Trials@uspto.gov
571-272-7822

Paper 8
Entered: March 22, 2017

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

SPRINGPATH, INC.,
Petitioner,

v.

SIMPLIVITY CORPORATION,
Patent Owner.

Case IPR2016-01779
Patent 8,478,799 B2

Before KRISTEN L. DROESCH, KALYAN K. DESHPANDE, and MICHAEL J. FITZPATRICK, *Administrative Patent Judges.*

DROESCH, *Administrative Patent Judge.*

DECISION

Denying Institution of *Inter Partes* Review
35 U.S.C. § 314, 37 C.F.R. § 42.108

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Springpath, Inc. ("Petitioner") filed a Petition (Paper 3, "Pet.") for *inter partes* review of claims 1, 2, 7–13, 17–20, 27, and 33–35 ("the challenged claims") of U.S. Patent No. 8,478,799 B2 ("the '799 Patent"). *See* 35 U.S.C. §§ 311–312. SimpliVity Corporation ("Patent Owner") timely filed a Preliminary Response (Paper 7, "Prelim. Resp."). *See* 35 U.S.C § 313.

We have authority under 35 U.S.C. § 314 and 37 C.F.R. § 42.4. An *inter partes* review may not be instituted unless it is determined that "the information presented in the petition filed under section 311 and any response filed under section 313 shows that there is a reasonable likelihood that the petitioner would prevail with respect to at least 1 of the claims challenged in the petition." 35 U.S.C. § 314(a).

After considering the Petition and Preliminary Response, for the reasons provided below, we determine, based on the record before us, that there is not a reasonable likelihood Petitioner would prevail in showing any of claims 1, 2, 7–13, 17–20, 27, and 33–35 is unpatentable.

B. Related Proceedings

The parties indicate the '799 Patent is involved in the following related matters:

SimpliVity Corp. v. Springpath, Inc., Case No. 4:15-cv-13345-TSH (D. Mass); and

petition for *inter partes* review in Case No. IPR2016-01780 (concurrently filed). Pet. 2; Paper 5, 1.

C. The '799 Patent (Ex. 1001)

The '799 Patent discloses computer file system data structures and methods and apparatus for naming and storing files. *See* Ex. 1001, 1:4–6. Figure 1 of the '799 Patent is reproduced below:

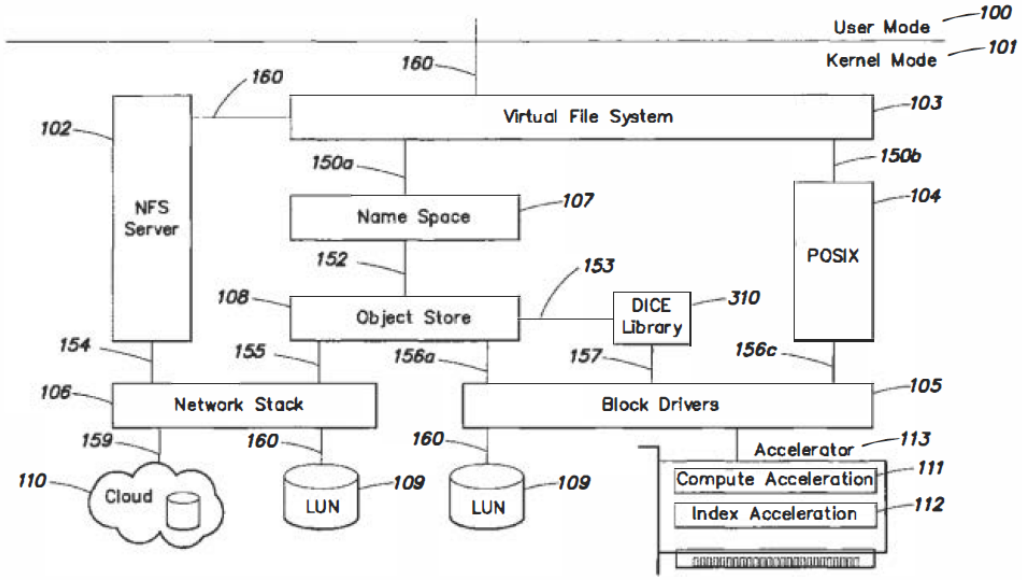

Figure 1 depicts various storage components in operating system kernel 101. *See* Ex. 1001, 10:25–26. POSIX® file system 104, Network File System (NFS) 102, and a new file system composed of namespace file system 107 stacked on top of lightweight object file system 108 connected to virtual file system (VFS) 103. *See id*. at 10:30–38, 63–65. The new file system works alongside other file systems in kernel 101, and typically many file systems work in parallel. *See id*. at 10:38–39, 46–47. VFS 103 is used to abstract out common features of the file systems and provide a consistent user interface 160 to user 100. *See id*. at 10:33–39. "File systems normally sit on top of a block storage abstraction, implemented by block drivers 105. The block storage may be on a Logical Unit Number LUN storage device 109, or it may be on a remote LUN." *Id*. at 10:40–44. Object file system or object store 108 creates an object container that may sit on top of a raw LUN, a

partition on a disk, or a large file. *See id*. at 10:59–61. Object store 108 may reference containers via network stack 106. *See id*. at 10:61–63. NFS 102 sits on top of network stack 106, and network stack 106 is connected to LUN 109 and Cloud 110. *See id*. at 10:63–67.

Figure 2 of the '799 Patent is reproduced below:

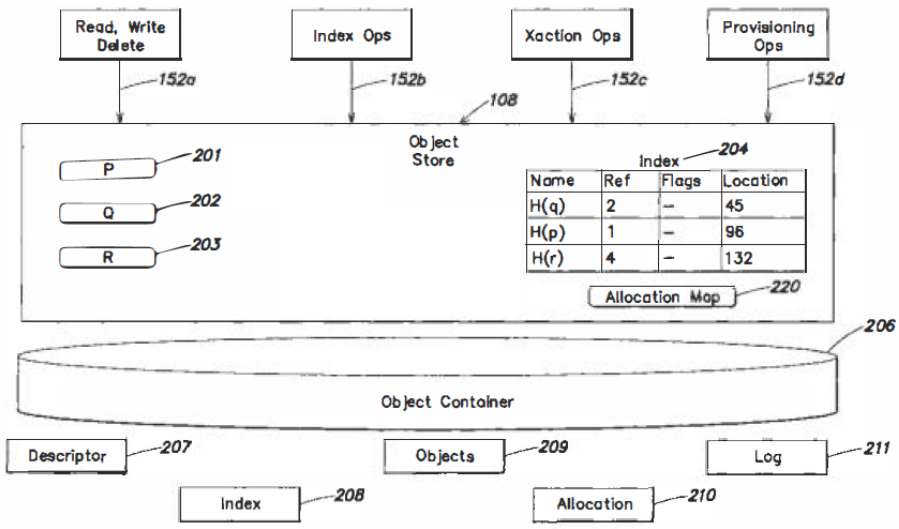

Figure 2 depicts object store 108 of Figure 1 and various components. *See* Ex. 1001, 5:4–6, 11:1–2. Object store 108 contains binary, opaque objects P 201, Q 202, and R 203. An object can be of varying size, and resides at some offset in object container 206. *See id*. at 11: 3–9. Each object has a name or fingerprint (e.g., H(q), H(p), H(r)) which is a cryptographic digest or hash of the object's entire content. *See id*. at 11:10–13. Index 204 keeps track of object names, object locations, and object references. *See id*. at 11:14–15. There is an index entry for every object in the system, each entry containing a fingerprint of the object's content, a reference count, physical locator (e.g., logical block number, reference to cloud object), and flags. *See id*. at 11:40–61. Object container 206 is a randomly addressable persistent

storage abstraction, such as a raw LUN, a file, a partition on a disk, or a device across a Wide Area Network. *See id*. at 11:64–67.

Figure 4 of the '799 Patent is reproduced below:

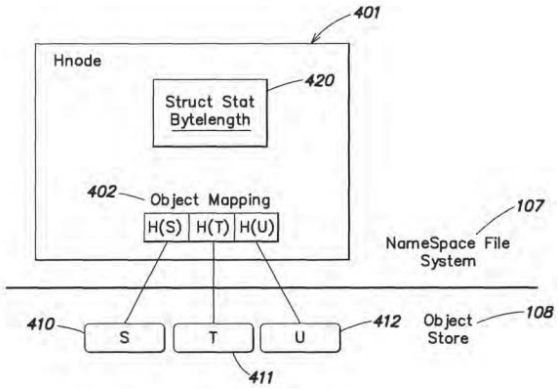

Figure 4 depicts a set of objects grouped together in an hnode. *See* Ex. 1001, 7:13–15, 12:51–52. Hnode 401 is a sequence of content, like a file that can be read, written, appended to, created, deleted, and truncated. *See id*. at 12:55–57. The data sequence is broken into discrete objects (e.g., S 401, T 411, U 412) where the names of each object are stored in mapping table 402 which records the fingerprints (e.g., H(S), H(T), H(U)) of each object. *See id*. at 12:63–66. Hnode 401 is an object itself. *See id*. at 13:8.

Figure 5 of the '799 Patent is reproduced below:

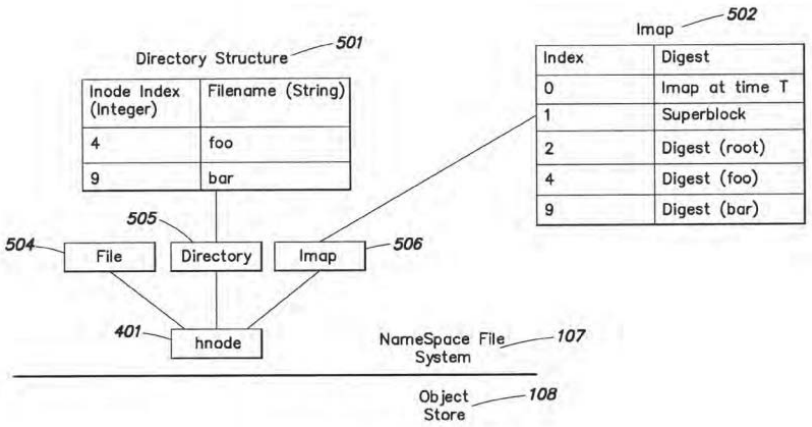

Figure 5 depicts an hnode specialized into files, directories, and imaps. *See* Ex. 1001, 6:16–18. Directory 505 is a mapping of inode numbers to file

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