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I. INTRODUCTION

Defendants ("TCL") file this brief in response to Plaintiff's ("Ancora") opening claim construction brief (Dkt. No. 52) ("Ancora's Opening Brief"). For the reasons described in TCL's opening brief (Dkt. No. 53) ("TCL's Opening Brief") and for the reasons discussed below, TCL requests that the Court adopt its constructions of the disputed terms.

II. CLAIM TERMS IN DISPUTE

Seven claim terms are in dispute, the first five of which relate to the only asserted independent claim, claim 1.

A. "Memory of the BIOS"

Claim	Ancora's Construction	TCL's Construction
1	plain and ordinary meaning	a memory that: (i) stores the BIOS; (ii) is not recognized by an operating system as a storage device; and (iii) does not have a file system

As TCL explained in its opening brief, the applicant for the '941 Patent made a clear, unambiguous disclaimer of the scope of "memory of the BIOS." (See TCL's Opening Brief at 9–14.) The applicant disclaimed from the scope of "memory of the BIOS" any storage device that is recognized by the operating system as a storage device or that has a file system. (Id.) In its infringement contentions, Ancora now tries to reclaim that disclaimed scope, accusing as the "memory of the BIOS" the primary storage device used by the operating system, and in fact the storage device that the operating itself is stored on. This is precisely the situation that the application of prosecution disclaimer is designed to prevent. Aylus Networks, Inc. v. Apple Inc., 856 F.3d 1353, 1360 (Fed. Cir. 2017) ("Ultimately, the doctrine of prosecution disclaimer ensures that claims are not 'construed one way in order to obtain their allowance and in a different way against accused infringers." (quoting Southwall Techs., Inc. v. Cardinal IG Co., 54 F.3d 1570, 1576 (Fed. Cir. 1995)).

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Ancora's primary argument to the contrary is that the comments made during prosecution characterized only the prior art, and not the claimed invention. (Ancora's Opening Brief at 16–20.) This is incorrect as seen from the specification and the prosecution history. Ancora's arguments do not and cannot explain away the explicit and unambiguous disclaimer made during prosecution, as discussed further below.

Applicant's Comments During Prosecution Described the Claimed Invention, Not Just the Prior Art.

As discussed in TCL's Opening Brief, the applicant argued during prosecution that it was non-obvious to store license information in BIOS memory because:

Moreover, the present invention proceeds against conventional wisdom in the art. Using BIOS to store application data such as that stored in Misra's local cache for licenses is not obvious. The BIOS area is not considered a storage area for computer applications. An ordinary skilled artisan would not consider the BIOS a storage medium to preserve application data for at least two reasons.

First, OS does not support this functionality and is not recognized as a hardware device like other peripherals. . . . There is no OS support whatsoever to write data to the system BIOS. . . .

Second, no file system is associated with the BIOS. Every writable device connected to the PC is associated with an OS file system to arrange and manage data structures. An example for such a file system would be FAT, FAT32, NTFS, HPFS, etc. that suggests writing data to the writable device. No such file system is associated with the BIOS. This is further evidence that OS level application would not consider the BIOS as a storage medium for license data.



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