

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DELIVERY OF PC CONTENT THROUGH A SERVER BASED RELAY SYSTEM USING REALLY SIMPLE SYNDICATION**

## REFERENCE TO PRIORITY APPLICATION

[0001] This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) to U.S. Provisional Application Ser. No. 60/701,663, filed Jul. 20, 2005, entitled "System And Method For Delivery of PC Content To Mobile Devices Through A Server Based Relay System," incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

## FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates to the field of data communications and more particularly relates to a system and method for delivering PC based content through a relay system using Really Simple Syndication (RSS) protocol.

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] In recent years the number of computers in use is increasing at an ever quickening pace. Along with the huge increase in the number of computers in use around the world, is a parallel increase in the number of computers connected to the Internet. Further, the world is witnessing an explosion of wireless devices that have the capability of connecting to the Internet as well. Such wireless devices include, for example, laptop computers, notebooks, palmtops, PDAs, cellular telephones with email and web browsing capabilities and other mobile wireless devices.

[0004] Often times, a user would need to transfer content between a personal computer (PC) (e.g., desktop or laptop) and a mobile device or other computer. Traditionally, the transfer of content between personal computers and mobile devices is typically carried out using (1) direct cables that physically connect both devices, (2) Bluetooth, WiMedia, UWB or some other short distance wireless access method or (3) removable media (e.g., digital flash memory based media cards, etc.).

[0005] In the case of direct cable and Bluetooth connections, the storage capacity on the receiving device (i.e. cellular phone, mobile device, laptop, desktop, etc.) must be sufficiently large enough to hold the PC content being transferred (e.g., video files, audio files, etc.). The problem is that the majority of the cellular phones and other mobile devices available today do not contain sufficient storage to hold the large sized files video, picture or audio files typically transferred. Further most cellular telephones and other types of mobile device do not have slots for flash memory media storage cards.

[0006] Moreover, very few services existing today provide a user the ability to stream media from their own personal computers. Rather, the majority of currently existing services supply the content that the end-user views on their device but they do not provide a delivery mechanism for this content.

[0007] There is thus a need for a mechanism that overcomes the disadvantages of the prior art. In particular, there is a need for a mechanism that is able to deliver PC content from one computing device to another without the need for direct physical connections between the two computing devices. Further, the mechanism should be able to stream

contents from a user's PC without requiring the availability of large flash media cards on the receiving computing device.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0008] The present invention is a system and method for delivering personal computer (PC) based content through a server based relay system using really simple syndication (RSS). The mechanism of the present invention is operative to stream any type of PC content such as directories, files such as pictures (JPG, BMP, etc.), video (MPG, AVI, etc.) and audio (MP3, MPC, WMA, etc.) and application data (email from Microsoft Outlook, etc.).

[0009] The mechanism comprises a multimedia server (MMS) that resides on the user's source computer (i.e. the computer with the content to be accessed; the "server") and a multimedia client (MMC) that resides on the destination or target computing device (the "client"). It is important to note that it is not required that the MMC be implemented as a separate application. This is because the MMS is operative to generate RSS content that can be formatted into HTML. Thus, the "client" can simply be an ordinary web browser. The destination or target computing device can comprise any type of processing device such as a desktop PC, laptop PC, notebook, palmtop, PDA, cellular telephone with web access, etc., and is not critical to the invention.

[0010] The mechanism of the present invention provides a user with complete access to the content on their PC (e.g., audio, video, files, application data, etc.) through the MMS content server that resides on their source PC. The multimedia server converts (i.e. translates or renders) files and resources to be delivered as an RSS document which can be further "stylized" through HTML style sheets (like XSTL) and delivered to anything capable of consuming web pages, such as for example, an ordinary Internet browser like Microsoft Internet Explorer or a specialized reader. An illustrative example of the application of the mechanism of the invention to a music player is provided infra.

[0011] The mechanism of the invention is also operative to render (i.e. generate) the RSS documents from the various PC items selected by a user to be made available to the MMC device. In the event the desired PC items include application data (e.g., emails within an email application, or other application specific items), the invention provides a mechanism for representing application data as RSS documents. Further, the invention provides a mechanism for the delivery of RSS documents to the multimedia client and for permitting the user at the client device to interact with the RSS document displayed as a web page through clicking on "elements" of the RSS document that are represented on the web page as links and operate as ordinary HTML. Clicking on a link is processed by the MMS (which includes an integrated web server capable of processing such requests) and may point to a local file (in which case the link is a Universal Resource Indicator (URI) to the file on the local hard drive where the MMS is located) or an external resource (i.e. a file on a network drive or located elsewhere on the Internet).

[0012] The invention also comprises a relay mechanism whereby the location of the MMS on the Internet does not need to be known by the MMC. MMSs register their locations with a third party authentication server located