An Integrated TV Guide Database and Management Tools

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TV guides offer a convenient way to find the shows you like to watch at a given time. However, only cable and satellite companies offer guides for their stations’ programming (shows, movies, etc.), and they must maintain the database. Users who have over the air (OTA) television are forced to find their own solutions for determining what is on TV. Over the years, several independent companies and individuals have attempted to produce TV guide software meant for OTA viewers. However, we have found that each piece of software has some sort of fundamental limitation which makes it unusable for the majority of viewers. Usually, these limitations are in the database system which backs the programming schedules or in the amount of program scheduling information freely available on the internet. We have explored some of these limitations and developed our own database model and software which should ease or eliminate them. Our demo implementation applies a small subset of our model for practical use. We have created a series of tools which, when used in conjunction with other software, will import TV show and movie titles from the Internet Movie DataBase (IMDB) into our database system so the viewer may see this programming in a sample TV guide GUI which we created.