

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

DELL INC.
Petitioner

v.

NETWORK-1 SECURITY SOLUTIONS, INC.
Patent Owner

Case IPR2013-00385
Patent 6,218,930

Before JAMESON LEE, JONI Y. CHANG, and JUSTIN T. ARBES,
Administrative Patent Judges.

ARBES, *Administrative Patent Judge.*

DECISION
Institution of *Inter Partes* Review
37 C.F.R. § 42.108

Dell Inc. (“Dell”) filed a Petition (Paper 2) (“Pet.”) to institute an *inter partes* review of claims 6 and 9 of Patent 6,218,930 (the “’930 patent”) pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 311 *et seq.* and a motion for joinder with Case IPR2013-00071 (Paper 4) (“Mot.”). Patent Owner Network-1 Security Solutions, Inc. filed a preliminary response (Paper 14) (“Prelim. Resp.”) to the Petition. We have jurisdiction under 35 U.S.C. § 314. For the reasons that follow, the Board has determined to institute an *inter partes* review.¹

I. BACKGROUND

The standard for instituting an *inter partes* review is set forth in 35 U.S.C. § 314(a):

THRESHOLD – The Director may not authorize an *inter partes* review to be instituted unless the Director determines that the information presented in the petition filed under section 311 and any response filed under section 313 shows that there is a reasonable likelihood that the petitioner would prevail with respect to at least 1 of the claims challenged in the petition.

Dell challenges claims 6 and 9 of the ’930 patent as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Pet. 7; Paper 11. We grant the Petition as to claims 6 and 9 on those grounds as discussed below.

A. Related Case IPR2013-00071

On December 5, 2012, Avaya Inc. (“Avaya”) filed a petition to institute an *inter partes* review of claims 6 and 9 of the ’930 patent, asserting five grounds of unpatentability. IPR2013-00071, Paper 1. On May 24,

¹ In a decision being entered concurrently, Dell’s motion for joinder is granted and this proceeding is joined with Case IPR2013-00071.

Case IPR2013-00385
Patent 6,218,930

2013, the Board granted the petition and instituted an *inter partes* review on the following grounds:

Claims 6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H10-13576 (“Matsuno”); and

Claims 6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Patent 6,115,468 (“De Nicolo”) in view of Matsuno.

IPR2013-00071, Paper 18 at 29 (“’71 Dec.”). Avaya’s request for rehearing as to a portion of the Board’s decision was denied. IPR2013-00071, Paper 32.

Dell challenges claims 6 and 9 on the same grounds on which a trial was instituted in Case IPR2013-00071, and the arguments made by Dell in its Petition appear to be identical to those made by Avaya. *See* Pet. 7; Paper 11; *compare* Pet. 17-35, *with* IPR2013-00071, Paper 1 at 17-26, 36-45. Dell also submitted a declaration from Dr. George A. Zimmerman that contains essentially the same testimony as the declaration of Dr. Zimmerman submitted by Avaya, but removes testimony regarding prior art references on which a trial was not instituted in Case IPR2013-00071. *Compare* Ex. 1011, *with* IPR2013-00071, Ex. 1011.

B. The ’930 Patent (Ex. 1001)

The ’930 patent, entitled “Apparatus and Method for Remotely Powering Access Equipment Over a 10/100 Switched Ethernet Network,” issued on April 17, 2001 based on Application 09/520,350, filed March 7, 2000, which claims priority to Provisional Application 60/123,688, filed Mar. 10, 1999.

The '930 patent relates to “the powering of 10/100 Ethernet compatible equipment,” specifically “automatically determining if remote equipment is capable of remote power feed and if it is determined that the remote equipment is able to accept power remotely then to provide power in a reliable non-intrusive way.” Col. 1, ll. 13-19. The patent describes how it was generally known in the prior art to power telecommunications equipment, such as telephones, remotely, but doing so had not “migrated to data communications equipment” due to various problems, such as the high power levels required by data communications equipment. Col. 1, ll. 22-32. The patent describes a need in the art to power data communications equipment remotely and to “reliably determin[e] if a remote piece of equipment is capable of accepting remote power.” Col. 1, ll. 42-44.

Figure 3 of the patent is reproduced below:

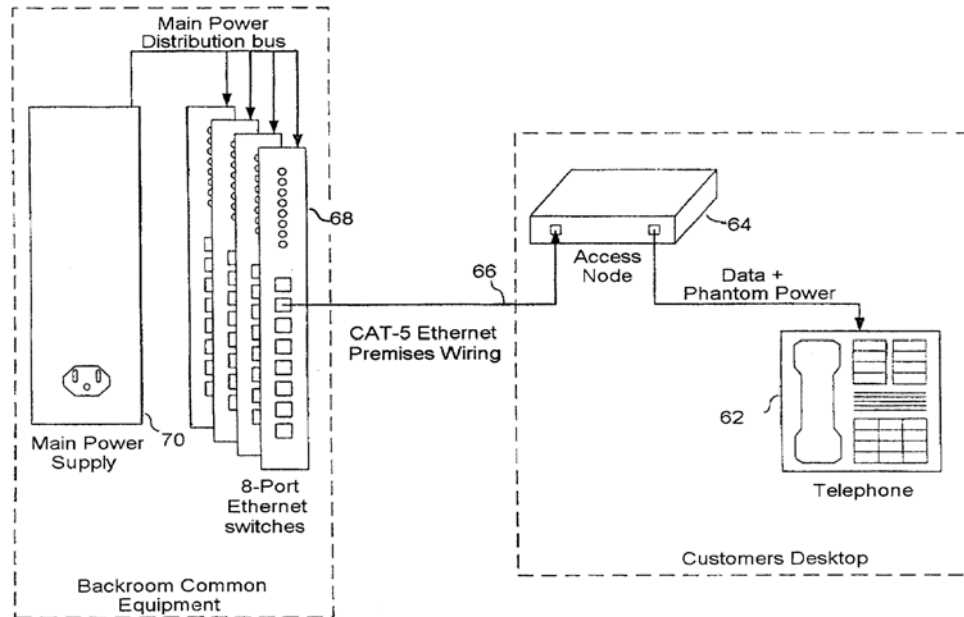


Fig. 3

Figure 3 depicts a remote telephone 62 capable of receiving and transmitting both voice and data. Col. 3, ll. 60-66. Telephone 62 is connected to access node 64 at the customer’s premises, and access node 64 is connected to one

of the ports of Ethernet switch 68 via wiring 66 comprising “a Category 5 Ethernet 100BaseX cable of 4 sets of unshielded twisted pairs.” *Id.*

Ethernet switch 68 comprises an automatic remote power detector 22 (shown in Fig. 1) and remote power supply 34 (shown in Fig. 2). Col. 4, ll. 1-4.

The preferred embodiment described in the '930 patent operates as follows. A remote access device, such as the telephone shown in Figure 3, is normally powered by “an ac transformer adapter plugged in to the local 110 volt supply,” but may or may not be capable of being powered remotely. Col. 2, ll. 40-44. The system detects whether the access device is capable of being powered remotely by “delivering a low level current (approx. 20 ma)” over existing twisted pairs of an Ethernet cable used for data signaling and “measuring a voltage drop in the return path.” Col. 2, l. 66-col. 3, l. 2; col. 3, ll. 44-48. If there is no voltage drop or a fixed voltage level is detected, the device is not capable of accepting remote power. Col. 3, ll. 2-11. If a varying or “sawtooth” voltage level occurs (caused by the access device repeatedly beginning to start up but being “unable to sustain the start up” due to the low current level), the device is capable of accepting remote power. Col. 3, ll. 12-22. The system then increases the power being supplied remotely to the access device. *Id.* Once the access device is operating under remote power, the system looks for removal of the access device and decreases the power being supplied when the device is no longer connected. Col. 3, ll. 49-58.

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