UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
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BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD
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GLOBAL TEL*LINK CORPORATION,
Petitioner,

v.

SECURUS TECHNOLOGIES, INC.,
Patent Owner.

_____

Case IPR2016-01220
Patent 9,007,420 B1

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Before KEVIN F. TURNER, BARBARA A. BENOIT, and
GEORGIANNA W. BRADEN, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

BRADEN, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

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

I.   INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Global Tel*Link Corporation ("Petitioner") filed a Petition (Paper 2, "Pet.") to institute an *inter partes* review of claims 1–21 of U.S. Patent No. 9,007,420 B1 (Ex. 1001, "the '420 patent"). Securus Technologies, Inc. ("Patent Owner") filed a Preliminary Response (Paper 6, "Prelim. Resp."). We have jurisdiction under 35 U.S.C. § 314, which provides that an *inter partes* review may not be instituted "unless . . . there is a reasonable likelihood that the petitioner would prevail with respect to at least 1 of the claims challenged in the petition." *See also* 37 C.F.R § 42.4(a) (delegating authority to the Board).

Upon consideration of the Petition, Petitioner's cited evidence, Patent Owner's Preliminary Response and associated evidence, we conclude Petitioner has established a reasonable likelihood it would prevail with respect to at least one of the challenged claims. Accordingly, for the reasons that follow, we institute an *inter partes* review.

B. Related Proceedings

Petitioner informs us that Patent Application No. 14/683,655, filed April 10, 2015, is a continuation of the '420 patent and it may affect or be affected by this proceeding. Pet. 59–60.

C. The '420 Patent

The '420 patent was filed on January 10, 2014, and is titled "Verifying Presence of Authorized Persons During an Electronic Visitation" and is directed "to methods and systems for verifying presence of authorized persons during an electronic visitation." Ex. 1001, Title, 1:5–10. Many institutions, such as prisons, provide various options for inmates to

communicate with visitors and other parties outside the prison. *Id.* at 1:14–15. According to the '420 patent, options include in-person visitation, room-to-room visitation through a divider, telephone visitation, and video visitation. Inmates of controlled-environment facilities are typically restricted to receiving visitation from approved persons. *Id.* at 1:15–19. The '420 patent states that identification of visitors is more difficult with telephone or video visitation. The individual may provide a personal identification number, phrase, or pass code, but it is often difficult to ascertain whether the person providing the identifying information is in fact the authorized visitor without visual confirmation of the person's identity. *Id.* at 1:27–32.

The '420 patent teaches methods, apparatuses, and systems for verifying presence of authorized persons during an electronic visitation. *Id.* at 1:39–41. Specifically, in one embodiment shown in Figure 1 reproduced below, the '420 patent teaches a system for verifying presence of authorized persons during an electronic visitation.
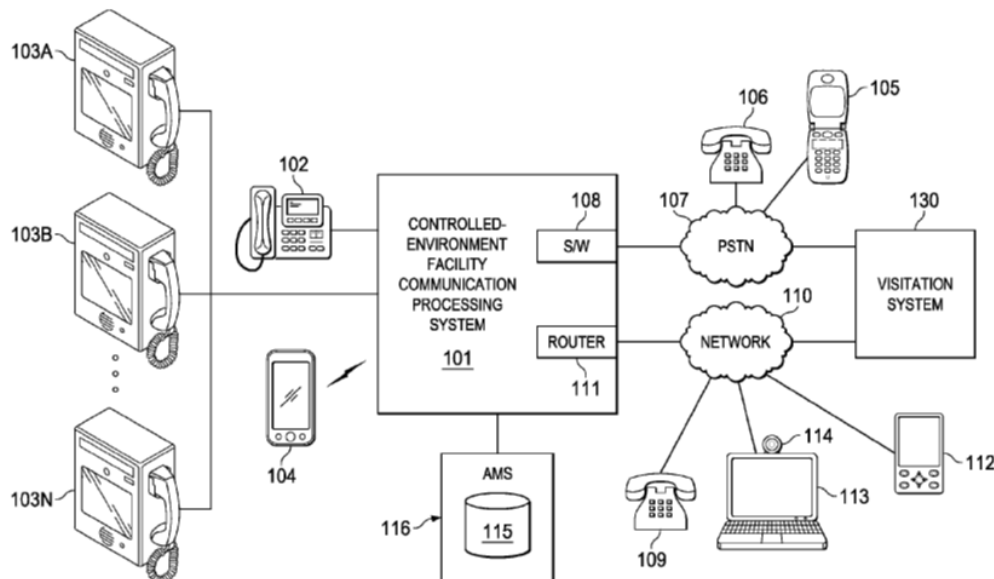
Figure 1 is an illustration of controlled environment facility with processing system 101 and visitation system 130 used for verifying the presence of authorized persons during an electronic visitation. *Id.* at 3:8–11.

Another embodiment of the '420 patent, shown in Figure 3 reproduced below, teaches a processing device configurable as an apparatus for verifying presence of authorized persons during a video visitation. *Id.* at 6:31–38; Fig. 3.
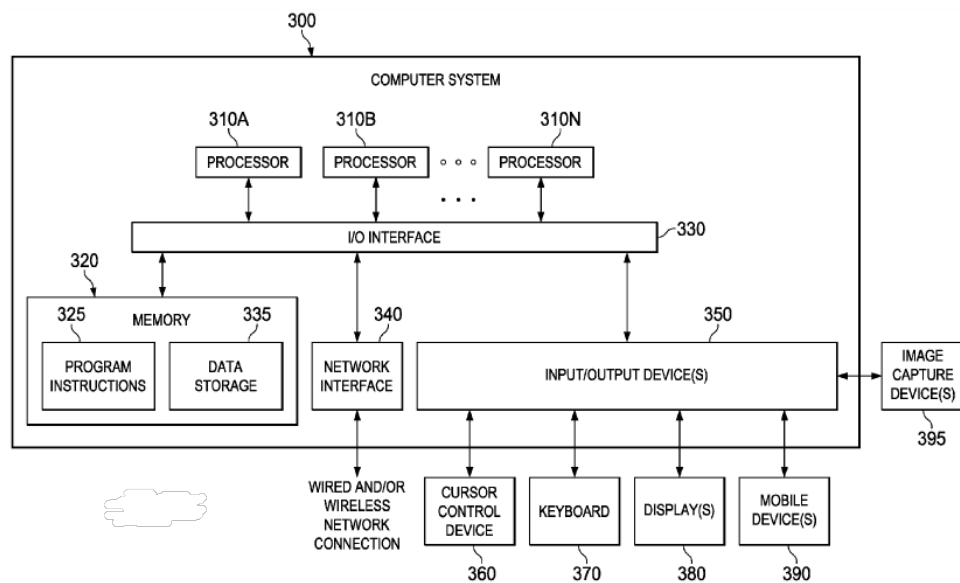

Figure 3 depicts a schematic diagram of computer system 300 that includes processors 310, system memory 320, program instructions 325, and I/O interface 330 that connects to input/output devices 350. *Id.* at 6:39–8:15.

The '420 patent further teaches the embodiment shown in Figure 4, reproduced below.
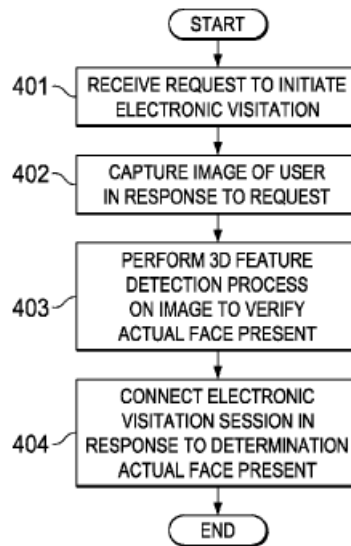
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Figure 4 is a schematic flowchart diagram illustrating one embodiment for verifying presence of authorized persons during an electronic visitation. *Id.* at 8:45–47. Visitation system 130 may instruct the user's device to capture an image of the user in response to the request as shown at block 402. *Id.* at 8:55–57. Additionally, visitation system 130 may capture instruct each users' device to capture an image, so that each user may be authenticated and authorized to participate in the electronic visitation. *Id.* at 8:57–61. According to the '420 patent, the captured image may include either a still frame photograph or a video image. *Id.* at 8:61–62.

The '420 patent specifically teaches that in certain embodiments, processor 310 of visitation system 130 may perform a three-dimensional (3D) feature detection process on the captured image to verify that an actual face is present in the image as shown at block 403. *Id.* at 8:66–9:2. According to the '420 patent, a 3D feature detection process may identify three-dimensional characteristics of an image, including measurements of features of a face at a plurality of points on the image. *Id.* at 9:2–5. The '420 patent teaches that changes in the measurements from frame to frame

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