[0031] With reference now to **FIG. 2** of the Drawings, there is illustrated a content distribution system (generally designated by the reference numeral **200**) according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention. As shown in **FIG. 2**, content is provided from a number of content providers **210** to the ISPs, LANs and/or WANs (collectively designated by the reference numeral **220**) through the Internet **230**, as also shown in connection with **FIG. 1**. However, in this embodiment, the content being provided is intercepted at an intercept point (generally designated by the reference numeral **250**), compressed, edited and cached therein. Although the intercept point **250** is shown separate and distinct from the source content providers **210** and designation nodes **220**, it should, of course, be understood that the intercept point **250** may also be conterminous with either the nodes **210** or the nodes **220** and may be located anywhere along the content travel path **235**. By virtue of compressing, editing and caching frequently downloaded content in the manner of the present invention, Internet users **240** experience a significant increase in bandwidth and faster connections. The service providers **220** witness reduction in incoming network traffic due to the caching nature of the interception point or content distribution system **250**, thus resulting in large bandwidth savings.

[0032] **FIG. 3** illustrates a preferred embodiment of the present invention and preferred interoperation of the network elements (generally designated collectively by the reference numeral **300**) in a typical sequence of events. It should, however, be understood that numerous scenarios can occur using the same network element configuration and/or variations of the order of events without departing from the principles of the present invention. In particular, a user **340** first initiates a request, e.g., a Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) request, with a browser **342** by requesting a web page or a Uniform Resource Locator (URL). The request may be routed directly to a distribution server **322** in an ISP **320** or to an ISP server **324** therein and then to the distribution server **322**, using a client application **344** in the user/requester PC **340** or browser **342**. The client application **344**, before sending the request, tries to fill the request from the local cache in the user PC or client terminal **340** before using the network. The client application **344** preferably checks the header information of the compressed content in its cache to determine whether the content needs updating before being used. However, if the content requested is not in the client's terminal cache or has expired (needs updating), the request is sent to the distribution server **322** of the ISP **320**. The distribution server **322** tries to fill the request from the cache manager, and if the content is present and current, the compressed or uncompressed content is provided to the user; otherwise, the distribution server **322** tries to get the content from a control server **350**. The control server **350** also checks for the requested content in the cache, and if the content is available and current, it is served to the user through the distribution server **322**.

[0033] The control server **350** maintains a list or index **352** of recently used URLs and header information of the URLs in order to keep the content up-to-date before being served to the user. When the content is served to the user through the distribution server **322**, it is compressed and cached in the distribution server **322**. Thus, if requested again, will be accessed from the distribution server **322**. If the content is not available in a cache manager **354** accessible by the control server **350**, it is filled from the Internet **330**.

[0034] The control server **350** receives, compresses, and indexes the requested content, so that the content is available the next time it is requested. Alternatively, if the content is not available in the control server **350**, the distribution server **322** makes a request to receive the content from the Internet **330**. Upon receiving the original content, the distribution server serves the content to the user "as is", then compresses and stores the content in the cache so it is available the next time it is requested. The content received from the Internet **330** can optionally be received from another distribution server **312** acting as a proxy for a group of web servers **314**. In this instance, the content provided by the second distribution server **312** acting as a web server **314** is served compressed, hence, content will be provided compressed to the user the first time it is requested. Similarly, as mentioned above, if the content is not available in the web server **314**, it is provided from the Internet **330** using the original format of the content to the user **340**. As will be explained and made clear hereinafter, content may be served edited and compressed the first time requested even if the content is not available in a local cache, in this case, the distribution server compresses and edits the content in realtime.

[0035] **FIG. 4** illustrates an overview diagram of the components of the OCD system **400** with Editor according to one embodiment of the invention. In this representation the components of the Distribution/Control Servers are shown separately. However, as is known by those who are skilled in the art, many of these components can be combined in such a way that they can be deployed on far fewer servers. OCDS includes a Proxy Server **408** that is connected to the Internet. The Proxy Server **408** is able to intercept requests from certain Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) Clients **402**, such interception made possible because of the Proxy's logical location between the HTTP Clients **402** and the Internet Content Server **406** serving the requested content. Additionally, the Proxy Server is connected to the Redirector **416**, which in turn is connected to the n-Depth Compressor **424** and to the Editor **422**. The Editor **422** is connected to the Compressor (the Compression Server) **418** with which it shares a read write directory **420**.

[0036] The requester, shown as the HTTP Client **402**, makes a request **404** for information from the Internet Content Server **406**. The Proxy Server **408** intercepts the request and forwards the request to the Redirector **416**. The Redirector **416** checks to see if an edited compressed version of the content is available locally. If an edited and compressed version of the content is available locally then the URL is returned to the Proxy Server **408**. The Proxy Server **408** then fetches the URL from the Web Servers Cache **414** and sends the edited and compressed content to the requester where it is viewed with a browser having a Plugin **430**. However, if the edited and compressed URL exists in the Proxy's Cache **410** the fetch routine is bypassed and the edited and compressed content is returned to the requester **402**.

[0037] In the event that the requested content is not locally available, the Redirector **416** notifies the Proxy Server **408** to obtain the URL from the source, notifies the Editor **422** that a page needs editing and notifies the n-Depth Compressor **424** to perform n-Depth Compression. The Proxy Server **408** fetches the URL from the Internet Content Server **406** on the Internet and returns the original unedited page to the Requestor **402**. The Editor **422** checks the page's HTML