

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

MICROSOFT CORPORATION and HP INC.,
Petitioner,

v.

SYNKLOUD TECHNOLOGIES, LLC,
Patent Owner.

IPR2020-01032
Patent 10,015,254 B1

Before SALLY C. MEDLEY, LYNNE E. PETTIGREW, and SCOTT
RAEVSKY, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

MEDLEY, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

DECISION
Granting Institution of *Inter Partes* Review
35 U.S.C. § 314

I. INTRODUCTION

Microsoft Corporation and HP Inc. (collectively “Petitioner”) filed a Petition for *inter partes* review of claims 9–15 of U.S. Patent No. 10,015,254 B1 (Ex. 1001, “the ’254 patent”). Paper 1 (“Pet.”). Syncloud Technologies, LLC (“Patent Owner”) filed a Preliminary Response. Paper 13 (“Prelim. Resp.”). Institution of an *inter partes* review is authorized by statute when “the information presented in the petition . . . and any response . . . 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). Upon consideration of the Petition, the Preliminary Response, and the evidence of record, we determine that Petitioner has established a reasonable likelihood of prevailing with respect to the unpatentability of at least one claim of the ’254 patent. Accordingly, for the reasons that follow, we institute an *inter partes* review of claims 9–15 of the ’254 patent.

A. Related Matters

The parties indicate that the ’254 patent is or has been the subject of, or relates to, several court proceedings. Pet. 3–4; Papers 6, 10. Petitioner also indicates that the ’254 patent is the subject of IPR2020-01031. Paper 4. Patent Owner indicates that the ’254 patent is the subject of a petition filed by Adobe Inc. in IPR2020-01235. Paper 10.

B. The ’254 Patent

The Specification of the ’254 patent describes how a wireless device may use external storage provided by a storage server. Ex. 1001, 1:21–23. The ’254 patent aims to address the lack of storage capacity faced by users

on their wireless devices by allowing a wireless device to use an external server for storing and retrieving data. *Id.* at 2:29–37, 5:4–32.

In one embodiment, the storage server’s external storage may be partitioned by dividing it into multiple small volumes of storage space that may be exclusively assigned to users. *Id.* at 4:1–32. Partitioning may be done through a web-console on a console host by an administrator. *Id.* at 4:5–8. Based on storage information received from the storage server’s support software, the administrator may use the web-console to partition each storage device and send storage partition information to the support software. *Id.* at 4:10–19. The support software may perform the actual partition by dividing the storage device into multiple small volumes, each of which may be exclusively assigned to and used by a user of a specific wireless device. *Id.* at 4:23–32.

The ’254 patent also describes a “wireless out-band download” approach for downloading data from a remote location to an assigned storage volume. *Id.* at 2:9–11, 2:52–56, 5:4–32, Fig. 3.

Figure 3 is illustrative and is reproduced below.

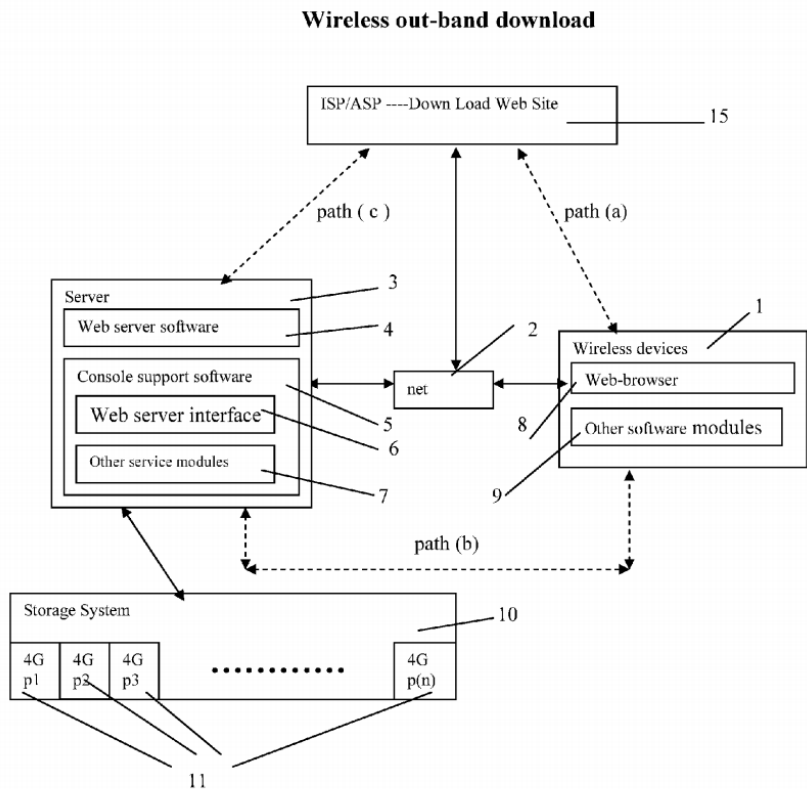


Fig. 3

Figure 3 shows a “wireless out-band download” approach, which includes a sequence of steps for downloading data from a remote web site server 15 into an assigned storage volume 11 of external storage system 10 on server 3. *See id.* at 2:9–11, 2:52–56, 5:4–32. First, the user of wireless device 1 may access remote web server site 15 via web-browser 8 to obtain information about the data for downloading (e.g., data name) via path (a). *Id.* at 5:10–15. Second, other software modules 9 of wireless device 1 may obtain the download information for the data, which becomes available in cached web-pages on wireless device 1. *Id.* at 5:16–19. Third, the other software modules 9 of wireless device 1 may send obtained download information to other service modules 7 of storage server 3 via path (b). *Id.* at 5:20–22. Fourth, other service modules 7 may send a web download request

to remote web site server 15 via path (c) based on the obtained download information and receive the downloaded data streams from remote web site server 15. *Id.* at 5:23–28. Lastly, other service modules 7 may write (i.e., store) the data streams to assigned storage volume 11 in server 3 for wireless device 1. *Id.* at 5:29–32.

The '254 patent additionally describes retrieving data from an assigned storage volume. *Id.* at 5:33–43. In one embodiment, the user may use the wireless device's web-browser (with embedded video or music functionality) to retrieve and play multimedia data files already stored in the assigned storage volume on the server. *Id.* at 5:35–39. In another embodiment, the wireless device may retrieve data from the file system of the assigned storage volume on the server. *Id.* at 5:40–43.

C. Illustrative Claim

Petitioner challenges claims 9–15 of the '254 patent. Claim 9, the sole independent claim challenged in this proceeding, is reproduced below.

9. A server for delivering storage service, comprising:
 - a plurality of storage spaces residing among a plurality of storage devices; and
 - a computer-readable storage device comprising program instructions that, when executed by the server, configure the server to control delivering the storage service; wherein the program instructions comprise:
 - program instructions for the server establishing a communication link for a first wireless device remotely accessing a first one of the storage spaces;
 - program instructions for the server sending information of the first one of the storage spaces to the first wireless device for causing display of the information on the first wireless device; and

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