

US Patent & Trademark Office

Patent Public Search | Text View

United States Patent Application Publication

20250260879

Kind Code

A1

Publication Date

August 14, 2025

Inventor(s)

Endow; William Y. et al.

Temporary Pre-Roll Content Provision With Streaming Content

Abstract

The present disclosure is generally directed to providing temporary pre-roll content with requested streaming content. Specifically, pre-roll content is provided to an end-user prior to an initial playback of streaming content, but is not presented when a backward time shift event occurs within playback of the streaming content. In this manner, missed segments prior to the start of the streaming content may be presented in lieu of the pre-roll content during the backward time shift event.

Inventors: Endow; William Y. (Burbank, CA), Diwaker; Naman (Weehawken, NJ), Galluccio; Robert (New York, NY)

Applicant: NBCUniversal Media, LLC (New York, NY)

Family ID: 88746001

Appl. No.: 19/196041

Filed: May 01, 2025

Related U.S. Application Data

parent US continuation 18078589 20221209 parent-grant-document US 12323678 child US 19196041

Publication Classification

Int. Cl.: H04N21/81 (20110101); H04N21/234 (20110101); H04N21/2387 (20110101); H04N21/472 (20110101); H04N21/845 (20110101)

U.S. Cl.:

CPC H04N21/8126 (20130101); H04N21/23406 (20130101); H04N21/2387 (20130101);

Background/Summary

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS [0001] This application is a continuation of and claims priority to U.S. patent application Ser. No. 18/078,589, entitled “TEMPORARY PRE-ROLL CONTENT PROVISION WITH STREAMING CONTENT,” filed Dec. 9, 2022, which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety for all purposes.

BACKGROUND

[0002] The present disclosure relates generally to providing supplemental pre-roll content with requested streaming content. More particularly, the present disclosure relates to providing pre-roll content with streaming content in a manner that refrains from providing the pre-roll content upon subsequent playback time adjustment of the streaming content.

[0003] This section is intended to introduce the reader to various aspects of art that may be related to various aspects of the present techniques, which are described and/or claimed below. This discussion is believed to be helpful in providing the reader with background information to facilitate a better understanding of the various aspects of the present disclosure. Accordingly, it should be understood that these statements are to be read in this light, and not as admissions of prior art.

[0004] Content streaming, the concurrent reception and playback of digital content (e.g., video and/or audio content), has become a popular distribution mechanism for digital content. Unfortunately, however, streaming content is somewhat inflexible, traditionally adhering to a playback sequence dictated by a single manifest of a content stream. Accordingly, under traditional techniques, when content is added to a content stream, the content is typically added to the manifest and/or is provided in purposeful replacement portions of content, designed for playback of replacement content. Unfortunately, these techniques result in added content becoming a part of the playback stream that remains with playback regardless of alterations to the playback timing by a user. This may hinder certain desirable user experiences. For example, upon a time-shift in reverse to a time where pre-roll content is played, it may be desirable to play the streaming content that would have been played had the pre-roll content not played during the playback time. The traditional content insertion techniques for streaming content do not facilitate for such functionality. Thus, new content insertion techniques are desirable.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

[0005] Certain embodiments commensurate in scope with the originally claimed subject matter are summarized below. These embodiments are not intended to limit the scope of the claimed subject matter, but rather these embodiments are intended only to provide a brief summary of possible forms of the subject matter. Indeed, the subject matter may encompass a variety of forms that may be similar to or different from the embodiments set forth below.

[0006] The current embodiments relate to systems and methods for temporarily inserting pre-roll content with requested streaming content. Using the techniques described herein, playback of the pre-roll content and the requested streaming content may be integrated in a manner that the transition from playback of the pre-roll content to playback of the requested streaming content appears seamless to the end-user. Further, upon a playback time shift backwards to an associated time when the pre-roll content was played, the streaming content may be played back (at the requested shifted playback time) in lieu of the previously played back pre-roll content. In this manner, the end-user may experience playback of the requested streaming content without interruption from pre-roll content, despite the pre-roll content previously being played at the associated playback time. This may be particularly important during live content streaming, where

the requested streaming content may not start with a first sequential segment of the content, due to requesting and/or starting playback at a time later than an initial playback time of the live content.

Description

DRAWINGS

[0007] These and other features, aspects, and advantages of the present disclosure will become better understood when the following detailed description is read with reference to the accompanying drawings in which like characters represent like parts throughout the drawings, wherein:

[0008] FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a temporary pre-roll content insertion system, in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0009] FIG. 2 is a block diagram illustrating a sample use case of temporary pre-roll content insertion, in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0010] FIG. 3 is a flowchart, illustrating a process for performing temporary pre-roll content insertion, in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0011] FIG. 4 is a flow diagram, illustrating techniques for providing an indication of whether temporary pre-roll content should be provided with a content stream, in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0012] FIG. 5 is a flow diagram that illustrates techniques for temporary pre-roll content provision and playback with a requested streaming content, in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0013] FIG. 6 is a flowchart, illustrating a process for switching from playback of pre-roll content to playback of the requested streaming content by using two content players, in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0014] FIG. 7 is a schematic diagram, visually illustrating the process of FIG. 6, in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0015] FIG. 8 is a flowchart, illustrating a process for switching from playback of pre-roll content to playback of the requested streaming content using a common playback buffer, in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure; and

[0016] FIG. 9 is a schematic diagram, visually illustrating the process of FIG. 8, in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0017] One or more specific embodiments of the present disclosure will be described below. In an effort to provide a concise description of these embodiments, all features of an actual implementation may not be described in the specification. It should be appreciated that in the development of any such actual implementation, as in any engineering or design project, numerous implementation-specific decisions must be made to achieve the developers' specific goals, such as compliance with system-related and business-related constraints, which may vary from one implementation to another. Moreover, it should be appreciated that such a development effort might be complex and time consuming, but would nevertheless be a routine undertaking of design, fabrication, and manufacture for those of ordinary skill having the benefit of this disclosure.

[0018] When introducing elements of various embodiments of the present disclosure, the articles “a,” “an,” “the,” and “said” are intended to mean that there are one or more of the elements. The terms “comprising,” “including,” and “having” are intended to be inclusive and mean that there may be additional elements other than the listed elements.

[0019] Turning now to a more detailed discussion of pre-roll content insertion, FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a temporary pre-roll content insertion system **100**, in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure. As illustrated, the system **100** includes a client device **102**. The client

device **102** may request streaming content from a streaming content service **104** to be played in its streaming content player **106**. In some instances, the streaming content service **104** may instruct the streaming content player **106** to playback temporary pre-roll content prior to playback of the requested streaming content. More specifically, the streaming content service **104** may request an indication of pre-roll content that should be played back by the streaming content player **106** (e.g., based upon characteristics of a streaming session between the client device **102** and the streaming content service **104**, such as demographics of an end-user of the client device, a count of previously viewed secondary content by the client device and/or end-user, a service level of the end-user, an identifier of the requested streaming content, etc.).

[0020] Upon receiving an indication of the pre-roll content to be presented prior to the requested streaming content, the streaming content service **104** may provide a command to control the streaming content player **106** to temporarily play the indicated pre-roll content and then switch to playback of the requested streaming content. As mentioned above, the temporary addition of the pre-roll content to playback results in the absence of the pre-roll content upon replay of content at a playback time where the pre-roll content was previously played by the streaming content player **106**. Instead, the streaming content player **106** may play a portion of the requested streaming content associated with the replayed playback that does not contain the previously presented pre-roll content. As will be discussed in more detail below, this is done by using a pre-roll content manifest to provide the temporary presentation of the pre-roll prior to the playback of the requested streaming content and then, switching to playback based upon a manifest of the requested streaming content (e.g., including an indication of segments of the streaming content that would have been played during the pre-roll content playback). In this manner, the streaming content player **106**, upon a playback time shift back to a playback time when the pre-roll content was played back, will obtain and playback streaming content segments of the requested streaming content without the previously played segments of the temporarily added pre-roll content. This may provide a more desirable user experience. For example, an end-user may rewind the requested streaming content to observe a portion of the requested streaming content that appeared during the previous presentation of the pre-roll content.

[0021] FIG. **2** is a block diagram illustrating this use case **200**, in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure. In the use case **200**, an end-user requests playback of streaming content, resulting in the playback start **202**. An indication to first playback pre-roll content is provided to the streaming content player, where segments of the pre-roll content are defined in the pre-roll content manifest **204**. Accordingly, the streaming content player begins playback of segments **206A** and **206B** of the pre-roll content, defined in the pre-roll content manifest **204**. As illustrated, one or more segments of the requested streaming content may occur prior to the playback start and/or during the pre-roll content presentation (e.g., presentation of segments **206A** and **206B**). Here, a first segment **208** is not initially presented, as it occurs before and/or during the presentation of the pre-roll content.

[0022] During presentation of the pre-roll content, the streaming content player may prepare for a content switch **212**, by obtaining a requested streaming content manifest **210** and obtaining segments defined in the requested streaming content manifest **210**. For live streaming content, the obtained segments may start with segments associated with playback start time that is at the end of the pre-roll content playback. For example, here, segment **214** of the requested streaming content is obtained and is presented after the end of the last segment **206B** of the pre-roll content, thus completing the content switch **212**. In this manner, switching from presentation of the pre-roll content to the requested streaming content may appear seamless to the end-user.

[0023] As may be appreciated, segments of the requested streaming content may be skipped/missed in presentation. It may be desirable to enable the end-user to rewind where the pre-roll content is omitted. To do this, the streaming content player may identify a playback time of the playback time shift and identify from the requested streaming content manifest **210**, an indication of the segments

to replay. As illustrated, the requested streaming content manifest **210** includes an indication of all segments (e.g., here, segment **1 216**), despite the streaming content player not having previously played back all segments. Thus, the requested streaming content manifest **210** is able to identify any previous segments for presentation by the streaming content player. The streaming content player may continue to obtain segments (e.g., sequential segment **2 214**) and playback these segments until playback is complete. As illustrated, because playback after the initial pre-roll presentation is dictated by the requested streaming content manifest **210**, the pre-roll content is not replayed during a rewind session. Instead, the sequentially succeeding segments defined in the requested streaming content manifest **210** are obtained and played back.

[0024] Having discussed the basic operation of the temporary presentation of pre-roll content with requested streaming data, FIG. **3** is a flowchart, illustrating a process **300** for performing temporary pre-roll content insertion (e.g., a client-side pre-roll content insertion), in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure. The process **300** begins with receiving a request to initiate streaming content playback (block **302**). For example, an end-user may select content they wish to view via an application and/or website. This selection may result in a request being generated (e.g., by the client device **102**) and provided (e.g., to the streaming content service **104**) for the particular requested streaming content associated with the selection.

[0025] At decision block **304**, a determination is made as to whether pre-roll content should be played prior to playback of the requested streaming content. The streamed content may be a single live event such as a sporting event or game tournament. For example, the secondary content decisioning service may identify rules for determining whether pre-roll content should be presented prior to playback of the requested streaming content. These rules may be based upon characteristics of the end-user, characteristics of the streamlining content service, or other characteristics. For example, the rules may indicate that pre-roll content (e.g., advertisements) should not be displayed for particular end-users with a certain level of subscribership and/or that pre-roll content (e.g., advertisements) should be displayed for particular end-users at or below a certain level of subscribership. In some embodiments, the rules may indicate that pre-roll content should not be displayed when particular ad impression obligations have already been satisfied, when an end-user has already been presented a threshold number of secondary content (e.g., advertisements), etc. The pre-roll content rules may be highly customizable and based on any characteristic information provided to secondary content decisioning service.

[0026] When pre-roll content should not be played, the content playback session may be initiated (block **306**) and the streaming content playback may be performed (block **308**). For example, the manifest for the requested streaming content may be provided to the streaming content player **106**, enabling the streaming content player **106** to obtain and play back segments of the requested streaming content.

[0027] If, however, pre-roll content should be played back, pre-roll content and streaming content playback sessions may be initiated (even concurrently) (block **310**), enabling parallel download of segments of the pre-roll content and the requested streaming content. In some embodiments, because the pre-roll content will be played back prior to the requested streaming content, the pre-roll content segments may be obtained with priority over requested streaming content segments, such as by downloading the requested streaming content segments as one or more of the pre-roll content segments are played back (block **312**).

[0028] Upon completed presentation of the pre-roll segments, a switch from the pre-roll content presentation to presentation of the requested streaming content may be performed (block **314**). This switch may occur, in one embodiment, by sequentially filling a playback buffer of the streaming content player with segments of the requested streaming content after the last segment of the pre-roll content is inserted into the playback buffer. In another embodiment, separate buffers and/or players may be maintained for the pre-roll content and the requested streaming content. Upon completion of playback of the pre-roll content via a first buffer and/or first player, the streaming

content player may be triggered to switch to the second buffer and/or second player that is already pre-buffered for playback (e.g., by the parallel reception of segments of the requested streaming content, as mentioned above). Either of these approaches may provide a virtually seamless switchover between the pre-roll content presentation and the presentation of the requested streaming content. In some embodiments, the technique used for the switchover may depend on a type of content streaming content player and/or playback device that is used. For example, a first device may not support multiple content players and/or content player buffers and, thus, the technique that utilizes segment insertion of both streams into a single buffer may be preferred for such a device.

[0029] Turning now to a discussion of how the streaming content service **104** may determine when to instruct presentation of pre-roll content, FIG. **4** is a flow diagram, illustrating a process **400** for providing an indication of whether temporary pre-roll content should be provided with a content stream, in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure. Specifically, video operations personnel **402** may provide a content manager service **404** an indication of a new live stream to be provided (step **406**). This indication may also include an indication of whether mid-roll content (e.g., ads) should be enabled for live stream (e.g., via a binary true/false value).

[0030] The content manager service **404** may update the internal data structures to prepare for encoding of the live event (step **408**). For example, data tables of the content manager service **404** may be updated to include entries associated with the live event, such as metadata fields, etc.

[0031] At step **410**, the video operations personnel **402** start the encoding process of the live event (e.g., here illustrated as a single live event (SLE), indicative of a one-time live event, such as sporting event, as opposed to a multi live event (MLE), such as a periodic live show).

[0032] Upon triggering of the encoding of the live event, the content manager service **404** polls the pre-roll decisioning service **412** to determine whether pre-roll content should be presented with the live event (step **414**). In response, the pre-roll decisioning service **412** calls the ad service to determine whether pre-roll content should be presented (step **416**). An indication of whether pre-roll content should be presented is provided from the pre-roll decisioning service **412** to the content manager service **404** (step **418**). The internal data structures are updated based upon this indication (step **420**). This process may continue periodically, e.g., every 60 seconds, enabling up to date indications of whether pre-roll content should be provided periodically.

[0033] The content provisioning service **422** may request, from the content manager service **404**) the live event metadata periodically (e.g., every 60 seconds) (step **426**), which results in the updated indication being returned to the content provisioning service **422** (step **428**). The content provisioning service **422** returns the updated indication to the Over the Top (OTT) video platform **424** for publication to OTT devices that request the streaming content (step **430**).

[0034] While the process **400** is illustrated as implemented by a plurality of components (e.g., the content manager **404**, the pre-roll decisioning service **412**, the content provisioning service **422**, and the OTT video platform **424**), this is just one embodiment of components that may perform the process **400** and is not intended to limit the scope to the illustrated components. Indeed, the steps of process **400** may be implemented by more or fewer components. For example, in one embodiment, each step illustrated as being completed by one of the content manager **404**, the pre-roll decisioning service **412**, the content provisioning service **422**, and the OTT video platform **424** of FIG. **4** may be implemented by a single component.

[0035] Turning now to a playback example, FIG. **5** is a flow diagram that illustrates a process **500** for temporary pre-roll content provision and playback with a requested streaming content, in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure. The process **500** begins with a streaming end-user **502** requesting play back of streaming content (e.g., here a single live event (SLE), request by selecting a “play” affordance associated with the streaming content on a player application and/or website **504** (step **506**).

[0036] The player application and/or website **504** triggers playback of the requested streaming

content (step **508**) by invoking by the core video software development kit (SDK) **510**, which is a wrapper around a native player, customized to perform custom logic (e.g., logic for facilitating the temporary pre-roll presentation described herein). For example, the Core Video SDK **510** may request the metadata indicating whether pre-roll content (to be inserted via client-side content insertion) should be presented from the OTT video platform **424**, discussed above with respect to FIG. **4** (step **512**). In response, the OTT video platform **424** may return the metadata (step **514**). [0037] As illustrated, in the current example, the metadata indicates that pre-roll content and mid-roll content is enabled and, thus, should be displayed. Accordingly, the Core Video SDK **510** provides an indication of a request to pre-roll active streaming content to a secondary content manager **516** (step **518**).

[0038] In response, the secondary content manager **516** requests pre-roll content (e.g., one or more pre-roll ads) from a secondary content service **520** (e.g., an ad provision service) (step **522**). In response, the secondary content service **520** returns an indication of pre-roll content (to be inserted via client-side content insertion) to present with the requested streaming content (step **524**). For example, the indication of pre-roll content may include a playlist of zero or more pieces of pre-roll content, selected based upon pre-roll content provision rules, as discussed above.

[0039] As illustrated, the pre-roll content playlist may be inserted into an object, which is returned by the secondary content manager **516** to the Core Video SDK **510** for playback (step **526**). The Core Video SDK may parse the pre-roll content playlist from the returned object and begin playback of the pre-roll content indicated in the playlist (step **528**).

[0040] As indicated by bar **530**, during the above steps, between selecting play and beginning playback of the pre-roll content, a loading indicator (e.g., spinner) may be presented. Bar **532** illustrates the start of playback of the pre-roll content.

[0041] As illustrated, during playback of the pre-roll content, the Core Video SDK **510** may begin loading simultaneously the requested streaming content from a media management system **534**. For example, at step **536**, the Core Video SDK **510** sends a request for the requested streaming content manifest location (e.g., uniform resource locator (URL)), which is returned at step **538**. Once the manifest URL is obtained, the Core Video SDK **510** requests the manifest at the manifest URL (step **540**), resulting in the manifest being returned (step **542**). Once the manifest is received and the pre-roll content playback finishes, the Core Video SDK **510** may play the requested streaming content (step **544**) based on the received manifest, starting with a segment associated with a current playback time, as illustrated by bar **546**.

[0042] As mentioned above, with live content (and other content), the streaming user **502** may begin playback at a point later than an initial segment of the requested streaming content. Using the current techniques, as playback of the requested streaming content is initiated and/or begins, playback by the Core Video SDK **510** of the requested streaming content, past, present, and future, is defined by the requested streaming content manifest. Accordingly, when the streaming user time shifts the playback of the requested streaming content to a time prior to the start of playback observed by (e.g., before bar **546**), the Core Video SDK **510** may identify segments of the requested streaming content to obtain and playback in accordance with timing of the content player app and/or website **504**, in lieu of repeating playback of the pre-roll content or failing to playback missed segments because there were not originally played. As may be appreciated, this may provide a significant improvement to a digital streaming experience as the streaming user **502** may not be overburdened with pre-roll content and may observe missed segments of streamed content.

[0043] Because the mid-roll metadata indicated that mid-rolls should be played, the requested streaming content manifest may be modified to insert custom mid-roll content. During the playback of the requested streaming content (e.g., during the time associated with bar **546**), the manifest may be modified by the media management system **534**, which may identify Society of Cable and Telecommunications Engineering (SCTE)-35 messages (or markers), indicating a content insertion cueing (step **548**). Upon observing such a SCTE-35 message, the media management system **534**

may request mid-roll content (e.g., ads) (step 550), resulting in a return of a mid-roll playlist from the secondary content service 520 (step 552). The mid-roll content indicated in the mid-roll content playlist is inserted into the manifest, resulting in the mid-roll content segments being obtained and presented in the playback by the Core Video SDK 510. Because the scheduled content in the manifest begins at the beginning of bar 546, custom mid-roll content prior to the beginning of bar 546 (e.g., the playback of the requested streaming content by the streaming user 502) might alter the schedule, which may cause issues with subsequent playback. Accordingly, for mid-roll cueing events that occur prior to the initial playback time (e.g., prior to the playback time associated with the start of bar 546), the system may refrain from custom mid-roll content insertion. Instead, the Core Video SDK 510 may playback default insertion period segments (e.g., generic slate renderings) specified by the requested streaming content manifest.

[0044] Turning now to a discussion of switchover between playing pre-roll content to requested streaming content, FIGS. 6 and 8 illustrate two embodiments that may be used to switchover playback. FIGS. 7 and 9 illustrate resulting buffers and player instances resulting from the processes of FIGS. 6 and 8, respectively. For simplicity, these FIGS. will be discussed together.

[0045] Starting first with a multi-buffer and/or multi-player technique, FIG. 6 is a flowchart, illustrating a process 600 for switching from playback of pre-roll content to playback of the requested streaming content by using two content players, in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure. FIG. 7 is a schematic diagram, visually illustrating the process of FIG. 6, in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure. The process 600 begins with initiating a first player for Pre-Roll Content Playback Session (block 602). For example, as discussed herein, the first player (e.g., Player 702 of FIG. 7) may include a player buffer (e.g., Buffer 704) that is filled with Pre-Roll Content Segments (e.g., segments 706) identified via a pre-roll content manifest and/or a pre-roll playlist provided by the secondary content service 520 and/or secondary content manager 516. The segments 706 may be played back by the first player (block 604 and illustrated as player 1 output 708 of FIG. 7).

[0046] In parallel with instantiating the first player in block 602 and/or performing playback via the first player in block 604, a second player may be instantiated for the requested streaming content playback session (block 606). For example, returning to FIG. 7, a second player 710 is instantiated with a player buffer 712 that is filled with requested streaming content segments 714 indicated in the requested streaming content manifest.

[0047] Using the pre-roll content manifest and/or the current playback time of the pre-roll content, a determination is made as to whether playback of the pre-roll content (e.g., the content of player 1 702) is complete (decision block 608). If not, the playback via the first player continues (block 604) until playback of the pre-roll content is complete.

[0048] Once the playback of the pre-roll content is complete, the logic of the Core Video SDK may switch player playback from the first player 702 to the second player 710 (e.g., as indicated by player content switch callout 716 to player 2 output 718). In this manner, the client device display may switch from player 1 output 708 to parallel-loaded content in player 2 output 718.

[0049] In another embodiment, in lieu of instantiating two players and/or player buffers, a single player and/or player buffer may be used, where the player buffer stores both the pre-roll content segments and the requested streaming content segments. FIG. 8 is a flowchart, illustrating a process 800 for switching from playback of pre-roll content to playback of the requested streaming content using a common playback buffer, in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure. FIG. 9 is a schematic diagram, visually illustrating the process of FIG. 8, in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0050] The process 800 begins by obtaining pre-roll content segments (block 802). For example, as discussed above, the pre-roll content segments may be identified from a pre-roll content manifest and/or playlist provided by the secondary content service 520 and/or secondary content manager 516. A player buffer of a streaming content player (e.g., Player 902's player buffer 904) may be

filled with the obtained pre-roll content segments (e.g., segments **706**). In parallel with obtaining the pre-roll content segments and/or filling the player buffer with the pre-roll content segments, segments of the requested streaming content may be obtained (block **806**).

[0051] At decision block **808**, a determination is made as to whether all of the pre-roll content segments have been added to the player buffer. If not, the player continues to fill the player buffer with the pre-roll content segments (e.g., block **804**) until all of the pre-roll content segments have been added to the buffer. At this point, the requested streaming content segments may be added to the buffer. For example, as illustrated in FIG. **9**, content segments **714**, indicated in requested streaming media manifest, are added to the player buffer **904** after the pre-roll content segments **706**. This effectively creates a content switch, as indicated by content switch callout **906**. For example, as the player begins playback of the segments to the client display device (block **812**) in the buffer, the pre-roll content will play first, followed by the requested streaming content segments. It is important to note that while the flowchart of FIG. **8** illustrates playback occurring after the streaming content segments are added to the buffer, the performance of the playback may be performed in parallel with blocks **804-810**. Indeed, in some instances, upon insertion of one segment of pre-roll content within the player buffer, the player playback may begin.

[0052] While only certain features of the present disclosure have been illustrated and described herein, many modifications and changes will occur to those skilled in the art. It is, therefore, to be understood that the appended claims are intended to cover all such modifications and changes as fall within the true spirit of the present disclosure.

Claims

1. A tangible, non-transitory machine-readable medium comprising machine-readable instructions that, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to: receive a request to initiate streaming of a requested streaming content to a streaming content player; cause the streaming content player to present a temporary pre-roll presentation of pre-roll content prior to presentation of the requested streaming content but not during a backward playback time shift, by: providing a first command to the streaming content player to perform playback in accordance with a pre-roll manifest indicating pre-roll content segments of the pre-roll content during a pre-roll playback time; and providing a second command to the streaming content player to, upon completion of the pre-roll playback time, switch to perform playback in accordance with a manifest of the requested streaming content indicating requested streaming content segments, wherein content segments to obtain for subsequent time-shifted playback of the requested streaming content corresponding to the pre-roll playback time are defined by the manifest of the requested streaming content.
2. The tangible, non-transitory machine-readable medium of claim 1, comprising machine-readable instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to: cause the streaming content player to: first, insert, into a common player buffer, the pre-roll content segments for playback; and second, after all pre-roll content segments have been added to the common player buffer, insert, into the common player buffer, the requested streaming content segments, such that the requested streaming content segments play after the pre-roll content segments.
3. The tangible, non-transitory machine-readable medium of claim 2, comprising machine-readable instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to: cause the streaming content player to: adjust a playback start time of the requested streaming content segments to advance to a time associated with an end of the pre-roll playback time.
4. The tangible, non-transitory machine-readable medium of claim 3, wherein the manifest of the requested streaming content comprises an indication of segments of the requested streaming content that occurred prior to the playback start time of the requested streaming content segments,

and wherein the manifest of the requested streaming content does not include the pre-roll content segments.

5. The tangible, non-transitory machine-readable medium of claim 4, comprising machine-readable instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to: cause the streaming content player to playback at least a portion of the segments of the requested streaming content that occurred prior to the playback start time of the requested streaming content segments, based upon a backward time-shift operation to a playback time prior to the start time of the playback, wherein the playback does not include the pre-roll content segments.

6. The tangible, non-transitory machine-readable medium of claim 1, comprising machine-readable instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to: cause the streaming content player to: instantiate a first instance of the streaming content player with a first buffer and fill the first buffer with the pre-roll content segments; instantiate a second instance of the streaming content player with a second buffer and fill the second buffer with the requested streaming content segments; playback the first buffer via the first instance of the streaming content player; and upon completion of the playback of the first buffer, switch to playback of the second buffer via the second instance of the streaming content player.

7. A computer-implemented method, comprising: receiving, via a first computer processor, a request for pre-roll content to be inserted via client-side content insertion into a presentation of requested streaming content by a streaming content player; providing, via the first computer processor, in a response to the request, an indication of the pre-roll content, causing the streaming content player to present the pre-roll content; and during presentation of the pre-roll content by the streaming content player: receiving, via a second computer processor, a request for a manifest of the requested streaming content; and in response to receiving the request for the manifest of the requested streaming content, provide the manifest of the requested streaming content, the manifest comprising mid-roll content inserted via server-side insertion.

8. The computer-implemented method of claim 7, comprising: receiving, via a third computer processor of streaming content player, the indication of the pre-roll content; in response to receiving the indication of the pre-roll content, causing, via the third computer processor, presentation of the pre-roll content; receiving, via the third computer processor, during the presentation of the pre-roll content, the manifest of the requested streaming content, indicating content segments of the requested streaming content; and switching from presentation of the pre-roll content to presentation of the content segments of the requested streaming content at a current playback time corresponding to a playback time at the end of the presentation of the pre-roll content.

9. The computer-implemented method of claim 8, comprising: receiving, via the third computer processor, a request for time-shifted playback to a playback time prior to the playback time at the end of the presentation of the pre-roll content; and in response to request for the time-shifted playback, presenting a corresponding portion of the requested streaming content as defined by the manifest of the requested streaming content.

10. The computer-implemented method of claim 7, comprising: inserting, via the server-side insertion, by the second computer processor, the mid-roll content to be presented at a mid-roll playback location between different portions of the requested streaming content, by: receiving an indication of segments of the mid-roll content; modifying the manifest of the requested streaming content not having the indication of the segments of the mid-roll content, by inserting the indication of the segments of the mid-roll content in the original copy of the manifest of the requested streaming content, between an indication of the different portions of the requested streaming content; and providing the modified manifest of the requested streaming content.

11. The computer-implemented method of claim 10, comprising: identifying, via the second computer processor, the mid-roll playback location by identifying Society of Cable and

12. The computer-implemented method of claim 10, comprising: refraining from inserting the indication of segments of the mid-roll content in midroll playback locations of the manifest associated with playback times occurring prior to the playback time at the end of the presentation of the pre-roll content, instead inserting default insertion period segments.

13. A system, comprising: one or more processors; and one or more tangible, non-transitory machine-readable media comprising machine-readable instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to: receive a request to initiate streaming of a requested streaming content; cause a temporary pre-roll presentation of pre-roll content that is presented prior to presentation of the requested streaming content but not during a backward playback time shift, by causing one or more streaming content players to: access a pre-roll manifest indicating pre-roll content segments for playback of the pre-roll content during a pre-roll playback time; obtain the pre-roll content segments for playback of the pre-roll content and requested streaming content segments for playback of the requested streaming content including requested streaming content segments that would have played during the pre-roll playback time; perform the playback of at least a subset of the pre-roll content in accordance with the pre-roll manifest; and upon completion of the playback of the pre-roll content, switching to a manifest of the requested streaming content, wherein content segments to obtain for subsequent time-shifted playback of the requested streaming content corresponding to the pre-roll playback time are defined by the manifest of the requested streaming content.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the tangible, non-transitory machine-readable media comprises machine-readable instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to cause the one or more streaming content players to: obtain the requested streaming content segments in parallel with obtaining the pre-roll content segments, playback of the pre-roll content segments, or both.

15. The system of claim 13, wherein the tangible, non-transitory machine-readable medium comprises machine-readable instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to: cause the one or more streaming content players to switch to playback of the requested streaming content segments, by causing the one or more streaming content players to: first, insert, into a common player buffer, the pre-roll content segments for playback; and second, after all pre-roll content segments have been added to the common player buffer, insert, into the common player buffer, the requested streaming content segments, such that the requested streaming content segments play after the pre-roll content segments.

16. The system of claim 13, wherein the tangible, non-transitory machine-readable medium comprises machine-readable instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to: cause the one or more streaming content players to switch to playback of the requested streaming content segments, by causing the one or more streaming content players to: instantiate a first streaming content player with a first buffer and fill the first buffer with the pre-roll content segments; instantiate a second streaming content player with a second buffer and fill the second buffer with the requested streaming content segments; playback the first buffer via the first streaming content player; and upon completion of the playback of the first buffer, switch to playback of the second buffer via the second streaming content player.

17. The system of claim 13, wherein the manifest of the requested streaming content comprises an indication of segments of the requested streaming content that occurred prior to a start time of the playback of the requested streaming content segments, and wherein the manifest of the requested streaming content does not include the pre-roll content segments; and wherein the tangible, non-transitory machine-readable medium comprises machine-readable instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to: cause the one or more streaming content players to playback at least a portion of the segments of the requested streaming content that occurred prior to the start time of the playback of the requested streaming content

segments, based upon a backward time-shift operation to a playback time prior to the start time of the playback, wherein the playback does not include the pre-roll content segments.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the playback time corresponds to a playback time when the pre-roll content segments were played back.

19. The system of claim 13, wherein the tangible, non-transitory machine-readable medium comprises machine-readable instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to: determine whether the pre-roll content should be presented with the requested streaming content based on received metadata associated with the requested streaming content; and cause the one or more streaming content players to refrain from presenting the pre-roll content when the pre-roll content should not be presented with the requested streaming content.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein the tangible, non-transitory machine-readable medium comprises machine-readable instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to: determine whether the pre-roll content should be presented with the requested streaming content by polling a secondary content service that maintains rules that utilize characteristics of: an end-user, secondary content criteria, or both.
