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EXAMINER

BUI, TRONG D.

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Art Unit: 2173

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings filed on July 21, 1999 are acceptable subject to correction of the informalities indicated on the attached "Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review," PTO-948. In order to avoid abandonment of this application, correction is required.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 3 – 6 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim should refer to other claims in the alternative only. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims have not been further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 2, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the use of alternative limitations is not permitted in the claims. The alternative limitations recited in Claim 2 include "Changing the aspect ratio or otherwise cropping", "Changing the orientation or otherwise rotating..." and "Combining (including stitching) of multiple media objects, or Enhancing the image by changing its contrast". Claim 5 recites the alternative limitation, "media object is associated or processed". Claim 6 recites the alternative limitation, "generated dynamically or generated from pre-set instructions". The claims must be amended to include positive limitations, clearly reciting what applicant regards as the invention.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1 - 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,035,323 to Narayen et al. in view of Netscape Communications Corporation's *Netscape Communicator 4.75* software.

Narayen et al. discloses methods and apparatuses for publishing a collection of digital media to the Internet using a picture management software. Regarding Claim 2, Narayen et al. discloses step 247 (in FIG. 6A), allowing a user to enter caption or title ("Adding text or other annotation") to each image ("media object") before sending the image to the server computer system 701 ("second location") for publishing.

Regarding Claim 5, Narayen et al. discloses a layout and style window 1301 (in FIG. 13), allowing a user to change the layout of the current page containing multiple pictures (images) or the layout of the entire album containing multiple pages containing multiple pictures. Changing the layout of a page (containing multiple pictures) would constitute processing or changing the location or "changing the orientation" (Claim 2, Line13) of "more than one media object" "simultaneously" (Claim 5, line 1-2).

Regarding Claim 6, Narayen et al. discloses a signature generator and comparator 641 (in FIG. 10) that creates a signature ("media object identifier") for each

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picture in the picture album. Therefore a picture album containing multiple pictures would constitute the generation of multiple signatures (“media object identifiers”).

Regarding Claims 1, 3, and 4, Narayen et al.’s disclosure is very similar in that Narayen et al. teaches step 225 in which images (“media object”) are acquired (“transporting”) from a file storage device such as a hard disk (“first location”) and stored in the picture management software system. The picture management system creates a signature for each image acquired, thereby “associating the media object with” a “media object identifier”. An album or collection of images is also created using the picture management system. Then in step 227, the picture management system transmits the album format data and signatures to the computer server system 701 (“second location”) for publishing. However, Narayen et al. does not explicitly disclose whether the picture management system (used to acquire the images) is a web page (as recited in Claim 1) or not. Furthermore Narayen et al. does not disclose methods for associating the image (on a file storage device such as a hard disk) to its signature in the picture management system via “dragging” the image to the Web page (as recited in Claim 3) and associating the image via “browsing and selecting files on the first location” (as recited in Claim 4). But as described in the Help file (page 9, Inserting an Image section) of Netscape Communication Corp.’s *Netscape Communicator 4.75* software (*Netscape Composer* component), an image can be inserted via dragging and dropping (as recited in Claim 3) the image into *Netscape Composer* (which corresponds to the recited “Web page” in Claim 1, since *Netscape Composer* is a component of Communicator, a web browser). The Inserting an Image section of the Help file also

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