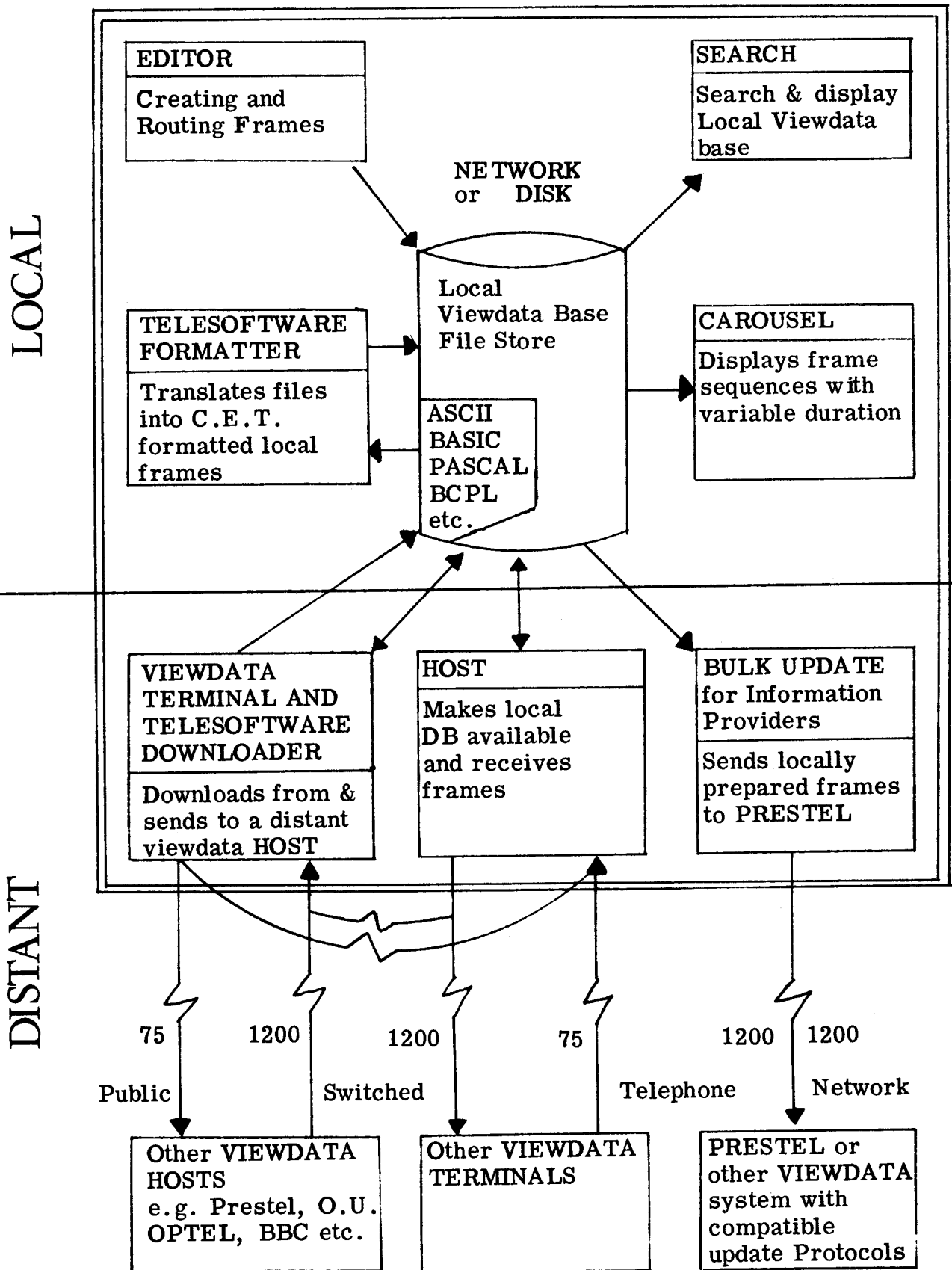


VIEWDATA SYSTEM FOR THE BBC MICRO

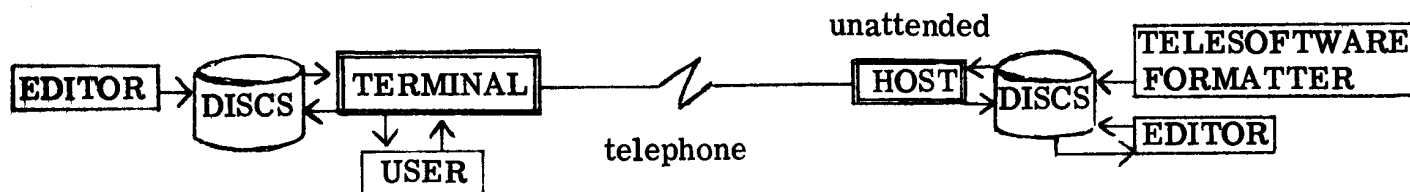


VIEWDATA TERMINAL SOFTWARE

As well as being able to log on to PRESTEL, this software enables a BBC micro user to log on to any other BBC micro running the VIEWDATA HOST software. The user can then search the distant database in exactly the same way as when logged on to PRESTEL, saving locally any frames of interest. Telesoftware can also be downloaded from the distant BBC micro and saved locally. Telesoftware is not restricted to BASIC but can be ASCII files, wordprocessor output, data, other languages etc. In addition the user can call in pre-prepared frames that they have edited locally, and send them to the distant machine's 'In-tray' via the same HOST program.

VIEWDATA HOST SOFTWARE

The HOST software enables a locally prepared Viewdata base to be made publicly available over the telephone to any distant Viewdata terminal. With an auto-answer modem, it can be left unattended to answer calls. As well as ordinary Viewdata frames, the HOST can make available Telesoftware frames, also prepared locally using the TELESOFTWARE FRAME FORMATTER. When dialled up by a Viewdata terminal such as the BBC with this system's VIEWDATA TERMINAL software which is capable of sending pre-prepared frames, the HOST can store the received frames in a separate 'In-Tray' directory for later retrieval by the HOST's user. The HOST's user can then decide whether to discard or save the contents of their 'In-Tray' or incorporate them into their local Viewdata base(s).



FUNCTION OF THE VIEWDATA SYSTEM COMPONENTS

1. THE EDITOR

Create and edit frames and link them together to form a local Viewdata base. It has an easy-to-use front menu, fully supports all the Viewdata codes and has good editing facilities.

2. THE VIEWDATA BASE SEARCHER

Search a local Viewdata base in exactly the same way as PRESTEL except that it is possible to step back through the previous 10 frames instead of just 3.

3. THE CAROUSEL

Display a preset sequence of frames, each for a preset time. Allows unattended display for public information, shop window display, exhibitions etc.

4. THE TELESOFTWARE FORMATTER

Take existing files of text, programs or data and turn them into a sequence of local frames in the C.E.T. standard telesoftware format.

5. THE HOST

Make a prepared local database available over the 'phone to standard Viewdata terminals. Answers the 'phone unattended. Can receive frames from the caller. Enables them to download telesoftware.

6. THE VIEWDATA TERMINAL/TELESOFTWARE DOWNLOADER

Log-on to PRESTEL or other Viewdata systems (such as BBC and HOST), search through them, save frames of interest, download telesoftware, send a locally prepared frame and on-line edit to PRESTEL.

7. THE BULK UPDATER

Take pre-prepared frames from a local database and send them to PRESTEL or other Viewdata system supporting PRESTEL's bulk update protocol.