

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 are pending in the present application. Applicants thank Examiner West and Supervisory Examiner Fischer for repeatedly discussing this application with Applicants, and for their willingness to review Applicants' proposals. Claims 1, 6, 8-12, 17, 19-24, 29, and 31-36 are amended herein to clarify the invention in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. No new matter has been added. In accordance with the discussions with the Examiners, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-36 stand provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory double-patenting over claim 6 of co-pending Application No. 10162701. Applicants respectfully request that this provisional rejection be held in abeyance until this application is otherwise in condition for allowance, at which point Applicants will consider filing a Terminal Disclaimer.

Claims 1-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being related to non-statutory subject matter. As stated previously, claims 1, 12, and 24 each recite that "the meta-rights are provided in digital form and are enforceable by a repository," and a "right" is created by executing the claimed meta-right. Thus, these claims clearly satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Claims 1-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Anand et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,044,466) in view of "Workshop on Digital Rights Management, Minutes from Architecture/Infrastructure Session" (hereafter, Infrastructure).

Based on discussions with the Examiners, Applicants amend the claims herein to clarify that the claimed set of rights includes a "meta-right specifying a right that can be created when the meta-right is exercised," and specify that the meta-right is exercised to "create the right specified by the meta-right if the rights consumer is entitled to the right specified by the meta-right." As acknowledged by the Examiners, the applied prior art, including Anand and Infrastructure), fail to disclose, suggest, or render obvious at least these features.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Anand nor Infrastructure, taken alone or in combination, disclose, suggest, or render obvious the invention recited in independent claims 1, 12, and 24. The dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from one of the independent claims, and also on their own merits.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments and submit that this application is in condition for immediate allowance. A notice to that effect is solicited. If any issue remains after considering this response, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned to expedite the prosecution and work out any such issue by telephone.

Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2380. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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