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Selecting Content using Second Screen Devices

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SELECTING CONTENT USING SECOND SCREEN DEVICES

ABSTRACT

Disclosed herein is an improved mechanism for selecting content using second screen devices. The system can pair a second screen mobile device with a media presentation device, where the system can begin presenting a first media content item on the media presentation device using a first media content service. The system can then present, on the second screen mobile device, a user interface that indicates a group of available media content services and corresponding available media content items. The system can receive, at the second screen mobile device, a selection of a second media content item associated with a second media content service. In response to receiving the selection of the second media content item associated with the second media content service, the system can cause the media presentation device to switch to presenting the selected second media content item using the second media content service.

BACKGROUND

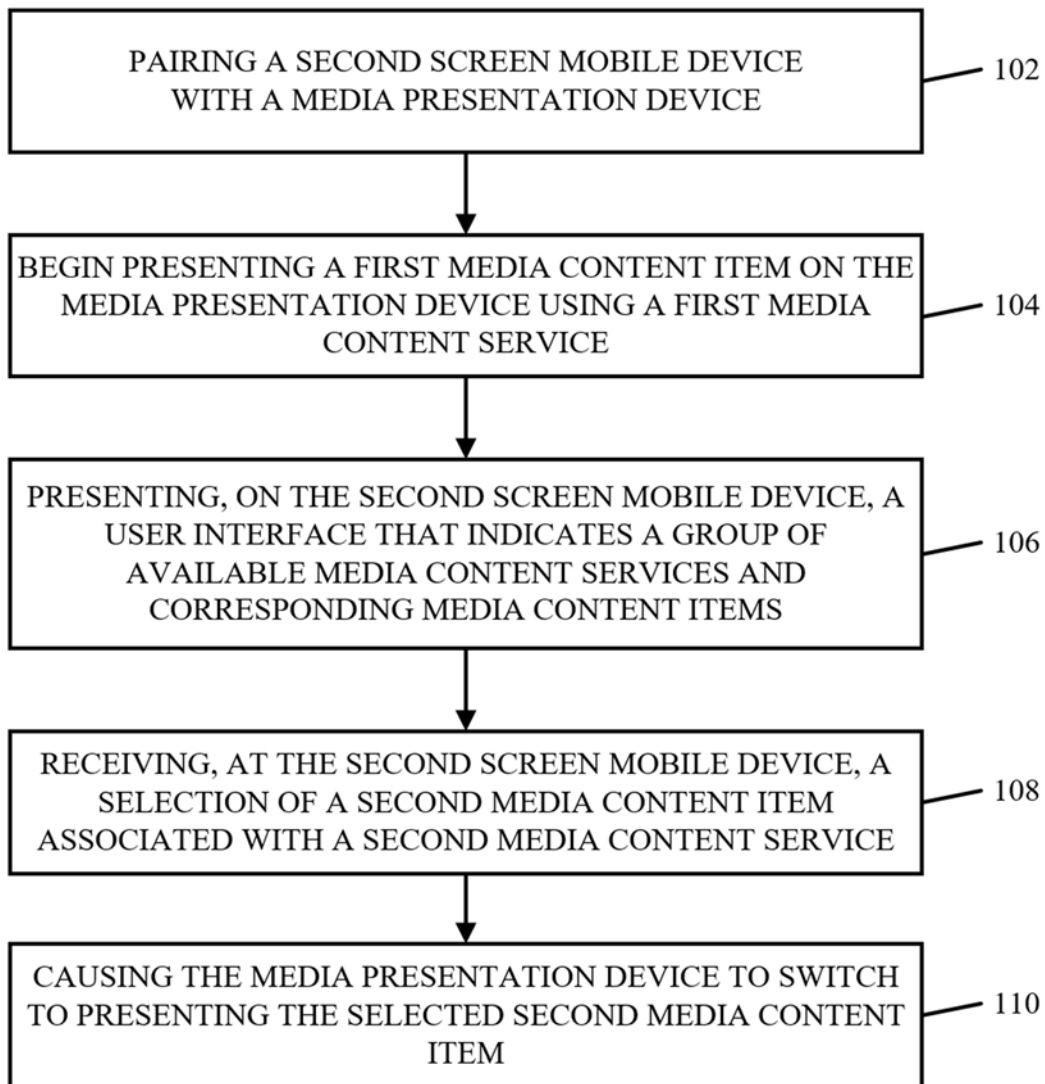
Users frequently watch video content (e.g., television shows, movies, etc.) on smart televisions or using streaming media devices that allow users access to multiple content streaming services. For example, a user may want to first watch an episode of a television show provided by a first content streaming service, and subsequently switch to an episode of a different television show that is provided by a different content streaming service. However, it can be difficult for a user to browse through available content while viewing content, particularly when browsing content that is provided by multiple content streaming services.

Thus, there is a need for an improved method for selecting content using second screen devices.

DESCRIPTION

The systems and techniques described in this disclosure relate to selecting content using second screen devices. The system can be implemented using any suitable devices or combination of devices, such as a mobile device (e.g., a mobile phone, a tablet computer, a wearable computer, a laptop computer, etc.), a smart television, a streaming media device connected to a display device, and/or a server.

FIG. 1 is an illustrative example of a method for selecting content using second screen devices. This method can be implemented on a server, such as a server that manages uploaded media content items and provides media content items to user devices.

**FIG. 1**

At 102, the system can pair a second screen mobile device with a media presentation device. The second screen mobile device can be any suitable type of mobile device, such as a mobile phone, a tablet computer, a laptop computer, a wearable computer, and/or any other suitable type of mobile device. The media presentation device can be any suitable type of media presentation device, such as a smart television executing particular media content presentation application, a streaming media device connected to a television or other display device (e.g., via

an HDMI connection, via a USB connection, and/or connected in any suitable manner), and/or any other suitable type of media presentation device.

In some instances, the second screen mobile device and the media presentation device can be paired in any suitable manner. For example, in some instances, the second screen mobile device can discover the media presentation device using any suitable discovery protocol(s) and can initiate pairing with the discovered media presentation device. As a more particular example, in some instances, the second screen mobile device can discover and initiate pairing with the media presentation device by detecting that the second screen mobile device and the media presentation device are both connected to a particular network, such as a local area network or a Wi-Fi network of a user's home. Note that pairing the second screen mobile device and the media presentation device can cause a communication channel to be established between the second screen mobile device and the media presentation device.

Note that, in some instances, the second screen mobile device and the media presentation device can each execute an instance of an application for selecting and presenting media content from different media content streaming services. In some instances, a user account associated with a user of the second screen mobile device and the media presentation device can be authenticated on each of the second screen mobile device and the media presentation device.

At 104, the system can begin presenting a first media content item on the media presentation device using a first media content service. For example, in some instances, the media presentation device can begin presenting a first video content item associated with a first media content streaming service by launching a first application associated with the first media content streaming service. Note that, in some instances, the first media content item can be

selected in any suitable manner, such as via a user interface presented on the second screen mobile device.

At 106, the system can present, on the second screen mobile device, a user interface that indicates a group of available media content services and corresponding media content items.

An example of a user interface for displaying available media content is shown in FIG. 2.



FIG. 2

As shown in FIG. 2, the user interface can include any suitable information. For example, in some instances, the user interface can indicate a group of available media content services that can include the first media content service associated with the first media content

item currently being presented. As a more particular example, in some instances, the user interface can indicate available media content items associated with each media content service included in the group of available media content services. As a specific example, in some instances, the user interface can indicate that a first group of media content items is available using the first media content service, and a second group of media content items is available using a second media content service. Note that, in some instances, indications of available media content items can be ranked in any suitable manner and/or presented in any suitable order. For example, in some instances, available media content items can be ranked and/or presented in an order based on likely interest of the viewer. As another example, in some instances, available media content items can be ranked and/or presented in an order based on media content previously viewed by the viewer (e.g., a next episode in a television series that has been previously viewed by the user can be presented more prominently than a first episode of a television series that has not yet been viewed by the user).

Note that the second screen mobile device can receive information indicating available media content in any suitable manner. For example, in some instances, the second screen mobile device can transmit a query to a server that requests available media content. Note that, in some such instances, the server can be a server that is associated with a media content browsing and viewing application that executes on the second screen mobile device and the media presentation device. Continuing with this example, in some instances, the second screen mobile device can present information indicating available media content services and available media content items in response to receiving a response to the query from the server.

As another example, in some instances, the second screen mobile device can transmit a query to the media presentation device that requests content available to the media presentation

device. As a more particular example, in some instances, the media presentation device can transmit indications of media content streaming services that are currently authenticated to a user account associated with the media presentation device. Continuing with this example, in some instances, the second screen mobile device can present information indicating available media content services and available media content items in response to receiving a response to the query from the media presentation device.

As yet another example, in some instances, the second screen mobile device can mirror content that is currently being presented on the media presentation device. Continuing with this example, in some instances, the second screen mobile device can then be used as a remote control to browse available media content and can continue mirroring content on the second screen mobile device.

Referring back to FIG. 1, at 108, the system can receive, at the second screen mobile device, a selection of a second media content item associated with a second media content service. In some instances, the selection of the second media content item can be received in any suitable manner, for example, via the user interface presented on the second screen mobile device (e.g., via a touchscreen, via a selection using a mouse, and/or in any other suitable manner).

At 110, the system can cause the media presentation device to switch to presenting the selected second media content item. In some instances, the system can cause the media presentation device to switch to presenting the second media content item in any suitable manner. For example, in some instances, an application for browsing and presenting media content executing on the second screen mobile device can transmit an indication to a corresponding instance of the application executing on the media presentation device that

indicates the selected media content item via the communication channel established between the second screen mobile device and the media presentation device during pairing. Continuing with this example, the media presentation device can then cause the application to switch to the second media content service and can begin presenting the selected second media content item via the second media content service.

Accordingly, mechanisms for selecting content using second screen devices are provided.