US007742949B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Evangelist et al.

(10) **Patent No.: US 7,742,949 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent: Jun. 22, 2010**

(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROCESSING MEDIA REQUESTS**

(75) Inventors: **Shane N. Evangelist**, Irving, TX (US); **Joseph W. Craft, IV**, Frisco, TX (US); **Leslie D. Crook**, Dallas, TX (US); **John D. Taylor**, Plano, TX (US); **John F. Butler**, Plano, TX (US)

(73) Assignee: **Blockbuster Inc.**, Dallas, TX (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 1318 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/172,731**

(22) Filed: **Jun. 30, 2005**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2007/0005438 A1 Jan. 4, 2007

(51) **Int. Cl.**
G06Q 30/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **705/26**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 705/26, 705/27, 37

See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

6,415,261	B1	7/2002	Cybul et al.	705/14
6,584,450	B1	6/2003	Hastings et al.	705/26
6,655,580	B1	12/2003	Ergo et al.	235/375
6,868,403	B1	3/2005	Wiser et al.	705/51
7,546,252	B2	6/2009	Hastings et al.	
2005/0060210	A1 *	3/2005	Levi et al.	705/5
2005/0091164	A1 *	4/2005	Varble	705/52
2007/0050266	A1 *	3/2007	Barber et al.	705/26
2008/0249843	A1 *	10/2008	Gross	705/10

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Business Release, "Blockbuster Launches New Online DVD Rental Service," 4 pgs., Aug. 11, 2004.

Robert Barker,"Can Netflix Keep Spinning Gold?," BusinessWeek 112, No. 3829, English (Copyright 2003 McGraw-Hill, Inc.), 2 pgs., Apr. 21, 2003.

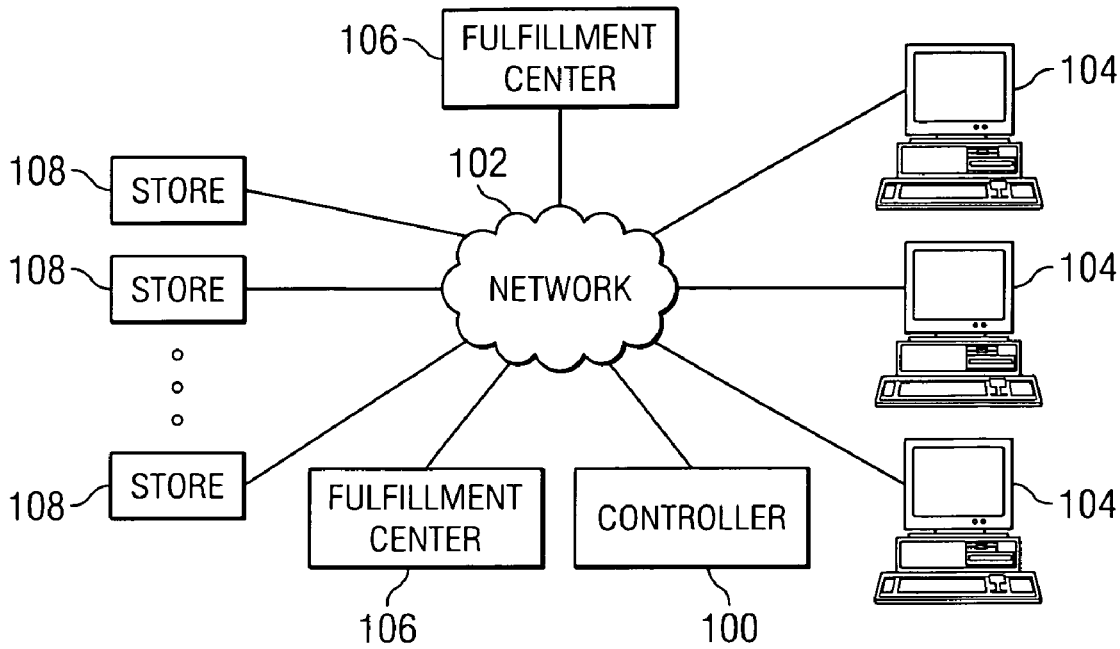
D.C. Wynn, P.M. Williams, M.G. Simons, N.F. Wilkins, A. Macrow, N.A. Dufty, A. Eng, M.J. Doherty, and D.M. Groves, "System and Method for Provisioning Audiovisual Works," U.S. Appl. No. 10/842,147, 37 pgs., May 10, 2004.

USPTO Office Action, U.S. Appl. No. 11/133,874, filed May 19, 2005, 10 pages, Sep. 15, 2009.

* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner—Mila Airapetian
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Baker Botts L.L.P.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system and method for processing media requests includes receiving a media request associated with a subscriber account. The availability of a slot associated with the subscriber account is determined. The slot includes at least one in-store slot and at least one on-line slot.

56 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets