

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

HP INC., DELL TECHNOLOGIES INC., DELL INC.,
ASUSTEK COMPUTER INC., and ASUS GLOBAL PTE. LTD.,
Petitioner,

v.

LITL LLC,
Patent Owner

IPR2024-00404
Patent 8,624,844 B2

Before GARTH D. BAER, BRIAN D. RANGE, and DAVID COTTA,
Administrative Patent Judges.

BAER, *Administrative Patent Judge.*

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

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background

HP Inc., Dell Technologies, Inc., Dell Inc., ASUSTeK Computer, Inc. and ASUS Global Pte. Ltd. (“Petitioner”) filed a Petition requesting an *inter partes* review of claims 1, 3, 4, 7–10, 13, 14, 16–18, and 22 (the “challenged claims”) of U.S. Patent No. 8,624,844 B2 (Ex. 1001, “the ’844 patent”). Paper 6, 1 (“Pet.”). LiTL LLC (“Patent Owner”) filed a Preliminary Response. Paper 9 (“Prelim. Resp.”). With our authorization, Petitioner filed a Reply to Patent Owner’s Preliminary Response (Paper 10, “Pet. Reply”) and Patent Owner filed a Sur-reply (Paper 11, “PO Sur-reply”).

Under 35 U.S.C. § 314, 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.” Upon consideration of the Petition in view of the present record and for the reasons explained below, we determine that Petitioner has shown a reasonable likelihood of prevailing with respect to at least one of the challenged claims. Accordingly, we institute an *inter partes* review on all grounds set forth in the Petition.

B. Related Proceedings

The parties identify four district court cases that involve the ’844 patent: *LiTL LLC v. HP Inc.*, No. 1:23-cv-00120-RGA (D. Del.); *LiTL LLC v. Dell Technologies Inc. and Dell Inc.*, No. 1:23-cv-00121-RGA (D. Del.); *LiTL LLC v. ASUSTeK Computer Inc., et al.*, No. 1:23-cv-00122-RGA (D. Del.); and *LiTL LLC v. Lenovo (United States), Inc. et al.*, No. 1:20-cv-00689 (D. Del.). Pet. 70, Paper 8, 2. Patent Owner also identifies the following proceeding that challenged the ’844 patent: Reexamination Serial

No. 90/014,965, filed February 25, 2022 (“’844 Reexam”). *Id.* at 1. The ’844 patent was also the challenged patent in a previous *inter partes* review involving different prior art, *Lenovo (United States) Inc. v. LiTL LLC*, Case No. IPR2021-00822 (“IPR2021-00822”).

C. The ’844 Patent (Ex. 1001)

The ’844 patent is titled “Portable Computer with Multiple Display Configurations.” Ex. 1001, code (54). The computer system of the ’844 patent describes different profiles to customize the graphical user interface in different modes, including a laptop mode in which the portable computer has a conventional laptop appearance, with the display inclined at a viewing angle from the base (*id.* at 6:26–28); an easel mode in which the base of the computer and its display stand upright forming an inverted “V,” and the display and keyboard are on opposite sides (*id.* at 7:48–61); and a frame mode in which the display and base are at a similar orientation and angle as in easel mode, but with the base lying flat on a surface and the keyboard facing down (*id.* at 16:3–13).

Figure 17 of the ’844 patent, reproduced below, illustrates a portable computer in laptop mode. *Id.* at 5:13–15.

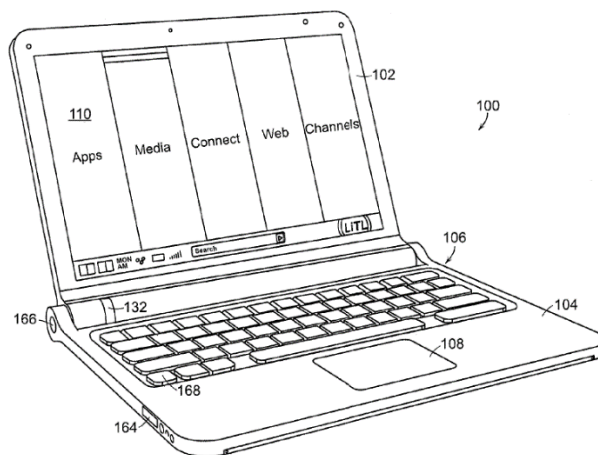


FIG. 17

Figure 4 of the '844 patent, reproduced below, illustrates the portable computer in easel mode. *Id.* at 4:47–48.

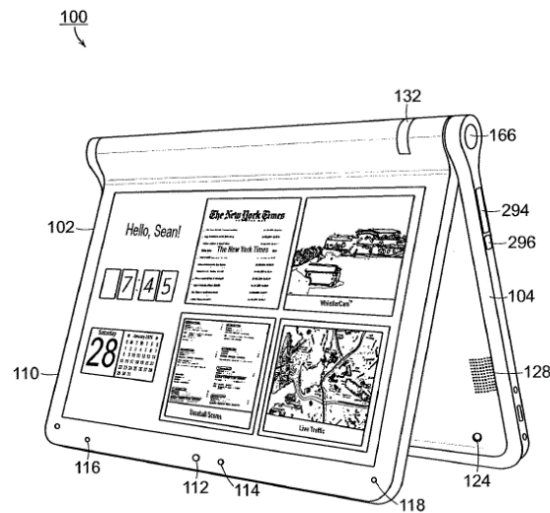


FIG. 4

Figure 26 of the '844 patent, reproduced below, illustrates the portable computer configured into frame mode. *Id.* at 5:35–37.

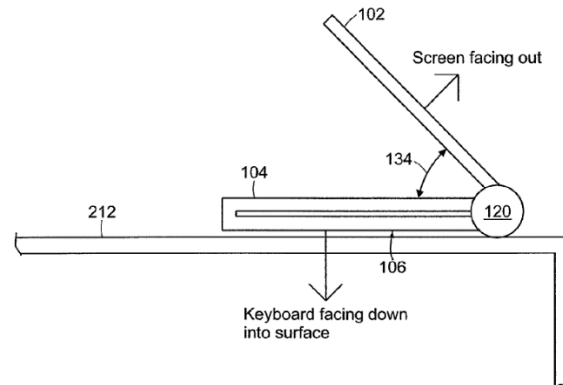


FIG. 26

The '844 patent explains that the display's orientation can change based on the different modes or in response to a user's input. *Id.* at 2:42–44.

A. Challenged Claims

Of the challenged claims, claims 1, 10, and 18 are independent.

Claim 1 is exemplary of the claimed subject matter and reads as follows:

1. A portable computer configurable between a plurality of display modes including a laptop mode and an easel mode wherein transitions between the plurality of display modes allows an operator to interact with a single display screen in each of the plurality of display modes, the portable computer comprising:

a base including a keyboard;

a main display component rotatably coupled to the base such that the main display component and the base are rotatable with respect to one another about a longitudinal axis running along an interface between the main display component and the base to transition between at least the laptop mode and the easel mode, the main display component including the single display screen, wherein the transition between the laptop mode and the easel mode allows the operator to operate the portable computer while viewing the single display screen in each of the plurality of display modes, wherein

the laptop mode is configured to display to a user on the main display component a first content mode having a first content display orientation with the main display component oriented towards the user and the keyboard oriented to receive input from the user;

the easel mode is configured to display to the user on the main display component a second content mode having a second content display orientation with the main display component oriented towards the user and the keyboard oriented away from the user, wherein the first and second content display orientations are 180 degrees relative to each other, and wherein the portable computer is operable in the easel mode to enable the user to interact with displayed content without interacting with the keyboard; and

a navigation control disposed at least partially within the base and rotatable about the longitudinal axis, the navigation control configured to permit a user to control at least one of operating parameters of the portable computer and content displayed on the single display screen wherein the plurality of modes includes a frame in which the main display component is oriented towards the operator, the base contacts a substantially

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