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Methods and systems for communication

Abstract

Communication techniques (e.g., IP-based communications, multicast communications, unicast communications, wireless communications, etc.) are described. Devices may establish discrete communication sessions, with defined start and end times determined at the network layer of an Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) model, to exchange content.

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Background/Summary

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION (1) This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/219,567, filed Dec. 13, 2018, the entire contents of which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND

(1) Existing Internet Protocol-based communications systems (e.g., Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP)) use protocols such as the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) to start and end communication sessions between devices. This allows devices to communicate across networks and enables various calling features, but requires computationally complex handshaking and troubleshooting.

SUMMARY

(2) It is to be understood that both the following general description and the following detailed

description are exemplary and explanatory only and are not restrictive. Methods and systems for communication (e.g., IP-based communications, multicast communications, unicast communications, wireless communications, etc.) are described. Devices may establish discrete communication sessions, with defined start and end times determined at the network layer (e.g., layer 3) of an OSI model, to exchange content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.). A user device may send content to one or more recipient devices on the same network subnet. Each of the recipient devices may be included in (e.g., associated with, etc.) the same multicast group. The user device may send a message to the multicast group indicating a start of an IP multicast communications session, and then send the content to the multicast group via IP multicast. Based on receiving the message indicating the start of the IP multicast communications session, the recipient devices process (e.g., decode, transcode, relay, store, render, etc.) content received from the user device until another message indicating an end of the IP multicast communications session. (3) This summary is not intended to identify critical or essential features of the disclosure, but merely to summarize certain features and variations thereof. Other details and features will be described in the sections that follow.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

(1) The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the methods and systems:

- (2) FIG. 1 shows a system for IP multicast communication;
- (3) FIG. 2 shows a system for IP multicast communication;
- (4) FIG. 3 shows a flowchart of a method for communication;
- (5) FIG. 4 shows a flowchart of a method for communication;
- (6) FIG. 5 shows a flowchart of a method for communication; and
- (7) FIG. 6 shows a block diagram of a computing device for implementing communications.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

(8) As used in the specification and the appended claims, the singular forms “a,” “an,” and “the” include plural referents unless the context clearly dictates otherwise. Ranges may be expressed herein as from “about” one particular value, and/or to “about” another particular value. When such a range is expressed, another configuration includes from the one particular value and/or to the other particular value. When values are expressed as approximations, by use of the antecedent “about,” it will be understood that the particular value forms another configuration. It will be further understood that the endpoints of each of the ranges are significant both in relation to the other endpoint, and independently of the other endpoint.

(9) “Optional” or “optionally” means that the subsequently described event or circumstance may or may not occur, and that the description includes cases where said event or circumstance occurs and cases where it does not.

(10) Throughout the description and claims of this specification, the word “comprise” and variations of the word, such as “comprising” and “comprises,” means “including but not limited to,” and is not intended to exclude other components, integers or steps. “Exemplary” means “an example of” and is not intended to convey an indication of a preferred or ideal configuration. “Such as” is not used in a restrictive sense, but for explanatory purposes.

(11) It is understood that when combinations, subsets, interactions, groups, etc. of components are described that, while specific reference of each various individual and collective combinations and permutations of these may not be explicitly described, each is specifically contemplated and described herein. This applies to all parts of this application including, but not limited to, steps in

described methods. Thus, if there are a variety of additional steps that may be performed it is understood that each of these additional steps may be performed with any specific configuration or combination of configurations of the described methods.

(12) As will be appreciated by one skilled in the art, hardware, software, or a combination of software and hardware may be implemented. Furthermore, a computer program product on a computer-readable storage medium (e.g., non-transitory) having processor-executable instructions (e.g., computer software) embodied in the storage medium. Any suitable computer-readable storage medium may be utilized including hard disks, CD-ROMs, optical storage devices, magnetic storage devices, memresistors, Non-Volatile Random Access Memory (NVRAM), flash memory, or a combination thereof.

(13) Throughout this application reference is made block diagrams and flowcharts. It will be understood that each block of the block diagrams and flowcharts, and combinations of blocks in the block diagrams and flowcharts, respectively, may be implemented by processor-executable instructions. These processor-executable instructions may be loaded onto a general purpose computer, special purpose computer, or other programmable data processing apparatus to produce a machine, such that the processor-executable instructions which execute on the computer or other programmable data processing apparatus create a device for implementing the functions specified in the flowchart block or blocks.

(14) These processor-executable instructions may also be stored in a computer-readable memory that may direct a computer or other programmable data processing apparatus to function in a particular manner, such that the processor-executable instructions stored in the computer-readable memory produce an article of manufacture including processor-executable instructions for implementing the function specified in the flowchart block or blocks. The processor-executable instructions may also be loaded onto a computer or other programmable data processing apparatus to cause a series of operational steps to be performed on the computer or other programmable apparatus to produce a computer-implemented process such that the processor-executable instructions that execute on the computer or other programmable apparatus provide steps for implementing the functions specified in the flowchart block or blocks.

(15) Accordingly, blocks of the block diagrams and flowcharts support combinations of devices for performing the specified functions, combinations of steps for performing the specified functions and program instruction means for performing the specified functions. It will also be understood that each block of the block diagrams and flowcharts, and combinations of blocks in the block diagrams and flowcharts, may be implemented by special purpose hardware-based computer systems that perform the specified functions or steps, or combinations of special purpose hardware and computer instructions.

(16) “Content items,” as the phrase is used herein, may also be referred to as “content,” “content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.),” “content information,” “content asset,” “multimedia asset data file,” or simply “data” or “information”. Content items may be any information or data that may be licensed to one or more individuals (or other entities, such as business or group). Content may be electronic representations of video, audio, text and/or graphics, which may be but is not limited to electronic representations of videos, movies, or other multimedia, which may be but is not limited to data files adhering to MPEG2, MPEG, MPEG4 UHD, HDR, 4k, Adobe® Flash® Video (.FLV) format or some other video file format whether such format is presently known or developed in the future. The content items described herein may be electronic representations of music, spoken words, or other audio, which may be but is not limited to data files adhering to the MPEG-1 Audio Layer 3 (.MP3) format, Adobe®, CableLabs 1.0, 1.1, 3.0, AVC, HEVC, H.264, Nielsen watermarks, V-chip data and Secondary Audio Programs (SAP). Sound Document (.ASND) format or some other format configured to store electronic audio whether such format is presently known or developed in the future. In some cases, content may be data files adhering to the following formats: Portable Document Format (.PDF), Electronic

Publication (.EPUB) format created by the International Digital Publishing Forum (IDPF), JPEG (.JPG) format, Portable Network Graphics (.PNG) format, dynamic ad insertion data (.csv), Adobe® Photoshop® (.PSD) format or some other format for electronically storing text, graphics and/or other information whether such format is presently known or developed in the future. Content items may be any combination of the above-described formats.

(17) “Consuming content” or the “consumption of content,” as those phrases are used herein, may also be referred to as “accessing” content, “providing” content, “viewing” content, “listening” to content, “rendering” content, or “playing” content, among other things. In some cases, the particular term utilized may be dependent on the context in which it is used. Consuming video may also be referred to as viewing or playing the video. Consuming audio may also be referred to as listening to or playing the audio.

(18) This detailed description may refer to a given entity performing some action. It should be understood that this language may in some cases mean that a system (e.g., a computer) owned and/or controlled by the given entity is actually performing the action.

(19) Methods and systems for communication (e.g., IP-based communications, multicast communications, unicast communications, wireless communications, etc.) are described herein. A discrete session (having a start/end time), such as a discrete session in (associated with) an IP multicast communication, may use packets indicating a start and an end of an IP multicast session. This technique may be implemented at the network (e.g., IP) layer of the Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) model (vs the application layer), with session control using IP multicasting at the IP layer. Devices may establish discrete communication sessions (e.g., IP-based communication sessions, multicast communication sessions, unicast communication session, wireless communication sessions, etc.) with defined start and end times determined at the network layer of an OSI model, to exchange content.

(20) Commercial Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) solutions use protocols such as a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) to establish, manage, and tear down an audio/video session between two devices (e.g., user devices, IP-enabled phones, IADs, etc.). The SIP protocol allows communication between terminals on different networks, across different platforms, and supports various call features such as three-way calling, call forwarding, etc. However, SIP is a complicated and evolving protocol, due to resources needed to design, develop, update, and troubleshoot the SIP stack in a device, SIP terminals are expensive, and a SIP network is complicated to manage.

(21) There are certain use cases where multimedia communication between two IP-enabled devices within a local area network (LAN) is necessary and/or required. A security camera may initiate a video communication session with a video capable IP-enabled phone, a video recording device, any other monitoring device, and/or the like when motion is detected. A building intercom transceiver may initiate and/or facilitate a voice communication session between tenants/users when a button is pushed. A vending machine may send a pre-recorded message to an IP-enabled phone, such as store manager's desk phone and/or the like, when product stock of is low.

(22) In machine-to-machine communication scenarios, building a SIP stack into such IP-enabled devices is excessively complex and computationally intensive. A simplified communication initiation-teardown process between user devices (e.g., IP-enabled devices, etc.) is described. IP multicast allows a user device to send IP packets to a group of recipient devices on the same subnet simultaneously. The user device may send specially formatted multicast messages indicating the start and the end of a multicast communication session. During the multicast communication session, the user device may send content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) via IP multicast to the recipient devices. The recipient devices may then automatically process (e.g., decode, transcode, relay, store, render, etc.) the received content. The recipient devices may decode, render, and/or playback the received content. Where user devices and recipient devices are capable of sending/receiving content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.), duplex communication (e.g., half-duplex communication, or full-duplex communication, etc.) may be

achieved, enabled, and/or simulated by implementing additional IP multicast groups within which content may be exchanged (e.g., sent, received, etc.). User devices and/or recipient devices of and/or within different/separate IP multicast groups may send and/or receive content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) via simplex IP multicast communication sessions (e.g., real-time simplex IP multicast communication sessions, etc.) where the exchange of content achieves, enables, and/or simulates duplex communication. The described communication techniques may be modified and/or changed according to different communication types (e.g., IP-based communications, multicast communications, unicast communications, wireless communications, etc.). The described communication techniques may be suitable for any communication technique.

(23) FIG. 1 shows a system **100** for communication (e.g., IP-based communication, multicast communication, unicast communication, wireless communication, etc.). The system **100** may include a user device **102**. The user device **102** may be in communication with one or more recipient devices **104a,b,c**. The user device **102** and the recipient devices **104a,b,c** may be in communication via a private and/or public network **105** such as the Internet or a local area network. Other forms of communications may be used such as wired and wireless telecommunication channels. The user device **102** and the recipient devices **104a,b,c** may be included in (associated with) the same subnet of the network **105**.

(24) The user device **102** may be an electronic device such as a computer, a smartphone, a laptop, a tablet, a set top box, a display device, or other device capable of communicating with the recipient devices **104a,b,c**. The user device **102** may have a communication element **106** for providing an interface to a user to interact with the user device **102** and/or the recipient devices **104a,b,c**. The communication element **106** may be any interface for presenting and/or receiving information to/from the user, such as user feedback. An interface may be communication interface such as a web browser (e.g., Internet Explorer®, Mozilla Firefox®, Google Chrome®, Safari®, or the like). Other software, hardware, and/or interfaces may be used to provide communication between the user and one or more of the user device **102** and the recipient devices **104a,b,c**.

(25) The user device **102** may be associated with a user identifier or device identifier **108**. The device identifier **108** may be any identifier, token, character, string, or the like, for differentiating one user or user device (e.g., user device **102**) from another user or user device. The device identifier **108** may identify a user or user device as belonging to a particular class of users or user devices. The device identifier **108** may be information relating to the user device such as a manufacturer, a model or type of device, a service provider associated with the user device **102**, a state of the user device **102**, a locator, and/or a label or classifier. Other information may be represented by the device identifier **108**.

(26) The device identifier **108** may be an address element **110** and a service element **112**. The address element **110** may be, or provide, an internet protocol address, a network address, a media access control (MAC) address, an Internet address, or the like. The address element **110** may be relied upon to establish a communication session between the user device **102** and the computing device **104** or other devices and/or networks. The address element **110** may be used as an identifier or locator of the user device **102**. The address element **110** may be persistent for a particular network.

(27) The service element **112** may be an identification of a service provider associated with the user device **102** and/or with the class of the user device **102**. The class of the user device **102** may be related to a type of the user device **102**, a capability of the user device **102**, a type of service being provided, and/or a level of service (e.g., business class, service tier, service package, etc.). The service element **112** may be information relating to, or provided by, a communication service provider (e.g., Internet service provider) that is providing or enabling data flow such as communication services to the user device **102**. The service element **112** may be information relating to a preferred service provider for one or more particular services relating to the user

device **102**. The address element **110** may be used to identify or retrieve data from the service element **112**, or vice versa. One or more of the address element **110** and/or the service element **112** may be stored remotely from the user device **102** and retrieved by one or more devices such as the user device **102** and/or the computing device **104**. Other information may be represented by the service element **112**.

(28) The recipient devices **104a,b,c** may be devices that process content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) received from the user device **102** via the network **105**. Processing the content may include decoding, rendering, playing, recording, storing, interacting with, and/or the like the content. The recipient devices **104a,b,c** may be devices and/or terminals that are dedicated to processing content (e.g., speaker devices in an intercom system configured to play and/or render received audio content, video storage devices in a security system configured for storing video content received from one or more security cameras, etc.) received from the user device **102** and/or any other device. The recipient devices **104a,b,c** may also be user devices configured to and/or capable of sending content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) and receiving content.

(29) The user device **102** may send a message (e.g., one or more packets, an IP packet comprising a multicast group address in a IP header destination address field, etc.) to the recipient devices **104a,b,c** indicating the start of a multicast communication session (e.g., via IP multicast). The message may be a flag, an identifier, a header, or any other indicator of the start of the multicast communication session. The use of a single message indicating the start of the multicast communication session saves on the computational overhead required by protocols for device-to-device communication (e.g., SIP) that require complex handshaking to establish and to end a communication session.

(30) The user device **102** may send the message to a multicast group including the recipient devices **104a,b,c**. The multicast group may be defined through device configuration. The user device **102** or another device may add the recipient devices **104a,b,c** to the multicast group through a user interface or application program interface (API). The multicast group may also be defined by sending a discovery request (e.g., via multicast or broadcast) to a subnet that includes the user device **102** and the recipient devices **104a,b,c**. The recipient devices **104a,b,c** may send, to a source of the discovery request (e.g., the user device **102** or another device), a response indicating that one or more of the recipient devices **104a,b,c** should be added to a multicast group. The multicast group may be associated with a unique identifier. Network traffic (e.g., content, etc.), based on the unique identifier and via IP multicast, may be delivered to the recipient devices **104a,b,c** included in (associated with) the multicast group. The multicast group may also be associated with a unique network address within the subnet of the network **105**. Network traffic (e.g., content, etc.) addressed/directed to the unique network address may be delivered, via IP multicast, to the recipient devices **104a,b,c** included in (associated with) the multicast group.

(31) The user device **102** may send content (e.g., multimedia content, etc.) to the multicast group via IP multicast. The content may include audio content and/or video content. The user device **102** may send the content and/or a portion of the content in the message indicating the start of the multicast communication session. A flag or a header of an initial portion(s) (e.g., packet(s)), such as a first/beginning portion, of the content may indicate the start of the multicast communication session. The content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may be encoded in packets or datagrams separate from the message indicating the start of the multicast communication session.

(32) The recipient devices **104a,b,c** may be configured to automatically process (e.g., decode, transcode, relay, store, render, etc.) the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) received. The recipient devices **104a,b,c** may be configured to automatically process (e.g., decode, transcode, relay, store, render, etc.) the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) until a message indicating an end of the multicast communication session is received. The recipient devices **104a,b,c** may process the content in parallel with reception of the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.), such as at a same and/or substantially the same time as the content

(e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) is being received (e.g., receiving and processing the content in real-time, etc.). The recipient devices **104a,b,c** may process the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) after an end to the multicast communication session. The recipient devices **104a,b,c** may process the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) according to a codec, such as a unique codec, a shared codec, a predefined, a preset codec, and/or the like. The codec may be defined during an initial setup and/or manufacture of the recipient devices **104a,b,c**. The codec may be defined by and/or according to device configuration (e.g., by the user device **102**, by another device, etc.) prior to the start of the multicast communication session. Codec negotiation between the user device **102** and the recipient devices **104a,b,c** may not be necessary and/or required to establish the multicast communication session and/or process the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.), which may reduce the overall computational overhead of the multicast communication session.

(33) The user device **102** may send a message (e.g., one or more packets, an IP packet comprising a multicast group address in a IP header destination address field, etc.) to the recipient devices **104a,b,c** indicating the end of the multicast communication session. The message may be a flag, an identifier, a header, or any other indicator of the end of the multicast communication session. The flag, the identifier, the header, or any other indicator may be applied to a subsequent portion(s) (e.g., packet(s)), such as a final/last sent portion, of the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.). The use of a single message indicating the end of the multicast communication session saves on the computational overhead required by protocols for device-to-device communication (e.g., SIP) that require complex handshaking to end or “tear down” a communication session. The user device **102** may send the message (e.g., one or more packets, an IP packet comprising a multicast group address in a IP header destination address field, etc.) to the recipient devices **104a,b,c** indicating the end of the multicast communication session. The message may be sent based on a time period, such as when the time period expires. The time period may be based on any amount/quantity of time, such as an amount/quantity of time required for the recipient devices **104a,b,c** to process the content. The time required for the recipient devices **104a,b,c** to process the content may be based on a user defined and/or a predetermined amount/quantity of time, a previous amount/quantity of time used by the recipient devices **104a,b,c** to process content (e.g., similar content), and/or the like.

(34) FIG. 2 shows a system **200** for Internet Protocol (IP) multicast communication. The system **100** may include a user device **201** and a user device **202**. The system **200** may include devices **203, 204, 205, 206, and 207**. The user device **201** and/or the user device **202** may be in communication with the devices **203, 204, 205, 206, and 207** via a network **208**. The user device **201**, the user device **202**, and/or devices **203, 204, 205, 206, and 207** are capable of sending/receiving content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.), duplex communication (e.g., half-duplex communication, or full-duplex communication, etc.) may be achieved, enabled, and/or simulated by implementing multiple (e.g., at least two) IP multicast groups to which content may be sent. The user device **201** and the devices **203, 204, and 205** may be part of a multicast group **209**. The user device **202** and the devices **206, and 207** may be part of an IP multicast group **210**. The user device **201**, the user device **202**, and the devices **203, 204, 205, 206, and 207** within the different the multicast groups **209** and **210** may receive and/or send content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) via simplex IP multicast communication sessions (e.g., real-time simplex IP multicast communication sessions, etc.) and the exchange of content may achieve, enable, and/or simulate duplex communication between the user device **201**, the user device **202**, and the devices **203, 204, 205, 206, and 207**.

(35) The user device **201** may send a message **211** (e.g., one or more packets, an IP packet comprising a multicast group address in a IP header destination address field, etc.) to the user device **202** that indicates a start of a first multicast communication session. The message may be generated based on a trigger condition, such as a trigger condition associated with the user device

201 and/or any of the devices **203**, **204**, **205**, **206**, and **207**. The trigger condition may be based on a detection of motion by and/or associated with the user device **201** and/or any of the devices **203**, **204**, **205**, **206**, and **207**. The trigger condition may be based on the user device **201** detecting an interaction associated with the user device **201**, based on the user device **201** determining that a threshold associated with the user device **201** is satisfied, such as product inventory threshold being satisfied by a low amount/quantity of product. The trigger condition may be based on any condition.

(36) The message **211** may be and/or include a flag, an identifier, a header, or any other indicator of the start of the first multicast communication session. The message **211** may include content (e.g., multimedia content, first content, data/information, etc.), such as content encoded in packets and/or datagrams. In some cases, the message **211** may not include content (e.g., multimedia content, first content, etc.), and the user device **202** may receive the content during the first multicast communication session. A flag or header of an initial portion(s) (e.g., packet(s)), such as a first/beginning portion, of the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may indicate the start of the first multicast communication session.

(37) The user device **202** may automatically process (e.g., decode, transcode, relay, store, render, play, or otherwise interact with the content (e.g., multimedia content, first content, etc.). The user device **202** may process the content according to a predefined or preset codec. The content and/or the codec may be shared (e.g., by the user device **202**) with the devices **206**, and **207** (or any other device). The content (e.g., multimedia content, first content, etc.) may be video and the codec shared with the devices **206** and **207** may be used by each device to process the content.

(38) Each device within the multicast group **210** may process the content until the user device **201** sends a message **212** to the user device **202**. The message **212** may be and/or include a flag, an identifier, a header, or any other indicator of the end of the first multicast communication session. The flag, the identifier, the header, or any other indicator may be applied to a subsequent portion(s) (e.g., packet(s)), such as a last/final portion, of the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.).

(39) To achieve duplex communication between devices, such as the user device **201** and the user device **202**, the user device **202** may send a message **213** (e.g., one or more packets, an IP packet comprising a multicast group address in a IP header destination address field, etc.) to the user device **201** that indicates a start of a second multicast communication session. The message may be generated based on a trigger condition, such as a trigger condition associated with the user device **202** and/or any of the devices **203**, **204**, **205**, **206**, and **207**. The trigger condition may be based on any condition.

(40) The message **213** may be and/or include a flag, an identifier, a header, or any other indicator of the start of the second multicast communication session. The message **213** may include content (e.g., multimedia content, first content, data/information, etc.), such as content encoded in packets and/or datagrams. In some cases, the message **213** may not include content (e.g., multimedia content, first content, etc.), and the user device **201** may receive the content during the second multicast communication session. A flag or header of an initial portion(s) (e.g., packet(s)), such as a first/beginning portion, of the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may indicate the start of the second multicast communication session.

(41) The user device **201** may automatically process (e.g., decode, transcode, relay, store, render, play, or otherwise interact with the content (e.g., multimedia content, first content, etc.). The user device **201** may process the content according to a predefined or preset codec. The content and/or the codec may be shared (e.g., by the user device **201**) with the devices **203**, **204** and **205** (or any other device). The content (e.g., multimedia content, first content, etc.) may be video and the codec shared with the devices **203**, **204** and **205** may be used by each device to process the content.

(42) Each device within the multicast group **209** may process the content until the user device **201** sends a message **214** to the user device **201**. The message **214** may be and/or include a flag, an

identifier, a header, or any other indicator of the end of the second multicast communication session. The flag, the identifier, the header, or any other indicator may be applied to a subsequent portion(s) (e.g., packet(s)), such as a last/final portion, of the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.).

(43) FIG. 3 is a flowchart **300** of a method for communication. The method **300** may be adapted to and/or suitable for any communication technique such as IP-based communications, multicast communications, unicast communications, wireless communications, and/or the like. At step **310**, a message (e.g., one or more packets, an IP packet comprising a multicast group address in a IP header destination address field, etc.) indicating the start of a multicast communication session may be received via IP multicast (e.g., from the user device **102** by one or more of the recipient devices **104a,b,c**). The user device **102** and the recipient devices **104a,b,c** may be included in a same subnet of the network **105**. The message may be generated based on a trigger condition, such as a trigger condition associated with the user device **102** and/or any of the recipient devices **104a,b,c**. The trigger condition may be based on a detection of motion by and/or associated with the user device **102** and/or any of the recipient devices **104a,b,c**. The trigger condition may be based on the user device **102** and/or any of the recipient devices **104a,b,c** detecting an interaction associated with the user device **102** and/or any of the recipient devices **104a,b,c**, such as a press of a button and/or the like. The trigger condition may be based on the user device **102** and/or any of the recipient devices **104a,b,c** determining that a threshold associated with the user device **102** and/or any of the recipient devices **104a,b,c** is satisfied, such as product inventory threshold being satisfied by a low amount/quantity of product. The trigger condition may be based on any condition.

(44) The message may be part of the IP multicast or the message may be sent separately from the IP multicast. The message indicating the start of the multicast communication session may be a flag, an identifier, a header, or any other indicator of the start of the multicast communication session. The message may be directed to a particular multicast group including one or more of the recipient devices **104a,b,c**. The message may be addressed to a multicast network address corresponding to the particular multicast group. In some cases, the message indicating the start of the multicast communication session may be sent separate from and/or without content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.). In some cases, the message indicating the start of the multicast communication session may be sent as part of the multicast communication session, such that the multicast communication session is established and data/information may be sent (as packets and/or datagrams, etc.) simultaneously and/or at substantially the same time/occurrence as initiation/establishment of the multicast communication session. In some cases, the message indicating the start of the multicast communication session may include content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.). In some cases, the message indicating the start of the multicast communication session may not include content (e.g., multimedia content, etc.), and content may be received during the multicast communication session. Content sent with the message indicating the start of the multicast communication session and/or received during the multicast communication session may be encoded in packets and/or datagrams.

(45) At step **320**, content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may be received via the IP multicast (e.g., from the user device **102** by one or more of the recipient devices **104a,b,c**). The content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may be directed to the particular multicast group including the recipient device **104a,b,c**. The content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may be encoded in and/or with network traffic addressed to the multicast network address corresponding to the particular multicast group. The content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may include audio content, video content, and/or the like. When the message indicating the start of the multicast communication session includes content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.), a flag or a header of an initial portion(s) (e.g., packet(s)), such as a first/beginning portion, of the content may indicate the start of the multicast

communication session.

(46) At step **330**, the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may be processed (e.g., by the recipient devices **104a,b,c**). Processing the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may be decoding, transcoding, relaying, storing, rendering, playing, or otherwise interacting with the content. The recipient devices **104a,b,c** may be receiver or speaker devices of an intercom system, and processing the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may be playing audio content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) received from a sending user device **102** having a microphone or other audio input. The recipient devices **104a,b,c** may be a monitor of a video system (e.g., a security system, a baby monitoring system, or a studio recording system), and processing the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may be outputting, to a display, video and/or audiovisual content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) received from a sending user device **102** (e.g., a camera). The recipient devices **104a,b,c** may be a data storage unit of a system (e.g., a security system, a baby monitoring system, or studio recording system), and processing the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may be storing content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) received from a sending user device **102** (e.g., a camera and/or a microphone).

(47) The recipient devices **104a,b,c** may be configured to automatically process the received content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) (e.g., until receiving a message indicating an end of the multicast communication session). The recipient devices **104a,b,c** may be configured to process the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) in parallel with receiving the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) (e.g., in substantially real-time). The recipient devices **104a,b,c** may be configured to process the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) after an end to the multicast communication session. The recipient devices **104a,b,c** may be configured to process the content according to a predefined or preset codec.

(48) At step **340**, a message (e.g., one or more packets, an IP packet comprising a multicast group address in a IP header destination address field, etc.) indicating the end of the multicast communication session may be received via IP multicast (e.g., by the recipient devices **104a,b,c** from the user device **102**). The message may be part of the IP multicast or the message may be sent separately from the IP multicast. The message may be a flag, an identifier, a header, or any other indicator of the end of the multicast communication session. The flag, the identifier, the header, or any other indicator may be applied to a subsequent portion(s) (e.g., packet(s)), such as a last/final portion, of the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.). The recipient devices **104a,b,c** may end automatic processing of content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) based on receiving the message indicating the end of the multicast communication session.

(49) In some cases, the message indicating the end of the multicast communication session may be sent separate from and/or without content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.). In some cases, the message indicating the end of the multicast communication session may be sent as part of the multicast communication session, such that the multicast communication session is terminated and data/information may not be sent (as packets and/or datagrams, etc.) simultaneously and/or at substantially the same time/occurrence as ending/terminating of the multicast communication session. In some cases, the message indicating the end of the multicast communication session may include content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.). In some cases, the message indicating the end of the multicast communication session may not include content (e.g., multimedia content, etc.), such that all content is sent/exchanged during the multicast communication session prior to the message indicating the end of the multicast communication session. Content sent with the message indicating the end of the multicast communication session and/or received/exchanged during the multicast communication session may be encoded in packets and/or datagrams.

(50) The message indicating the end of the multicast communication session be sent based on a

time period, such as when the time period expires. The time period may be based on any amount/quantity of time, such as an amount/quantity of time required to process the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.). The time required to process the content may be based on a user defined and/or a predetermined amount/quantity of time, a previous amount/quantity of time used to process content (e.g., similar content), and/or the like. The message indicating the end of the multicast communication session may be sent based on any occurrence or trigger condition. (51) FIG. 4 is a flowchart 400 of a method for communication. The method 400 may be adapted to and/or suitable for any communication technique such as IP-based communications, multicast communications, unicast communications, wireless communications, and/or the like. At step 410, a message (e.g., one or more packets, an IP packet comprising a multicast group address in a IP header destination address field, etc.) indicating a start of a multicast communication session may be sent via IP multicast (e.g., by the user device 102 to one or more of the recipient devices 104a,b,c). The user device 102 and the one or more recipient devices 104a,b,c may be included in (associated with) a same subnet of the network 105. The message may be generated based on a trigger condition, such as a trigger condition associated with the user device 102 and/or any of the recipient devices 104a,b,c. The trigger condition may be based on a detection of motion by and/or associated with the user device 102 and/or any of the recipient devices 104a,b,c. The trigger condition may be based on the user device 102 and/or any of the recipient devices 104a,b,c detecting an interaction associated with the user device 102 and/or any of the recipient devices 104a,b,c, such as a press of a button and/or the like. The trigger condition may be based on the user device 102 and/or any of the recipient devices 104a,b,c determining that a threshold associated with the user device 102 and/or any of the recipient devices 104a,b,c is satisfied, such as product inventory threshold being satisfied by a low amount/quantity of product. The trigger condition may be based on any condition.

(52) The message may be part of the IP multicast or the message may be sent separately from the IP multicast. The message indicating the start of the multicast communication session may be a flag, an identifier, a header, or any other indicator of the start of the multicast communication session. The message may be directed to a particular multicast group including the recipient device 104a,b,c. The message may be addressed to a multicast network address corresponding to the particular multicast group. In some cases, the message indicating the start of the multicast communication session may be sent separate from and/or without content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.). In some cases, the message indicating the start of the multicast communication session may be sent as part of the communication session, such that the communication session is established and data/information may be sent (as packets and/or datagrams, etc.) simultaneously and/or at substantially the same time/occurrence as initiation/establishment of the communication session. In some cases, the message indicating the start of the multicast communication session may include content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.). In some cases, the message indicating the start of the multicast communication session may not include content (e.g., multimedia content, etc.), and content may be received during the multicast communication session. Content sent with the message indicating the start of the multicast communication session and/or received during the multicast communication session may be encoded in packets and/or datagrams.

(53) At step 420, content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may be sent via the IP multicast (e.g., by the user device 102 to the one or more recipient devices 104a,b,c). The content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may be directed to the particular multicast group including the one or more recipient devices 104a,b,c. The content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may be encoded in network traffic addressed to the multicast network address corresponding to the particular multicast group. The content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may be audio content and/or video content. A flag or a header of an initial portion(s) (e.g., packet(s)), such as a first/beginning portion, of the content (e.g., multimedia

content, data/information, etc.) may indicate the start of the multicast communication session (see step **310**).

(54) The one or more recipient devices **104a,b,c** may be configured to automatically process the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) sent by the user device **102**. The one or more recipient devices **104a,b,c** may be configured to automatically process the received content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) (e.g., until receiving a message indicating an end of the multicast communication session). The one or more recipient devices **104a,b,c** may be configured to process the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) in parallel with receiving the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) (e.g., in substantially real-time). The one or more recipient devices **104a,b,c** may be configured to process the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) after an end to the multicast communication session. The one or more recipient devices **104a,b,c** may be configured to process the content according to a predefined or preset codec.

(55) Processing the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may be decoding, transcoding, relaying, storing, rendering, playing, or otherwise interacting with the content. The recipient devices **104a,b,c** may be receiver or speaker devices of an intercom system, and processing the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may be playing audio content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) received from a sending user device **102** having a microphone or other audio input. The recipient devices **104a,b,c** may be a monitor of a video system (e.g., a security system, a baby monitoring system, or studio recording system), and processing the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may be outputting, to a display, video and/or audiovisual content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) received from a sending user device **102** (e.g., a camera). The recipient devices **104a,b,c** may be a data storage unit of a system (e.g., a security system, a baby monitoring system, or studio recording system), and processing the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may be storing content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) received from a sending user device **102** (e.g., a camera and/or microphone).

(56) At step **430**, a message (e.g., one or more packets, an IP packet comprising a multicast group address in a IP header destination address field, etc.) indicating the end of the multicast communication session may be sent via the IP multicast (e.g., to the one or more recipient devices **104a,b,c** by the user device **102**). The message may be part of the IP multicast or the message may be sent separately from the IP multicast. The message may be a flag, an identifier, a header, or any other indicator of the end of the multicast communication session. The flag, the identifier, the header, or any other indicator may be applied to a subsequent portion(s), such as a last/final portion, of the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.). Sending the message indicating the end of the multicast communication session may cause the one or more recipient devices **104a,b,c** to end automatic processing of the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.).

(57) In some cases, the message indicating the end of the multicast communication session may be sent separate from and/or without content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.). In some cases, the message indicating the end of the multicast communication session may be sent as part of the multicast communication session, such that the multicast communication session is terminated and data/information may not be sent (as packets and/or datagrams, etc.) simultaneously and/or at substantially the same time/occurrence as ending/terminating of the multicast communication session. In some cases, the message indicating the end of the multicast communication session may include content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.). In some cases, the message indicating the end of the multicast communication session may not include content (e.g., multimedia content, etc.), such that all content is sent/exchanged during the multicast communication session prior to the message indicating the end of the multicast communication session. Content sent with the message indicating the end of the multicast

communication session and/or received/exchanged during the multicast communication session may be encoded in packets and/or datagrams.

(58) The message indicating the end of the multicast communication session may be sent based on a time period, such as when the time period expires. The time period may be based on any amount/quantity of time, such as an amount/quantity of time required to process the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.). The time required to process the content may be based on a user defined and/or a predetermined amount/quantity of time, a previous amount/quantity of time used to process content (e.g., similar content), and/or the like. The message indicating the end of the multicast communication session may be sent based on any occurrence or trigger condition.

(59) FIG. 5 is a flowchart **500** of a method for communications. The method **500** may be adapted to and/or suitable for any communication technique such as IP-based communications, multicast communications, unicast communications, wireless communications, and/or the like. Where user devices and/or recipient devices are capable of sending/receiving content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.), duplex communication (e.g., half-duplex communication, or full-duplex communication, etc.) may be achieved, enabled, and/or simulated by implementing multiple (e.g., at least two) IP multicast groups between and/or within which content may be exchanged (e.g., sent, received, etc.). User devices and/or recipient devices of and/or within different/separate IP multicast groups may receive and/or send content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) via simplex IP multicast communication sessions (e.g., real-time simplex IP multicast communication sessions, etc.) where the exchange of content achieves, enables, and/or simulates duplex communication.

(60) At step **510** a message (e.g., one or more packets, an IP packet comprising a multicast group address in a IP header destination address field, etc.) indicating the start of a first multicast communication session may be received via IP multicast (e.g., by a first user device **102** from a second user device **102**). The first user device **102** and the second user device **102** be included in (associated with) a same subnet of a network **105**. The message may be generated based on a trigger condition, such as a trigger condition associated with the first user device **102** and/or any of the recipient devices **104a,b,c**. The trigger condition may be based on a detection of motion by and/or associated with the first user device **102** and/or any of the recipient devices **104a,b,c**. The trigger condition may be based on the user device **102** and/or any of the recipient devices **104a,b,c** detecting an interaction associated with the first user device **102** and/or any of the recipient devices **104a,b,c**, such as a press of a button and/or the like. The trigger condition may be based on the first user device **102** and/or any of the recipient devices **104a,b,c** determining that a threshold associated with the first user device **102** and/or any of the recipient devices **104a,b,c** is satisfied, such as product inventory threshold being satisfied by a low amount/quantity of product. The trigger condition may be based on any condition.

(61) The message may be part of the IP multicast or the message may be sent separately from the IP multicast. The message indicating the start of the first multicast communication session may be a flag, an identifier, a header, or any other indicator of the start of the multicast communication session. The message may be directed to a first multicast group including the first user device **102**. The message may be addressed to a multicast network address corresponding to the first multicast group.

(62) In some cases, the message indicating the start of the first multicast communication session may be sent separate from and/or without content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.). In some cases, the message indicating the start of the first multicast communication session may be sent as part of the first multicast communication session, such that the first multicast communication session is established and data/information may be sent (as packets and/or datagrams, etc.) simultaneously and/or at substantially the same time/occurrence as initiation/establishment of the first multicast communication session. In some cases, the message indicating the start of the first multicast communication session may include content (e.g.,

multimedia content, data/information, etc.). In some cases, the message indicating the start of the first multicast communication session may not include content (e.g., multimedia content, etc.), and content may be received during the first multicast communication session. Content sent with the message indicating the start of the first multicast communication session and/or received during the first multicast communication session may be encoded in packets and/or datagrams.

(63) At step **520**, first content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may be processed. The first content may be received via IP multicast (e.g., by the first user device **102** from the second user device **102**). The content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may be directed to the first multicast group including the first user device **102**. The first content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may be included in network traffic addressed to the multicast network address corresponding to the first multicast group. The first content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may be audio content and/or video content. A flag or header of an initial portion(s) (e.g., packet(s)), such as a first/beginning portion, of the first content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may indicate the start of the first multicast communication session (see step **410**).

(64) Processing the first content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may be decoding, transcoding, relaying, storing, rendering, playing, or otherwise interacting with the content. The first user device **102** may be configured to automatically process the received first content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) (e.g., until receiving a message indicating an end of the first multicast communication session). The first user device **102** may be configured to process the first content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) in parallel to receiving the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) (e.g., in substantially real-time). The first user device **102** may be configured to stop processing the first content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) after an end to the first multicast communication session. The first user device **102** may be configured to process the first content according to a predefined or preset codec.

(65) At step **530**, processing of the first content may be terminated. A message (e.g., one or more packets, an IP packet comprising a multicast group address in a IP header destination address field, etc.) indicating the end of the first multicast communication session may be received via IP multicast (e.g., by the first user device **102** from the second user device **102**). The message may be part of the IP multicast or the message may be sent separately from the IP multicast. The message may be a flag, an identifier, a header, or any other indicator of the end of the multicast communication session. The flag, the identifier, the header, or any other indicator may be applied to a subsequent portion(s) (e.g., packet(s)), such as a last/final portion, of the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.). The first user device **102** may end automatic processing of first content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) in response to receiving the message indicating the end of the first multicast communication session.

(66) In some cases, the message indicating the end of the first multicast communication session may be sent separate from and/or without content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, first content, etc.). In some cases, the message indicating the end of the first multicast communication session may be sent as part of the first multicast communication session, such that the first multicast communication session is terminated and data/information may not be sent (as packets and/or datagrams, etc.) simultaneously and/or at substantially the same time/occurrence as ending/terminating of the first multicast communication session. In some cases, the message indicating the end of the first multicast communication session may include content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, first content, etc.). In some cases, the message indicating the end of first the multicast communication session may not include content (e.g., multimedia content, first content, etc.), such that all content is sent/exchanged during the first multicast communication session prior to the message indicating the end of the first multicast communication session. Content sent with the message indicating the end of the first multicast communication session and/or received/exchanged during the first multicast communication session may be encoded in

packets and/or datagrams.

(67) The message indicating the end of the first multicast communication session be sent based on a time period, such as when the time period expires. The time period may be based on any amount/quantity of time, such as an amount/quantity of time required to process the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, first content, etc.). The time required to process the content may be based on a user defined and/or a predetermined amount/quantity of time, a previous amount/quantity of time used to process content (e.g., similar content), and/or the like. The message indicating the end of the first multicast communication session be sent based on any occurrence and/or trigger condition.

(68) At step **540** a message (e.g., one or more packets, an IP packet comprising a multicast group address in a IP header destination address field, etc.) indicating the start of a second multicast communication session may be sent via IP multicast (e.g., by the first user device **102**). The message may be sent to one or more recipient devices **104a,b,c** and/or the second user device **102**. The first user device **102**, second user device **102** and/or recipient devices **104a,b,c** may be included in (associated with) a same subnet of the network **105**. The message may be generated based on a trigger condition, such as a trigger condition associated with the second user device **102** and/or any of the recipient devices **104a,b,c**. The trigger condition may be based on a detection of motion by and/or associated with the second user device **102** and/or any of the recipient devices **104a,b,c**. The trigger condition may be based on the second user device **102** and/or any of the recipient devices **104a,b,c** detecting an interaction associated with the second user device **102** and/or any of the recipient devices **104a,b,c**, such as a press of a button and/or the like. The trigger condition may be based on the second user device **102** and/or any of the recipient devices **104a,b,c** determining that a threshold associated with the second user device **102** and/or any of the recipient devices **104a,b,c** is satisfied, such as product inventory threshold being satisfied by a low amount/quantity of product. The trigger condition may be based on any condition.

(69) The message indicating the start of the second multicast communication session may be a flag, an identifier, a header, or any other indicator of the start of the second multicast communication session. The message may be directed to a second multicast group. The message may be addressed to a multicast network address corresponding to the second multicast group. In some cases, the message indicating the start of the second multicast communication session may be sent separate from and/or without content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, second content, etc.). In some cases, the message indicating the start of the second multicast communication session may be sent as part of the second multicast communication session, such that the second multicast communication session is established and data/information may be sent (as packets and/or datagrams, etc.) simultaneously and/or at substantially the same time/occurrence as initiation/establishment of the second multicast communication session. In some cases, the message indicating the start of the second multicast communication session may include content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, second content, etc.). In some cases, the message indicating the start of the second multicast communication session may not include content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, second content, etc.), and content may be received during the second multicast communication session. Content sent with the message indicating the start of the second multicast communication session and/or received during the second multicast communication session may be encoded in packets and/or datagrams.

(70) The second multicast group may include or exclude the second user device **102**. The first multicast group and the second multicast group may at least partially overlap. The first multicast group and the second multicast group may include one or more user devices **102** and/or recipient devices **104a,b,c**. Thus, one or more user devices **102** and/or recipient devices **104a,b,c** may receive first content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) from the second user device **102** via the first multicast communication session and second content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) from the first user device **102** via the second multicast communication

session.

(71) At step **550**, second content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may be sent via IP multicast (e.g., by the first user device **102** to the second user device **102** and/or one or more recipient devices **104a,b,c**). The second content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may be directed to the second multicast group including the second user device **102** and/or the recipient devices **104a,b,c**. The second content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may be encoded in network traffic addressed to the multicast network address corresponding to the second multicast group. The second content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may be audio content and/or video content. A flag or header of an initial portion(s) (e.g., packet(s)), such as a first/beginning portion, of the second content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may indicate the start of the second multicast communication session (see step **440**).

(72) The second user device **102** and/or one or more recipient devices **104a,b,c** may be configured to automatically process the second content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) sent by the first user device **102**. The second content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may be processed in parallel to receiving the second content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) (e.g., in substantially real-time). The second content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may be processed after an end to the second multicast communication session. The second content may be processed according to a predefined or preset codec. Processing the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.) may be decoding, transcoding, relaying, storing, rendering, playing, or otherwise interacting with the content.

(73) At step **560** a message (e.g., one or more packets, an IP packet comprising a multicast group address in a IP header destination address field, etc.) indicating the end of the second multicast communication session may be sent via IP multicast (e.g., to the second user device **102** and/or one or more recipient devices **104a,b,c** by the first user device **102**). The message may be a flag, an identifier, a header, or any other indicator of the end of the second multicast communication session. The flag, the identifier, the header, or any other indicator may be applied to a subsequent portion(s) (e.g., packet(s)), such as a last/final portion, of the content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.). Sending the message indicating the end of the second multicast communication session may cause the second user device **102** and/or one or more recipient devices **104a,b,c** to end automatic processing of the second content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.).

(74) In some cases, the message indicating the end of the second multicast communication session may be sent separate from and/or without content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, second content, etc.). In some cases, the message indicating the end of the second multicast communication session may be sent as part of the second multicast communication session, such that the second multicast communication session is terminated and data/information may not be sent (as packets and/or datagrams, etc.) simultaneously and/or at substantially the same time/occurrence as ending/terminating of the second multicast communication session. In some cases, the message indicating the end of the second multicast communication session may include content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, second content, etc.). In some cases, the message indicating the end of second the multicast communication session may not include content (e.g., multimedia content, second content, etc.), such that all content is sent/exchanged during the second multicast communication session prior to the message indicating the end of the second multicast communication session. Content sent with the message indicating the end of the second multicast communication session and/or received/exchanged during the second multicast communication session may be encoded in packets and/or datagrams.

(75) The message indicating the end of the second multicast communication session be sent based on a time period, such as when the time period expires. The time period may be based on any amount/quantity of time, such as an amount/quantity of time required to process the additional content (e.g., multimedia content, data/information, etc.). The time required to process the

additional content may be based on a user defined and/or a predetermined amount/quantity of time, a previous amount/quantity of time used to process content (e.g., similar content), and/or the like. The message indicating the end of the second multicast communication session be sent based on any occurrence and/or trigger condition.

(76) FIG. 6 shows a system **600** for communication (e.g., IP-based communication, multicast communication, unicast communication, wireless communication, etc.). The user device **102** and/or recipient devices **104a,b,c** of FIG. 1 may be a computer **501** as shown in FIG. 6.

(77) The computer **601** may be one or more processors **603**, a system memory **612**, and a bus **613** that couples various components of the computer **601** having the one or more processors **603** to the system memory **612**. In the case of multiple processors **603**, the computer **601** may utilize parallel computing.

(78) The bus **613** may be one or more of several possible types of bus structures, such as a memory bus, memory controller, a peripheral bus, an accelerated graphics port, and a processor or local bus using any of a variety of bus architectures.

(79) The computer **601** may operate on and/or be a variety of computer readable media (e.g., non-transitory). Computer readable media may be any available media that is accessible by the computer **601** and may be non-transitory, volatile and/or non-volatile media, removable and non-removable media. The system memory **612** has computer readable media in the form of volatile memory, such as random access memory (RAM), and/or non-volatile memory, such as read only memory (ROM). The system memory **612** may store data such as content data **607** and/or program modules such as operating system **605** and content software **606** that are accessible to and/or are operated on by the one or more processors **603**.

(80) The computer **601** may also be other removable/non-removable, volatile/non-volatile computer storage media. The mass storage device **604** may provide non-volatile storage of computer code, computer readable instructions, data structures, program modules, and other data for the computer **601**. The mass storage device **604** may be a hard disk, a removable magnetic disk, a removable optical disk, magnetic cassettes or other magnetic storage devices, flash memory cards, CD-ROM, digital versatile disks (DVD) or other optical storage, random access memories (RAM), read only memories (ROM), electrically erasable programmable read-only memory (EEPROM), and the like.

(81) Any number of program modules may be stored on the mass storage device **604**. An operating system **605** and content software **606** may be stored on the mass storage device **604**. One or more of the operating system **605** and content software **606** (or some combination thereof) may be program modules and the content software **606**. Content data **607** may also be stored on the mass storage device **604**. Content data **607** may be stored in any of one or more databases known in the art. The databases may be centralized or distributed across multiple locations within the network **615**.

(82) A user may enter commands and information into the computer **601** via an input device (not shown). Such input devices be, but are not limited to, a keyboard, pointing device (e.g., a computer mouse, remote control), a microphone, a joystick, a scanner, tactile input devices such as gloves, and other body coverings, motion sensor, and the like. These and other input devices may be connected to the one or more processors **603** via a human machine interface **602** that is coupled to the bus **613**, but may be connected by other interface and bus structures, such as a parallel port, game port, an IEEE 1394 Port (also known as a Firewire port), a serial port, network adapter **608**, and/or a universal serial bus (USB).

(83) A display device **611** may also be connected to the bus **613** via an interface, such as a display adapter **609**. It is contemplated that the computer **601** may have more than one display adapter **609** and the computer **601** may have more than one display device **611**. A display device **611** may be a monitor, an LCD (Liquid Crystal Display), light emitting diode (LED) display, television, smart lens, smart glass, and/or a projector. In addition to the display device **611**, other output peripheral

devices may be components such as speakers (not shown) and a printer (not shown) which may be connected to the computer **601** via Input/Output Interface **610**. Any step and/or result of the methods may be output (or caused to be output) in any form to an output device. Such output may be any form of visual representation, including, but not limited to, textual, graphical, animation, audio, tactile, and the like. The display **611** and computer **601** may be part of one device, or separate devices.

(84) The computer **601** may operate in a networked environment using logical connections to one or more remote computing devices **614a,b,c**. A remote computing device **614a,b,c** may be a personal computer, computing station (e.g., workstation), portable computer (e.g., laptop, mobile phone, tablet device), smart device (e.g., smartphone, smart watch, activity tracker, smart apparel, smart accessory), security and/or monitoring device, a server, a router, a network computer, a peer device, edge device or other common network node, and so on. Logical connections between the computer **601** and a remote computing device **614a,b,c** may be made via a network **615**, such as a local area network (LAN) and/or a general wide area network (WAN). Such network connections may be through a network adapter **608**. A network adapter **608** may be implemented in both wired and wireless environments. Such networking environments are conventional and commonplace in dwellings, offices, enterprise-wide computer networks, intranets, and the Internet.

(85) Application programs and other executable program components such as the operating system **605** are shown herein as discrete blocks, although it is recognized that such programs and components may reside at various times in different storage components of the computing device **601**, and are executed by the one or more processors **603** of the computer **601**. An implementation of content software **606** may be stored on or sent across some form of computer readable media. Any of the disclosed methods may be performed by processor-executable instructions embodied on computer readable media.

(86) While specific configurations have been described, it is not intended that the scope be limited to the particular configurations set forth, as the configurations herein are intended in all respects to be possible configurations rather than restrictive.

(87) Unless otherwise expressly stated, it is in no way intended that any method set forth herein be construed as requiring that its steps be performed in a specific order. Accordingly, where a method claim does not actually recite an order to be followed by its steps or it is not otherwise specifically stated in the claims or descriptions that the steps are to be limited to a specific order, it is no way intended that an order be inferred, in any respect. This holds for any possible non-express basis for interpretation, including: matters of logic with respect to arrangement of steps or operational flow; plain meaning derived from grammatical organization or punctuation; the number or type of configurations described in the specification.

(88) It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations may be made without departing from the scope or spirit. Other configurations will be apparent to those skilled in the art from consideration of the specification and practice described herein. It is intended that the specification and described configurations be considered as exemplary only, with a true scope and spirit being indicated by the following claims.

Claims

1. A method comprising: sending, based on a trigger event, to a plurality of devices associated with a communication group, a first packet of a plurality of packets, wherein the first packet comprises at least a first portion of content associated with the trigger event and an indication configured to start a communication session; and sending, via the communication session, a second packet of the plurality of packets, wherein the second packet comprises at least a second portion of the content associated with the trigger event and an indication configured to end the communication session.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the trigger event comprises one or more of detecting motion,

detecting a request for the content, detecting a call, or detecting an interaction with a device of the plurality of devices.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the communication group comprises an internet protocol (IP) multicast group.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising processing, based on the indication configured to start the communication session, the content, wherein processing the content comprises one or more of decoding the content, rendering the content, playing the content, or recording the content.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising terminating, based on the indication configured to end the communication session, the processing of the content.

6. An apparatus comprising: one or more processors; and memory storing processor executable instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the apparatus to: send, based on a trigger event, to a plurality of devices associated with a communication group, a first packet of a plurality of packets, wherein the first packet comprises at least a first portion of content associated with the trigger event and an indication configured to start a communication session; and send, via the communication session, a second packet of the plurality of packets, wherein the second packet comprises at least a second portion of the content associated with the trigger event and an indication configured to end the communication session.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the trigger event comprises one or more of detecting motion, detecting a request for the content, detecting a call, or detecting an interaction with a device of the plurality of devices.

8. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the communication group comprises an internet protocol (IP) multicast group.

9. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the processor executable instructions, when executed by the one or more processors, further cause the apparatus to process, based on the indication configured to start the communication session, the content, wherein processing the content comprises one or more of decoding the content, rendering the content, playing the content, or recording the content.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the processor executable instructions, when executed by the one or more processors, further cause the apparatus to terminate, based on the indication configured to end the communication session, the processing of the content.

11. A method comprising: receiving a first packet of a plurality of packets, wherein the first packet comprises at least a first portion of content associated with a trigger event and an indication configured to start a communication session; receiving, via the communication session, a second packet of the plurality of packets, wherein the second packet comprises at least a second portion of the content associated with the trigger event and an indication configured to end the communication session; and based on receiving the indication configured to end the communication session, terminating the communication session.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the trigger event comprises one or more of detecting motion, detecting a request for the content, detecting a call, or detecting an interaction with a device.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the communication session comprises an internet protocol (IP) multicast session.

14. The method of claim 11, further comprising processing, based on the indication configured to start the communication session, the content, wherein processing the content comprises one or more of decoding the content, rendering the content, playing the content, or recording the content.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising terminating, based on the indication configured to end the communication session, the processing of the content.

16. An apparatus comprising: one or more processors; and memory storing processor executable instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the apparatus to: receive a first packet of a plurality of packets, wherein the first packet comprises at least a first portion of content associated with a trigger event and an indication configured to start a communication session; receive, via the communication session, a second packet of the plurality of packets,

wherein the second packet comprises at least a second portion of content associated with the trigger event and an indication configured to end the communication session; and based on receiving the indication configured to end the communication session, terminate the communication session.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the trigger event comprises one or more of detecting motion, detecting a request for the content, detecting a call, or detecting an interaction with a device.

18. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the communication session comprises an internet protocol (IP) multicast session.

19. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the processor executable instructions, when executed by the one or more processors, further cause the apparatus to process, based on the indication configured to start the communication session, the content, wherein processing the content comprises one or more of decoding the content, rendering the content, playing the content, or recording the content.

20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the processor executable instructions, when executed by the one or more processors, further cause the apparatus to terminate, based on the indication configured to end the communication session, the processing of the content.
