

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

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CROSSROADS SYSTEMS, INC.  
Patent Owner

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Patent No. 7,051,147

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**DECLARATION OF JOHN MIDDLETON**

I, John Middleton, state and declare as follows:

1. I was an employee of Crossroads Systems, Inc. from 1997 until 2001.

I started at Crossroads in February of 1997. For most of my tenure at Crossroads I was a vice-president of engineering.

2. During 1997, I worked on the “Verrazano” project, which ultimately became Crossroad’s first storage bridge product. During this time period, I worked with both Geoffrey Hoese and Jeffrey Russell on the Verrazano project. My role on Verrazano was hardware engineering manager

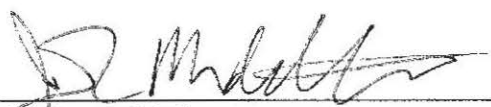
3. During the last half of 1997, it is my recollection that Crossroads had approximately 10 technical employees (in other words, those that would be involved in designing and building working products). During that time, all of those personnel, including myself, were dedicated to work on the Verrazano project—that is, creating a functional, working product.

4. Neither Verrazano, nor its ultimate embodiment in Crossroads’ storage bridge products, utilized the access controls. By access controls, I mean the ability to control access from a host computer to the same storage available to another host computer. Access controls were later added to Crossroads’ router products after the Verrazano project was completed. However, development of the Verrazano project (which was Crossroads’ initial storage bridge) was required in

order to create a product having access controls, as access controls were incorporated into the storage bridge and require the bridge's components in order to function. Without a working storage bridge, there was not a way to implement access controls. In other words, until the Verrazano bridge could be completed, Crossroads had no working device which could implement access controls.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on: May 22, 2015

  
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John Middleton