REMARKS

Claims 1-16 have been cancelled without prejudice as to the subject matter claimed therein. New claims 17-38 are being submitted herewith for the Examiner's consideration.

The Examiner's attention is drawn to the fact that the new claims presented herein are similar in scope in material respects to the claims of parent application Ser. No. 11/078,778, which the Examiner found to be patentable. The issue fee for the parent application recently was paid. For this reason, for example, the undersigned attorney believes and submits that the currently pending claims should be found to be patentable over all of the prior art that was considered in connection with the parent application.

To expedite the prosecution of this application, and while it may not be necessary to do so, a terminal disclaimer over the parent application (Ser. No. 11/078,778) is being submitted herewith to eliminate the possibility of an obviousness type double patenting rejection being made in the future once the parent application issues as a patent. The Examiner's acceptance of the terminal disclaimer is earnestly solicited.

An Information Disclosure statement is being filed herewith for the Examiner's consideration so that all of the prior art considered in connection with the parent application will be listed on the cover page of any patent that is granted on the instant application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to review all of the references submitted with the IDS, including the nine references discussed hereinafter. Portions of each reference that one may argue allegedly are relevant to the subject matter of the currently pending claims, together with an identification of each reference, are presented hereinafter:

1)   US Patent No. 5,915,106, which is entitled "Method And System For

Operating A Scanner Which Emulates A Disk Drive," is not prior art to any of the claims submitted herewith. The earliest US filing date of this patent (March 20, 1997) is sixteen days after the earliest effective filing date of the currently pending claims, which is the March 4, 1997 filing date of German application no. 197 08 755. The Examiner's confirmation of this is earnestly solicited.

2)   US Patent No. 5,508,821 is entitled "Image Scanner And Image Forming Apparatus With An Interface For Connection With An External Computer." Column 4, lines 21-23 of this patent state that the "image scanner 20 emulates the file system of 'UNIX' as if it were a hard disc. Accordingly, the image scanner 20 looks like the hard disc from the workstation 21 can be handled as a hard disk." In the summary of the invention of this patent, it is stated that an "object" of the invention is to provide an "image scanner" that "requires no preparation of any new device driver."

3)   US Patent No. 5,844,961 is entitled "Filmless Digital X-Ray System." Figure 4 of the patent shows an "electronics package 480" that is a part of a "digital cassette." Column 10, lines 4-9 of the patent state that the "electronics package 480 defines an area that will allow for an electronic system being included in the digital cassette 200. The electronics system will be able to process the information captured by the imaging array system 450 and communicate that information to the computer 220." Column 11, line 10 through column 13, line 12 disclose "digital cassette and the computer communications."

4)   US Patent No. 5,131,089 is entitled "Solid State disk Drive Emulation."

The abstract of this patent states that the "system permits software written for use with floppy disks to be used with solid state memory devices such as RAM cards or ROM without modification of the software."

5)   US Patent No. 4,642,759 is entitled "Bubble Memory Disk Emulation."

6)   A two page printout of text included with Windows 95 is submitted herewith concerning the "RAMDRIVE.SYS" command. This document states that this command allows a computer's RAM memory to simulate a hard disk drive.

7)   Figure 1 of US Patent No. 5,724,574 discloses a hardware arrangement that includes, for example, a high speed scanner 24, a local area network 10, an optical disk based document server 15, and a number of workstations 18.

8)   An article entitled "Optical Server Uses Network Protocol For Plug-And-Play Integration" was published in 1993. Page two of this article states that "emulation of the magnetic file system with a WORM-specific file system in this manner has several distinct advantages. The principal advantage is that the WORM disk appears to applications and utilities as just another disk."

9)   The manual for Polaroid's Digital Camera model no. PDC-2000 indicates that it was published in 1996. The Examiner is asked to assume, for the sake of argument, that this is the case. Applicant reserves the right to challenge this in all forums and proceedings other than the examination of this application.

Page 11 of the manual states that the "PDC-2000 camera is a Small Computer Systems Interface (SCSI) device," that one can "connect up to seven

SCSI devices to your computer," and that the "PDC-2000 camera's SCSI ID is preset to 4 at the factor."

Page 83 of the manual states that to "transfer and work with pictures from the PDC-2000 camera on your PC, you use the PDC-2000 TWAIN driver . . ." or one can install "PDC-2000 Direct" software.

The currently pending claims clearly are supported by the specification as originally filed. As one example, all of the currently pending claims generally require that a digitized analog data set be representative of electromagnetic radiation that is representative of an object that is physically separated from and located not in substantial proximity to an analog data generating and processing device (ADGPD). These claim features are supported, for example, by the "diagnostic radiology system" disclosed in paragraph 5 of the specification of the instant application.

An example of such a "diagnostic radiology system" is, for example, an x-ray machine, the x-rays being one example of the claimed "analog wave signals." As readily apparent to one of ordinary skill in the relevant art, typical x-ray machines include two housings – one in which an x-ray generator is mounted and a second one in which an x-ray transducer is mounted. The x-ray generator is physically separated from and not located in substantial proximity to the transducer so that, for example, a patient can position his or her leg between the generator and the transducer. The transducer creates a set of analog data that comprises an x-ray so that, for example, a user can determine whether the patient's leg is broken.

It should be noted that the scope of the currently pending claims *is not* limited to "diagnostic radiology systems" and or to systems that only produce "x-rays." In this regard,

other "modes" of practicing the claimed invention include, for example, the CCD device of a still camera that is exposed to ambient light with or without a flash, and that creates therefrom an analog data set that is representative of a picture.

For the Examiner's information, the inclusion of the above-described subject matter in the currently pending claims is one reason that the Examiner should find the new claims submitted herewith patentable over, for example, the prior art of record that discloses the use of document scanners (*e.g.*, US Patent Nos. 5,508,821, 5,532,825 and 5,724,574). In contrast to the currently pending claims, the scanner references teach a light source that is located inside the scanner and that is located in substantial proximity to the CCD of the scanner. Such sensors *are not* adapted to process electromagnetic radiation that is not in substantial proximity to the scanner housing. For this reason alone, the currently pending claims should be found to be patentable over the scanner references.

A still further aspect of the currently pending claims that is fully supported by the originally filed specification follows. All of the claims presented in this preliminary amendment generally require that the ADGPD send a response signal that allows a PC to *automatically and without user intervention* recognize that it can communicate with the ADGPD as if it were a commercially available mass storage device even though it is not a commercially available mass storage device. See, for example, paragraph 54 of the specification submitted herewith, which states that the use of the present invention includes "simulating a virtual mass storage device." The word "virtual" in this context refers, for example, to the fact that a personal computer is led to believe that it is communicating with a commercially available mass storage device when, in actuality, it is communicating with an analog data generating and processing device. See also,

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