combination, which is greatly needed in our society today.

Based on these differences, it is respectfully submitted that claim 18 and its dependent claims are allowable. Claim 23 has been amended to recite features similar to those which patentably distinguish claim 18 from the cited references.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and timely allowance of the application is respectfully requested.
To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP

Daniel Y. J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186

Samuel W. Ntiros
Registration No. 39,318

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
(703) 766-3777 DYK/SWN/krf
Date: April 17, 2012
Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610
CONVENTIONAL ART

FIG. 4

A/V Signal

↓

Parental Level = Adult

↓

Parental Level = Not Adult

↓

Video
Black

↓

Audio
Mute
## Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

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**Warnings:**

**Information:**

**Total Files Size (in bytes):** 315808

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

**New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111**

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

**National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371**

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

**New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office**

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of
Jae Joo KIM
Serial No: 11/338,884
Filed: January 25, 2006
Confirmation No.: 3132
Group Art Unit: 4147
Examiner: John J. MORRIS
Customer No.: 34610

For: A/V PARENTAL LOCK APPARATUS AND METHOD

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window, MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Sir:

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Amendment and/or Reply in the above identified application.

☐ No additional fee is required.
☐ Also attached:

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

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If multiple claims newly presented, add $450.00 $0.00
Fee for extension of time $0.00

TOTAL FEE DUE $0.00

☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0627, including any filing fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 for presentation of extra claims and any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.17.

Respectfully submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP

Daniel Y.J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186
Samuel W. Nitos
Registration No. 39,318

Correspondence Address:
P.O. Box 8638
Reston, VA 20195
(703) 766-3777. DYK/SWN/krf
Date: April 17, 2012
Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610

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*** If the *Highest Number Previously Paid For* in this space is less than 3, enter "3".

The *Highest Number Previously Paid For* (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.
Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.
Office Action Summary

Application No. 11/338,884
Applicant(s) KIM, JAE JOO

Examiner DENNIS JOSEPH
Art Unit 2629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) [x] Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 September 2011.
2a) [ ] This action is FINAL.
2b) [x] This action is non-final.
3) [ ] An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on _____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.
4) [ ] Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

5) [x] Claim(s) 18-27 is/are pending in the application.
   5a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
6) [ ] Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
7) [x] Claim(s) 18-27 is/are rejected.
8) [ ] Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
9) [ ] Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

10) [ ] The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
11) [x] The drawing(s) filed on 25 January 2006 is/are: a) [ ] accepted or b) [x] objected to by the Examiner.
   Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
   Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
12) [ ] The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) [x] Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a) [x] All   b) [ ] Some *   c) [ ] None of:
   1. [x] Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
   2. [ ] Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ______.
   3. [ ] Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
   * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) [ ] Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) [ ] Notice of Draftsperson’s Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) [ ] Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date ______.
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date ______.
4) [ ] Interview Summary (PTO-413)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date ______.
5) [ ] Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) [ ] Other: ______.
DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is responsive to claims filed for No. 11/338,884 on September 21, 2011. Claims 18-27 are pending and have been examined.

Continued Examination

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on September 21, 2011 has been entered.

Drawings

3. Figures 1-4 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. [0001]-[0012] note this figure is for conventional art (read as prior art), so it should be labeled as such. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled “Replacement Sheet” in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.
Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negativized by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. The factual inquiries set forth in Graham v. John Deere Co., 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.


AAPA teaches in Claim 18:

A method for managing information, comprising:

detecting parental levels for different segments of an information signal, wherein the information signal includes audio and video and wherein data indicative of the parental levels for the different segments is included in the information signal (Figure 4, [0010]-[0011], show different segments of the A/V signal, such as the first, left-most, non-shaded part (read as first segment), the shaded part (read as second segment), and then another non-shaded
part (read as third segment). Please note the first segment is associated with a first parental level that is considered not adult, the shaded part is associated with a parental level that is considered adult, etc, as shown in Figure 4);

comparing the parental levels to a stored level; when the parental level detected for a first segment of the information signal is lower than the stored level, output-ring the audio and video corresponding to the first segment of the information signal as received (Figure 4, [0011], the first segment is at a parental level that is considered to not be adult (lower than the user setting parental level), so the video and audio are output normally); and

when the parental level detected for a second segment of the information signal is equal to or greater than the stored level, identifying the second segment as a segment having audio to be muted (Figure 4, [0010], disclose that for the second segment, the parental level is considered adult throughout this segment (higher than user setting parental level), so for this segment, there is a video blank and audio mute inserted throughout this objectionable second segment. Please see the combination below with regards to the stored information), wherein:

the information to be output in place of the video corresponding to the second segment includes a still image or moving images (Figure 4, [0010] discloses a black screen (read as still image) is output during the second segment. Please see the combination below with regards to the stored information); but

AAPA does not explicitly teach “and outputting stored information in place of the audio and video corresponding to the second segment” and to emphasize on the stored information, “the
stored information to be output in place of the audio corresponding to the second segment includes stored audio, the stored information to be output in place of the audio and video corresponding to the second segment includes audio and video derived from a prior segment of the information signal”.

To summarize, AAPA teaches of inserting a black screen and muted audio during the objectionable second segment, not stored information of a prior segment in the information signal which includes stored video and stored audio.

However, in the same field of endeavor, content filtering, Durden also teaches of removing the objectionable material in segments where the content is deemed to be inappropriate. In its place, Durden teaches of substituting a number of options, such as substitute alternative audio stream, substitute alternative video channel/stream, substitute alternate video and audio channel stream, delete the scene, or substitute different scene. (Durden, Columns 8-9, Lines 60-10, Table 1 as well). Here, Durden teaches of using a different scene from the current program/stream to place in the objectionable segment, thus, this different scene is stored information with corresponding video and audio. As for it being derived from a prior segment of the information signal (as opposed to a future segment perhaps), it is clear that there are a finite number of possibilities, two, for which can be substituted into the objectionable segment, either prior or future, so it would be obvious to try since one of these two would have to be selected. Respectfully, one of ordinary skill in the art would realize that a prior segment would be more feasible so as to avoid spoilers, but in any case, Durden clearly contemplates substituting a different scene, which also
includes prior scenes. As combined with AAPA, the prior scene and corresponding video and audio data is substituted in the objectionable, second segment, so instead of having a black video and muted audio, this scene is played.

Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to substitute a different scene, as taught by Durden, with AAPA’s parental control system, with the motivation that Durden teaches of a number of ways to filter out objectionable content (as noted above) and presents these options to the user to modify the objectionable material in a number of ways to make it acceptable for viewing. (Durden, Column 2, Lines 15-20).

AAPA and Durden teach in Claim 19:

The method of claim 18, wherein the prior segment is located between two segments in the information signal having audio to be muted. (The combination teaches to insert the prior segment for the second segment, in between the first and third segments, where AAPA taught the audio was originally muted. As combined, a previous scene is substituted)

AAPA and Durden teaches in Claim 20:

The method of claim 18, wherein:

the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to the second segment includes a still image (AAPA, [0010], teaches of a black screen (read as still image), Durden teaches of a number of options that can be implemented. Respectfully, in light of the combination, it is a design choice what is substituted in as one of skill would realize that
the goal is to remove the objectionable content. Also, a previous scene could also include still images as one of a plurality of images), and

the still image is repeatedly output in place of the video corresponding to the second segment for a time that corresponds to a duration of the second segment. (The combination teaches to implement the substituted information for the duration of the second segment, until the level is again deemed to be acceptable/not adult)

AAPA teaches in Claim 21:

The method of claim 18, wherein the stored level is set by a user. (AAPA, [0010] discloses the stored level which is the comparison standard is a user setting parental level)

AAPA teaches in Claim 22:

The method of claim 18, wherein the data indicative of the parental levels of the different segments in the information signal is included in a video line of the information signal. (AAPA, Figure 3, [0006]-[0007] disclose the parental level of the segments is stored in the video lines of the A/V signal. Looking at Figure 4, each segment is then identifiable as to if it has objectionable material or not)

AAPA teaches in Claim 23:

An information management apparatus, comprising:

a storage area to store audio and video in an information signal (Figure 1, [0005] disclose an A/V signal processor 10 and a memory 13. Respectfully, it is obvious, if not
inherent, that a memory is part of a display device to store the information that is to be displayed);

a detector to detect parental levels for different segments of the information signal, wherein data indicative of the parental levels for the different segments is included in the information signal and detected by the detector (Figure 4, [0010]-[0011], show different segments of the A/V signal, such as the first, left-most, non-shaded part (read as first segment), the shaded part (read as second segment), and then another non-shaded part (read as third segment). Please note the first segment is associated with a first parental level that is considered not adult, the shaded part is associated with a parental level that is considered adult, etc, as shown in Figure 4. Also, please see Figure 1 for the parental level detecting unit 11); and

a controller to:

compare the parental levels of the different segments to a stored level, output audio and video corresponding to a first segment of the information signal as received when the parental level detected for the first segment is lower than the stored level (Figure 4, [0011], the first segment is at a parental level that is considered to not be adult (lower than the user setting parental level), so the video and audio are output normally);

identify a second segment as a segment having audio to be muted when the parental level detected for the second segment is equal to or greater than the stored level, (Figure 4, [0010], disclose that for the second segment, the parental level is considered adult throughout this segment (higher than user setting parental level), so for this segment, there is a video blank and audio mute inserted throughout this objectionable second segment. Please see the
combination below with regards to the stored information), wherein:

the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to the second segment includes a still image or moving images (Figure 4, [0010] discloses a black screen (read as still image) is output during the second segment. Please see the combination below with regards to the stored information); but

AAPA does not explicitly teach “and outputting stored information in place of the audio and video corresponding to the second segment” and to emphasize on the stored information, “the stored information to be output in place of the audio corresponding to the second segment includes stored audio, and the stored information to be output in place of the audio and video corresponding to the second segment includes to audio and video derived from a prior segment of the information signal”.

To summarize, AAPA teaches of inserting a black screen and muted audio during the objectionable second segment, not stored information of a prior segment in the information signal which includes stored video and stored audio.

However, in the same field of endeavor, content filtering, Durden also teaches of removing the objectionable material in segments where the content is deemed to be inappropriate. In its place, Durden teaches of substituting a number of options, such as substitute alternative audio stream, substitute alternative video channel/stream, substitute alternate video and audio channel stream,
delete the scene, or substitute different scene. (Durden, Columns 8-9, Lines 60-10, Table 1 as well). Here, Durden teaches of using a different scene from the current program/stream to place in the objectionable segment, thus, this different scene is stored information with corresponding video and audio. As for it being derived from a prior segment of the information signal (as opposed to a future segment perhaps), it is clear that there are a finite number of possibilities, two, for which can be substituted into the objectionable segment, either prior or future, so it would be obvious to try since one of these two would have to be selected. Respectfully, one of ordinary skill in the art would realize that a prior segment would be more feasible so as to avoid spoilers, but in any case, Durden clearly contemplates substituting a different scene, which also includes prior scenes. As combined with AAPA, the prior scene and corresponding video and audio data is substituted in the objectionable, second segment, so instead of having a black video and muted audio, this scene is played.

Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to substitute a different scene, as taught by Durden, with AAPA’s parental control system, with the motivation that Durden teaches of a number of ways to filter out objectionable content (as noted above) and presents these options to the user to modify the objectionable material in a number of ways to make it acceptable for viewing, (Durden, Column 2, Lines 15-20).

AAPA and Durden teach in Claim 24:

The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the prior segment is located between two segments having audio to be muted. (The combination teaches to insert the prior segment for the
second segment, in between the first and third segments, where AAPA taught the audio was
originally muted. As combined, a previous scene is substituted)

AAPA and Durden teach in Claim 25:

The apparatus of claim 23, wherein:

the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to the second
segment includes a still image (AAPA, [0010], teaches of a black screen (read as still image),
Durden teaches of a number of options that can be implemented. Respectfully, in light of
the combination, it is a design choice what is substituted in as one of skill would realize that
the goal is to remove the objectionable content. Also, a previous scene could also include
still images as one of a plurality of images), and

the controller repeatedly outputs the still image in place of the video corresponding to the
second segment for a time that corresponds to a duration of the second segment. (The
combination teaches to implement the substituted information for the duration of the
second segment, until the level is again deemed to be acceptable/not adult)

AAPA teaches in Claim 26:

The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the stored level is set by a user. (AAPA, [0010]
discloses the stored level which is the comparison standard is a user setting parental level)

AAPA teaches in Claim 27:
The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the data indicative of the parental levels of the different segments in the information signal is included in a video line of the information signal. (AAPA, Figure 3, [0006]-[0007] disclose the parental level of the segments is stored in the video lines of the A/V signal. Looking at Figure 4, each segment is then identifiable as to if it has objectionable material or not.)

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant’s arguments considered, but are respectfully moot in light of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant’s representative is thanked for the interview on September 16, 2011 to discuss the case and to advance prosecution. In light of the new claim amendments, the previous rejection has been removed and a new one has been issued. As a result, Applicant’s arguments are moot since AAPA was not previously used.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DENNIS P. JOSEPH whose telephone number is (571)-270-1459. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Amr Awad can be reached on 571-272-7764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/DENNIS JOSEPH/

Examiner, Art Unit 2629
**Search Notes**

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**EAST Search History (Interference)**

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.
Applicant-Initiated Interview Summary

Application No. 11/338,884

Applicant(s) KIM, JAE JOO

Examiner DENNIS JOSEPH

Art Unit 2629

All participants (applicant, applicant’s representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Samuel W. Ntiros (39,318).
(3) ____.
(2) Dennis Joseph.
(4) ____.

Date of Interview: 16 September 2011.

Type: ☒ Telephonic ☐ Video Conference

☐ Personal [copy given to: ☐ applicant ☐ applicant’s representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: ☐ Yes ☒ No.

If Yes, brief description: ____.

Issues Discussed   ☐ 101   ☐ 112   ☐ 102   ☒ 103   ☐ Others

(For each of the checked box(es) above, please describe below the issue and detailed description of the discussion)

Claim(s) discussed: 1.

Identification of prior art discussed: Durden.

Substance of Interview

(For each issue discussed, provide a detailed description and indicate if agreement was reached. Some topics may include: identification or clarification of a reference or a portion thereof, claim interpretation, proposed amendments, arguments of any applied references etc...)

Discussion was made on possible claim amendments to overcome the current rejection.

Applicant recorrdation instructions: The formal written reply to the last Office action must include the substance of the interview. (See MPEP section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, applicant is given a non-extendable period of the longer of one month or thirty days from this interview date, or the mailing date of this interview summary form, whichever is later, to file a statement of the substance of the interview.

Examiner recorrdation instructions: Examiners must summarize the substance of any interview of record. A complete and proper recorrdation of the substance of an interview should include the items listed in MPEP 713.04 for complete and proper recorrdation including the identification of the general thrust of each argument or issue discussed, a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed regarding patentability and the general results or outcome of the interview, to include an indication as to whether or not agreement was reached on the issues raised.

☐ Attachment

/DENNIS JOSEPH/
Examiner, Art Unit 2629

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
PTOL-413 (Rev. 8/11/2010)
Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner’s responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No. placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant’s correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:
- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
  - An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
  - The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:
1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
2) an identification of the claims discussed,
3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner.
   (The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant’s record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner’s version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, “Interview Record OK” on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.
REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.114

DOCKET NUMBER: LT-0098
Prior Appln Serial No.: 11/338,884
Filed: January 25, 2006
Inventor(s): Jae Joo KIM
Confirmation No.: 3132
Group Art Unit: 4147
Examiner: John J. MORRIS

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop RCE
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Sir:


1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. §1.114
a. □ Previously submitted
   i. □ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 previously filed on ___
      (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
   ii. □ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on ___

b. □ Enclosed
   i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
   ii. □ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
   iii. □ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

2. Fees ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e); Small Entity $405.00, other than small entity $810.00. The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. 1.114 when the RCE is filed.
   ☐ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§1.136 and 1.17)

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Payment by:

☒ Please charge my Credit Card.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any deficiency in the above fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 16-0607. A duplicate copy is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP

Daniel Y. J. Kim
Registration No. 39,318
Samuel W. Ntouos
Registration No. 39,318

Correspondence Address:
P.O. Box 8638
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 766-3777 DYK/SWN/krf
Date: September 21, 2011

Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610

09/22/2011 MBLANCO 00000011 11336884
01 FC:1001 810.00 DF
Docket No: LT-0098

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Confirmation No: 3132
Jae Joo KIM Group Art Unit: 2629
Serial No: 11/338,884 Examiner: Joseph, D.
Filed: January 25, 2006 Customer No: 34610

For: A/V PARENTAL LOCK APPARATUS AND METHOD

SUBMISSION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.114

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window, Mail Stop RCE
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are submitted after an interview with the
Examiner and with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE), filed after issuance of the
Final Office Action mailed on June 22, 2011, in connection with the above-identified
application.

Amendments to the Claims are in the Listing of Claims beginning on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 6.
Listing of Claims

1-17  (Canceled)

18.  (New) A method for managing information, comprising:

detecting parental levels for different segments of an information signal,
wherein the information signal includes audio and video and wherein data indicative of the
parental levels for the different segments is included in the information signal;
comparing the parental levels to a stored level;
when the parental level detected for a first segment of the information signal
is lower than the stored level, outputting the audio and video corresponding to the first
segment of the information signal as received; and
when the parental level detected for a second segment of the information
signal is equal to or greater than the stored level, identifying the second segment as a segment
having audio to be muted and outputting stored information in place of the audio and video
corresponding to the second segment, wherein:
the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to
the second segment includes a still image or moving images,
the stored information to be output in place of the audio corresponding to
the second segment includes stored audio, and
the stored information to be output in place of the audio and video
corresponding to the second segment includes audio and video derived from a prior segment
of the information signal.
19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the prior segment is located between two segments in the information signal having audio to be muted.

20. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein:

the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to
the second segment includes a still image, and

the still image is repeatedly output in place of the video corresponding to the
second segment for a time that corresponds to a duration of the second segment.

21. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the stored level is set by a user.

22. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the data indicative of the parental
levels of the different segments in the information signal is included in a video line of the
information signal.

23. (New) An information management apparatus, comprising:

a storage area to store audio and video in an information signal;

a detector to detect parental levels for different segments of the information
signal, wherein data indicative of the parental levels for the different segments is included in
the information signal and detected by the detector; and

a controller to:

compare the parental levels of the different segments to a stored level,

output audio and video corresponding to a first segment of the information
signal as received when the parental level detected for the first segment is lower than the
stored level;
identify a second segment as a segment having audio to be muted when the parental level detected for the second segment is equal to or greater than the stored level, and outputting stored information in place of the audio and video corresponding to the second segment, wherein:

the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to the second segment includes a still image or moving images,

the stored information to be output in place of the audio corresponding to the second segment includes stored audio, and

the stored information to be output in place of the audio and video corresponding to the second segment includes audio and video derived from a prior segment of the information signal.

24. (New) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the prior segment is located between two segments having audio to be muted.

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein:

the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to the second segment includes a still image, and

the controller repeatedly outputs the still image in place of the video corresponding to the second segment for a time that corresponds to a duration of the second segment.

26. (New) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the stored level is set by a user.
27. (New) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the data indicative of the parental levels of the different segments in the information signal is included in a video line of the information signal.
Claims 18-27 are pending.

At the outset, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for graciously extending Applicants' representative an interview to discuss the rejections in the Final Office Action. During the interview, a new set of claims was discussed for replacing the claims rejected in the Final Office Action. It was also indicated that all of the § 112 issues and claim objections relating to the rejected claims have been addressed and overcome by the new set of claims.

Additionally, the opportunity was taken to point out how the new set of claims is patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

At the conclusion of the interview, the Examiner agreed to postpone his decision concerning the allowability of the claims pending consideration of this paper. These claims will now be discussed in view of the cited references.

The Durden patent discloses allowing a user to change undesired types of programming and portions of programming by dialing, modifying, substituting, deleting, or editing the programming. (See column 3, lines 44-47).

The Dimitrova publication discloses substituting a safe signal for portions of a program that are objectionable. The safe signal may include an extension of a received video signal or a buffered video signal.

However, as indicated in the interview, these references do not individually or collectively teach or suggest the following features recited in new claim 18:

1) "when the parental level detected for a second segment of the information signal is equal to or greater than the stored level, identifying the second segment as a segment having audio to be muted and outputting stored information in place of the audio and video corresponding to the second segment,"
2) "the stored information to be output in place of the video corresponding to the second segment includes a still image or moving images;"

3) "the stored information to be output in place of the audio corresponding to the second segment includes stored audio;" and

4) "the stored information to be output in place of the audio and video corresponding to the second segment includes audio and video derived from a prior segment of the information signal."

Based on the foregoing considerations, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the cited combination. Furtherance of claim 1 and its dependent claims to allowance is respectfully requested.

New claim 23 has been amended to recite features similar to those which patentably distinguish claim 1 from the cited combination. Furtherance of claim 23 and its claims to allowance is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and timely allowance of the application is respectfully requested.
To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP

Daniel Y. J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186

Samuel W. Ntiros
Registration No. 39,318

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
(703) 766-3777 DYK/SWN/krf
Date: September 21, 2011
Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610
\\Fk\Documents\2031\2031-100\296637.doc
# Patent Application Fee Determination Record

**Application or Docket Number:** 11/338,884  **Filing Date:** 01/25/2006  **To be Mailed:**

### Application asFiled – Part I

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* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.

### Application as Amended – Part II

**09/21/2011**

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### Legal Instrument Examiner:

/DIANE JOHNSON/

---

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.16. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.
Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.
Office Action Summary

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<td>DENNIS JOSEPH</td>
<td>2629</td>
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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply to the notification will result in ABANDONMENT of your application. See 37 CFR 1.133.

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☑ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 June 2011.
2a) ☑ This action is FINAL.
2b) □ This action is non-final.
3) □ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☑ Claim(s) 1,2,7,8 and 13-17 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) □ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☑ Claim(s) 1,2,7,8 and 13-17 is/are rejected.
7) □ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) □ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) □ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☑ The drawing(s) filed on 25 January 2006 is/are: a) ☑ accepted or b) □ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) □ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

    a) ☑ All    b) □ Some   c) □ None of:
    1. ☑ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. □ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ______.
    3. □ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) □ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) □ Notice of Draftsperson’s Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) □ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/ SB/08)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date ______.
4) □ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date ______.
5) □ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) □ Other: ______.
DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is responsive to claims filed for No. 11/338,884 on June 1, 2011. Claims 1, 2, 7, 8 and 13-17 are pending and have been examined.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 15 and 17 objected to because of the following informalities:

It recites therein “A/V parental lock apparatus according to claim 7”. Respectfully, the other claims recite a “The” at the beginning of the claim and this claim does not. Similar issues exist in Claim 17 and appropriate correction is appreciated, thank you.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1, 7, 14 and 15 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites therein “wherein the buffering includes detecting audio mute periods and storing audio and moving images or at least one still image…”
Respectfully, the claim language is vague as to which combination is being used. Is it storing (audio and moving images) or (at least one still image) or is it storing audio, first, and then one of moving images or a still image? Multiple interpretations can be made and the language is indefinite as claimed. Similar issues exist in Claims 7, 14, 15 and appropriate correction is required, thank you.

For purposes of examination, it will be interpreted that audio will be stored and then one of a moving image or a still image is also stored, pending correction.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. The factual inquiries set forth in Graham v. John Deere Co., 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.
7. **Claims 1, 2, 7, 8 and 13-17** rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Durden et al. (US 7,380,258 B2) in view of Dimitrova et al. (US 2002/20147782).

Durden teaches in Claim 1: (With the 112 rejection in mind)

An A/V parental lock method (**Column 1, Lines 17-25 disclose the invention is for parental control means**) comprising:

- comparing a parental level detected from an information signal with a level set by a user, the information signal including at least one of audio or video (**Columns 2-3, Lines 59-5 disclose comparing the program data (read as information signal) to a presentation profile to determine whether the upcoming content is acceptable**);

- if the detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user according to a comparison result, outputting video and audio currently received from the information signal and buffering at least a part of the output audio and video (**Figure 2, Column 9, Lines 24-35 disclose that content that is acceptable is associated with the default setting, so no special action (blocking, modifying, etc) is performed to the data. Please read this as meaning the content is acceptable, i.e. lower than a parental level. It is buffered/output as normal. Please see the combination below**),

wherein the buffering includes detecting audio mute periods and storing audio and moving images or at least one still image derived from the output video between two audio mute periods, the audio mute period corresponding to a period during which no audio is output or audio a level of which is lower than a predetermined level is output (**Column 8, Lines 16-55 and Column 9, Lines 24-35 disclose intervals in the data (separated by frames, for example,****
each with an audio and video data component) in which the data is analyzed and associated with a rating. For the default settings which require no special action because the level is acceptable, the default setting is applied and the interval/frame, with an audio period before and after, is buffered with the acceptable data. However, when there is unacceptable data, the data in between needs to be muted/blocked/modified, etc. Please see the combination below); but

Durden does not explicitly teach “if the detected parental level is higher than the level set by the user according to a comparison result, repeatedly outputting the stored audio and the stored moving images or the stored at least one still image in place of audio and video currently received from the information signal”. While he does teach of several possible actions when it comes to blocking unacceptable data (when the detected level is higher) in Column 13, Lines 12-35, such as blocking the entire program, blocking portions, blocking or modifying portions, etc, he does not teach of using the buffered/stored data from a previous frame in place of the current frame data, which is deemed unacceptable.

However, he does suggest of replacing the unacceptable data with substitute local audio or video, substitute local audio or video stream, otherwise altered, etc, (Columns 2-3, Lines 64-5). The substituted local data could be interpreted as data found in the current program content, i.e. data from earlier in the program. Regardless, Durden at least suggest of replacing the unacceptable data with substitute data, possibly even from the same program, as one of ordinary skill in the art would realize.
To emphasize, in the same field of endeavor, parental control for multimedia content, Dimitrova teaches of using safe material during the offending program segment, ( Dimitrova, [0016] ) and alternatively, merging scenes, such as extending the video signal of the previous frame or by continuing to buffer the video signal until the offending program segment has passed, using the multimedia memory 20, ( Dimitrova, [0051] ). As combined with Durden, previously buffered video and audio data could be saved in memory and when an unacceptable level of content is realized, the stored data could be used. Several KSR principles can be applied here, such as well known technique (given that using known acceptable content is an easy and related content is used to replace unacceptable data), simple substitution of parts/method (given that both references teach of using substitute/previous data, it would be obvious to implement this data without destroying the functionality of either reference, since they want the unacceptable data to be replaced anyway) and obvious to try (given that there are only a finite number of ways to replace the unacceptable data and using known acceptable data would be convenient and obvious to try).

Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to implement previously stored video and audio data, as suggested by Durden and taught by Dimitrova, with the motivation of the KSR principles above and that this could be used to block unacceptable data to the viewer, ( Dimitrova, [0013] ).

Durden teaches in Claim 2:
The A/V parental lock method according to claim 1, wherein the parental level is included in a video line of a broadcast signal that is included in or corresponds to the information signal. (Durden, Column 2, Lines 30-35 disclose the program content instructions is represented as content data for the information signal)

Durden teaches in Claim 7: (With the 112 rejection in mind)

An A/V parental lock apparatus (Column 1, Lines 17-25 disclose the invention is for parental control means) comprising:

- a parental level detecting unit for detecting a parental level included in an information signal, the information signal including at least one of audio or video (Columns 2-3, Lines 59-5 disclose comparing the program data (read as information signal) to a presentation profile to determine whether the upcoming content is acceptable);

- at least one storage unit for temporarily storing of the audio and video included in the information signal (Figure 5, Column 7, Lines 40-46 disclose a memory 62 to store the data 36);

- a mute detection unit for detecting mute periods of the audio included in the information signal, the audio mute period corresponding to a period during which no audio is output or audio a level of which is lower than a predetermined level is output (Column 8, Lines 16-55 and Column 9, Lines 24-35 disclose intervals in the data (separated by frames, for example, each with an audio and video data component) in which the data is analyzed and associated with a rating. For the default settings which require no special action because the level is acceptable, the default setting is applied and the interval/frame, with an audio period
before and after, is buffered with the acceptable data. However, when there is unacceptable data, the data in between needs to be muted/blocked/modified, etc. Please see the combination below); and

a control unit configured to output video and audio currently received form the information signal and control at least one storage unit to buffer audio and moving images or at least one still image derived from the output video between two audio mute periods detected by the mute detection unit if the parental level detected by the parental level detecting unit is lower than a level set by a user (Figure 2, Column 9, Lines 24-35 disclose that content that is acceptable is associated with the default setting, so no special action (blocking, modifying, etc) is performed to the data. Please read this as meaning the content is acceptable, i.e. lower than a parental level. It is buffered/output as normal. Please see the combination below); but

Durden does not explicitly teach “repeatedly output the buffered audio and the buffered moving images or the buffered at least one still image in place of audio and video currently received from the information signal if the parental level detected by the parental level detecting unit is higher than the level set by the user”. While he does teach of several possible actions when it comes to blocking unacceptable data (when the detected level is higher) in Column 13, Lines 12-35, such as blocking the entire program, blocking portions, blocking or modifying portions, etc, he does not teach of using the buffered/stored data from a previous frame in place of the current frame data, which is deemed unacceptable.
However, he does suggest of replacing the unacceptable data with substitute local audio or video, substitute local audio or video stream, otherwise altered, etc. (Columns 2-3, Lines 64-5). The substituted local data could be interpreted as data found in the current program content, i.e. data from earlier in the program. Regardless, Durden at least suggest of replacing the unacceptable data with substitute data, possibly even from the same program, as one of ordinary skill in the art would realize.

To emphasize, in the same field of endeavor, parental control for multimedia content, Dimitrova teaches of using safe material during the offending program segment, (Dimitrova, [0016]) and alternatively, merging scenes, such as extending the video signal of the previous frame or by continuing to buffer the video signal until the offending program segment has passed, using the multimedia memory 20, (Dimitrova, [0051]). As combined with Durden, previously buffered video and audio data could be saved in memory and when an unacceptable level of content is realized, the stored data could be used. Several KSR principles can be applied here, such as well known technique (given that using known acceptable content is an easy and related content is used to replace unacceptable data), simple substitution of parts/method (given that both references teach of using substitute/previous data, it would be obvious to implement this data without destroying the functionality of either reference, since they want the unacceptable data to be replaced anyway) and obvious to try (given that there are only a finite number of ways to replace the unacceptable data and using known acceptable data would be convenient and obvious to try).
Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to implement previously stored video and audio data, as suggested by Durden and taught by Dimitrova, with the motivation of the KSR principles above and that this could be used to block unacceptable data to the viewer, (Dimitrova, [0013]).

Durden teaches in Claim 8:

The A/V parental lock apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the parental level is included in a video line of a broadcast signal. (Durden, Column 2, Lines 30-35 disclose the program content instructions is represented as content data for the information signal. Respectfully, one of ordinary skill in the art would realize the parental levels would need to be somehow associated with the video/audio signal to analyze it.)

Durden teaches in Claim 13:

The A/V parental lock apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the apparatus is installed in a set top box or a TV which receives broadcast signals. (Column 2, Lines 40-46 disclose the data can be used for a set top box or a television)

Durden and Dimitrova teach in Claim 14: (With the 112 rejection in mind)

The A/V parental lock method according to claim 1, wherein repeatedly outputting includes outputting the audio and the moving images or said at least one still image stored before a finally-detected mute period. (Respectfully, in light of the intervals that Durden has between each analyzed frame, the stored data that is combined from Dimitrova replaces
the unacceptable data until the interval ends (read as a final interval for the unacceptable data).

Durden and Dimitrova teach in Claim 15: (With the 112 rejection in mind)

A/V parental lock apparatus according to claim 7, wherein a control unit is configured to repeatedly output the audio and the moving images or said at least one still image buffered before a finally-detected mute period. (Figure 5, Column 14, Lines 24-29 disclose circuitry including processors which implement the censoring means. Also, please note the combination with Dimitrova with regards to the buffered image as well as the reasoning provided in Claim 14)

Durden teaches in Claim 16:

The A/V parental lock method according to claim 1, wherein each mute period corresponds to when at least one of the audio or video in the information signal is detected to correspond to a parental level higher than the level set by the user. (Column 8, Lines 16-55 and Column 9, Lines 24-35 disclose the intervals for the frame data. When there is unacceptable data, the data in between needs to be muted/blocke/modifed, etc. Please see the reasoning provided in Claim 1)

Durden teaches in Claim 17:

A/V parental lock apparatus according to claim 7, wherein each mute period corresponds to when at least one of the audio or video in the information signal is detected to correspond to a
parental level higher than the level set by the user. (Column 8, Lines 16-55 and Column 9, Lines 24-35 disclose the intervals for the frame data. When there is unacceptable data, the data in between needs to be muted/blocked/modified, etc. Please see the reasoning provided in Claim 7."

**Response to Arguments**

8. Applicant’s arguments considered, but are respectfully not persuasive.

   A 112 rejection has been given for the new claim amendments as well as minor claim informalities. Appropriate correction is required, thank you.

   In response to the claim amendments, the wording of the rejection has been altered slightly to clarify the examiner’s position. However, the claim amendments overall seem to be a more broadening version of the previous set and more importantly, the audio mute periods have not been claimed well enough. There is some definition in the independent claims as to the period they correspond to, but it is not specific.

   Please contact the examiner so that a better understanding of the audio mute period can be had, so that claim amendments can then be suggested/formed as a result.

**Conclusion**

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

   A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO
MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after
the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period
will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37
CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,
however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing
date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the
examiner should be directed to DENNIS P. JOSEPH whose telephone number is (571)-270-
1459. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s
supervisor, Amr Awad can be reached on 571-272-7764. The fax phone number for the
organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent
Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications
may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished
applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR
system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR
system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would
like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated
information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DJ
/Amr Awad/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2629
## EAST Search History

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/DENNIS P JOSEPH/
Examiner, Art Unit 2629
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Confirmed No: 3132
Jae Joo KIM Group Art Unit: 4147
Serial No: 11/338,884 Examiner: John J. MORRIS
Filed: January 25, 2006 Customer No: 34610

For: A/V PARENTAL LOCK APPARATUS AND METHOD

AMENDMENT

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are submitted in reply to the Office Action mailed on February 2, 2011, in connection with the above-identified application.

Amendments to the Claims are in the Listing of Claims beginning on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 6.
Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An A/V parental lock method comprising:

   comparing a parental level detected from an information signal with a level
   set by a user, the information signal including at least one of audio or video;

   if the detected parental level is higher than the level set by the user according
   to a comparison result, then repeatedly outputting at least one of a predetermined-image or
   video in place of audio or video currently received in the information signal; and

   if the detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user according
   to the comparison result, then buffering a currently output video frame and audio included in
   the information signal between two detected audio mute periods and outputting at least one
   of the currently buffered audio or video and performing operations of

      (a) receiving and outputting an additional information signal;

      (b) detecting a parental level of the additional information signal, and

      (c) comparing the parental level of the additional information signal with the
          level set by the user, wherein operations (a)-(c) are repeated until a request for terminating
          receipt of information signals is received, wherein the predetermined image or video is a
          previously buffered still image or a previously buffered moving image derived from the video
          included in the information signal

   if the detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user according
   to a comparison result, outputting video and audio currently received from the information
   signal and buffering at least a part of the output audio and video,

   wherein the buffering includes detecting audio mute periods and storing
   audio and moving images or at least one still image derived from the output video between
two audio mute periods, the audio mute period corresponding to a period during which no audio is output or audio a level of which is lower than a predetermined level is output; and if the detected parental level is higher than the level set by the user according to a comparison result, repeatedly outputting the stored audio and the stored moving images or the stored at least one still image in place of audio and video currently received from the information signal.

2. (Currently Amended) The A/V parental lock method according to claim 1, wherein the parental level is included and transmitted in a video line of a broadcast signal that is included in or corresponds to the information signal.

3-6 (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) An A/V parental lock apparatus comprising:

   a parental level-information detecting unit for detecting a parental level included in an information signal, the information signal including at least one of audio or video;

   at least one storage unit for temporarily storing a part of at least one of the audio or video or an image included in the information signal;

   a mute detection unit for detecting mute periods of the audio included in the information signal, the audio mute period corresponding to a period during which no audio is output or audio a level of which is lower than a predetermined level is output; and

   a control unit configured to output video and audio currently received from the information signal and control at least one storage unit to buffer audio and moving images or at least one still image derived from the output video between two audio mute
periods detected by the mute detection unit if the parental level detected by the parental level
detecting unit is lower than a level set by a user, and repeatedly output the buffered audio and
the buffered moving images or the buffered at least one still image in place of audio and
video currently received from the information signal if the parental level detected by the
parental level detecting unit is higher than the level set by the user

repeatedly outputting at least one of the part of the video or the image
temporarily stored in the storage unit in place of audio or video currently in the information
signal if the detected parental level is higher than a level set by a user, and buffering a
currently output video frame and audio between two audio mute periods in the storage unit
and outputting at least one of the temporarily stored audio or video in the storage unit and
performing operations of (a) receiving and outputting an additional information signal, (b)
detecting a parental level of the additional information signal, and (c) comparing the parental
level of the additional information signal with the level set by the user, wherein operations (a)–
(c) are repeated until a request for terminating receipt of information signals is received if the
detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user, wherein the control unit
repeatedly outputs a still image or a moving image derived from the video in the information
signal temporarily stored in the storage unit.

8. *(Currently Amended)* The A/V parental lock apparatus according to claim 7,
wherein the parental level is included and transmitted in a video line of a broadcast signal.

9-12 *(Canceled)*

13. *(Original)* The A/V parental lock apparatus according to claim 7, wherein
the apparatus is installed in a set top box or a TV which receives broadcast signals.
14. (New) The A/V parental lock method according to claim 1, wherein repeatedly outputting includes outputting the audio and the moving images or said at least one still image stored before a finally-detected mute period.

15. (New) A/V parental lock apparatus according to claim 7, wherein a control unit is configured to repeatedly output the audio and the moving images or said at least one still image buffered before a finally-detected mute period.

16. (New) The A/V parental lock method according to claim 1, wherein each mute period corresponds to when at least one of the audio or video in the information signal is detected to correspond to a parental level higher than the level set by the user.

17. (New) A/V parental lock apparatus according to claim 7, wherein each mute period corresponds to when at least one of the audio or video in the information signal is detected to correspond to a parental level higher than the level set by the user.
REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, and 13-17 are pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that a clearer recitation of the meaning of the auto mute period should be included in the claims. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to indicate that the audio mute period corresponds to “a period during which no audio is output or audio a level of which is lower than a predetermined level is output.”

In order to overcome the § 103 rejection, claim 1 has been amended to recite: “detecting audio mute periods and storing audio and moving images or at least one still image derived from the output video between the detected audio mute periods.” The cited references do not teach or suggest these features, whether taken alone or in combination.

More specifically, the Durden patent discloses allowing a user to change undesired types of programming and portions of programming by dialing, modifying, substituting, deleting, or editing the programming. (See column 3, lines 44-47). Also, Durden discloses that a viewer can edit or substitute censored content with video. (See column 3, lines 1-5).

The Dimitrova publication discloses substituting a safe signal for portions of a program that are objectionable. The safe signal may include an extension of a received video signal or a buffered video signal.

However, neither reference teaches or suggests “detecting audio mute periods and storing audio and moving images or at least one still image derived from the output video between two audio mute periods, the audio mute period corresponding to a period during which no audio is output or audio a level of which is lower than a predetermined level is output.” (See, for example, page 5, line 25 - page 6, line 5, page 7, lines 18-22, and step 13 in Figure 7 for support).

Moreover, because the references do not store images in the same manner as claim 1 in relation to audio mute periods, it follows that these references do not repeatedly output these
types of stored images in the manner recited in claim 1, i.e., “if the detected parental level is higher than the level set by the user according to a comparison result, repeatedly outputting the stored audio and the stored moving images or the stored at least one still image in place of audio and video currently received from the information signal.”

Based on the foregoing considerations, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the cited combination. Furtherance of claim 1 and its is dependent claims to allowance is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 has been amended to recite features similar to those which patentably distinguish claim 1 from the cited combination. Furtherance of claim 7 and its claims to allowance is respectfully requested.

New claims 14-17 have been added to the application.

Claim 14 recites: “outputting the audio and the moving images or said at least one still image stored before a finally-detected mute period.” (See, for example, Figure 7 for support). These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination. Claim 15 recites similar features depending from claim 7.

Claim 16 recites that “

each mute period corresponds to when at least one of the audio or video in the information signal is detected to correspond to a parental level higher than the level set by the user.” (See, for example, Figure 4 for support). These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination. Claim 17 recites similar features depending from claim 7.
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and timely allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP

[Signature]

Daniel Y. J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186

Samuel W. Ntiros
Registration No. 39,318

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
(703) 766-3777 DYK/SWN/kcf
Date: June 1, 2011

Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610
**Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal**

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| **Title of Invention:** | A/V parental lock apparatus and method |

| **First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:** | Jae Joo Kim |
| **Customer Number:** | 34610 |
| **Filer:** | Samuel Wade Ntiros/Kim Flanagan |
| **Filer Authorized By:** | Samuel Wade Ntiros |
| **Attorney Docket Number:** | LT-0098 |
| **Receipt Date:** | 01-JUN-2011 |
| **Filing Date:** | 25-JAN-2006 |
| **Time Stamp:** | 17:24:32 |
| **Application Type:** | Utility under 35 USC 111(a) |

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| Payment Type | Credit Card |
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**Warnings:**

**Information:**

| 2   | Fee Worksheet (PTO-875) | fee-info.pdf | 29855 | no | 2   |

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**New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111**

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

**National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371**

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/D0/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

**New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office**

If a new international filing is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Jae Joo KIM

Confirmation No.: 3132

Group Art Unit: 4147

Serial No: 11/338,884

Examiner: John J. MORRIS

Filed: January 25, 2006

Customer No.: 34610

For: A/V PARENTAL LOCK APPARATUS AND METHOD

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Amendment and/or Reply in the above identified application.

☐ No additional fee is required.
☒ Also attached: Petition for Extension of Time

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

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Fee for extension of time $130.00

TOTAL FEE DUE $130.00

☒ Please charge my Credit Card.

☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0007, including any filing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 for presentation of extra claims and any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP

Daniel Y.J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186
Samuel W. Ntiros
Registration No. 39,318

Correspondence Address:
P.O. Box 8638
Reston, VA 20195
(703) 766-3777 DYK/SWN/krf
Date: June 1, 2011

Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Jae Joo KIM

Serial No.: 11/338,884

Filed: January 25, 2006

For: A/V PARENTAL LOCK APPARATUS AND METHOD

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a)(1)

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Sir:

Applicant petitions the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to extend the time for response to the Office Action dated February 2, 2011 for (1) month(s) from May 2, 2011 to June 2, 2011.

Please charge our credit card including the amount of $130.00 for the extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a). Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 16-0607.

Respectfully submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP

Daniel Y.J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186
Samuel W. Ntiros
Registration No. 39,318

Correspondence Address:
P.O. Box 8638
Reston, VA 20195
703 766-3777 DYK/SWN/kef

Date: June 1, 2011
Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610
**PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD**

**APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I**

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| **AMENDMENT** 06/01/2011 |
| CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT | HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR | PRESENT EXTRA | RATE ($) | ADDITIONAL FEE ($) | RATE ($) | ADDITIONAL FEE ($) |
| Total *(37 CFR 1.16(i))** | - | Minus ** | = | x $ = | OR | x $ = | |
| Independent *(37 CFR 1.16(h))** | - | Minus ** | = | x $ = | OR | x $ = | |
| **Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(e))** |
| **FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(g))** |

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* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.
** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" in this space is less than 20, enter "20".
*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" in this space is less than 3, enter "3".

The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.

Legal Instrument Examiner: /TINA J. BARDEN/

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.16. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS: SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.
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34610 7990 02/02/2011
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP
P.O. Box 8638
Reston, VA 20195

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.
**Office Action Summary**

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<td>DENNIS P. JOSEPH</td>
<td>2629</td>
</tr>
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**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.135(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1) [X] Responsive to communication(s) filed on **20 April 2010**.

2a) [ ] This action is FINAL.

2b) [X] This action is non-final.

3) [ ] Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4) [X] Claim(s) **1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 13** is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) [ ] Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) [X] Claim(s) **1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 13** is/are rejected.

7) [ ] Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) [ ] Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9) [ ] The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) [X] The drawing(s) filed on **25 January 2006** is/are: a) [X] accepted or b) [ ] objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) [ ] The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12) [ ] Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) [ ] All  
b) [ ] Some *  
c) [ ] None of:

1. [ ] Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. [ ] Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. [ ] Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1) [ ] Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) [ ] Notice of Draftsperson’s Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) [ ] Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
4) [ ] Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
5) [ ] Notice of Informal Patent Application  
6) [ ] Other: _____
DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is responsive to claims filed for No. 11/338,884 on April 20, 2010. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 13 are pending and have been examined.

Continued Examination

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on April 20, 2010 has been entered.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. The factual inquiries set forth in Graham v. John Deere Co., 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

5. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 13 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Durden et al. (US 7,380,258 B2) in view of Dimitrova et al. (US 200/20147782).

For claim 1, Durden teaches an apparatus that compares the program data with the presentation profile (Durden, column 2, lines 59-60). Durden et al. also teaches substituting video into the portion of the program that is censored (Durden et al. column 3, lines 1-3 and 44-47). Here, Durden teaches that if the detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user according to the comparison result, then outputting at least one of the currently received audio or video. Durden teaches that the viewer can edit or substitute the censored content with video (Durden, column 3, lines 1-5). Durden teaches if the detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user according to the comparison result, then outputting at least one of the currently received audio or video (Durden, column 13, lines 20-35); only ratings above the level set are blocked). As for buffering a currently output video frame and audio included in the information signal between two detected audio mute periods, Durden teaches that only the censored material is blocked/modified, etc (Column 13, lines 20-35). If the level is acceptable, then the currently output video frame is continued, which is respectfully obvious. There is no need to skip over acceptable material as one of ordinary skill in the art would realize that this would be detrimental to interrupting the signal. Please note audio mute periods is not defined well enough and see the remarks for more details. As for performing operations of (a) receiving and outputting an additional information signal, (b) detecting a parental
level of the additional information signal, and (ckk) comparing the parental level of the additional information signal with the level set by the user, wherein operations (a)-(c) are repeated until a request for terminating receipt of information signals is received]

(Durden, column 3 lines 1-47 and column 13 lines 9-35). Here Durden teaches that only the content that have a parental level above or equal to the level set by the user are blocked or modified and the content not above or equal to are continually received and evaluated.

Durden does not specifically state using previously buffered still image or moving image included in the information signal; however, in the same field of endeavor, Dimitrova teaches the predetermined image or video is a previously buffered still image or a previously buffered moving image derived from the video included in the information signal (Dimitrova, paragraph [0016], lines 6-13 and paragraph [0051]). Here, Dimitrova teaches displaying the previously buffered video, only with the adult content blurred or masked. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Durden with Dimitrova because the addition would require less work of the user which would increase its usability.

For **claim 2**, Durden teaches that the program data comprises program content and control data (Durden, column 2, lines 33-34).

For **claim 4**, Durden teaches that the viewer can edit or substitute the censored content with audio (Durden, column 3, lines 1-5).
For **claim 7**, Durden teaches an apparatus that comprises a blocking processor to compare parental ratings (Durden, figure 5, item 66), a storage unit (Durden, figure 5, item 62), a control processor (Durden, figure 5, item 68), and an output processor to output the broadcast (Durden, figure 5, item 70). Durden teaches that the viewer can edit or substitute the censored content with video (Durden, column 3, lines 1-5). Durden teaches if the detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user according to the comparison result, then outputting at least one of the currently received audio or video (Durden, column 13, lines 20-35; only ratings above the level set are blocked). As for buffering a currently output video frame and audio included in the information signal between two detected audio mute periods, Durden teaches that only the censored material is blocked/modified, etc (Column 13, lines 20-35). If the level is acceptable, then the currently output video frame is continued, which is respectfully obvious. There is no need to skip over acceptable material as one of ordinary skill in the art would realize that this would be detrimental to interrupting the signal. Please note audio mute periods is not defined well enough and see the remarks for more details. As for [performing operations of (a) receiving and outputting an additional information signal, (b) detecting a parental level of the additional information signal, and (c) comparing the parental level of the additional information signal with the level set by the user, wherein operations (a)-(c) are repeated until a request for terminating receipt of information signals is received] (Durden, column 3 lines 1-47 and column 13 lines 9-35). Here Durden teaches that only the content that have a parental level above or equal to the level set by the user are
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For **claim 8**, Durden teaches that the program data comprises program content and control data (Durden, column 2, lines 33-34).

For **claim 10**, Durden teaches that data may be stored in memory (Durden, column 7, line 45). Durden also teaches that only portions of the broadcast may be edited (Durden, column 2, lines 27-29). Therefore, Durden’s invention could buffer currently output video frame and audio between two audio mute periods.

For **claim 13**, Durden teaches that the apparatus can be installed in consumer electronic devices, such as a set top box (Durden, column 2, lines 44-45).
Response to Arguments

6. Applicant’s arguments considered, but are respectfully not persuasive.

Applicant has amended to include a new limitation when the parental level is lower than the level set by the user, i.e. the material is acceptable. However, it is obvious that if there is no objectionable material then the material be allowed to be displayed, uninterrupted. At the very least, one of ordinary skill in the art would realize to insert, or rather, continue inserting, acceptable frames in between two frames, with their associated audio mute periods in between. Respectfully, audio mute periods is a broad limitation and is not claimed well enough. In between frames, there is obviously a mute period and if the parental level is acceptable, the currently output video frame is included in between.

Additional details on these audio mute periods would help in overcoming the current rejection. Again, as currently claimed, with no definition, it is a broad limitation.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DENNIS P. JOSEPH whose telephone number is (571)-270-1459. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Amr Awad can be reached on 571-272-7764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DJ

/Amr Awad/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2629
### Search Notes

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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.114

DOCKET NUMBER: LT-0098
Prior Appln Serial No.: 11/338,884
Filed: January 25, 2006
Inventor(s): Jae Joo KIM
Confirmation No.: 3132
Group Art Unit: 4147
Examiner: John J. MORRIS

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop RCE
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Sir:


1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. §1.114
   a. ☒ Previously submitted
      i. ☒ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 previously filed on 3/22/10
         (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
      ii. ☑ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
      iii. ☑ Other: _____
   b. ☐ Enclosed
      i. ☐ Amendment/Reply
      ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
      iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
      iv. ☐ Other. _____

2. Miscellaneous
   a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. Fee amount $130.00 under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) required. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) required).
   b. ☐ Other. _____

3. Fees ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e); Small Entity $405.00, other than small entity $810.00. The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. 1.114 when the RCE is filed.
   ☐ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§1.136 and 1.17)
   Payment by:
      a. ☐ Check in the amount of $_____ (Check No. _____) enclosed.
      b. ☒ Please charge my Credit Card.
      c. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 16-0607 in the amount of $_____ A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any deficiency in the above fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 16-0607. A duplicate copy is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP

Daniel Y.J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186
Samuel W. Niños
Registration No. 39,318

Correspondence Address:
P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, VA 20153-1200
(703) 766-3777 DYK/SWN/krf
Date: April 20, 2010
Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610
\Fkd\Documents\2031-2031-100-230521.doc
REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.114

DOCKET NUMBER: LT-0098  
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   iii. ☐ Other: ____

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a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.103(c) for a period of ____ months. Fee amount $130.00 under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) enclosed. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) required).

b. ☐ Other. ____

3. Fees ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e); Small Entity $405.00, other than small entity $810.00. The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

   ☐ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§1.136 and 1.17)

Payment by:

a. ☐ Check in the amount of $____ (Check No. ______) enclosed.

b. ☒ Please charge my Credit Card.

c. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 16-0607 in the amount of $______. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any deficiency in the above fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 16-0607. A duplicate copy is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP

[Signature]
Daniel Y.J. Kim  
Registration No. 36,186  
Samuel W. Nitos  
Registration No. 39,318

Correspondence Address:  
P.O. Box 221200  
Chantilly, VA 20153-1200  
(703) 766-3777 DYK/SWN/krf

Date: April 20, 2010

Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610
## Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

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<td>Jae Joo Kim</td>
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## Payment Information:

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- **Payment Type:** Credit Card
- **Payment was successfully received in RAM:** $810
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**Warnings:**

This is not a USPTO supplied RCE SB30 form.

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**Warnings:**

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**Total Files Size (in bytes):** 157039

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This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

**New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111**

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

**National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371**

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

**New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office**

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.
### PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD

**Application or Docket Number:** 11/338,884  
**Filing Date:** 01/25/2006  
**To be Mailed:**

#### APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I

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| Search Fee  
(37 CFR 1.16(b), (d), or (m)) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Examination Fee  
(37 CFR 1.16(b), (g), or (h)) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Total Claims  
(37 CFR 1.16(iii)) | Minus 20 = * | | | |
| Independent Claims  
(37 CFR 1.16(h)) | Minus 3 = * | | | |
| Application Size Fee  
(37 CFR 1.16(s)) | | | | |

If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is $250 ($125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).

#### APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II

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**AMENDMENT**

- Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))

- First Presentation of Multiple Dependent Claim (37 CFR 1.16(j))

#### TOTAL AMOUNT

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### Legal Instrument Examiner:

JOY DOBBS/

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*If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.

**If the “Highest Number Previously Paid For” in this space is less than 20, enter “20”.

***If the “Highest Number Previously Paid For” in this space is less than 3, enter “3”.

The “Highest Number Previously Paid For” (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.

---

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.16. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-866-PTO-9199 and select option 2.
### PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD

**Application or Docket Number:** 11/338,884  
**Filing Date:** 01/25/2006  
**To be Mailed:**

#### APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I

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  - Number Extra: N/A
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  - Fee ($) OR N/A

- **SEARCH FEE**
  - (37 CFR 1.16(b), (l), or (m))
  - Number Filed: N/A
  - Number Extra: N/A
  - Rate ($): N/A
  - Fee ($) OR N/A

- **EXAMINATION FEE**
  - (37 CFR 1.16(b), (g), or (g))
  - Number Filed: N/A
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- **TOTAL CLAIMS**
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- **INDEPENDENT CLAIMS**
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**APPLICATION SIZE FEE**
- (37 CFR 1.16(e))
  - If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is $250 ($125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(e).

**MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT** (37 CFR 1.16(j))

### APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II

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- **INDEPENDENT CLAIMS**
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**APPLICATION SIZE FEE**
- (37 CFR 1.16(e))

**FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))**

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- **INDEPENDENT CLAIMS**
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  - Rate ($): $x =
  - Fee ($) OR $x =

**APPLICATION SIZE FEE**
- (37 CFR 1.16(e))

**FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))**

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*If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.

**If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" in this space is less than 20, enter "20".

***If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" in this space is less than 3, enter "3".

The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.

Legal Instrument Examiner: JOY DOBBS/

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.16. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Expedited Procedures
Jae Joo KIM Requested

Group Art Unit: 4147

Serial No: 11/338,884 Examiner: John J. MORRIS

Confirmation No: 3132

Customer No: 34610

Filed: January 25, 2006

For: A/V PARENTAL LOCK APPARATUS AND METHOD

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window, Mail Stop AF
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are submitted in reply to the Final Office Action
mailed on January 21, 2010, in connection with the above-identified application.

Amendments to the Claims are in the Listing of Claims beginning on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 5.
Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.
Advisory Action
Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief

Application No. 11/338,884
Applicant(s) KIM, JAE JOO
Examiner John Morris
Art Unit 2629

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

THE REPLY FILED 22 March 2010 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. ☐ The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:
   a) ☐ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
   b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. ☐ The Notice of Appeal was filed on ______. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

AMENDMENTS

3. ☒ The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because
   (a) ☒ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
   (b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);
   (c) ☒ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
   (d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____ (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

4. ☐ The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).

5. ☐ Applicant’s reply has overcome the following rejection(s): ______.

6. ☒ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) ______ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).

7. ☐ For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) ☐ will not be entered, or b) ☒ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

   The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:
   Claim(s) allowed: ______.
   Claim(s) objected to: ______.
   Claim(s) rejected: 1-13.
   Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: ______.

AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).

9. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).

10. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. ☐ The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:

12. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s). (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s). ______

13. ☐ Other: ______

/Amr Awad/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2629
continuation of 3. note: The amendment filed 3/22/2010 raises new issues that would require further consideration and/or search due to the limitations "buffering a currently output video frame and audio included in the information signal between two detected audio mute periods and" from claim 1 and 7.
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:  Expedited Procedures
Jae Joo KIM  Requested

Serial No: 11/338,884  Examiner: John J. MORRIS
Filed: January 25, 2006  Confirmation No: 3132

Group Art Unit: 4147  Customer No: 34610

For:  A/V PARENTAL LOCK APPARATUS AND METHOD

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window, Mail Stop AF
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are submitted in reply to the Final Office Action mailed on January 21, 2010, in connection with the above-identified application.

Amendments to the Claims are in the Listing of Claims beginning on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 5.
Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An A/V parental lock method comprising:
   comparing a parental level detected from an information signal with a level set by a user, the information signal including at least one of audio or video;
   if the detected parental level is higher than the level set by the user according to a comparison result, then repeatedly outputting at least one of a predetermined image or video in place of audio or video currently received in the information signal; and
   if the detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user according to the comparison result, then buffering a currently output video frame and audio included in the information signal between two detected audio mute periods and outputting at least one of the currently buffered received audio or video and performing operations of (a) receiving and outputting an additional information signal, (b) detecting a parental level of the additional information signal, and (c) comparing the parental level of the additional information signal with the level set by the user, wherein operations (a)-(c) are repeated until a request for terminating receipt of information signals is received, wherein the predetermined image or video is a previously buffered still image or a previously buffered moving image derived from the video included in the information signal.

2. (Previously Presented) The A/V parental lock method according to claim 1, wherein the parental level is included and transmitted in a video line of a broadcast signal that is included in or corresponds to the information signal.
3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The A/V parental lock method according to claim 1, wherein repeatedly outputting at least one of the predetermined image, video or audio comprises repeatedly outputting previously buffered audio and video derived from the information signal.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) An A/V parental lock apparatus comprising:

   a parental level information detecting unit detecting a parental level included in an information signal, the information signal including at least one of audio or video;

   at least one storage unit temporarily storing a part of at least one of the audio or video or an image included in the information signal; and

   a control unit repeatedly outputting at least one of the part of the video or the image temporarily stored in the storage unit in place of audio or video currently in the information signal if the detected parental level is higher than a level set by a user, and buffering a currently output video frame and audio between two audio mute periods in the storage unit and outputting at least one of the temporarily stored audio or video currently in the information signal in the storage unit and performing operations of (a) receiving and outputting an additional information signal, (b) detecting a parental level of the additional information signal, and (c) comparing the parental level of the additional information signal with the level set by the user, wherein operations (a)-(c) are repeated until a request for terminating receipt of information
signals is received if the detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user, wherein the control unit repeatedly outputs a still image or a moving image derived from the video in the information signal temporarily stored in the storage unit.

8. (Original) The A/V parental lock apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the parental level is included and transmitted in a video line of a broadcast signal.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The A/V parental lock apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising a mute detection unit detecting a mute period of an audio signal included in the information signal, wherein the storage unit temporarily stores a part of the audio signal, and the control unit repeatedly outputs the part of the audio signal temporarily stored in the storage unit together with the part of the video if the detected parental level is higher than the level set by the user.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The A/V parental lock apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the apparatus is installed in a set top box or a TV which receives broadcast signals.
REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, and 13 are pending.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner maintained the rejection of the claims under 35 USC § 103(a) based on the Durden-Dimitrova combination. Applicants request withdrawal of this rejection for the following reasons.

The Durden patent discloses allowing a user to change undesired types of programming and portions of programming by dialing, modifying, substituting, deleting, or editing the programming. (Column 3, lines 44-47). Also, Durden discloses that a viewer can edit or substitute censored content with video (column 3, lines 1-5).

The Dimitrova publication discloses substituting a safe signal for portions of a program that are objectionable. The safe signal may include an extension of a received video signal or a buffered video signal.

However, neither reference teaches or suggests the features added by amendment to claim 1. That is, neither reference teaches or suggests that if the detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user according to the comparison result, then “buffering a currently output video frame and audio included in the information signal between two detected audio mute periods and outputting at least one of the currently buffered audio or video.” (See, for example, page 7, line 18 - page 8, line 7 and Step S13 in the flow diagram of Figure 7 for support).
The Durden patent does not teach or suggest these features, i.e., Durden discloses blurring or blanking a video signal when a content rating is exceeded. Durden does not teach or suggest buffering audio in the manner recited in claim 1, much less doing so between two mute periods as is also recited in this claim.

The Dimitrova publication discloses buffering a video signal for a period of time in a parental control signal, and then outputting that substituting that buffered video signal for objectionable content. However, Dimitrova does not teach or suggest the features added by amendment to claim 1, which are also missing from the Durden patent.

Based on these differences, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the cited combination. Furtherance of claim 1 and its dependent claims to allowance is respectfully requested. Claim 7 has been amended in a manner similar to claim 1. Applicants therefore submit that claim 7 and its dependent claims are allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and timely allowance of the application is respectfully requested.
To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP

Daniel Y. J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186

Samuel W. Ntiros
Registration No. 39,318

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
(703) 766-3777 DYK/SWN/krf
Date: March 21, 2010

Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610
# Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

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This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

**New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111**
If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

**National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371**
If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

**New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office**
If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Group Art Unit: 4147

Examiner: John J. MORRIS

Customer No.: 34610

For A/V PARENTAL LOCK APPARATUS AND METHOD

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window, Mail Stop AF
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Amendment and/or Reply in the above identified application.

☐ No additional fee is required.

Also attached:

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

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If multiple claims newly presented, add $390.00 $0.00

Fee for extension of time $0.00

TOTAL FEE DUE $0.00

☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0607, including any filing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 for presentation of extra claims and any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP

Daniel Y.J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186
Samuel W. Nitos
Registration No. 39,318

Correspondence Address:
P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, VA 20153-1200
(703) 766-3777 DYK/SWN/krf
Date: March 21, 2010

Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610

Q:\Documents\2031-100\226099
**PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD**

Substitute for Form PTO-875

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**APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II**

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Legal Instrument Examiner: MARQUITA D. JONES/

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.16. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS: SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.
Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.
Office Action Summary

Application No. 11/338,884
Applicant(s) KIM, JAE JOO
Examiner John Morris
Art Unit 2629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) [ ] Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/04/2009.

2a) [ ] This action is FINAL.
2b) [ ] This action is non-final.

3) [ ] Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) [X] Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
   4a) Of the above claim(s) [ ] is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) [ ] Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.

6) [X] Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.

7) [ ] Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.

8) [ ] Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) [ ] The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) [ ] The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) [ ] accepted or b) [ ] objected to by the Examiner.

   Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

   Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) [ ] The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) [X] Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a) [X] All  b) [ ] Some * c) [ ] None of:
       1. [X] Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
       2. [ ] Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
       3. [ ] Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) [ ] Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) [ ] Notice of Draftsman’s Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) [ ] Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)

   Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.

4) [ ] Interview Summary (PTO-413)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.

5) [ ] Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) [ ] Other: ____
DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 11/04/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues that Durden and Dimitrova do not teach “performing operations of (a) receiving and outputting an additional information signal, (b) detecting a parental level of the additional information signal, and (c) comparing the parental level of the additional information signal with the level set by the user, wherein operations (a)-(c) are repeated until a request for terminating receipt of information signals is received”. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Durden teaches the above features in column 13 lines –35. Here Durden teaches that only the content with a rating above or equal to the set level are blocked/modified. The rest of the content is continuously received and evaluated. Durden also teaches that only portions of the program with a higher level can be blocked or modified, this also inherently teaches that the information signal must be continually received and evaluated or else this functionality would not be possible.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
Claims 1-13 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Durden et al. (US Pat# 7380258 B2/ or “Durden” hereinafter) in view of Dimitrova et al. (US Pub# 20020147782 a1/ or “Dimitrova” hereinafter).

For claim 1, Durden teaches an apparatus that compares the program data with the presentation profile (Durden, column 2, lines 59-60). Durden et al. also teaches substituting video into the portion of the program that is censored (Durden et al. column 3, lines 1-3 and 44-47). Here, Durden teaches that if the detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user according to the comparison result, then outputting at least one of the currently received audio or video. Durden teaches that the viewer can edit or substitute the censored content with video (Durden, column 3, lines 1-5). Durden teaches if the detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user according to the comparison result, then outputting at least one of the currently received audio or video (Durden, column 13, lines 20-35; only ratings above the level set are blocked) and performing operations of (a) receiving and outputting an additional information signal, (b) detecting a parental level of the additional information signal, and (c) comparing the parental level of the additional information signal with the level set by the user, wherein operations (a)-(c) are repeated until a request for terminating receipt of information signals is received (Durden, column 3 lines 1-47 and column 13 lines 9-35). Here Durden teaches that only the content that have a parental level above or equal to the level set by the user are blocked or modified and the content not above or equal to are continually received and evaluated.
Durden does not specifically state using previously buffered still image or moving image included in the information signal; however, in the same field of endeavor, Dimitrova teaches the predetermined image or video is a previously buffered still image or a previously buffered moving image derived from the video included in the information signal (Dimitrova, paragraph [0016], lines 6-13 and paragraph [0051]). Here, Dimitrova teaches displaying the previously buffered video, only with the adult content blurred or masked. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Durden with Dimitrova because the addition would require less work of the user which would increase its usability.

For **claim 2**, Durden teaches that the program data comprises program content and control data (Durden, column 2, lines 33-34).

For **claim 4**, Durden teaches that the viewer can edit or substitute the censored content with audio (Durden, column 3, lines 1-5).

For **claim 5**, Durden teaches that data may be stored in memory (Durden, column 7, line 45). Durden also teaches that only portions of the broadcast may be edited (Durden, column 2, lines 27-29). Therefore, Durden’s invention could buffer currently output video frame and audio between two audio mute periods.
For **claim 7**, Durden teaches an apparatus that comprises a blocking processor to compare parental ratings (Durden, figure 5, item 66), a storage unit (Durden, figure 5, item 62), a control processor (Durden, figure 5, item 68), and an output processor to output the broadcast (Durden, figure 5, item 70). Durden teaches that the viewer can edit or substitute the censored content with video (Durden, column 3, lines 1-5). Durden teaches if the detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user according to the comparison result, then outputting at least one of the currently received audio or video (Durden, column 13, lines 20-35; only ratings above the level set are blocked) and performing operations of (a) receiving and outputting an additional information signal, (b) detecting a parental level of the additional information signal, and (c) comparing the parental level of the additional information signal with the level set by the user, wherein operations (a)-(c) are repeated until a request for terminating receipt of information signals is received (Durden, column 3 lines 1-47 and column 13 lines 9-35). Here Durden teaches that only the content that have a parental level above or equal to the level set by the user are blocked or modified and the content not above or equal to are continually received and evaluated.

Durden does not specifically state using previously buffered still image or moving image included in the information signal; however, in the same field of endeavor, Dimitrova teaches the predetermined image or video is a previously buffered still image or a previously buffered moving image derived from the video included in the information signal (Dimitrova, paragraph [0016], lines 6-13 and paragraph [0051]). Here, Dimitrova teaches displaying the previously buffered video, only with the adult
content blurred or masked. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Durden with Dimitrova because the addition would require less work of the user which would increase its usability.

For **claim 8**, Durden teaches that the program data comprises program content and control data (Durden, column 2, lines 33-34).

For **claim 10**, Durden teaches that data may be stored in memory (Durden, column 7, line 45). Durden also teaches that only portions of the broadcast may be edited (Durden, column 2, lines 27-29). Therefore, Durden’s invention could buffer currently output video frame and audio between two audio mute periods.

For **claim 11**, Durden teaches that only portions of the broadcast may be edited (Durden, column 2, lines 27-29).

For **claim 13**, Durden teaches that the apparatus can be installed in consumer electronic devices, such as a set top box (Durden, column 2, lines 44-45).

**Conclusion**
Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Morris whose telephone number is (571)270-7171. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7am-3pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Amr Awad can be reached on 571-272-7764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Amr Awad/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2629
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Jae Joo KIM

Serial No: 11/338,884

Filed: January 25, 2006

For: A/V PARENTAL LOCK APPARATUS AND METHOD

AMENDMENT

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are submitted in reply to the Office Action mailed on August 4, 2009, in connection with the above-identified application.

Amendments to the Claims are in the Listing of Claims beginning on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 5.
Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An A/V parental lock method comprising:
   comparing a parental level detected from an information signal with a level set by a user, the information signal including at least one of audio or video;
   if the detected parental level is higher than the level set by the user according to a comparison result, then repeatedly outputting at least one of a predetermined image or video in place of audio or video currently received in the information signal; and
   if the detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user according to the comparison result, then outputting at least one of the currently received audio or video and performing operations of (a) receiving and outputting an additional information signal, (b) detecting a parental level of the additional information signal, and (c) comparing the parental level of the additional information signal with the level set by the user, wherein operations (a)-(c) are repeated until a request for terminating receipt of information signals is received, wherein the predetermined image or video is a previously buffered still image or a previously buffered moving image derived from the video included in the information signal.

2. (Previously Presented) The A/V parental lock method according to claim 1, wherein the parental level is included and transmitted in a video line of a broadcast signal that is included in or corresponds to the information signal.

3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously Presented) The A/V parental lock method according to claim 1, wherein repeatedly outputting at least one of the predetermined image, video or audio comprises repeatedly outputting previously buffered audio and video derived from the information signal.

5. (Previously Presented) The A/V parental lock method according to claim 1, further comprising buffering a currently output video frame and audio included in the information signal between two detected audio mute periods, if the detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user according to the comparison result.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) An A/V parental lock apparatus comprising:

   a parental level information detecting unit detecting a parental level included in an information signal, the information signal including at least one of audio or video;

   at least one storage unit temporarily storing a part of at least one of the audio or video or an image included in the information signal; and

   a control unit repeatedly outputting at least one of the part of the video or the image temporarily stored in the storage unit in place of audio or video currently in the information signal if the detected parental level is higher than a level set by a user, and outputting at least one of the audio or video currently in the information signal and performing operations of (a) receiving and outputting an additional information signal, (b) detecting a parental level of the additional information signal, and (c) comparing the parental level of the additional information signal with the level set by the user, wherein operations (a)-(c) are
repeated until a request for terminating receipt of information signals is received if the detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user, wherein the control unit repeatedly outputs a still image or a moving image derived from the video in the information signal temporarily stored in the storage unit.

8. (Original) The A/V parental lock apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the parental level is included and transmitted in a video line of a broadcast signal.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The A/V parental lock apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising a mute detection unit detecting a mute period of an audio signal included in the information signal, wherein the storage unit temporarily stores a part of the audio signal, and the control unit repeatedly outputs the part of the audio signal temporarily stored in the storage unit together with the part of the video if the detected parental level is higher than the level set by the user.

11. (Previously Presented) The A/V parental lock apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the control unit temporarily stores, in the storage unit, a currently output video frame and audio between two audio mute periods, if the detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The A/V parental lock apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the apparatus is installed in a set top box or a TV which receives broadcast signals.
REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 13 are pending.

In the Office Action, claims the pending claims were under 35 USC § 103(a) for being obvious in view of a Durden-Dimitrova combination. Applicants request withdrawal of this rejection for the following reasons.

The Durden patent discloses allowing a user to change undesired types of programming and portions of programming by dialing, modifying, substituting, deleting, or editing the programming. (Column 3, lines 44-47). Also, Durden discloses that a viewer can edit or substitute censored content with video (column 3, lines 1-5).

The Dimitrova publication discloses substituting a safe signal for portions of a program that are objectionable. The safe signal may include an extension of a received video signal or a buffered video signal.

However, neither reference teaches or suggests the features added by amendment to claim 1. That is, neither reference teaches or suggests that if a detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user according to the comparison result, then outputting at least one of the currently received audio or video and “performing operations of (a) receiving and outputting an additional information signal, (b) detecting a parental level of the additional information signal, and (c) comparing the parental level of the additional information signal with the level set by the user, wherein operations (a)-(c) are repeated until a request for terminating receipt of information signals is received.” (See, for example, page 8, lines 19-25, of the specification for support).
Based on these differences, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the cited combination. Furtherance of claim 1 and its dependent claims to allowance is respectfully requested. Claim 7 has been amended in a manner similar to claim 1. Applicants therefore submit that claim 7 and its dependent claims are allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and timely allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP

Daniel Y. J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186

Samuel W. Ntiros
Registration No. 39,318

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
(703) 766-3777 DYN/SWN/kf
Date: November 4, 2009

Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610
# Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

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This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

**New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111**
If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

**National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371**
If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

**New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office**
If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Jae Joo KIM

Confirmation No.: 3132

Group Art Unit: 4147

Examiner: John J. MORRIS

Serial No: 11/338,884

Filed: January 25, 2006

Customer No.: 34610

For: A/V PARENTAL LOCK APPARATUS AND METHOD

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Amendment and/or Reply in the above identified application.

☐ No additional fee is required.
   Also attached:

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

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If multiple claims newly presented, add $390.00

Fee for extension of time

TOTAL FEE DUE

☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0607, including any filing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 for presentation of extra claims and any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP

Daniel Y.J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186
Samuel W. Ntiros
Registration No. 39,318

Correspondence Address:
P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, VA 20153-1200
(703) 766-3777 DYK/SWN/krf
Date: November 4, 2009

Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610

\Files\Documents\2031\2031-100\213416.doc
### PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD

**Substitute for Form PTO-875**

#### Application or Docket Number: 11/338,884

**Filing Date:** 01/25/2006

**To be Mailed:**

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#### APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I

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**APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))**

If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is $250 ($125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).

**MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))**

* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.

#### APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II

**AMENDMENT** 11/04/2009

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**Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))**

**FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))**

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* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.

** * If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" in this SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".

** ** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" in this SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".

The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.

---

**Legal Instrument Examiner:**

/Minnie Jackson/

---

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.16. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.
Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.
**Office Action Summary**

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**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 May 2009.
2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ❑ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
   4a) Of the above claim(s) ☐ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

   Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

   Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

   a) ☒ All  b) ☐ Some *  c) ☐ None of:

   1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
   2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
   3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsman’s Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____
6) ☐ Other: ____
DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1-13 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

In regards to claims 1 and 7, the applicant argues that Durden does not teach repeatedly outputting at least one of a predetermined image or video in place of audio or video currently received in the information signal”. The examiner respectfully agrees; however the arguments are moot upon new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-13 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Durden et al. (US Pat# 7380258 B2/ or “Durden” hereinafter) in view of Dimitrova et al. (US Pub# 20020147782 a1/ or “Dimitrova” hereinafter).

For claim 1, Durden teaches an apparatus that compares the program data with the presentation profile (Durden, column 2, lines 59-60). Durden et al. also teaches substituting video into the portion of the program that is censored (Durden et al. column
Here, Durden teaches that if the detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user according to the comparison result, then outputting at least one of the currently received audio or video. Durden teaches that the viewer can edit or substitute the censored content with video (Durden, column 3, lines 1-5).

Durden does not specifically state using previously buffered still image or moving image included in the information signal; however, in the same field of endeavor, Dimitrova teaches the predetermined image or video is a previously buffered still image or a previously buffered moving image derived from the video included in the information signal (Dimitrova, paragraph [0016], lines 6-13 and paragraph [0051]). Here, Dimitrova teaches displaying the previously buffered video, only with the adult content blurred or masked. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Durden with Dimitrova because the addition would require less work of the user which would increase its usability.

For claim 2, Durden teaches that the program data comprises program content and control data (Durden, column 2, lines 33-34).

For claim 4, Durden teaches that the viewer can edit or substitute the censored content with audio (Durden, column 3, lines 1-5).

For claim 5, Durden teaches that data may be stored in memory (Durden, column 7, line 45). Durden also teaches that only portions of the broadcast may be edited
(Durden, column 2, lines 27-29). Therefore, Durden’s invention could buffer currently output video frame and audio between two audio mute periods.

For **claim 7**, Durden teaches an apparatus that comprises a blocking processor to compare parental ratings (Durden, figure 5, item 66), a storage unit (Durden, figure 5, item 62), a control processor (Durden, figure 5, item 68), and an output processor to output the broadcast (Durden, figure 5, item 70). Durden teaches that the viewer can edit or substitute the censored content with video (Durden, column 3, lines 1-5). Durden does not specifically state using previously buffered still image or moving image included in the information signal; however, in the same field of endeavor, Dimitrova teaches the predetermined image or video is a previously buffered still image or a previously buffered moving image derived from the video included in teh information signal (Dimitrova, paragraph [0016], lines 6-13 and paragraph [0051]). Here, Dimitrova teaches displaying the previously buffered video, only with the adult content blurred or masked. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Durden with Dimitrova because the addition would require less work of the user which would increase its usability.

For **claim 8**, Durden teaches that the program data comprises program content and control data (Durden, column 2, lines 33-34).
For claim 10, Durden teaches that data may be stored in memory (Durden, column 7, line 45). Durden also teaches that only portions of the broadcast may be edited (Durden, column 2, lines 27-29). Therefore, Durden’s invention could buffer currently output video frame and audio between two audio mute periods.

For claim 11, Durden teaches that only portions of the broadcast may be edited (Durden, column 2, lines 27-29).

For claim 13, Durden teaches that the apparatus can be installed in consumer electronic devices, such as a set top box (Durden, column 2, lines 44-45).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Morris whose telephone number is (571)270-7171. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7am-3pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Amr Awad can be reached on 571-272-7764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Amr Awad/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2629
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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.114

DOCKET NUMBER: LT-0098
Prior Appln Serial No.: 11/338,884
Filed: January 25, 2006
Inventor(s): Jae Joo KIM
Confirmation No.: 3132
Group Art Unit: 4147
Examiner: John J. MORRIS

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop RCE
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Sir:


1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. §1.114
a. ☑ Previously submitted
   i. ☑ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 previously filed on April 13, 2009
      (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
   ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on __________
   iii. ☐ Other: __________

b. ☐ Enclosed
   i. ☐ Amendment/Reply
   ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
   iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
   iv. ☐ Other: __________

2. Miscellaneous
a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.103(c) for a period of __________ months. Fee amount $130.00 under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(f) enclosed. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(f) required).

b. ☐ Other: __________

3. Fees ☑ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e); Small Entity $405.00, other than small entity $810.00. The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. 1.114 when the RCE is filed.
   ☑ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§1.136 and 1.17)

Payment by:
   a. ☐ Check in the amount of $___ (Check No. ____) enclosed.
   b. ☑ Please charge my Credit Card.
   c. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 16-0607 in the amount of $___ A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any deficiency in the above fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 16-0607. A duplicate copy is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP

Daniel Y.J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186
Samuel W. Nitoos
Registration No. 39,318

Correspondence Address:
P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, VA 20153-1200
(703) 766-3777 DYK/SWN/krf
Date: May 27, 2009
Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610

\Documents\2031\2031-100\196727.doc
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Jae Joo KIM

Serial No.: 11/338,884

Filed: January 25, 2006

For: A/V PARENTAL LOCK APPARATUS AND METHOD

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a)(1)

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Sir:

Applicant petitions the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to extend the time for response to the Office Action dated January 12, 2009 for (2) month from April 12, 2009 to June 12, 2009.

Please charge our credit card including the amount of $490.00 for the extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a). Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 16-0607.

Respectfully submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP

Daniel Y.J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186
Samuel W. Nitos
Registration No. 39,318

Correspondence Address:
P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, VA 20153-1200
(703) 766-3777 DYK/SWN/kef
Date: May 27, 2009
Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610
# Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

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## Utility under 35 USC 111(a) Filing Fees

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**Warnings:**

**Information:**

| 2          | Fee Worksheet (PTO-875) | fee-info.pdf | 31566 | no | 2 |

**Warnings:**

**Information:**

| 292634 bytes |

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

**New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111**

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

**National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371**

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

**New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office**

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.
# Patent Application Fee Determination Record

**Application or Docket Number**: 11/338,884  
**Filing Date**: 01/25/2006  
**To be Mailed**:  

## Application asFiled – Part I

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## Application as Amended – Part II

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* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write “0” in column 3.

**Legal Instrument Examiner**: MYRTLE B. LEIGH

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.16. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and its suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-866-PTO-9199 and select option 2.
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Expedited ProceduresRequested

Jae Joo KIM Group Art Unit: 4147

Serial No: 11/338,884 Examiner: John J. MORRIS

Filed: January 25, 2006 Confirmation No: 3132

For: A/V PARENTAL LOCK APPARATUS AND METHOD Customer No: 34610

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window, Mail Stop AF
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are submitted in reply to the Final Office Action mailed on January 12, 2009, in connection with the above-identified application.

Amendments to the Claims are in the Listing of Claims beginning on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 5.
<table>
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34610
7890
05/12/2009
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP
P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, VA 20153-1200

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.
Advisory Action
Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

THE REPLY FILED 13 April 2009 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:
   a) [X] The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
   b) [☐] The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

   Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

   Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. [☐] The Notice of Appeal was filed on _______. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the mailing date of the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

AMENDMENTS

3. [X] The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because

   a) [X] They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
   b) [☐] They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);
   c) [☐] They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
   d) [☐] They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

   NOTE: see continuation sheet. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

4. [☐] The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).

5. [☐] Applicant’s reply has overcome the following rejection(s): ______.

6. [X] Newly proposed or amended claim(s) ______ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).

7. [X] For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) [☐] will not be entered, or b) [☐] will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

   The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:
   Claim(s) allowed: ______.
   Claim(s) objected to: ______.
   Claim(s) rejected: 1-13.
   Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: ______.

AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. [☐] The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).

9. [☐] The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).

10. [☐] The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. [☐] The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: ______.

12. [☐] Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s). (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s). ______

13. [☐] Other: ______.

/Amr Awad/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2629
continuation of 3. note: The proposed filed 4/13/2009 raises new issues that would require further consideration and/or search due to the limitations regarding independent claim 1 that "the predetermined image or video is a previously buffered still image or a previously buffered moving image derived from the video included in the information signal" and in independent claim 7 that "wherein the control unit repeatedly outputs a still image or a moving image derived from the video in the information signal temporarily stored in the storage unit"
In re Application of: Jae Joo KIM

Serial No: 11/338,884

Filed: January 25, 2006

For: A/V PARENTAL LOCK APPARATUS AND METHOD

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window, Mail Stop AF
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are submitted in reply to the Final Office Action mailed on January 12, 2009, in connection with the above-identified application.

Amendments to the Claims are in the Listing of Claims beginning on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 5.
Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An A/V parental lock method comprising:
   comparing a parental level detected from an information signal with a level set by a
   user, the information signal including at least one of audio or video;
   if the detected parental level is higher than the level set by the user according to a
   comparison result, then repeatedly outputting at least one of a predetermined image[[]] or
   video[[]] or audio in place of audio or video currently received in the information signal; and
   if the detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user according to the
   comparison result, then outputting at least one of the currently received audio or video, wherein
   the predetermined image or video is a previously buffered still image or a previously buffered
   moving image derived from the video included in the information signal.

2. (Previously Presented) The A/V parental lock method according to claim 1, wherein the parental level is included and transmitted in a video line of a broadcast signal that is included in or corresponds to the information signal.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The A/V parental lock method according to claim 1, wherein repeatedly outputting at least one of the predetermined image, video or audio comprises repeatedly outputting previously buffered audio and video derived from the information signal.
5. (Previously Presented) The A/V parental lock method according to claim 1, further comprising buffering a currently output video frame and audio included in the information signal between two detected audio mute periods, if the detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user according to the comparison result.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) An A/V parental lock apparatus comprising:

   a parental level information detecting unit detecting a parental level included in an information signal, the information signal including at least one of audio or video;

   at least one storage unit temporarily storing a part of at least one of the audio or video or an image included in the information signal; and

   a control unit repeatedly outputting at least one of the part of the audio or video or the image temporarily stored in the storage unit in place of audio or video currently in the information signal if the detected parental level is higher than a level set by a user, and outputting at least one of the audio or video currently in the information signal if the detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user, wherein the control unit repeatedly outputs a still image or a moving image derived from the video in the information signal temporarily stored in the storage unit.

8. (Original) The A/V parental lock apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the parental level is included and transmitted in a video line of a broadcast signal.
9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The A/V parental lock apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising a mute detection unit detecting a mute period of an audio signal included in the information signal, wherein the storage unit temporarily stores a part of the audio signal, and the control unit repeatedly outputs the part of the audio signal temporarily stored in the storage unit together with the part of the video if the detected parental level is higher than the level set by the user.

11. (Previously Presented) The A/V parental lock apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the control unit temporarily stores, in the storage unit, a currently output video frame and audio between two audio mute periods, if the detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The A/V parental lock apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the apparatus is installed in a set top box or a TV which receives broadcast signals.
REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 13 are pending. In this paper, claims 1 and 7 have been amended to further distinguish the cited reference. Since these features derived from one or more claims that were previously examined, no new issues requiring further searching or consideration by the Examiner have been raised. Entry of this paper is respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner maintained the rejection of claims 1-13 under 35 USC § 102(e) for being anticipated by the Durden patent. Applicants request reconsideration of this rejection for the following reasons.

The Examiner maintained the rejection on grounds that the Durden patent discloses a user may change undesired types of programming and portions of programming by dialing, modifying, substituting, deleting, or editing the programming. (Column 3, lines 44-47). Also, Durden discloses that a viewer can edit or substitute censored content with video (column 3, lines 1-5).

However, Durden does not expressly disclose exactly what content is to be substituted. In order to anticipate claim 1, MPEP § 2131 requires Durden to express and disclose each and every feature recited in claim 1, unless the features of claim 1 are inherent. While Durden discloses that certain portions of programming may be substituted, deleted, or otherwise edited with video, Durden does not expressly disclose “repeatedly outputting at least one of a predetermined image or video in place of audio or video currently received in the information signal” if the detected parental level is higher than the level set by the user according to a comparison result.
That is, claim 1 requires the substituted video or audio to be replaced by an image or video that derives from the information signal itself, and then repeatedly outputting that image or video. These features are not disclosed by Durden, neither are they inherent because the distinguishing features of claim 1 are not necessarily present in Durden. Moreover, the idea that such features can be implemented by the reference is insufficient for purposes of meeting the anticipation standard.

Because Durden does not disclose all the features of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that Durden does not anticipate this claim under the standard set forth in MPEP § 2131.

In addition to the foregoing differences, claim 1 has been amended to recite that “the predetermined image or video is a previously buffered still image or a previously buffered moving image derived from the video included in the information signal.” These features further emphasize that the video or image to be repeatedly output derives from the information signal itself. These features are not disclosed by the Durden patent.

Based on the foregoing differences, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable. Claim 7 recites features similar to those which patentably distinguish claim 1 from the Durden patent. Furtherance of claim 7 and its dependent claims to allowance is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and timely allowance of the application is respectfully requested.
To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP

Daniel Y. J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186

Samuel W. Ntiros
Registration No. 39,318

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
(703) 766-3777 DYZK/SWN/kcf
Date: April 13, 2009
Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610

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**Information:**

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This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

**New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111**

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

**National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371**

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

**New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office**

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Jae Joo KIM

Serial No.: 11/338,884

Filed: January 25, 2006

Confirmation No.: 3132

For A/V PARENTAL LOCK APPARATUS AND METHOD

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window, Mail Stop AF
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Amendment and/or Reply in the above identified application.

☒ No additional fee is required.

Also attached:

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

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If multiple claims newly presented, add $390.00

Fee for extension of time

TOTAL FEE DUE

$0.00

☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0607, including any filing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 for presentation of extra claims and any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP

Daniel Y.J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186
Samuel W. Nitros
Registration No. 39,318

Correspondence Address:
P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, VA 20153-1200
(703) 766-3777 DYK/SWN/kf
Date: April 13, 2009

Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610

Q:\Documents\2031-100\192072
Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.
Office Action Summary

--- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address ---

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply to the Notice will result in ABANDONMENT of the application. See 37 CFR 1.13(b).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earning patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) □ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ______.
2a) □ This action is FINAL. 2b) □ This action is non-final.
3) □ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) □ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
   4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) □ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) □ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
7) □ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) □ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) □ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) □ The drawing(s) filed on ______ is/are: a) □ accepted or b) □ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) □ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) □ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a) □ All  b) □ Some  * c) □ None of:
   1. □ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
   2. □ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ______.
   3. □ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) □ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) □ Notice of Draftperson’s Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) □ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/17/2006.
4) □ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date ______.
5) □ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) □ Other: ______.
DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 12/17/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Regarding claim 1, the applicant claims the Durden does not teach repeatedly outputting a predetermined image, video, or audio when content of a specific portion of a program is found to lie above a rating level set by a user. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Durden teaches that the user may change undesired types of programming and portions of programming by dialing, modifying, substituting, deleted, or editing such programming or portions thereof (Durden, column 3, lines 44-47). Durden clearly shows that repeatedly outputting a predetermined image, video, or audio may be done by the methods mentioned above.

2. Regarding claim 3, the applicant argues that the predetermined video is “previously buffered still image or a previously buffered moving image derived from the video signal.” That is, for example, the previously buffered still image or moving image (e.g., video) is derived from the same video signal (e.g., program). Durden teaches that the viewer can edit or substitute the censored content with video (Durden, column 3, lines 1-5). Durden clearly shows that this includes video derived from the video signal.

3. Regarding claim 4, the applicant argues that Durden does not disclose "repeatedly outputting previously buffered audio and video derived from the information signal." Durden teaches that the user may change undesired types of programming and portions of programming by dialing, modifying, substituting, deleted, or editing such programming or portions thereof
(Durden, column 3, lines 44-47). Durden clearly shows that repeatedly outputting a predetermined image, video, or audio is may be done by the methods mentioned above.

4. Regarding claim 7, the applicant argues the same argument as was made for claim 1. Durden teaches that the user may change undesired types of programming and portions of programming by dialing, modifying, substituting, deleted, or editing such programming or portions thereof (Durden, column 3, lines 44-47). Durden clearly shows that repeatedly outputting a predetermined image, video, or audio is may be done by the methods mentioned above.

Therefore, the examiner respectfully disagrees with the applicant and stands with the rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Durden et al. (US Pat# 7380258 B2/ or “Durden” hereinafter).
For **claim 1**, Durden teaches an apparatus that compares the program data with the presentation profile (Durden, column 2, lines 59-60). Durden et al. also teaches substituting video into the portion of the program that is censored (Durden et al. column 3, lines 1-3 and 44-47). Here, Durden teaches that if the detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user according to the comparison result, then outputting at least one of the currently received audio or video.

For **claim 2**, Durden teaches that the program data comprises program content and control data (Durden, column 2, lines 33-34).

For **claim 3**, Durden teaches that the viewer can edit or substitute the censored content with video (Durden, column 3, lines 1-5).

For **claim 4**, Durden teaches that the viewer can edit or substitute the censored content with audio (Durden, column 3, lines 1-5).

For **claim 5**, Durden teaches that data may be stored in memory (Durden, column 7, line 45). Durden also teaches that only portions of the broadcast may be edited (Durden, column 2, lines 27-29). Therefore, Durden’s invention could buffer currently output video frame and audio between two audio mute periods.
For **claim 7**, Durden teaches an apparatus that comprises a blocking processor to compare parental ratings (Durden, figure 5, item 66), a storage unit (Durden, figure 5, item 62), a control processor (Durden, figure 5, item 68), and an output processor to output the broadcast (Durden, figure 5, item 70).

For **claim 8**, Durden teaches that the program data comprises program content and control data (Durden, column 2, lines 33-34).

For **claim 9** Durden teaches that the viewer can edit or substitute the censored content with video (Durden, column 3, lines 1-5).

For **claim 10**, Durden teaches that data may be stored in memory (Durden, column 7, line 45). Durden also teaches that only portions of the broadcast may be edited (Durden, column 2, lines 27-29). Therefore, Durden’s invention could buffer currently output video frame and audio between two audio mute periods.

For **claim 11**, Durden teaches that only portions of the broadcast may be edited (Durden, column 2, lines 27-29).

For **claim 13**, Durden teaches that the apparatus can be installed in consumer electronic devices, such as a set top box (Durden, column 2, lines 44-45).
Conclusion

3. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

   A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOHN J. MORRIS whose telephone number is (571)270-7171. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7am - 3pm EST.

   If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Kieu-Oanh Bui can be reached on (571)272-7291. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/KIEU-OANH BUI/ Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4147

JOHN J MORRIS Examiner
Art Unit 4147
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OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Publisher, Place of Publication, Etc.)

/J.M./ Korean Office Action dated August 4, 2006

EXAMINER /John Morris/ DATE CONSIDERED 12/28/2008

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.
AMENDMENT

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are submitted in reply to the Office Action mailed on September 3, 2008, in connection with the above-identified application.

Amendments to the Claims are in the Listing of Claims beginning on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 5.
Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An A/V parental lock method comprising:
   comparing a parental level detected from an information video signal with a level set by a user, the information signal including at least one of audio or video; and
   if the detected parental level is higher than the level set by the user according to the comparison result, then repeatedly outputting at least one of a predetermined image, video, or audio in place of audio or video currently received in the information signal; and
   if the detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user according to the comparison result, then outputting at least one of the currently received audio or video.

2. (Currently Amended) The A/V parental lock method according to claim 1, wherein the parental level is included and transmitted in a video line of a broadcast signal that is included in or corresponds to the information signal.

3. (Currently Amended) The A/V parental lock method according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined video is a previously buffered still image or a previously buffered moving image derived from video included in the information signal.

4. (Currently Amended) The A/V parental lock method according to claim 1, wherein the repeatedly outputting at least one of the predetermined image, video or audio further comprises repeatedly outputting previously buffered audio and video derived from the information signal.
5. (Currently Amended) The A/V parental lock method according to claim 1, further comprising buffering a currently output video frame and audio included in the information signal between two detected audio mute periods finally detected, if the detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user according to the comparison result.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) An A/V parental lock apparatus comprising:

   a parental level information detecting unit detecting a parental level included in an information video signal, the information signal including at least one of audio or video;

   at least one storage unit temporarily storing a part of at least one of the audio or video or an image included in the information signal; and

   a control unit repeatedly outputting at least one of the part of the audio or video or the image temporarily stored in the storage unit in place of audio or video currently in the information signal if the detected parental level is higher than a level set by a user, and outputting at least one of the audio or video currently in the information signal if the detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user.

8. (Original) The A/V parental lock apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the parental level is included and transmitted in a video line of a broadcast signal.
9. (Currently Amended) The A/V parental lock apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the control unit repeatedly outputs a still image or a moving image derived from the video in the information signal temporarily stored in the storing unit.

10. (Currently Amended) The A/V parental lock apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising a mute detection unit detecting a mute period of an audio signal included in the information signal, wherein the storage unit temporarily stores a part of the audio signal, and the control unit repeatedly outputs the part of the audio signal temporarily stored in the storage unit together with the part of the video if the detected parental level is higher than the level set by the user.

11. (Currently Amended) The A/V parental lock apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the control unit temporarily stores, in the storage unit, a currently output video frame and audio between two audio mute periods finally detected, if the detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The A/V parental lock apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the apparatus is installed in a set top box or a TV which receives broadcast signals.
REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-11, and 13 are pending. All of these claims have been amended except for claims 8 and 13, and claim 6 which has been canceled.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

In the Office Action, claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(c) for being anticipated by the Durden patent. Applicants request the Examiner to withdraw this rejection for the following reasons.

The Durden patent discloses comparing rating information corresponding to various time-stamped sections of a program with a rating level set by a user, and then substituting audio or video, or both, for sections of the program that are higher than the rating level set by the user. (See columns 3, 11, 12, 14, and 15). The substituted audio and video may be audio and video sent from a broadcast facility that was specifically transmitted or streamed for substitution with objectionable sections of the program. (See column 16, lines 2-15). The substituted audio or video may also come from other channels or alternate streaming sources. (See column 14, lines 5-8).

However, the Durden patent does not disclose the specific method defined in amended claim 1. As amended, claim 1 recites that “if the detected parental level is higher than the level set by the user according to a comparison result, then repeatedly outputting at least one of a predetermined image, video, or audio in place of audio or video currently received in the information signal,” and if the detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user
according to the comparison result, then outputting at least one of the currently received audio or video. (See, e.g., page 6, lines 11-15, of the specification for support). The Durden patent does not disclose repeatedly outputting a predetermined (e.g., same) image, video, or audio when content of a specific portion of a program is found to lie above a rating level set by a user.

Because the Durden patent does not disclose all the features of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that Durden does not anticipate this claim. Applicants therefore submit that claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable.

Dependent claim 3 recites that the predetermined video is “a previously buffered still image or a previously buffered moving image derived from the video signal.” That is, for example, the previously buffered still image or moving image (e.g., video) is derived from the same video signal (e.g., program) from which the

Dependent claim 4 recites “repeatedly outputting previously buffered audio and video derived from the information signal.” The Durden patent does not disclose these features.

Claim 7 recites features similar to those which patentably distinguish claim 1 from the Durden patent. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 7 and its dependent claims are allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and timely allowance of the application is respectfully requested.
To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP

Daniel Y. J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186

Samuel W. Ntiros
Registration No. 39,318

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
(703) 766-3777 DYK/SWN/krf
Date: December 17, 2008
Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Jae Joo KIM

Serial No.: 11/338,884

Filed: January 25, 2006

Confirmation No.: 3132

Group Art Unit: 4147

Examiner: John J. MORRIS

Customer No.: 34610

For: A/V PARENTAL LOCK APPARATUS AND METHOD

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO-1449. One copy of each non-U.S. reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference(s) be made of record therein and appear among the “References Cited” on any patent to issue therefrom.

Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the indicated date. Applicant reserves the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered. This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, that information cited in the statement is considered to be and/or is material to patentability, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith. It is further understood that the Examiner will consider information that was cited or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in a prior application relied on under 35 U.S.C. § 120. 1138 OG 37, 38 (May 19, 1992).

☐ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (i) within three months of the U.S. filing date of a U.S. application other than a CPA continued prosecution application under §1.53(d) OR (ii) within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application OR (iii) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits OR (iv) before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for continued examination under §1.114. No certification or fee is required. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b).

☒ 2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection OR Notice of Allowance OR an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c).

☐ a. 1 hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1). No fee is required.

☐ b. 1 hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(e) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(2).
c. Attached is our check no. _____ in the amount of $180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p). Please credit or debit Deposit Account No. 16-0607 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information. Two duplicate copies of this paper are attached.

d. Please charge our Credit Card in the amount of $180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p). Please credit or debit Deposit Account No. 16-0607 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information. Two duplicate copies of this paper are attached.

☐ 3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of a Final Rejection OR Notice of Allowance OR an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, but on or before payment of the Issue Fee.

☐ a. Attached is our check no. _____ in the amount of $180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p). Please credit or debit Deposit Account No. 16-0607 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information. Two duplicate copies of this paper are attached. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d).

☐ b. Please charge our Credit Card in the amount of $180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) per the attached PTO 2038 form. Please credit or debit Deposit Account No. 16-0607 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information. Two duplicate copies of this paper are attached. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d).

☐ c. I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1).

☐ d. I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(2).

☐ 4. The reference was cited in a corresponding Korean Patent Office communication. The Korean Patent Office communication is enclosed, but an English translation is not available at this time. If the Examiner desires, a translation will be provided.

☐ 5. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully Submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP

[Signature]
Daniel Y.J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186
Samuel W. Nitros
Registration No. 39, 318

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Telephone: (703) 766-3777
Date: December 17, 2008

Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610

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**LIST OF ART CITED BY APPLICANT**

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**OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Publisher, Place of Publication, Etc.)**

Korean Office Action dated August 4, 2006

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METHOD FOR DISPLAYING A PARENTAL LEVEL

Abstract:
The present invention is related to a method for displaying a parental level in an optical disc reproducing device, and particularly to a method for displaying to a user parental level information contained in a volume information area of a disc.
Object of the present invention: It is an object of the present invention to provide a method of displaying the parental level of the program chain reproduced in the optical disc reproducing device.
Solution: A digital video disc reproducing device to which the present invention is applied reproduces only a program chain the parental level of which is equal to or lower than the parental level input by a user, and displays the parental level of the program chain which is being reproduced on an outer display panel.
The present invention can be applied to an optical disc reproducing device such as a digital video disc player.
(19) 대한민국특허청(KR)  
(12) 공개특허공보(A)  

(51) Int. Cl. 6  
G11B 22/10  
(11) 공개번호  특1999-076217  
(43) 공개일자  1999년11월16일

(21) 출원번호  특1999-012816  
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경기도 수원시 팔달구 팔달동 416  
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(54) 레일도(PARENTAL) 레일 디스플레이방법

요약
가. 발명의 분야

발명이 해결하려고 하는 기술적 과제는 디스크 재생장치의 환경을 레일 디스플레이방법에 관한 것으로, 특히 디스크의 물리정보에 수록된 환경 레일을 사용자에게 디스플레이하기 위한 방법에 관한 것이다.

나. 발명의 해결방안

상성성 절로 프로그램 채인의 환경 레일이 사용자에 의해 입력된 환경 레일과 동시에 표시되거나 화면에 표시할 경우에만 채인 프로그램 환경 레일을 제작하고, 사용자에 프로그램 채인의 환경 레일을 외부 표시함에 디스플레이할 특징으로 한다.

라. 발명의 혁신성

본 발명의 특징은 디지털 비디오 디스크 플레이어와 같은 디스크 재생장치에 사용할 수 있다.

대본

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발명의 개요

도 1은 디지털 비디오(혹은 versatile) 디스크 재생장치의 개략적인 블록구성도.

도 2는 본 발명의 일시에 따른 환경 레일 디스플레이방법을 설명하기 위한 마이크로소프트(MS)의 제어보고

도 3은 본 발명의 일시에 따른 환경 레일 디스플레이 제어에

발명의 형질

발명이 구하는 기술분야 및 그 분야의 종류적 구분

본 발명은 디스크 재생장치의 환경 레일 디스플레이방법에 관한 것으로, 특히 디스크의 물리정보(VOLUME INFORMATION)에 수록된 환경 레일을 사용자에게 디스플레이하기 위한 방법에 관한 것이다.

디지털 비디오 디스크에는 사용자에 따른 재생가능성의 정보가 가지고 있는데 이에 환경 레일(TELEVISION LEVEL)이라고 한다. 이러한 환경 레일은 사용자에 따라 복수로 구성되어 있을 수 있으며 특성 3가지의 레일로 구성되어 있다. 특성 3가지의 레일은 성인레일(ADULT LEVEL), 아동레일(ADULT SAFE), 금지레일(TELEVISION LEVEL)으로 구분된다. 특성 빈생지 레일을 정하고 사용자의 환경으로 재생하기 된다. 그러나 만약 이러한 레일을 임의로 할 이상이 보다 높은 레일 즉, 성인레일을 인식하는 경우에는 이 레일 제지할 방법이 있게 된다.
사례의 목표 및 방법

여기서 본 실험의 목적은 광 다스크 재생장치에 있어서 재생되는 프로그램 레벨이 레벨간 디스플레이할 수 있는 방법을 재생함에 있다.

상기 목적을 달성하기 위한 본 방법은 광 다스크 재생장치에 있어서, 재생할 소정 프로그램, 체인의 재생물 레벨이 사용자에 의해 입력된 재생물 레벨과 동등한 재생물을 경우단 소정 프로그램 체인을 재생하고, 재생한 프로그램 체인의 재생물 레벨을 외부 포시하는 레벨을 디스플레이함을 목적으로 한다.

본 연구의 구성 및 작용

이상의 목표를 달성하기 위해 본 방법의 개발을 위한 제작 및 실험이 평가로 이루어졌다. 특히 실험 및 도면에 서 재생할 레벨이 있는 수, 모니터 및 표시되는 재생물의 위치 및 구조에 따른 재생과정과 같은 특징 상세사항이 본 방법의 보다 정확한 이해를 제공하기 위해 나타낸다. 이를 통해 전체적으로 본 연구 방법이 본 방법의 실험이 실험의 실험을 심사할 수 있는 것임을 기반으로 되어 흉상의 자극을 가전하게 지각할 것이다. 그리고 본 연구의 요지를 볼수록 더욱 더 독특한 기술 및 구조에 대한 새로운 명성을 생기시키기 위해 한다.

도 1은 디자인 디스크 재생장치의 개발적인 특화구분도 도식화된 것이다. 도 1에서 디스크(10)를 최대하면 디스크 메시지가 소니용 카드를 사용한다. 카드(pick up) 및 디스크(12)는 디스크(10)로부터 데이터를 출력하고 하위 레벨로 출력하고 하위 레벨의 전송을 위한 카드를 출력하고 하위 레벨의 전송을 위한 카드를 출력한다. 디스크(10)의 출력과 디스크(12)의 출력은 디스크(10)로부터 데이터를 출력하고 하위 레벨의 전송을 위한 카드를 출력하고 하위 레벨의 전송을 위한 카드를 출력한다. 디스크(10)의 출력과 디스크(12)의 출력은 디스크(10)로부터 데이터를 출력하고 하위 레벨의 전송을 위한 카드를 출력하고 하위 레벨의 전송을 위한 카드를 출력한다. 디스크(10)의 출력과 디스크(12)의 출력은 디스크(10)로부터 데이터를 출력하고 하위 레벨의 전송을 위한 카드를 출력하고 하위 레벨의 전송을 위한 카드를 출력한다. 디스크(10)의 출력과 디스크(12)의 출력은 디스크(10)로부터 데이터를 출력하고 하위 레벨의 전송을 위한 카드를 출력하고 하위 레벨의 전송을 위한 카드를 출력한다.
거의 하위레벨일 경우에는 소정의 최면을 재생할 수 있고, 재생된 최면의 페릴 레벨을 외부로 디스플레이
시작으로서 사용자에게 맞지 않는 페릴 레벨이나 불분명하게 재생되는 경우를 1차적으로 방지하기
동시에, 디스플레이된 페릴 레벨의 레벨 확인하여 사용자에게 맞지 않는 소정 최면의 시청을 억제할 수 있는
2차적 효과가 있다.

(57) 정규의 분류

정규항 1

장 디스크 재생정지에 있어서,
재생시 소정 프로그램 현재의 페릴 레벨이 사용자에 의해 입력된 페릴 레벨과 동급레벨이거나 하위레
벨일 경우에만 소정 프로그램 현재의 페릴 레벨을 재생하고, 재생중인 프로그램 현재의 페릴 레벨을 외부 표시창에
dис플레이말을 특징으로 하는 페릴 레벨 디스플레이방법.

정규항 2

제1항에 있어서, 상기 외부 표시창을 프론트 디스플레이 판넬로서 재생중인 프로그램 현재의 페릴 레벨
이 서로 다른 색깔로 디스플레이될을 특징으로 하는 페릴 레벨 디스플레이방법.

정규항 3

제1항에 있어서, 상기 재생중인 프로그램 현재의 페릴 레벨 이외에 모니터상에 문자로 표시될을 특징으로 하
는 페릴 레벨 디스플레이방법.

정규항 4

디지털 비디오 디스크 재생정지에 있어서,
소정 프로그램 현재의 재생영상이 있는 경우 해당 프로그램 현재의 페릴 레벨을 페릴을 경리정도 데이
블로부터 독립하는 과정과,

특이한 페릴 레벨을 사용자에 의해 입력된 페릴 레벨과 비교하는 과정과,

비교결과 특이한 페릴 레벨이 입력된 페릴 레벨보다 상위레벨일 경우 페릴 레벨의 입력을 요구하
는 과정과.

상기 입력된 페릴 레벨이 특이한 페릴 레벨보다 상위 레벨이거나 동급레벨일 경우 소정 프로그램 현재
인을 재생하고, 재생중인 프로그램 현재의 페릴 레벨을 외부 표시창에 디스플레이하는 과정으로 이루어
력을 특징으로 하는 페릴 레벨 디스플레이방법.

정규항 5

제4항에 있어서, 상기 외부 표시창은 타보이 수성기로 상기 페릴 레벨이 바(RAR)텔레로 디스플레이될
을 특징으로 하는 페릴 레벨 디스플레이방법.
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### New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

### National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

### New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.
Docket No.: LT-0098

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Jae Joo KIM

Serial No: 11/338,884

Filed: January 25, 2006

For: A/V PARENTAL LOCK APPARATUS AND METHOD

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Amendment and/or Reply in the above identified application.

☑ No additional fee is required.
☒ Also attached: Petition for Extension of Time and Information Disclosure Statement

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

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Respectfully submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP

Daniel Y.J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186
Samuel W. Nitros
Registration No. 39,318

Correspondence Address:
P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, VA 20153-1200
(703) 766-3777 DYK/SWN/krf
Date: December 17, 2008

Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of  

Jae Joo KIM  

Confirmation No.: 3132  

Group Art Unit: 4147  

Serial No.: 11/338,884  

Examiner: John J. MORRIS  

Filed: January 25, 2006  

Customer No.: 34610  

For: A/V PARENTAL LOCK APPARATUS AND METHOD

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a)(1)

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Sir:

Applicant petitions the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to extend the time for response to the Office Action dated September 3, 2008 for (1) month from December 3, 2008 to January 3, 2009.

Please charge our credit card including the amount of $130.00 for the extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a). Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 16-0607.

Respectfully submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP

Daniel Y. J. Kim  
Registration No. 36,186  
Samuel W. Niiros  
Registration No. 39, 318

Correspondence Address:  
P.O. Box 221200  
Chantilly, VA 20153-1200  
(703) 766-3777 DXK/SWN/bef  
Date: December 17, 2008  
Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610

\VK\Documents\2031\2031-100\179934.doc
## PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD

### APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I

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### APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II

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* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.
** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" in this SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".
*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" in THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".

The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.

Legal Instrument Examiner:  
/ Tammy McBeth Brown/

---

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.16. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.
Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.
**Office Action Summary**

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<td>KIM, JAE JOO</td>
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<td>Art Unit</td>
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<td>JOHN J. MORRIS</td>
<td>4147</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ______.
2a)☐ This action is FINAL. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4)☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
   4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a)☒ All  b)☐ Some *  c)☐ None of:
   1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
   2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ______.
   3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson’s Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/ SB/08)  
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6)☐ Other: _____.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
PTOL-326 (Rev. 08-06)
DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Durden et al. (US Pat# 7380258 B2/ or “Durden” hereinafter).

For claim 1, Durden teaches an apparatus that compares the program data with the presentation profile (Durden, column 2, lines 59-60). Durden et al. also teaches substituting video into the portion of the program that are censored (Durden et al. column 3, lines 1-3).

For claim 2, 8, Durden teaches that the program data comprises program content and control data (Durden, column 2, lines 33-34).

For claim 3, 9, Durden teaches that the viewer can edit or substitute the censored content with video (Durden, column 3, lines 1-5).
For **claim 4**, Durden teaches that the viewer can edit or substitute the censored content with audio (Durden, column 3, lines 1-5).

For **claim 5, 10**, Durden teaches that data may be stored in memory (Durden, column 7, line 45). Durden also teaches that only portions of the broadcast may be edited (Durden, column 2, lines 27-29). Therefore, Durden’s invention could buffer currently output video frame and audio between two audio mute periods.

For **claim 6, 11, 12**, Durden teaches that only portions of the broadcast may be edited (Durden, column 2, lines 27-29).

For **claim 7**, Durden teaches an apparatus that comprises a blocking processor to compare parental ratings (Durden, figure 5, item 66), a storage unit (Durden, figure 5, item 62), a control processor (Durden, figure 5, item 68), and an output processor to output the broadcast (Durden, figure 5, item 70).

For **claim 13**, Durden teaches that the apparatus can be installed in consumer electronic devices, such as a set top box (Durden, column 2, lines 44-45).
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOHN J. MORRIS whose telephone number is (571)270-7171. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7am - 3pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Kieu-Oanh Bui can be reached on (571)272-7291. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/KIEU OANH T BUI/          JOHN J MORRIS
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4147           Examiner

***
## Notice of References Cited

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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**NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages

| U               |            |         |      |                |
| V               |            |         |      |                |
| W               |            |         |      |                |
| X               |            |         |      |                |

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)*

Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
PTO-892 (Rev. 01-2001)
**APPLICATIONS**
Jae Joo Kim, Sungnam-si, KOREA, REPUBLIC OF;

**CONTINUING DATA**

**FOREIGN APPLICATIONS**
REPUBLIC OF KOREA 10-2005-0007160 01/26/2005

**IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED**
03/03/2006

---

**ADDRESS**
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP
P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, VA 20153-1200
UNITED STATES

---

**TITLE**
A/V parental lock apparatus and method

---

**FILING FEE RECEIVED**
1130

FEES: Authority has been given in Paper No.__________ to charge/credit DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No.__________ for following:

- All Fees
- 1.16 Fees (Filing)
- 1.17 Fees (Processing Ext. of time)
- 1.18 Fees (Issue)
- Other ____________
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of

Jae Joo KIM

Confirmation No.: 3132

Serial No.: 11/338,884

Group Art Unit: 2623

Filed: January 25, 2006

Examiner: Unassigned

Customer No.: 34610

For: A/V PARENTAL LOCK APPARATUS AND METHOD

REQUEST FOR CORRECTED FILING RECEIPT

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Patent Application
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

A corrected filing receipt is hereby requested in view of the errors which appear in the original. For the convenience of the Patent and Trademark Office, attached is a photocopy of the original receipt on which the errors have been noted in red.

It is believed that no fee is due. However, please credit or debit Deposit Account No. 16-0607 as necessary to effect entry of the attached corrections.

Respectfully submitted,
FLEISCHNER & KIM, LLP

Daniel Y. J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
703 766 3701 DYKnbf
Date: June 1, 2006
Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610
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<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONFIRMATION NO. 3132
UPDATER FILING RECEIPT

Date Mailed: 05/18/2006

Receipt is acknowledged of this regular Patent Application. It will be considered in its order and you will be notified as to the results of the examination. Be sure to provide the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION when inquiring about this application. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please mail to the Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria Va 22313-1450. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections (if appropriate).

Applicant(s)
Jae Joo Kim, Sungam Si, KOREA, REPUBLIC OF;

Power of Attorney: The patent practitioners associated with Customer Number 34610.

Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant

Foreign Applications

Acceptable Request to Retrieve Priority Application Received?

REPUBLIC OF KOREA 10-2005-0007160 01/26/2005 NO

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted: 03/03/2006

The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is US11/338,884

Projected Publication Date: 08/24/2006

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No

Title
A/V parental lock apparatus and method

Preliminary Class
725

PROTECTING YOUR INVENTION OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

Since the rights granted by a U.S. patent extend only throughout the territory of the United States and have no effect in a foreign country, an inventor who wishes patent protection in another country must apply for a patent in a specific country or in regional patent offices. Applicants may wish to consider the filing of an international application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). An international (PCT) application generally has the same effect as a regular national patent application in each PCT-member country. The PCT process simplifies the filing of patent applications on the same invention in member countries, but does not result in a grant of "an international patent" and does not eliminate the need of applicants to file additional documents and fees in countries where patent protection is desired.

Almost every country has its own patent law, and a person desiring a patent in a particular country must make an application for patent in that country in accordance with its particular laws. Since the laws of many countries differ in various respects from the patent law of the United States, applicants are advised to seek guidance from specific foreign countries to ensure that patent rights are not lost prematurely.

Applicants also are advised that in the case of inventions made in the United States, the Director of the USPTO must issue a license before applicants can apply for a patent in a foreign country. The filing of a U.S. patent application serves as a request for a foreign filing license. The application's filing receipt contains further information and guidance as to the status of applicant's license for foreign filing.

Applicants may wish to consult the USPTO booklet, "General Information Concerning Patents" (specifically, the section entitled "Treaties and Foreign Patents") for more information on timeframes and deadlines for filing foreign patent applications. The guide is available either by contacting the USPTO Contact Center at 800-786-9199, or it can be viewed on the USPTO website at http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/doc/general/index.html.

For information on preventing theft of your intellectual property (patents, trademarks and copyrights), you may wish to consult the U.S. Government website, http://www.stopfakes.gov. Part of a Department of Commerce initiative, this website includes self-help "toolkits" giving innovators guidance on how to protect intellectual property in specific countries such as China, Korea and Mexico. For questions regarding patent enforcement issues, applicants may call the U.S. Government hotline at 1-866-999-HALT (1-866-999-4158).

________________________________________________________

LICENSE FOR FOREIGN FILING UNDER
Title 35, United States Code, Section 184
Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 5.11 & 5.15

GRANTED

The applicant has been granted a license under 35 U.S.C. 184, if the phrase "IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED" followed by a date appears on this form. Such licenses are issued in all applications where the conditions for issuance of a license have been met, regardless of whether or not a license may be required as set forth in 37 CFR 5.15. The scope and limitations of this license are set forth in 37 CFR 5.15(a) unless an earlier license has been issued under 37 CFR 5.15(b). The license is subject to revocation upon written notification. The date indicated is the effective date of the license, unless an earlier license of similar scope has been granted under 37 CFR 5.13 or 5.14.

This license is to be retained by the licensee and may be used at any time on or after the effective date thereof unless it is revoked. This license is automatically transferred to any related applications(s) filed under 37 CFR
1.53(d). This license is not retroactive.

The grant of a license does not in any way lessen the responsibility of a licensee for the security of the subject matter as imposed by any Government contract or the provisions of existing laws relating to espionage and the national security or the export of technical data. Licensees should apprise themselves of current regulations especially with respect to certain countries, of other agencies, particularly the Office of Defense Trade Controls, Department of State (with respect to Arms, Munitions and Implements of War (22 CFR 121-128)); the Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce (15 CFR parts 730-774); the Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of Treasury (31 CFR Parts 500+) and the Department of Energy.

NOT GRANTED

No license under 35 U.S.C. 184 has been granted at this time, if the phrase "IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED" DOES NOT appear on this form. Applicant may still petition for a license under 37 CFR 5.12, if a license is desired before the expiration of 6 months from the filing date of the application. If 6 months has lapsed from the filing date of this application and the licensee has not received any indication of a secrecy order under 35 U.S.C. 181, the licensee may foreign file the application pursuant to 37 CFR 5.15(b).
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Jae Joo KIM

Confirmation No.: 3132

Group Art Unit: 2611

Serial No.: 11/338,884

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Filed: January 25, 2006

Customer No.: 34610

For: A/V PARENTAL LOCK APPARATUS AND METHOD

REPLY TO NOTICE TO FILE MISSING PARTS OF APPLICATION
FILING DATE GRANTED

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, MAIL STOP MISSING PARTS
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In reply to the Notice of Missing Parts of Application dated March 6, 2006, submitted herewith are the following documents for filing in the above-referenced application:

- Declaration and Power of Attorney;
- Filing Fee of $1,000.00;
- Additional claim fee of $;
- Late filing surcharge of $130.00 (large entity) $65.00 (small entity);
- Transmittal of certified priority document;
- Copy of Form PTO-1533 (Notice of Missing Parts);
- A check in the amount of $1,130.00 (Check #17553) is enclosed;
- Verified English language translation;
- Surcharge for filing non-English Specification $130.00 (large entity) $65.00 small entity.
- Assignment Recordation Coversheet and Assignment; and
- A check in the amount of $40.00 (Check #17554), representing the recordation fee for the Assignment is enclosed.

It is requested that an Official Filing Receipt showing the data contained herewith now be issued.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
FRESHNER & KIM, LLP

Daniel Y. Kim
Registration No. 36,186
Carol L. Druzbick
Registration No. 40,287

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
(703) 766-3701 Dyk/dsh
Date: May 4, 2006

Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610
\\فwin\Documents\2031\2031-100\93519.doc
NOTICE TO FILE MISSING PARTS OF NONPROVISIONAL APPLICATION

FILED UNDER 37 CFR 1.53(b)

Filing Date Granted

Items Required To Avoid Abandonment:

An application number and filing date have been accorded to this application. The item(s) indicated below, however, are missing. Applicant is given TWO MONTHS from the date of this Notice within which to file all required items and pay any fees required below to avoid abandonment. Extensions of time may be obtained by filing a petition accompanied by the extension fee under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

- The statutory basic filing fee is missing. Applicant must submit $300 to complete the basic filing fee for a non-small entity. If appropriate, applicant may make a written assertion of entitlement to small entity status and pay the small entity filing fee (37 CFR 1.27).
- The oath or declaration is missing. A properly signed oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.63, identifying the application by the above Application Number and Filing Date, is required. Note: If a petition under 37 CFR 1.47 is being filed, an oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.63 signed by all available joint inventors, or if no inventor is available by a party with sufficient proprietary interest, is required.

The applicant needs to satisfy supplemental fees problems indicated below.

The required item(s) identified below must be timely submitted to avoid abandonment:

- To avoid abandonment, a surcharge (for late submission of filing fee, search fee, examination fee or oath/declaration) as set forth in 37 CFR 1.16(f) of $130 for a non-small entity, must be submitted with the missing items identified in this letter.

SUMMARY OF FEES DUE:

Total additional fee(s) required for this application is $1130 for a Large Entity

- $300 Statutory basic filing fee.
- $130 Surcharge.
• The application search fee has not been paid. Applicant must submit $500 to complete the search fee.
• The application examination fee has not been paid. Applicant must submit $200 to complete the examination fee for a large entity

Replies should be mailed to: Mail Stop Missing Parts
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

A copy of this notice MUST be returned with the reply.

Office of Initial Patent Examination (571) 272-4000, or 1-800-PTO-9199, or 1-800-972-6382
PART 1 - ATTORNEY/APPLICANT COPY
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of Confirmation No.: 3132
Jae Joo KIM Group Art Unit: 2611
Serial No.: 11/338,884 Examiner: To Be Assigned
Filed: January 25, 2006 Customer No.: 34610

For: A/V PARENTAL LOCK APPARATUS AND METHOD

AUTHORIZATION TO TREAT A REPLY AS INCORPORATING AN EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a)(3)

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, MAIL STOP MISSING PARTS
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for an extension of time under this paragraph for its timely submission, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3). The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge all required extension of time fees to our Deposit Account No. 16-0607, if such fees are not otherwise provided for in such reply. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP

Daniel Y-J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186
Carol L. Drabzick
Registration No. 40,287

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
703 766-3701 DYS/dbk

Date: May 4, 2006
Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610
DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

my residence, post office and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled A/V PARENTAL LOCK APPARATUS AND METHOD, the specification of which

☐ is attached hereto ☑ was filed on January 25, 2005 as Application Serial No. 11/338,384 and was amended on ____________________________ (if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understood the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is known to me to be material to patentability in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365 (b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Foreign Filing Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10-2005-0007160</td>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>January 26, 2005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number(s): Filing Date (Month/Day/Year)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

Prior U.S. Application or PCT Parent Number Filing Date (Month/Day/Year) Parent Patent Number (if applicable)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that wilful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

I hereby appoint the attorney(s) and/or agent(s) associated with Customer Number 34610 to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office.

Direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610
Full name of sole or first inventor: Jae Joo KIM
Inventor's signature: 
Date: Apr 24, 2006
Mailing Address: 228-106 Sibum-dong Apt. Seohyun-dong Noon-dong, Sungham-e1 633-010 Korea
Citizenship: Republic of Korea
Residence Address
(only if different from mailing address):

Full name of joint inventor(s):
Inventor's signature: 
Date: 
Mailing Address: 
Citizenship: 
Residence Address 
(only if different from mailing address):

Full name of joint inventor(s):
Inventor's signature: 
Date: 
Mailing Address: 
Citizenship: 
Residence Address 
(only if different from mailing address):

Full name of joint inventor(s):
Inventor's signature: 
Date: 
Mailing Address: 
Citizenship: 
Residence Address 
(only if different from mailing address):

Full name of joint inventor(s):
Inventor's signature: 
Date: 
Mailing Address: 
Citizenship: 
Residence Address 
(only if different from mailing address):

Full name of joint inventor(s):
Inventor's signature: 
Date: 
Mailing Address: 
Citizenship: 
Residence Address 
(only if different from mailing address):
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of
Jae Joo KIM
Serial No.: 11/338,884
Filed: January 25, 2006

For: A/V PARENTAL LOCK APPARATUS AND METHOD

TRANSMITTAL OF CERTIFIED PRIORITY DOCUMENT

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, MAIL STOP MISSING PARTS
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Sir:

At the time the above application was filed, priority was claimed based on the following application:


A copy of the priority application listed above is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP

Daniel Y. J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186
Carol L. Druzbick
Registration No. 40,287

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
703 766-3701 DVK/dsk

Date: May 4, 2006
Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610
This is to certify that the following application annexed hereto is a true copy from the records of the Korean Intellectual Property Office.

Application Number: 10-2005-0007160

Date of Application: JAN 26, 2005

Applicant(s): 주식회사 휴맥스

Issue Date: 2005.12.27
【서지사항】
【서류명】 특허출원서
【권리구분】 특허
【수신처】 특허청장
【참조번호】 0001
【제출일자】 2005.01.26
【발명의 국문명칭】 패턴형 레벨을 이용한 시청 제한 제어장치 및 방법
【발명의 영문명칭】 Apparatus and method for controlling seeing and hearing restriction using parental level

【출원인】
【명칭】 주식회사 휴맥스
【출원인코드】 1-1998-000063-1

【대리인】
【성명】 박래봉
【대리인코드】 9-1998-000250-7
【포괄위임등록번호】 2001-062813-4

【발명자】
【성명의 국문표기】 김재주
【성명의 영문표기】 KIM, Jae Joo
【주민등록번호】 670526-1845619
【우편번호】 463-050
【주소】 경기 성남시 분당구 서현동 서범우성아파트 228동 106호
【국적】 KR
【심사청구】 청구

【취지】 특허법 제42조의 규정에 의한 출원, 특허법 제60조의 규정에 의한 출원심사를 청구합니다.

대리인 박래봉 (인)
【수수료】
【기본출원료】 0 면 38,000 원
【가산출원료】 20 면 0 원
【우선권추장료】 0 건 0 원
【심사청구료】 9 항 397,000 원
【합계】 435,000 원
【감면사유】 중소기업
【감면후 수수료】 217,500 원
【청부시류】 1. 중소기업기본법시행령 제2조에의한 중소기업에 해당함을 증명하는 서류_1등
【요약서】

【요약】

본 발명은, 패런털 레벨을 이용한 시청 제한 제어장치 및 방법에 관한 것으로, 예를 들어 셋탑 박스 등과 같은 다양한 기기에서, 비디오 신호의 특정 라인에 포함된 패런털(Parental) 레벨을 검출하여, 사용자가 설정한 패런털 레벨과 비교함과 아울러, 상기 검출된 패런털 레벨이, 상기 사용자가 설정한 패런털 레벨 이상인 경우, 이전에 비퍼링된 비디오와 오디오를 반복 출력하고, 이후 상기 비디오와 오디오를 반복 출력하던 도중, 사용자가 설정한 패런털 레벨보다 낮은 패런털 레벨이 검출되는 경우, 현재 수신되는 비디오 및 오디오를 출력 표시함으로써, 어린이 또는 청소년들이 시청하기에 부적합한 내용의 비디오 및 오디오가 무단으로 출력 표시되지 않도록 하는 시청 제한 장치를 수행할 수 있게 됨은 물론, 시청 제한 이전에 출력 표시되었던 비디오와 오디오를 반복 출력하여, 사용자가 블랙(Black) 화면과 무음(No Sound) 상태에서 무의미하게 대기하게 되는 것을 효율적으로 방지할 수 있게 되는 매우 유용한 발명인 것이다.

【대표도】

도 5

【작인서】

시청 제한 장치, 패런털 레벨, 비디오, 오디오 뮤트 구간, 비퍼 메모리
【명세서】

【발명의 명칭】
패런털 레벨을 이용한 시청 제한 제어장치 및 방법 (Apparatus and method for controlling seeing and hearing restriction using parental level)

【도면의 간단한 설명】

<1> 도 1은 일반적인 방송 수신기에 대한 일부 구성을 도시한 것이고,

<2> 도 2는 일반적인 비디오 신호의 특징 라인에 패런털 레벨 정보가 포함된 실시 예를 도시한 것이고,

<3> 도 3은 일반적인 패런털 레벨 정보들에 대한 실시예를 도시한 것이고,

<4> 도 4는 일반적인 패런털 레벨을 이용한 시청 제한 제어 과정에 대한 실시예를 도시한 것이고,

<5> 도 5는 본 발명이 적용되는 방송 수신기에 대한 일부 구성을 도시한 것이고.

<6> 도 6은 본 발명에 따른 패런털 레벨을 이용한 시청 제한 제어 과정에 대한 실시예를 도시한 것이고,

<7> 도 7은 본 발명에 따른 패런털 레벨을 이용한 시청 제한 제어방법에 대한 동작 흐름도를 도시한 것이다.

<8> ※ 도면의 주요부분에 대한 부호의 설명
<9> 10, 20 : A/V 신호 처리부 11, 22 : 페렌털 레벨 검출부
<10> 12, 24 : 마이컴 13, 25 : 메모리
<11> 21 : A/V 버퍼 메모리 23 : 오디오 뮤트 검출부

【발명의 상세한 설명】

【발명의 목적】

【발명이 속하는 기술분야 및 그 분야의 종래기술】

본 발명은, 페렌털 레벨을 이용한 시청 제한 제어장치 및 방법에 관한 것으로, 예를 들어 셋탑 박스 등과 같은 다양한 기기에서, 페렌털(Parental) 레벨을 이용하여, 시청 제한 동작을 수행하는 경우, 그 이전에 출력 표시되었던 비디오와 오디오가 반복 출력될 수 있도록 하기 위한 페렌털 레벨을 이용한 시청 제한 제어장치 및 방법에 관한 것이다.

 일반적으로, 어린이 또는 청소년들이 성인용(Adult) 프로그램 등을 무단으로 시청하지 못하도록 하기 위한 시청 제한 기능이, 셋탑 박스 등과 같은 다양한 기기에 적용되고 있는데, 예를 들어, 시청 제한 기능이 구비된 방송 수신기에는, 도 1에 도시한 바와 같이, A/V 신호 처리부(10), 페렌털 레벨 검출부(11), 그리고 마이컴(12)과 메모리(13) 등이 포함 구성된다.

한편, 상기 메모리(13)에서는, 사용자에 의해 설정하는 사용자 설정 페렌털 레벨(User_Set_Parental_Level) 정보가 저장 관리될 수 있으며, 상기 페렌털 레벨
점출부(11)에서는, 상기 A/V 신호 처리부(10)로 입력되는 방송 신호 중, 비디오 신호의 특정 라인에 포함된 패턴털 레벨 정보를 검출하게 된다.

예를 들어, NTSC 방송 신호의 우수 필드(2nd field) 중 21 번째 비디오 라인의 수직 블랭크(Vertical Blank) 구간에는, 도 2에 도시한 바와 같이, 2 바이트의 데이터 1(Data 1)과 데이터 2(Data 2)가, 시청 제한을 위한 패턴털 레벨 정보로 포함 전송되는 데, 상기 패턴털 레벨 정보는, 시청 제한 정보 등과 같은 임의의 다른 명칭으로 불리워질 수 있다.

그리고, 상기 패턴털 레벨 정보는, 도 3에 도시한 바와 같이, MPAA Movie Rating, Violent Level, Sexual Level, Advisory Level들로 구분될 수 있으며, 상 기 패턴털 레벨 검출부(11)에서는, 상기와 같이 비디오 라인에 포함 전송되는 패턴털 레벨 정보를 검출하여, 상기 마이크로(12)으로 출력하게 된다.

한편, 상기 마이크로(12)에서는, 상기 패턴털 레벨 검출부(11)에 의해 검출된 패턴털 레벨과, 상기 메모리(13)에 기 저장된 사용자 설정 패턴털 레벨을 비교하여, 현재 수신되는 방송 프로그램의 비디오 및 오디오의 출력 표시 여부를 결정하게 되는 데, 예를 들어, 도 4에 도시한 바와 같이, 상기 검출된 패턴털 레벨 이, 사용자 설정 패턴털 레벨 보다 높은 성인용 레벨(Adult Level)인 경우, 상기 A/V 신호 처리부(10)를 동작 제어하여, 오디오 및 비디오가 출력 표시되지 않도록 함으로써, 블랙(Black) 화면과 무음(No Sound) 상태가 되도록 한다.

그리고, 이후, 상기 패턴털 레벨 검출부(11)에 의해 검출되는 패턴털 레벨이, 사용자 설정 패턴털 레벨 보다 낮은 경우, 예를 들어 성인용 레벨이 아닌
경우, 상기 마이크(12)에서는, 상기 A/V 신호 처리부(10)를 동작 제어하여, 오디오 및 비디오가 정상적으로 출력 표시되도록 한다.

이에 따라, 어린이 또는 청소년들이 시청하기에 부적합한 내용의 비디오 및 오디오가 무단으로 출력 표시되는 것을 방지할 수 있게 되지만, 이 경우, 사용자가 블랙(Black) 화면과 무음(No Sound) 상태에서 무의미하게 대기하게 되는 문제점이 발생하게 된다.

【발명이 이루고자 하는 기술적 과제】

본 발명은, 상기와 같은 문제점을 해결하기 위하여 창작된 것으로서, 예를 들어 셋탑 박스 등과 같은 다양한 기기에서, 비디오 신호의 특정 라인에 포함된 패런털(Parental) 레벨을 검출하여, 사용자가 설정한 패런털 레벨과 비교함과 아울러, 상기 검출된 패런털 레벨이, 상기 사용자가 설정한 패런털 레벨 이상인 경우, 이전에 비퍼링된 비디오와 오디오를 반복 출력하고, 이후 상기 비디오와 오디오를 반복 출력하던 도중, 사용자가 설정한 패런털 레벨 보다 낮은 패런털 레벨이 검출되면, 현재 수신되는 비디오 및 오디오를 정상적으로 출력 표시할 수 있도록 하기 위한 패런털 레벨을 이용한 시청 제한 제어장치 및 방법을 제공하는 데, 그 목적이 있는 것이다.
【발명의 구성】

상기와 같은 목적을 달성하기 위한 본 발명에 따른 패런틸 레벨을 이용한 시행 제한 제어방법은, 비디오 신호에 포함된 패런틸 레벨을 검출하여, 사용자가 설정한 패런틸 레벨과 비교하는 1단계; 및 상기 비교 결과, 상기 검출된 패런틸 레벨이, 상기 사용자가 설정한 패런틸 레벨 이상인 경우, 이전에 비퍼링된 영상을 반복 출력하는 2단계를 포함하여 이루어지는 것을 특징으로 하며,

또한, 본 발명에 따른 패런틸 레벨을 이용한 시행 제한 제어장치는, 비디오 신호에 포함된 패런틸 레벨을 검출하기 위한 패런틸 레벨 검출수단; 오디오 신호의 뮤트 구간을 검출하기 위한 뮤트 검출수단; 상기 비디오 신호와 오디오 신호 중 일부를 캡처하여 임시 저장하기 위한 저장수단; 및 상기 검출된 패런틸 레벨이, 사용자가 설정한 패런틸 레벨 이상인 경우, 상기 저장수단에 임시 저장된 비디오와 오디오를 반복 출력하기 위한 제어수단을 포함하여 구성되는 것을 특징으로 한다.

이하, 본 발명에 따른 패런틸 레벨을 이용한 시행 제한 제어장치 및 방법에 대한 바람직한 실시예에 대해, 참봄된 도면을 참조하여 상세히 설명한다.

우선, 본 발명에 따른 패런틸 레벨을 이용한 시행 제한 제어장치 및 방법은, 시행 제한 기능이 구비된 방송 수신기 또는 그 이외의 다양한 기기에 적용될 수 있는 것으로, 예를 들어 본 발명이 적용되는 방송 수신기에는, 도 5에 도시한 바와 같이, A/V 신호 처리부(20), 패런틸 레벨 검출부(22), 마이크(24), 메모리(25)가...
 포함 구성됨과 아울러, A/V 버퍼 메모리(21)와 오디오 뮤트 검출부(23)가 추가로 포함 구성될 수 있다.

그리고, 상기 메모리(23)에는, 전술한 바와 같이, 사용자가 임의로 설정하는 사용자 설정 패턴 레벨(Use _Set _Parental _Level) 정보가 저장 관리되고, 상기 패턴 레벨 검출부(21)에서는, 상기 A/V 신호 처리부(20)로 입력되는 방송 신호 중, 비디오 신호의 특정 라인에 포함된 패턴 레벨 정보를 검출하여, 상기 마이크(24)으로 출력하게 된다.

한편, 상기 오디오 뮤트 검출부(23)에서는, 상기 A/V 신호 처리부(20)로 입력되는 방송 신호 중, 오디오 신호의 뮤트(Mute) 구간을 검출하게 되고, 상기 A/V 버퍼 메모리(21)에서는, 상기 비디오 신호 중 하나의 비디오 프레임을 정지 영상으로 버퍼링함과 아울러, 상기 오디오 뮤트 검출부(23)에 의해 검출되는 뮤트 구간들 사이의 오디오를 버퍼링하게 되는 데, 상기 버퍼 메모리의 용량이 큰 경우, 동영상이 버퍼링될 수도 있다.

또한, 상기 마이크(24)에서는, 상기 패턴 레벨 검출부(21)에 의해 검출되는 패턴 레벨과, 상기 메모리(25)에 기 저장된 사용자 설정 패턴 레벨을 비교하여, 현재 수신되는 방송 프로그램의 비디오 및 오디오의 출력 표시 여부를 결정하게 되는 데, 예를 들어, 도 6에 도시한 바와 같이, 상기 검출된 패턴 레벨이, 사용자 설정 패턴 레벨 보다 높은 성인용 레벨(Adult Level)인 경우, 상기 A/V 신호 처리부(20)와 A/V 버퍼 메모리(21)를 동작 제어하여, 이전에 버퍼링된 비디오와 오디오를 반복적으로 출력 표시하게 된다.
그리고, 이후 상기 패턴릴 레벨 검출부(21)에 의해 검출되는 패턴릴 레벨이, 사용자 설정 패턴릴 레벨 보다 낮은 경우, 예를 들어 성인용 레벨이 아닌 경우, 상기 마이크(24)에서는, 상기 A/V 신호 처리부(20)를 제어하여, 오디오 및 비디오를 경상적으로 출력 표시하게 되는 데, 이에 대해 상세히 설명하면 다음과 같다.

도 7은, 본 발명에 따른 패턴릴 레벨을 이용한 시청 제한 제어방법에 대한 동작 흐름도를 도시한 것으로, 상기 마이크(24)에서는, 사용자의 요청에 따라, 상기 A/V 신호 처리부(20)를 동작 제어하여, 방송 신호를 수신 및 출력 표시하는 일련의 동작을 수행하게 된다(S10).

한편, 상기 마이크(24)에서는, 상기 A/V 비파 메모리(21)를 동작 제어하여, 상기와 같이 출력 표시되는 비디오 신호 중 하나의 비디오 프레임을 캡쳐한 후 정보 영상으로 버퍼링하게 되는 데(S11), 상기 비파 메모리의 용량이 큰 경우, 동영상이 버퍼링될 수 있으며, 또한 상기 오디오 뮤프 검출부(23)에서 오디오 신호의 뮤프 구간을 검출하게 되는 경우, 상기 A/V 비파 메모리(21)를 동작 제어하여, 상기 검출된 뮤프 구간과 그 이전에 검출된 뮤프 구간 사이의 오디오 신호를 버퍼링하게 된다(S12).

또한, 상기 마이크(24)에서는, 상기 패턴릴 레벨 검출부(22)에 의해, 비디오 라인에서 검출되는 패턴릴 레벨과, 상기 메모리(25)에 기 저장된 사용자 설정 패턴릴 레벨을 비교하게 되는 데, 예를 들어 상기 검출된 패턴릴 레벨이, 사용자 설정 패턴릴 레벨 이상인 경우(S14), 현재 시청 제한 기능이 설정되어 있는 지를 확인하
게 된다.

그리고, 상기 사항 제한 기능이 설정되어 있는 경우(S15), 상기 마이크(24) 에서는, 상기 A/V 신호 처리부(20)와 A/V 베폴 메모리(21)를 동작 제어하여, 이전에 버퍼링된 비디오 프레임을 정지 영상으로 출력함과 아울러, 마지막 뮤트 구간 이전에 버퍼링된 오디오를 반복 출력하게 되는 데(S16), 상기 비파 메모리에 동영 상이 저장된 경우, 정지 영상 대신 이전에 버퍼링된 동영상이 출력될 수 있다.

이에 따라, 시청 제한 동작을 수행하는 동안, 블랙 화면 대신 이전에 버퍼링된 비디오를 화면 표시하게 되며, 또한 무음 대신, 이전에 버퍼링된 오디오를 출력하게 되므로, 사용자가 블랙(Black) 화면과 무음(No Sound) 상태에서 무의미하게 대기하게 되는 것을 방지하게 된다.

한편, 상기와 같이 비디오와 오디오를 반복 출력하던 동안, 상기 패턴릴 레벨 검출부(22)에서는, 전송한 바와 같이, 방송 신호의 비디오 특정 라인에 포함 전송되는 패턴릴 레벨을 검출하게 되며(S17), 상기 마이크(24)에서는, 상기 검출된 패턴릴 레벨과, 상기 메모리(25)에 기 저장된 사용자 설정 패턴릴 레벨을 하는 일련의 해당 동작을 수행하게 된다(S18).

그려고, 상기 비정 결과, 상기 검출된 패턴릴 레벨이, 상기 사용자 설정 패턴릴 레벨 보다 낮은 경우, 현재 수신되는 비디오 및 오디오를 출력 표시하면서, 새로운 비디오 프레임과 오디오를 캡처하여 버퍼링하는 일련의 동작을 반복 수행하게 된다.

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이상, 전술한 본 발명의 바람직한 실시예는, 예시의 목적을 위해 개시된 것으로, 당업자라면, 이하 정부된 특허청구범위에 개시된 본 발명의 기술적 사상과 그 기술적 범위 내에서, 또다른 다양한 실시예들을 개량, 변경, 대체 또는 부가 등이 가능할 것이다.

【발명의 효과】

상기와 같이 구성 및 이루어지는 본 발명에 따른 패턴릴 레벨을 이용한 시청 제한 제어장치 및 방법은, 예를 들어 셋탑 박스 등과 같은 다양한 기기에서, 비디오 신호의 특정 라인에 포함된 패턴릴(Parental) 레벨을 검출하여, 사용자가 설정한 패턴릴 레벨과 비교함과 아울러, 상기 검출된 패턴릴 레벨이, 상기 사용자가 설정한 패턴릴 레벨 이상인 경우, 이전에 비퍼링된 비디오와 오디오를 반복 출력하고, 이후 상기 비디오와 오디오를 반복 출력하던 도중, 사용자가 설정한 패턴릴 레벨 보다 낮은 패턴릴 레벨이 검출되는 경우, 현재 수신되는 비디오 및 오디오를 출력 표시함으로써, 어린이 또는 청소년들이 시청하기에 부적합한 내용의 비디오 및 오디오가 반복으로 출력 표시되지 않도록 하는 시청 제한 동작을 수행할 수 있게 된 물론, 시청 제한 이전에 출력 표시되었던 비디오와 오디오를 반복 출력하여, 사용자가 블랙(Black) 화면과 무음(No Sound) 상태에서 무의미하게 대기하게 되는 것을 효율적으로 방지할 수 있게 되는 매우 유용한 발명인 것이다.
【특허청구범위】

【청구항 1】

비디오 신호에 포함된 패런털 레벨을 검출하여, 사용자가 설정한 패런털 레벨과 비교하는 1단계; 및

상기 비교 결과, 상기 검출된 패런털 레벨이, 상기 사용자가 설정한 패런털 레벨 이상인 경우, 이전에 버퍼링된 영상을 반복 출력하는 2단계를 포함하여 이루
어지는 것을 특징으로 하는 패런털 레벨을 이용한 시청 제한 제어방법.

【청구항 2】

제 1항에 있어서,

상기 1단계는, 방송 신호의 비디오 라인에 포함된 패런털 레벨을 검출하여, 장치 내에 기 저장된 사용자 설정 패런털 레벨과 비교하는 것을 특징으로 하는 패
런털 레벨을 이용한 시청 제한 제어방법.

【청구항 3】

제 1항에 있어서,

상기 2단계는, 상기 비교 결과, 상기 검출된 패런털 레벨이, 상기 사용자가 설정한 패런털 레벨 이상인 경우, 이전에 버퍼링된 정지영상과 오디오 또는 동영상과
오디오를 반복 출력하는 것을 특징으로 하는 패런털 레벨을 이용한 시청 제한 제어방법.
【청구항 4】

제 1항에 있어서,

상기 2단계는, 상기 검출된 패런털 레벨이, 상기 사용자가 설정한 패런털 레벨 보다 낮은 경우, 현재 출력 표시되는 비디오 프레임을 버퍼링함과 아울러, 마지막으로 검출된 오디오 뮤트 구간 사이의 오디오를 버퍼링하는 것을 특징으로 하는 패런털 레벨을 이용한 시청 제한 제어방법.

【청구항 5】

제 1항에 있어서,

상기 비디오와 오디오를 반복 출력하던 도중, 사용자가 설정한 패런털 레벨 보다 낮은 패런털 레벨이 검출되는 경우, 현재 수신되는 비디오 및 오디오를 출력 표시하는 단계를 포함하여 이루어지는 것을 특징으로 하는 패런털 레벨을 이용한 시청 제한 제어방법.

【청구항 6】

비디오 신호에 포함된 패런털 레벨을 검출하기 위한 패런털 레벨 검출수단;

오디오 신호의 뮤트 구간을 검출하기 위한 뮤트 검출수단;

상기 비디오 신호와 오디오 신호 중 일부를 캡처하여 임시 저장하기 위한 저장수단; 및

상기 검출된 패런털 레벨이, 사용자가 설정한 패런털 레벨 이상인 경우, 상기 저장수단에 임시 저장된 비디오와 오디오를 반복 출력하기 위한 제어수단을 포
함하여 구성되는 것을 특정으로 하는 패런털 레벨을 이용한 시청 제한 제어장치.

【청구항 7】

제 6항에 있어야,

상기 패런털 레벨 검출수단은, 방송 신호의 비디오 라인에 포함된 패런털 레벨을 검출하는 것을 특정으로 하는 패런털 레벨을 이용한 시청 제한 제어장치.

【청구항 8】

제 6항에 있어야,

상기 저장수단은, 상기 비디오 신호와, 마지막으로 검출된 오디오 뮤트 구간 사이의 오디오를 바꿔당하는 것을 특정으로 하는 패런털 레벨을 이용한 시청 제한 제어장치.

【청구항 9】

제 6항에 있어야,

상기 제어수단은, 상기 비디오와 오디오를 반복 출력하던 도중, 사용자가 설정한 패런털 레벨 보다 낮은 패런털 레벨이 검출되는 경우, 현재 수신되는 비디오 및 오디오를 출력 표시하는 것을 특정으로 하는 패런털 레벨을 이용한 시청 제한 제어장치.
【도면】

【도 1】

BS

A/V Signal Processor

Audio & Video

Parental Level Detection

User_Key

Micom

Memory

User_Set_Parental_Level

【도 2】

ByteSync

Clock Sync  Data 1  Data 2

Sub-carrier

10.5

+/- 0.25

usec

12.91

usec

5.958

usec

31.778

usec

63.556

usec

21-16
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【도 4】

AV Signal

Parental Level = Adult

Parental Level = Not Adult

Video
Black

Audio
Mute
【도 5】

Data Stream → AV Signal Processor → Audio & Video

AV Buffer Memory → Mlicom

Parental Level Detection → User_Set_Parental_Level

Audio Mute Detection

Memory

User Key
【도 6】

A/V Signal

(t)

Parental Level = Adult

Parental Level = Not Adult

(t-1)

Still-Picture Repeat

(t-n) - (t-1)

Buffering Audio Repeat
【도 7】

시작

S10

발송 신호 수신 및 출력 표시

S11

비디오 프레임 정지 및 버퍼링

S12

오디오 유튜브 결절 이전 구간의 오디오 베테랑

S13

비디오 특성 라인에 포함된 폐쇄를 제외 점검

S14

사용자 설정 폐쇄물 레벨 이상?

YES

S15

사용 재한 기능 설정?

YES

S16

마지막에 베테랑된 비디오 프레임과 오디오 빌렉 클럭

S17

비디오 특성 라인에 포함된 폐쇄물 레벨 점검

S18

해당 동작 수행

끝
NOTICE TO FILE MISSING PARTS OF NONPROVISIONAL APPLICATION

FILED UNDER 37 CFR 1.53(b)

Filing Date Granted

Items Required To Avoid Abandonment:

An application number and filing date have been accorded to this application. The item(s) indicated below, however, are missing. Applicant is given TWO MONTHS from the date of this Notice within which to file all required items and pay any fees required below to avoid abandonment. Extensions of time may be obtained by filing a petition accompanied by the extension fee under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

- The statutory basic filing fee is missing. 
  Applicant must submit $300 to complete the basic filing fee for a non-small entity. If appropriate, applicant may make a written assertion of entitlement to small entity status and pay the small entity filing fee (37 CFR 1.27).
- The oath or declaration is missing. A properly signed oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.63, identifying the application by the above Application Number and Filing Date, is required. 
  Note: If a petition under 37 CFR 1.47 is being filed, an oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.63 signed by all available joint inventors, or if no inventor is available by a party with sufficient proprietary interest, is required.

The applicant needs to satisfy supplemental fees problems indicated below.

The required item(s) identified below must be timely submitted to avoid abandonment:

- To avoid abandonment, a surcharge (for late submission of filing fee, search fee, examination fee or oath or declaration) as set forth in 37 CFR 1.16(f) of $130 for a non-small entity, must be submitted with the missing items identified in this letter.

SUMMARY OF FEES DUE:

Total additional fee(s) required for this application is $1130 for a Large Entity

- $300 Statutory basic filing fee.
- $130 Surcharge.
• The application search fee has not been paid. Applicant must submit $500 to complete the search fee.
• The application examination fee has not been paid. Applicant must submit $200 to complete the examination fee for a large entity

Replies should be mailed to: Mail Stop Missing Parts
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

A copy of this notice MUST be returned with the reply.

Office of Initial Patent Examination (571) 272-4000, or 1-800-PTO-9199, or 1-800-972-6382
PART 3 - OFFICE COPY
UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b)

Sent:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of
INVENTOR:  Jae Joo KIM

FOR:  A/v PARENTAL LOCK APPARATUS AND METHOD

Enclosed are:
1.  ☑ 13  pages of specification, claims, abstract
2.  ☑ 6  sheets of FORMAL drawings
3.  ☑  pages of newly executed Declaration & Power of Attorney (copy or original) (To Follow)
4.  ☑ Priority claimed to Appln. No. 10-2005-0007160 filed on January 26, 2005 in Korea (To Follow)
5.  ☑ Applicant claims Small Entity Status
6.  ☑ Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO-1449 and references

☐ Assignment papers for Humax Co., Ltd.
☐ Certified copy of Priority Application No. 10-2005-0007160 filed on January 26, 2005 in Korea (To Follow)
☐ Two (2) return postcards
☐ Stamp & Return with Courier
☐ Prepaid postcard-stamped filing date & returned with unofficial Serial Number
☐ Authorization under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a)(3)
☐ Other: __________

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APPLICATION SIZE FEE (100 = 50 x 250.00)

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☐ A check in the amount of $_________ (Check #_________) is attached.
☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 16-0607 in the amount of $_________. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of following fees during the pendency of this application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 16-0607.
☐ Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16.
☐ Any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17.
☐ Any filing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 for presentation of extra claims.

Respectfully submitted,
FLEISHER & KIM, LLP

Daniel Y.J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
703 766-3701 D/J/K/dk
Date: January 25, 2006
Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610
A/V PARENTAL LOCK APPARATUS AND METHOD

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a method and apparatus for restricting A/V listening and viewing using parental levels.

Description of the Related Art

Recently, a parental lock function for blocking children or juveniles from listening and viewing adult programs, etc. without permission is being applied to various devices, such as a set top box, etc.

A broadcast receiver having a parental lock function, as illustrated in FIG. 1, includes an A/V signal processor 10, a parental level detecting unit 11, a microprocessor 12, a memory 13, etc.

The memory 13 stores and manages user setting parental level information User_Set_Parental_Level set by a user. The parental level detecting unit 11 detects parental level information included
in specific lines of video signals among broadcast signals received through the A/V signal processor 10.

For example, as illustrated in FIG. 2, a vertical blank period of a 21-th video line in a 2\textsuperscript{ND} field of a NTSC broadcast signal transmits data 1 and data 2, each data having 2 bytes, as parental level information for parental lock. The parental level information can be called an arbitrary different name, such as parental lock information, etc.

Also, as illustrated in FIG. 3, the parental level information includes ratings on broadcast programs classified on the basis of film ratings, violent levels, sexual levels, and advisory levels of the classification board within the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA). The parental level detecting unit 111 detects the parental level information included and transmitted in a video line as described above and outputs the parental level information to the microprocessor 12.

The microprocessor 12 compares the parental level detected by the parental level detecting unit 11 with a user setting parental level stored in the memory 13, and determines whether or not to output video and audio of the currently received broadcast program according to the comparison result.

For example, as illustrated in FIG. 4, if the detected parental level is an adult level higher than the user setting parental level, the microprocessor 12 controls the A/V signal processor 10 so that the video and audio of the received broadcast program are not output, and displays a black screen in a mute state.

Meanwhile, if the parental level detected by the parental level detecting unit 11 is lower than the user setting parental
level, for example, if the parental level is not the adult level, the microprocessor 12 controls the A/V signal processor 10 so that the video and audio of the received broadcast program are normally output.

Accordingly, it is possible to block video and audio containing inappropriate content for children or juveniles from being output without permission. However, in this case, users should wait for nothing while a black screen is displayed in a mute state.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

To resolve the problem described above, there is provided a method and apparatus for providing video and audio instead of broadcast programs which are not output according to parental levels set by a user.

According to an aspect of the present invention, there is provided an A/V parental lock method including: comparing a parental level detected from a video signal with a level set by a user; and if the detected parental level is higher than the level set by the user according to the comparison result, repeatedly outputting predetermined video.

According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided an A/V parental lock apparatus including: a parental level information detecting unit detecting a parental level included in a video signal; a storage unit temporarily storing a part of video; and a control unit repeatedly outputting the part of the video temporarily stored in the storage unit if the detected
parental level is higher than a level set by a user.

Preferably, the parental level is included and transmitted in a video line of a broadcast signal.

Preferably, the repeatedly output video is a previously buffered still image or a previously buffered moving image. Also, if the detected parental level is higher than the level set by the user, previously buffered audio can be repeatedly output.

Preferably, if the detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user, a currently output video frame and audio between two audio mute periods finally detected are buffered.

Preferably, if a parental level lower than the level set by the user is detected while the part of the video is repeatedly output, currently received video and audio are output.

The A/V parental lock method and apparatus can be applied to a broadcast signal set top box or a TV.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

FIG. 1 illustrates a partial configuration of a general broadcast receiver;

FIG. 2 illustrates an example where parental level information is included in a specific line of a video signal;

FIG. 3 illustrates an example of general parental level information;

FIG. 4 is a view for explaining an A/V parental lock method using parental levels, according to a conventional art;

FIG. 5 illustrates a partial configuration of a broadcast receiver to which the present invention is applied;
FIG. 6 is a view for explaining an A/V parental lock method using parental levels, according to an embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 7 is a flowchart illustrating an A/V parental lock method using parental levels, according to an embodiment of the present invention.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS**

Hereinafter, a parental lock apparatus and method using parental levels, according to the present invention, will be described in detail with reference to the appended drawings.

The parental lock apparatus and method can be applied to TVs, broadcast receivers such as set top boxes, or other various devices having a parental lock function.

Referring to FIG. 5, a broadcast receiver, to which the present invention is applied, includes an A/V signal processor 20, a parental level detecting unit 22, a microprocessor 24, and a memory 25. Also, the broadcast receiver can further include an A/V buffer memory 21 and an audio mute detecting unit 23.

As described above, the memory 23 stores and manages user setting parental level information set by a user. The parental level detecting unit 21 detects parental level information included in specific lines of video signals of broadcast signals received through the A/V signal processor 20, and outputs the parental level information to the microprocessor 24.

The audio mute detecting unit 23 detects mute periods of audio signals of broadcast signals received through the A/V signal
processor 20. The A/V buffer memory 21 buffers and stores a video frame of the video signals as a still image and buffers and stores audio between mute periods detected by the audio mute detecting unit 23. If the A/V buffer memory 21 has a large amount of capacity, it can buffer and store moving images.

Also, the microprocessor 24 compares a parental level detected by the parental level detecting unit 21 with the user setting parental level stored in the memory 25, and determines whether or not to output video and audio of the currently received broadcast program according to the comparison result.

For example, as illustrated in FIG. 6, if the detected parental level is an adult level higher than the user setting parental level, the microprocessor 24 controls the A/V signal processor 20 and the A/V buffer memory 21 so that the previously buffered video and audio are repeatedly output.

On the other hand, if the parental level detected by the parental level detecting unit 21 is lower than the user setting parental level, for example, if the detected parental level is not the adult level, the microprocessor 24 controls the A/V signal processor 20 so that the audio and video of the received broadcast program are normally output. This operation will be described in detail as follows.

FIG. 7 is a flowchart illustrating an A/V parental lock method using parental levels, according to an embodiment of the present invention.

The microprocessor 24 checks whether a parental lock function is set in a current broadcast receiver (operation S10). If no parental lock function is set in the broadcast receiver, the
microprocessor 24 controls the A/V signal processor 20 so that broadcast signals are received and output without restricting the output of the video and audio of broadcast programs through parental levels (operation S19).

On the other hand, if the parental lock function is set in the broadcast receiver, the microprocessor 24 compares a parental level of a broadcast program with a parental level set in the broadcast receiver, and outputs buffered video and audio instead of the video and audio of the broadcast program according to the comparison result (operations S11 through S18).

The microprocessor 24 controls the A/V signal processor 20 so that broadcast signals are received and output (operation S11).

The microprocessor 24 controls the A/V buffer memory 21 to capture a video frame of video signals of received broadcast signals and then buffer the video frame as a still image (operation S12). If the A/V buffer memory 21 has a large amount of capacity, it can buffer moving images.

Also, if the audio mute detecting unit 23 detects a mute period of audio signals of the received broadcast signals, the microprocessor 24 controls the A/V buffer memory 21 to buffer an audio signal between the detected mute period and the previously detected mute period (operation S13).

Also, the microprocessor 24 controls the A/V signal processor 20 to receive broadcast signals and simultaneously detects a parental level from a video line through the parental level detecting unit 22 (operation S14), and then compares the detected parental level with the user setting parental level stored in the memory 25 (operation S15).
If the detected parental level is higher than the user setting parental level, the microprocessor 24 controls the A/V signal processor 20 and the A/V buffer memory 21 to repeatedly output buffered audio before a final mute period while outputting the previously buffered video frame as a still image (operation S16). If the A/V buffer memory 21 stores a moving image, a buffered moving image instead of the still image can be output.

The microprocessor 24 repeatedly performs operations S14 through S16 of detecting a parental level, comparing the parental level with a stored parental level, and repeatedly reproducing buffered video and audio, until a request for terminating the output of buffered still images (or moving images) and audio is received (operation S17).

That is, since the broadcast receiver displays buffered video on a screen instead of a black screen and outputs buffered audio while a parental lock operation is performed, there is no case when a user waits for nothing while viewing a black screen in a mute state.

Meanwhile, if the detected parental level is lower than the user setting parental level, the microprocessor 24 repeatedly performs operations S11 through S14 of receiving and outputting broadcast signals, buffering the video and audio of the broadcast signals, detecting a parental level, and comparing the parental level with a stored parental level, until a request for terminating the received broadcast program is received (operation S18).

Accordingly, there is no case when a user waits for nothing while viewing a black screen in a mute state, while a parental lock function is performed.
While the present invention has been particularly shown and described with reference to exemplary embodiments thereof, it will be understood by those of ordinary skill in the art that various changes in form and details may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by the following claims.
What is claimed is:

1. An A/V parental lock method comprising:
   comparing a parental level detected from a video signal with a level set by a user; and
   if the detected parental level is higher than the level set by the user according to the comparison result, repeatedly outputting predetermined video.

2. The A/V parental lock method according to claim 1, wherein the parental level is included and transmitted in a video line of a broadcast signal.

3. The A/V parental lock method according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined video is a previously buffered still image or a previously buffered moving image.

4. The A/V parental lock method according to claim 1, wherein the repeatedly outputting the predetermined video further comprises repeatedly outputting previously buffered audio.

5. The A/V parental lock method according to claim 1, further comprising buffering a currently output video frame and audio between two audio mute periods finally detected, if the detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user according to the comparison result.

6. The A/V parental lock method according to claim 1, further comprising outputting currently received video and audio, if a
parental level lower than the level set by the user is detected while the predetermined video is repeatedly output.

7. An A/V parental lock apparatus comprising:
   a parental level information detecting unit detecting a parental level included in a video signal;
   a storage unit temporarily storing a part of video; and
   a control unit repeatedly outputting the part of the video temporarily stored in the storage unit if the detected parental level is higher than a level set by a user.

8. The A/V parental lock apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the parental level is included and transmitted in a video line of a broadcast signal.

9. The A/V parental lock apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the control unit repeatedly outputs a still image or a moving image temporarily stored in the storing unit.

10. The A/V parental lock apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising a mute detection unit detecting a mute period of an audio signal, wherein the storage unit temporarily stores a part of the audio signal, and the control unit repeatedly outputs the part of the audio signal temporarily stored in the storage unit together with the part of the video if the detected parental level is higher than the level set by the user.

11. The A/V parental lock apparatus according to claim 10,
wherein the control unit temporarily stores, in the storage unit, a currently output video frame and audio between two audio mute periods finally detected, if the detected parental level is lower than the level set by the user.

12. The A/V parental lock apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the control unit outputs currently received video and audio, if a parental level lower than the level set by the user is detected while the part of the video is repeatedly output.

13. The A/V parental lock apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the apparatus is installed in a set top box or a TV which receives broadcast signals.
ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Provided are an apparatus and method for restricting A/V listening and viewing using parental levels. According to an embodiment of the present invention, a parental level detected from a video signal is compared with a level set by a user, and previously buffered video and audio are repeatedly output if the detected parental level is higher than the level set by the user. The parental level is included and transmitted in a video line of a broadcast signal. Also, the repeatedly output video is a still image or a moving image, and the repeatedly output audio is audio between two audio mute periods finally detected. Accordingly, there is no case when a user waits for nothing while viewing a black screen in a mute state, while a parental lock operation is performed.
FIG. 1

A/V Signal Processor

Parental Level Detecting Unit

Micro-processor

Memory

User_Key

User_Set_Parental_Level

Audio & Video

FIG. 2

ByteSync

Clock Sync

Data 1

Data 2

Sub-carrier

10.5 +/- 0.25 usec

12.91 usec

5.958 usec

31.778 usec

63.556 usec
### FIG. 3

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**Advisory Level**
FIG. 4

A/V Signal

Parental Level = Adult

Parental Level = Not Adult

Video Black

Audio Mute
FIG. 5

Data Stream

A/V Signal Processor

A/V Buffer Memory

Parental Level Detecting Unit

Audio Mute Detecting Unit

Audio & Video

Microprocessor

Memory

User_Key

User_Set_Parental_Level
FIG. 6

A/V Signal
(t)

Parental Level = Adult

Parental Level = Not Adult

(t-1)
Still-Picture Repeat

(t-n) ~ (t-1)
Buffered Audio Repeat
FIG. 7

Start

S10 parental lock function set?

Yes

S11 receive and output broadcast signals

S12 capture and buffer video frame of video signals of received broadcast signals

S13 buffer audio signals between detected mute periods

S14 detect parental level from video lines of received broadcast signals

S15 detected parental level is higher than user setting parental level?

Yes

S16 repeatedly output previously buffered video signals and audio signals

S17 termination requested?

No

S18 termination requested?

Yes

S19 receive and output broadcast signals

End
### PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD

Substitute for Form PTO-675

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### APPLICATION AS FILED - PART I

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*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" in this space is less than 3, enter "3".

The highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.16. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.