BILLING IN VIDEO DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

- Data stored locally (e.g., at set-top box)
- On nonelectronic medium (e.g., paper tape or meter)
- Data stored at intermediate point (i.e., at location between headend or server and receiver)
- Payment method or scheme
  - Card reader (e.g., reader for credit, debit, or smart card)
  - Coin operated
- Having variable cost or free preview period

USE SURVEYING OR MONITORING (E.G., PROGRAM OR CHANNEL WATCHED)

- Monitoring physical reaction or presence of viewer
  - With entry of user identification
  - By passive determination and measurement (e.g., by detecting motion or ambient temperature, or by use of video camera)
- Manual entry (e.g., using keypad or by written response)
- By passively monitoring receiver operation
  - By detecting local oscillator or IF signal
  - By polling
  - By monitoring sync or blanking pulse
- By use of audio signal
- By use of pattern recognition or signature
- By data encoded in video signal (e.g., VBI data)
- Combined with detecting VCR operation

COMMERCIAL OR PROGRAM AIRING VERIFICATION SYSTEM

SYSTEM FOR AWARDING COUPON, TOKEN, OR CREDIT

INTERACTIVE OPINION POLLING

ACCESS CONTROL OR BLOCKING

- By mechanical lock
- Of specific channel

OPERATOR INTERFACE

- To facilitate tuning or selection of video signal
  - Electronic program guide
    - For displaying additional information
      - Video still or clip
      - Commercial or advertisement
      - With separate window, panel, or screen
      - Content arrangement
    - Based on genre, theme, or category
    - Based on personal preference, profile, or viewing history (e.g., to produce redacted listing)
    - User customization of display content
    - Combined from plural information providers (e.g., combined terrestrial and satellite sources)
    - Combined at local receiver
    - Information updating
    - Having link to external information resource (e.g., online resource)
    - Navigational feature
    - Searching (e.g., by title or actor’s name)
    - Transmission scheme
    - Provided on recordable medium
    - Channel guide (i.e., channel-specific as opposed to program-specific guide)
Tune-by-label (i.e., channel selection by alphanumeric character entry)
Program reserve or reminder system
Selecting from multiple inputs or sources
Interactive product selection
Interactive program selection
CELLULAR VIDEO DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
SATELLITE VIDEO DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
Two-way
Terrestrial return path
Transmitter
Receiver
Polarization of signal
For digital signal
For providing signals to plural subsequent receivers
Antenna initialization, calibration, or aiming
TERRESTRIAL MICROWAVE VIDEO DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
LOCAL VIDEO DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
Vehicle
Airplane
Seat-back terminal
Multiunit or multiroom structure (e.g., home, hospital, hotel, office building, school, etc.)
Using existing power network
Coordinating diverse devices
Using wireless link
Local server or headend
Having additional amenity (e.g., access to outside network, room service, etc.)
Combined with call bell system for hospital use
Receiver
USER-REQUESTED VIDEO PROGRAM SYSTEM
Video-on-demand
VCR-like function
By use of memory at receiver
With particular transmission scheme (e.g., transmitting I-frames only)
Server or headend
Mass storage
Control process
Buffering and switching
Channel or bandwidth allocation
In accordance with server or network congestion
Scheduling (e.g., grouping users together)
Transmission network
Using telephone network
Receiver (e.g., set-top box)
Near video-on-demand system (i.e., providing plural, time-staggered versions of same program)
VCR-like function
Server or headend
Pay-per-view
VIDEO DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WITH UPSTREAM COMMUNICATION
Telephony via television distribution network
Remote testing of cable system
Alarm system using television network
Having link to external network (e.g., interconnected computer network)
Connection to external network at receiver (e.g., set-top box)
Cable modem
Link transmission (e.g., URL sent to user)
Conveyed in video image
Server or headend
Data storage or retrieval
Control process
Communications interface
Transmission network
Having significant intermediate network unit (e.g., hub, substation, etc.)
With two-way connection from unit to receiver (e.g., for the purpose of channel selection)
Return path
Return path via telephone network
Wireless return path
Noise in return path
Ingress noise
. Detail of use of two-way spectrum
. Network component (e.g., filter, tap, splitter, amplifier, repeater, etc.)
. Diplex filter
. Hybrid fiber-coax network
. Power signal over network
. Receiver (e.g., set-top box)
. Programmable or upgradeable
. With diverse device (e.g., personal computer, game player, VCR, etc.)
. Having particular storage feature

**VIDEO DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WITH LOCAL INTERACTION**

. Interactive data transmitted in video signal band (e.g., VBI or HBI data)
. Teletext
. Headend
. Receiver (e.g., set-top box)
. Programmable or upgradeable
. With diverse device (e.g., personal computer, game player, VCR, etc.)
. Having particular storage feature

**VIDEO DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM COMPONENTS**

. Headend
. Data storage or retrieval
. Control process
. Communications interface
. Transmission network
. Network component (e.g., filter, tap, splitter, amplifier, repeater, etc.)
. Power signal over network
. Receiver (e.g., set-top box)
. Programmable or upgradeable
. With diverse device (e.g., personal computer, game player, VCR, etc.)