UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
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BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD
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SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO., LTD.,
Petitioner,

v.

BLACK HILLS MEDIA, LLC,
Patent Owner.
_____

Case IPR2014-00717
Patent 6,108,686
_____

Before BRIAN J. MCNAMARA, DAVID C. MCKONE,
and FRANCES L. IPPOLITO, *Administrative Patent Judges.*

MCKONE, *Administrative Patent Judge.*

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

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. ("Petitioner") filed a Petition (Paper 1, "Pet.") to institute an *inter partes* review of claims 1, 2, 20, 23, 29, and 30 of U.S. Patent No. 6,108,686 (Ex. 1001, "the '686 patent"). Pet. 4. Samsung Electronics America, Inc., and Samsung Telecommunications America, LLC, are identified by Petitioner as real parties-in-interest.[1] Pet. 1. Black Hills Media ("Patent Owner") filed a Preliminary Response (Paper 9, "Prelim. Resp."). Upon consideration of the Petition and Preliminary Response, we conclude, under 35 U.S.C. § 314(a), that Petitioner has shown a reasonable likelihood that it would prevail with respect to claims 1, 2, 20, 23, 29, and 30. Accordingly, we institute an *inter partes* review of claims 1, 2, 20, 23, 29, and 30 of the '686 patent.

B. Related Matters

The '686 patent has been asserted against multiple defendants in *Black Hills Media, LLC v. Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.*, No. 2-13-cv-00379 (E.D. Tex.). Pet. 1; Paper 5, at 2.

The '686 patent is also at issue in *Black Hills Media, LLC v. Yamaha Corporation of American*, No. 2:14-cv-00101 (C.D. Cal.); *Black Hills Media, LLC v. Sonos, Inc.*, No. 2:14-cv-00486 (C.D. Cal); and *Black Hills*

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[1] We previously granted-in-part Patent Owner's Motion for Additional Discovery (Paper 15) on whether Petitioner should have identified Google, Inc., as a real party in interest. Paper 17.

Media, LLC v. Pioneer Electronics Inc., No. 2:14-cv-00471 (C.D. Cal).

Paper 5, at 2.

C. References Relied Upon

Petitioner relies upon the following prior art references:

Reilly et al., US 5,740,549, issued Apr. 14, 1998, filed June 12, 1995 (Ex. 1003, "Reilly")

Jiri Weiss, *New Places to Go Online*, Vol. 14, No. 8, TECHNOLOGY & LEARNING 109–15 (May/June 1994) (Ex. 1004, "Technology & Learning")

D. The Asserted Grounds

Petitioner contends that the challenged claims are unpatentable based on the following specific grounds (Pet. 4):

References	Basis	Claims Challenged
Reilly	§ 102(e)	1, 2, 20, 23, 29, and 30
Reilly and Technology & Learning	§ 103(a)	1, 2, 20, 23, 29, and 30

E. The '686 Patent

The '686 patent is directed to techniques for retrieving information about a specific subject from remote databases. Ex. 1001, Abstract. At the time of the invention, high speed data connections were excessively expensive for many consumers, making it difficult to obtain information over the Internet and World Wide Web quickly. *Id.* at col. 1, ll. 12–39. The invention of the '686 patent uses a search agent to retrieve information relating to a single, predefined subject, stores that information in a local

database, and allows a user to access the locally stored information. *Id.* at
col. 2, ll. 8–23. Examples of subjects on which a user can seek information
include news, cooking, weather, and sports. *Id.* at col. 3, ll. 40–43. The
'686 patent terms such a system a subject-specific information retrieval and
viewing system ("SIRViS"). *Id.* at Abstract.

      A SIRViS includes a graphical user interface ("GUI") in cooperation
with a search agent. *Id.* at col. 5, ll. 21–22. The GUI includes a control
panel component and a content viewer component. *Id.* at col. 5, ll. 22–24.
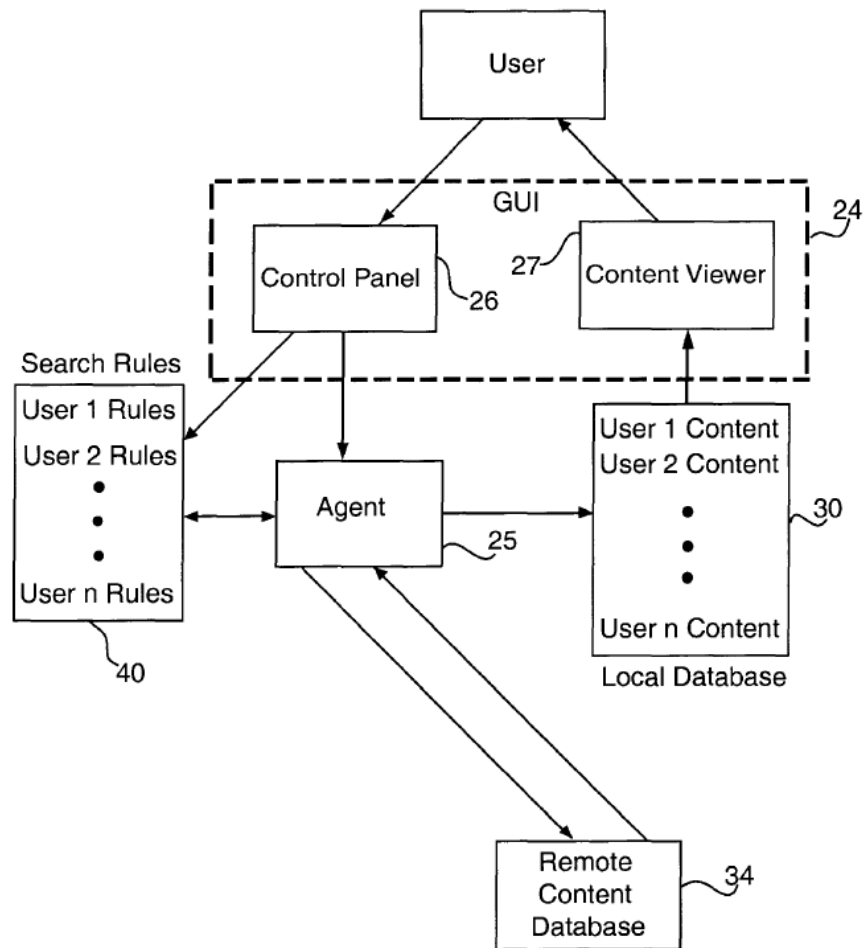Figure 4 of the '686 patent, reproduced below, illustrates an example of a
SIRViS:

FIG. 4

Figure 4 is a block diagram illustrating the functions of a SIRViS. *Id.* at
col. 2, ll. 40–41.

A user defines a set of search rules for a subject area (e.g., sports),
using control panel 26. Ex. 1001, col. 5, ll. 24–28. The control panel
component includes dialog boxes and other features, which, in a Windows-
based environment, allow a user to enter, using a mouse, touchpad, etc., a set

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