

It is appreciated of course this example was given for explanation purposes only and that a server may determine a broadcast schedule in other ways in response to ratings received from the clients.

In one embodiment, the data files to broadcast and/or the broadcast schedule are determined dynamically by the server in response to the ratings received from the client(s) in accordance with teachings of the present invention. Therefore, in one embodiment, broadcast schedules can change over time depending on which data files are available from the server and which content or data files are accessed and/or classified by the clients.

Once the data files to be broadcast and the broadcast schedule are determined by the server, process block 1321 shows that the server then broadcasts the data file broadcast schedule to the clients. Process block 1323 shows that the client then receives the data file broadcast schedule from the server.

In one embodiment, the clients wake-up at the pre-specified time indicated in the data file broadcast schedule to receive the data files from the server. Process block 1325 shows that the data files are then actually broadcast from the server to the clients at the time specified in the data file broadcast schedule.

In one embodiment, process block 1327 shows that the client receives the broadcast of the data files from the server. In one embodiment, process block 1329 shows that the client selectively stores data files according to the content rating table. In another embodiment, the client selectively wakes up to selectively receive data files broadcast from the server according to the content rating table. In this embodiment, the client then stores the data files that were selectively received by the client according to the content rating table. In one embodiment, process block 1331 shows that the client then updates the meta-data table and content rating table if there are any user accesses of the stored data files.

It is appreciated that the client system in the embodiment described in FIG. 13 is similar to the client systems described in previous embodiments with the exception of the client system sending ratings back to the server. It is appreciated that alternate embodiments of the client system may be utilized in accordance with the teachings of the present invention. In one embodiment, the client system does not include the client-side filtering of the data files that are broadcast from the server. However, the client system does receive the meta-data broadcasts from the server, rate the data files and send the ratings back to the server in accordance with teachings of present invention.

In the foregoing detailed description, the method and apparatus of the present invention have been described with reference to specific exemplary embodiments thereof. It will, however, be evident that various modifications and changes may be made thereto without departing from the broader spirit and scope of the present invention. The present specification and figures are accordingly to be regarded as illustrative rather than restrictive.

I claim:

1. An apparatus comprising:

a communication interface for receiving meta-data which includes information about when a future content will be broadcast; and

a processor, coupled to the communication interface, which is operable to update a content rating table and a meta-data table, including a relevance value and a believability factor, and wake-up when the future content is broadcast.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprises a storage area to store the future content according to the content rating table.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the processor is operable to replace the future content with another content according to the content rating table.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the processor to update the believability factor when the future content is accessed.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the communication interface to transmit the updated content rating table to another machine to cause the other machine to broadcast a new future content according to the transmitted updated content rating table.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the content rating table comprises a list of data files that is currently stored in the storage area.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the information in the meta-data includes descriptions of a plurality of data files.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the plurality of data files comprises at least one or more of: video, audio, image, and text.

9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the communication interface comprises at least one of: an interface to a wide area network (WAN), interface to a local area network (LAN), and a wireless interface.

10. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprises a display unit to display the future content.

11. A method comprising:

receiving, via a communication interface, meta-data which includes information about when a future content will be broadcast including a content rating table;

updating a meta-data table, including a relevance value and a believability factor; and

waking up a processor when the future content is broadcast.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprises updating the believability factor when the future content is accessed.

13. The method of claim 11 further comprises transmitting an updated content rating table to another machine to cause the other machine to broadcast a new future content according to the transmitted updated content rating table.

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