

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR USING A  
PERSONAL DIGITAL ASSISTANT AS AN  
ELECTRONIC PROGRAM GUIDE**

**RELATED APPLICATIONS**

[0001] This application is related to the following commonly owned provisional and utility applications, which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety:

[0002] application Ser. No. 60/\_\_\_\_\_, entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DIGITAL TV NAVIGATOR AND EPG", attorney docket no. 4665/4PROV, said application filed on Dec. 13, 2001;

[0003] application Ser. No. 09/\_\_\_\_\_, entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING ACCESS TO EPG FEATURES FROM WITHIN BROADCAST ADVERTISEMENTS", attorney docket no. 4665/5, said application filed on Dec. 17, 2001;

[0004] application Ser. No. 09/\_\_\_\_\_, entitled "METADATA STRUCTURE FOR PROVIDING ACCESS TO EPG FEATURES FROM WITHIN BROADCAST ADVERTISEMENTS", attorney docket no. 4665/6, said application filed on Dec. 17, 2001;

[0005] application Ser. No. 09/\_\_\_\_\_, entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DISPLAYING EDITORIAL CONTENT THROUGH TELEVISION NAVIGATION CONTROLS AND ELECTRONIC PROGRAM GUIDES", attorney docket no. 4665/7, said application filed on Dec. 17, 2001; and

[0006] application Ser. No. 09/\_\_\_\_\_, entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR AUTOMATICALLY FLAGGING A CHANNEL AS A FAVORITE CHANNEL", attorney docket no. 4665/8, said application filed on Dec. 17, 2001.

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**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

[0008] The invention disclosed herein relates generally to electronic program guides. More particularly, the present invention relates to using a handheld device, such as a PDA, as a platform for an electronic or interactive program guide, and for using the information to remotely control a television, set top terminal, video recorder or other audio/video peripheral.

[0009] Electronic or interactive program guides ("EPG" or "IPG") are widely used to browse television listings presented on a display device. Program guides also provide functionality to select programming, set reminders, or select programs for current or future recording. Typically, elec-

tronic program guide software is stored on and executed by a set top terminal device, which is connected to both a display device and a distribution network, e.g., cable or satellite programming distribution system. Using the software, the set top terminal accesses program guide data distributed over the network, which is presented to the viewer on the television or other display device.

[0010] Over the past several years, a new class of mobile computing device has emerged, typically referred to as a personal digital assistant or PDA. One of the hallmarks of the PDA is its small form factor, typically capable of being held in the palm of one hand and interacted with by means of a stylus or other type of non-keyboard input device. A PDA may also utilize a virtual keyboard or reduced size physical keyboard in order to receive input. One of the main functions of a PDA is executing personal information management (PIM) software, which includes calendars, appointment schedulers, phonebooks, and to-do lists. A modem PDA is also capable of running applications such as word processors, spreadsheets, and databases. These devices may further be provided with one or more types of network connections for communicating with personal computers, paging services, web server, or other wired and wireless communication services.

[0011] With advances in wireless and handheld technology, portable computing devices and PDAs are capable of remotely connecting to personal computers, data servers, and other types of networked data and software services. Through connections to these servers and services, portable and handheld computing devices are now able to retrieve large databases for local storage and access. These databases may be used to store television program listings in a readily accessible format, such as HTML or XML pages.

[0012] There is thus a need for a system and method where a handheld computing device is used as a platform for an electronic or interactive program guide for accessing television program listings. There is a further need for a system and method where the handheld computing device uses the electronic or interactive program guide to program or remotely control a television, set top terminal, video recorder or other audio/video peripheral.

**BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

[0013] The instant invention comprises a system and method for using a personal digital assistant to browse and select program listings. The method of the present invention comprises browsing one or more program listings to select a given program listing. The program listings are presented on the personal digital assistant through the use of a local electronic program guide. Where a program corresponding to the given program listing is not being aired when selected, the given program is marked for a reminder in the local electronic program guide. The reminder in the local electronic program guide is synchronized with a remote electronic program guide running on a remote device.

[0014] The method of the present invention comprises tuning the program on a display device connected to a distribution network where the program corresponding to the given program listing is being aired when selected. The invention also contemplates marking the given program listing in the local electronic program guide with a video record mark, the mark indicating that the program associated