UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

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LENOVO (UNITED STATES) INC.,
Petitioner,

v.

LITL LLC,
Patent Owner.

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IPR2021-00786
Patent 9,880,715 B2

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Before MICHELLE N. ANKENBRAND, GARTH D. BAER, and
BRIAN D. RANGE, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

RANGE, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

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

I.   INTRODUCTION

Lenovo (United States) Inc. ("Petitioner") filed a Petition (Paper 1, "Pet.") requesting an *inter partes* review of claims 1–20 of U.S. Patent No. 9,880,715 B2 (Ex. 1001, "the '715 patent"). LiTL LLC ("Patent Owner") filed a Preliminary Response. Paper 5 ("Prelim. Resp.").

Petitioner identifies Lenovo (United States) Inc. and Lenovo (Beijing) Limited as the real parties in interest, and further notes that Lenovo (United States) Inc. is "an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Lenovo Group Limited." Pet. 2. Patent Owner identifies LiTL LLC as the real party in interest. Paper 4, 1.

We have authority to determine whether to institute an *inter partes* review. *See* 35 U.S.C. § 314; 37 C.F.R. § 42.4(a) (2020). The standard for institution is set forth in 35 U.S.C. § 314(a), which provides that *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." As discussed below, we determine that Petitioner does not show a reasonable likelihood of prevailing with respect to any of the challenged claims. Accordingly, we deny institution of an *inter partes* review.

II.   BACKGROUND

A.   *Related Matters*

The parties identify the following as a related matter: *LiTL LLC v. Lenovo (United States), Inc. and Lenovo (Beijing) Limited*, 1:20-cv-00689-RGA (D. Del.). Pet. 2; Paper 4, 1. Patent Owner also identifies the following as related matters: IPR2021-00681 (challenging U.S. Patent No. 8,289,688, which belongs to the patent family of the '715 patent); IPR2021-00800

(challenging U.S. Patent No. 10,289,154, which belongs to the patent family of the '715 patent); IPR2021-00821 (challenging U.S. Patent No. 8,612,888, which belongs to the patent family of the '715 patent); and IPR2021-00822 (challenging U.S. Patent No. 8,624,844, which belongs to the patent family of the '715 patent). Paper 4, 2.

B.   The '715 Patent (Ex. 1001)

The '715 patent is titled "System and Method for Streamlining User Interaction with Electronic Content." Ex. 1001, code (54). The challenged claims relate to "a graphical user interface that organizes interface elements into views of computer content for presentation to a user" and "an interface that is responsive to configurations of the device and activities performed by the user." *Id.*, code (57). The '715 patent explains that increased computing power enables computers to provide more and more features, but the myriad options may frustrate some users. *Id.* at 1:40–2:14. The '715 patent emphasizes the problem of "the inflexibility of the devices being used and their accompanying interfaces," and a problem generated by "feature packing" whereby "[t]ypical computer users simply can't take advantage of all the functionality offered. . . . [as t]he complexity of the interface (both hardware and software) hampers adoption [of, e.g., services and features offered by their own computer or by online providers], as does the volume of features offered." *Id.* at 2:18–33; *see id.* at 15:19–30.

The solution the '715 patent proposes is a graphical user interface that improves the user's experience and the user's ability to interact with electronic content, by implementing different views. *Id.* at 2:45–58. For example, the '715 patent explains different views present different

organizations of interface elements based upon device configuration and

user activity:

> [A]spects and embodiments are directed to a graphical user interface that organizes interface elements into modes of content for presentation to a user. Different views of the modes of content are used to present the user with an interface that is responsive to configurations of the device and responsive to activity being performed by the user. Further the elements that comprise the graphical user interface are configured to present a summarized view of available actions and content, in order to simplify user interaction. The different views present different organizations of the interface elements and in some example display only certain ones of the modes of content in order to reduce the number of options a user must navigate to accomplish an objective.

Id. at 2:35–58.

The '715 patent further explains that its user interface comprises a

plurality of views of representations of computer content and explains the

views as follows:

> The user interface comprises a map based graphical user interface displayed on the computer system, the map based user interface comprising a plurality of views of a plurality of visual representations of computer content, wherein the computer content includes at least one of selectable digital content, selectable computer operations and passive digital content, and the plurality of visual representations of computer content rendered on the computer display, wherein the plurality of visual representations of computer content include an association to a first view of the plurality of views, the first view including the computer content, and wherein the each of the plurality of visual representations is responsive to focus and execution, wherein execution includes clicking on the visual representation, and an execution component comprising at least one computer hardware element configured to transition the computer system display between the plurality of views, wherein the execution component further comprises a view selector component configured to select

> one of the plurality of views for display on a computer system in response to a computer system configuration.

Id. at 2:63–3:25.

The computer system of the '715 patent also describes different profiles to customize the graphical user interface in different modes, including: a closed mode (in which the display screen is disposed substantially against the base of the computer); a laptop mode (in which the portable computer has a conventional laptop appearance, achieved by, e.g., rotating the display about the longitudinal axis up to approximately 180 degrees from the closed mode); an easel mode (in which the base of the computer and its display component stand upright forming an inverted "V," and the keyboard is concealed and not easily accessible); a flat mode (in which the computer's base component and display component lay flat on a surface); and a frame mode (in which the keyboard is concealed and not easily accessible, and software and/or hardware protection may be provided for the keyboard to prevent keys from being pressed, or to prevent the computer from responding to pressed keys). *Id.* at 6:39–42, 6:49–56, 11:40–42, 24:37–63, 25:40–50.

Figure 17 of the '715 patent, reproduced below, illustrates a portable computer in laptop mode, in which the keyboard is oriented to be accessible to the user. *Id.* at 13:29–32, 21:1–3. Figure 4 of the '715 patent, reproduced below, illustrates the portable computer in easel mode, in which the keyboard is concealed and not easily accessible. *Id.* at 12:57–58, 24:61–62, 26:60–65. And Figure 26 of the '715 patent, reproduced below, illustrates the portable computer configured into frame mode, in which the keyboard is concealed and not easily accessible. *Id.* at 13:55–58, 24:61–62.

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