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Table with 5 columns: APPLICATION NO., FILING DATE, FIRST NAMED INVENTOR, ATTORNEY DOCKET NO., CONFIRMATION NO. Includes application details for 16/746,294 and 135176 7590, inventor Nicholas A.J. Millington, attorney Lee Sullivan Shea & Smith LLP, examiner MADAMBA, GLENFORD J, art unit 2451, and notification date 02/21/2020.

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

ls3_docketing@cardinal-ip.com
york@ls3ip.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

16/746,294

Applicant(s)

Millington et al.

Examiner

GLENFORD J MADAMBA

Art Unit

2451

AIA (FITF) Status

No

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 January 2020.
 A declaration(s)/affidavit(s) under **37 CFR 1.130(b)** was/were filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.
- 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on ____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.
- 4) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims*

- 5) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
5a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 6) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 7) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 9) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement

* If any claims have been determined allowable, you may be eligible to benefit from the **Patent Prosecution Highway** program at a participating intellectual property office for the corresponding application. For more information, please see http://www.uspto.gov/patents/init_events/pph/index.jsp or send an inquiry to PPHfeedback@uspto.gov.

Application Papers

- 10) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

Certified copies:

- a) All b) Some** c) None of the:
 - 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

** See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08a and/or PTO/SB/08b)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 3) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Double Patenting

1. The non-statutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a non-statutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

2. Claims 1-20 of the instant application {hereinafter Millington '515} are rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-20 of co-pending application to Millington et al, U.S. Patent Application

16/298,542 {hereinafter Millington '542}. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other.

The subject matter claimed in the instant application is technically disclosed in the co-pending application since the instant application and the co-pending application are claiming common and/or overlapping subject matter. Claims 1, 14, 20 of the instant application and independent claims 1, 13 and 20 of the co-pending application both recite, in part, a playback device performing functions comprising “detecting a triggering event that causes the playback device to enter a setup mode in which the playback device transmits at least a first message indicating that the playback device is available for setup; while in the setup mode, receiving a response to the first message that facilitates establishing an initial communication path with a computing device operating on a secure wireless local area network (WLAN), wherein the initial communication path is outside of the secure WLAN; receiving, from the computing device via the initial communication path, at least a second message containing network configuration parameters for the secure WLAN, wherein the network configuration parameters comprise an identifier of the secure WLAN and a security key for the secure WLAN; using the network configuration parameters to connect to the secure WLAN; and transitioning from communicating with the computing device via the initial communication path to communicating with the computing device via the secure WLAN”.

Claims 1-20 of the instant application are drawn to the same invention as that recited by co-pending application to Millington '542; however, claims 1, 13 and 20 of the co-pending application {Millington '542} recites the added feature(s) of “**while operating**

on a secure wireless local area network (WLAN), (a) receiving user input indicating that a user wishes to set up a playback device to operate on the secure WLAN and (b) receiving a first message indicating that a given playback device is available for setup". Claims 1-20 of the co-pending application accordingly anticipates all of the limitations and features recited by claims 1-20 of the instant application {Millington '515}.

In removing these limitations {in the co-pending application}, the scope of the claim(s) is merely broadened by eliminating elements and their functions. It has been held that omission of an element and its function is an obvious expedient if the remaining elements perform the same function as before. In re Karlson, 136 USPQ 184 (CCPA). Also note Ex parte Rainu, 168 USPQ 365 (Bd. App. 1969) (omission of a reference element whose function is not needed would be obvious to one skilled in the art).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20 are rejected under pre-AIA 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Ladas** et al (hereinafter Ladas), U.S. Patent Publication 2004/0168081 A1.

As per claim(s) 1, 14, 20, Ladas discloses particular features of the invention, such as a **playback device comprising:**

a network interface that is configured to provide an interconnection with at least one data network (Ladas: e.g., *Network Interface_53*) [0028] [Fig. 1];

at least one processor (Ladas: e.g., *Processing Unit_21*) [0026] [Fig. 1];

a non-transitory computer-readable medium (Ladas: e.g., 'computer-readable media', such as ROM 24, RAM 25, etc.) [0025] [Fig. 1]; and

program instructions stored on the non-transitory computer-readable medium that, when executed by the at least one processor, cause the playback device to perform functions (Ladas: e.g., *Program Data_38*) [0025] [Fig. 1] comprising:

detecting a triggering event that causes the playback device to enter a setup mode (Ladas: e.g., expressly teaches / illustrates in one aspect a User 'pressing a BIND button' 124 on wireless network interface device 120 of the computing device to be joined to the 'secure wireless network' ...) [0038] (step 202) [Fig. 5] in which the playback device transmits at least a first message indicating that the playback device is available for setup (e.g., "a 'bind signal' 206 is transmitted to the access point" in response to the bind control being activated on

the computing device that the user wants to join to the secure wireless network) [0039]
[Figs. 2 & 5];

while in the setup mode, receiving a response to the first message that facilitates establishing an initial communication path with a computing device operating on a secure wireless local area network (WLAN) (Ladas: e.g., expressly teaches in one aspect that "Accordingly, the access point transmits a 'bind signal' 212 back to the computing device that is to join the secure wireless network...") [0039] [Fig. 5], **wherein the initial communication path is outside of the secure WLAN** (Ladas: e.g., expressly teaches / illustrates in one aspect that "Either a user of the computing device, or a person authorized to control access to the secure network can initiate a bind step to enable the computing device to join the network, and a 'temporary alternate network' is then created between an access point of the network and the computing device network interface card (NIC)...") [Abstract] (e.g., additionally / expressly teaches that in response to the user pressing the BIND button, "a 'new temporary alternate network' used only while joining the computing device to the secure wireless network is created in a step 404; this 'alternate network' is used only by the access device and the computing device when joining the computing device to the 'normal secure network'...") [0041] [Figs. 5 & 6] (e.g., 'Join Temp Network' 410) [0043] [Fig. 4];

receiving, from the computing device via the initial communication path, at least a second message containing network configuration parameters for the secure WLAN, wherein the network configuration parameters comprise an identifier of the secure WLAN and a security key for the secure WLAN (Ladas: e.g.,

expressly teaches in one aspect that “next, a step 214 carries out a ‘key exchange’ to initiate a secure transmission from the access point to the computing device. The ‘key exchange’ produces an encryption key enabling the access point to transmit an ‘encrypted message’ that conveys the ‘SSID’ and ‘WEP key’ to the computing device in a step 216...” [0039] (e.g., ‘**Key Exchange**_214 / ‘**WEP Key**_216 messages) [Fig. 5];

using the network configuration parameters to connect to the secure WLAN (Ladas: e.g., expressly discloses that in step 218, the computing device decrypts the received SSID and WEP key messages and ‘acknowledges’ receipt of these parameters) [0039] (e.g., ‘**ACK**_218) [Fig. 5] (e.g., expressly discloses / illustrates wherein the computing device receives the transmitted {secure} ‘network credentials’ {s420}, ‘**Decodes Correct Network Credentials {SSID / WEP Key} & Attempts to Join the {Secure} Network**’ {s422}) [Fig. 7] [0044]; and

and transitioning from communicating with the computing device via the initial communication path to communicating with the computing device via the secure WLAN (Ladas: e.g., expressly discloses that “In step 430, the computing device is joined to the secure wireless network. Accordingly, the access point responds to the acknowledgement from step 428, and in step 432 ‘restarts the secure wireless network’ with the correct network credentials (e.g., SSID and WEP key, or the WPA key) that were previously provided to the computing device. **Thereafter, the computing device begins normal operation in a step 434, being now able to communicate with each of the other computing devices that are on the ‘secure wireless network’...**” [0044] (e.g., ‘**Join Completed Network**_218 / ‘**Restart**

Network with Correct Network Credentials'_432 → 'Begin Normal Operations'_434) [Fig. 7].

Claim(s) **14, 20** recite(s) substantially the same limitations as claim 1, is/are distinguishable only by its/their statutory category (computer-readable media, method), and accordingly rejected on the same basis.

As per claim(s) **2, 15**, Ladas discloses the device **wherein the triggering event comprises one of (a) powering on the playback device or (b) receiving user input via a physical interface of the playback device** (Ladas: e.g., expressly teaches / illustrates in one aspect **a User 'pressing a BIND button' 124 on wireless network interface device 120 of the computing device** to be joined to the 'secure wireless network' ...") [0038] (step 202) [Fig. 5].

Claim(s) **15** recite(s) substantially the same limitations as claim 2, is/are distinguishable only by its/their statutory category (computer-readable media, method), and accordingly rejected on the same basis.

As per claim(s) **4, 16**, Ladas discloses the device **further comprising program instructions stored on the non-transitory computer-readable medium that, when executed by the at least one processor, cause the playback device to perform functions comprising:**

after receiving the second message, providing an indication that the playback device has successfully received the network configuration parameters for the secure WLAN (Ladas: e.g., expressly discloses that in step 218, the computing

device decrypts the received SSID and WEP key messages and 'acknowledges' receipt of these parameters) [0039] (e.g., 'ACK'_218) [Fig. 5].

Claim(s) **16** recite(s) substantially the same limitations as claim 4, is/are distinguishable only by its/their statutory category (computer-readable media, method), and accordingly rejected on the same basis.

As per claim(s) **5, 17**, Ladas discloses the device **wherein providing the indication comprises transmitting, to the computing device via the initial communication path, at least a third message indicating that the playback device has successfully received the network configuration parameters** (Ladas: e.g., expressly discloses that in step 218, the computing device decrypts the received SSID and WEP key messages and 'acknowledges' receipt of these parameters) [0039] (e.g., 'ACK'_218) [Fig. 5].

Claim(s) **17** recite(s) substantially the same limitations as claim 5, is/are distinguishable only by its/their statutory category (computer-readable media, method), and accordingly rejected on the same basis.

As per claim(s) **6, 18**, Ladas discloses the device **wherein providing the indication comprises providing an indication that the playback device has successfully connected to the secure WLAN using the network configuration parameters** (Ladas: e.g., expressly discloses that "the computing device transmits an 'acknowledgement' to the access point in step 426, and in response, the access point transmits an acknowledgement back to the computing device in step 428.

In step 430, the computing device is 'joined' to the secure network. Accordingly, the access point responds to the acknowledgement from step 428, and in step 432 'restarts the secure wireless network' with the correct network credentials (e.g., SSID and WEP key, or the WPA key) that were previously provided to the computing device. **Thereafter, the computing device begins 'normal operation' in a step 434, being now able to communicate with each of the other computing devices that are on the 'secure wireless network' ...**) [0044] (e.g., **'ACK' _426 → ACK 428 → 'Join Completed Network' _218 / 'Restart Network with Correct Network Credentials' _432 → 'Begin Normal Operations' _434**) [Fig. 7].

Claim(s) 18 recite(s) substantially the same limitations as claim 6, is/are distinguishable only by its/their statutory category (computer-readable media, method), and accordingly rejected on the same basis.

As per claim(s) 12, Ladas discloses the device **wherein the second message comprises a command for the playback device to adopt the network configuration parameters** (Ladas: e.g., expressly discloses / illustrates in one aspect wherein the Access Point performs a 'Key Exchange' {s214} with the computing device attempting to join the secure network and further transmits an 'encrypted message' including a WEP Key / SSID {secure network credentials} {s216} for the computing device to 'decode / apply' in joining the secure network) [0039] [Fig. 5] (e.g., expressly discloses / illustrates wherein the computing device receives the transmitted {secure} 'network credentials' {s420}, 'Decodes Correct Network Credentials {SSID / WEP Key} & Attempts to Join the {Secure} Network' {s422}) [Fig. 7] [0044].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims **3, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 19** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Ladas** in view of **Isley et al** (hereinafter **Isley**), US Patent Publication 2002/0124097 A1

As per claim(s) **3**, while **Ladas** discloses features of the invention as above, he does not explicitly disclose the additional recited feature{s} of the computing device **wherein the computing device comprises a controller device of a networked audio system.**

Nonetheless, the said feature(s) is/are expressly disclosed by **Isley** in a related endeavor.

Isley discloses as his invention a system and method for dynamic distribution of 'audio signals' at a 'site' {i.e., local network, such as a '**home audio system**'} based on defined zones with the site [**Isley: Abstract**] [0011] [Fig. 1]. In particular, **Isley** discloses disclose the additional recited feature{s} of the computing device **wherein the computing device comprises a controller device of a networked audio system** (**Isley: e.g., 'Controller'_125**) [Fig. 1] (e.g., expressly teaches in one aspect that "**user**

device 130 in combination with the Controller 125, provides a user interface configured to receive a user designation of aggregations of the audio equipment 145, 150. The Controller operates to designate the associated identifiers to be received by respective ones of the plurality of network attached audio devices 105..") [0039] (e.g., additionally / expressly teaches that "a **Zone manager 315 'defines' a plurality of zones for the site.** The 'zones' may include 'one' {or a plurality} of the individual addressable audio devices included in the illustrated block of network audio devices 305...") [0047] [Fig. 3] (e.g., 'The Zone manager defines a relationship between a reference audio device and for the addressable radio devices in the zones ...') [Abstract] Fig. 4] [0055].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify and/or combine Ladas's invention with the above said additional feature, as disclosed by Isley, for the motivation of providing a system and method for dynamic distribution of 'audio signals' at a 'site' {i.e., a '**home audio system**'} based on defined zones with the site [Isley: Abstract] [0011].

As per claim(s) 7, while Ladas discloses features of the invention as above, he does not explicitly disclose the additional recited feature{s} of the computing device performing functions further comprising program instructions stored on the non-transitory computer-readable medium that, when executed by the at least one processor, cause the playback device to perform functions comprising: **after connecting to the secure WLAN, establishing a new networked audio system on the secure WLAN.**

Nonetheless, the said feature(s) is/are expressly disclosed by Isley in a related endeavor.

Isley discloses as his invention a system and method for dynamic distribution of 'audio signals' at a 'site' {i.e., local network, such as a **'home audio system'**} based on defined zones with the site [Isley: Abstract] [0011] [Fig. 1]. In particular, Isley discloses disclose the additional recited feature{s} of the computing device performing functions further comprising program instructions stored on the non-transitory computer-readable medium that, when executed by the at least one processor, cause the playback device to perform functions comprising: **after connecting to the secure WLAN, establishing a new networked audio system on the secure WLAN** (Isley: e.g., *Networked Audio Device 105 / 205* of a **'Home Audio System'**, which may be a **'MP3 player'**, for example) [0004] [0008] [Fig. 2] (e.g., expressly teaches i one aspect that "*a Zone manager 315* 'defines' a plurality of zones for the site. The 'zones' may include 'one' {or a plurality} of the individual addressable audio devices included in the illustrated block of *network audio devices 305* ...") [0047] [Fig. 3] (e.g., **'Channel 1' Network Audio Device_405**) [Fig. 4] [0055].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify and/or combine Ladas's invention with the above said additional feature, as disclosed by Isley, for the motivation of providing a system and method for dynamic distribution of 'audio signals' at a 'site' {i.e., a **'home audio system'**} based on defined zones with the site [Isley: Abstract] [0011].

As per claim(s) **8**, Ladas in view of Isley discloses substantial features of the invention as above. In particular, Isley discloses the additional recited feature(s) of the computing device performing function further comprising **after connecting to the secure WLAN, joining an existing networked audio system operating on the secure WLAN** (Isley: e.g., expressly teaches that in dynamically defining aggregate {audio} 'zones', the system can 'add' {or remove} **Audio devices 105** to {or from} **groups of virtual zones** . . .) [0040] [Fig. 1] (e.g., additionally / expressly discloses in one aspect that "Channels can be added or removed from the virtual zone in some embodiments of the present invention by dynamically configuring **additional audio devices**' to belong to the same network group . . .") [0057] [Fig. 4] (e.g., **Channels 2-4' Network Audio Devices 405**) [Fig. 4].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify and/or combine Ladas's invention with the above said additional feature, as disclosed by Isley, for the motivation of providing a system and method for dynamic distribution of 'audio signals' at a 'site' {i.e., a '**home audio system**'} based on defined zones with the site [Isley: Abstract] [0011].

As per claim(s) **10**, Ladas in view of Isley discloses substantial features of the invention as above. In particular, Isley discloses the additional recited feature(s) of the computing device **wherein communicating with the computing device via the secure WLAN comprises receiving a command related to playback of audio content** (Isley: e.g., expressly teaches that "the network interface 100 or audio interface 320 may, thus, dynamically designate respective ones of the addressable audio devices for inclusion in

an aggregation of groups of audio equipment (block 525). Furthermore, one of the 'identifiers' associated with a digital audio stream to be received by the respective addressable audio devices in the group may be provided (block 525). The 'selection' of a digital audio stream to which each audio device in a group will "tune" may be provided to the OSGi 350 as part of a received 'user designation' {command} at block 520. . .") [0060] [Fig. 5].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify and/or combine Ladas's invention with the above said additional feature, as disclosed by Isley, for the motivation of providing a system and method for dynamic distribution of 'audio signals' at a 'site' {i.e., a 'home audio system'} based on defined zones with the site [Isley: Abstract] [0011].

As per claim(s) **11, 19**, Ladas in view of Isley discloses substantial features of the invention as above. In particular, Isley discloses the additional recited feature(s) of the computing device **wherein the command comprises a command to retrieve audio content for playback from an audio source that is accessible via a communication path that includes the secure WLAN** (Isley: e.g., '**Audio Source(s)**'_ **110, 330**) [Figs. 1 & 3] (e.g., additionally / expressly teaches that "the network interface 100 or audio interface 320 may dynamically designate respective ones of the addressable audio devices for inclusion in an aggregation of 'groups' of audio equipment (block 525). Furthermore, one of the 'identifiers' associated with a digital audio stream to be received by the respective addressable audio devices in the group may be provided (block 525). The 'selection' of a digital audio stream to which each audio device in

a group will "tune" may be provided to the OSGi 350 as part of a received 'user designation' {command} at block 520 ..") [0060] [Figs 1, 3 & 4-5], and wherein the playback device further comprises program instructions stored on the non-transitory computer-readable medium that, when executed by the at least one processor, cause the playback device to perform functions comprising: in response to receiving the command, retrieving the audio content from the audio source via the communication path that includes the secure WLAN (Isley: e.g., expressly illustrates in one aspect 'Room 1 Audio Equipment' outputting audio content from 'Channel 1' audio source, 'Room 2 Audio Equipment' outputting audio content from 'Channel 2', 'Room 3 Audio Equipment' outputting audio content from 'Channel 3', etc.) [Fig. 4] (e.g., "Each of the Network Addressable Audio Devices_405 defines a channel' which operates to drive associated Audio Equipment 450, such as 'speakers' located in respective 'rooms' of a residence.. ") [0055] (e.g., '**Designate Audio Devices_525 → Receive Audio Stream over Local Network_530 → Output Audio_535**') [Fig. 5].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify and/or combine Ladas's invention with the above said additional feature, as disclosed by Isley, for the motivation of providing a system and method for dynamic distribution of 'audio signals' at a 'site' {i.e., a '**home audio system**'} based on defined zones with the site [Isley: Abstract] [0011].

Claim(s) **19** recite(s) substantially the same limitations as claim 11, is/are distinguishable only by its/their statutory category (computer-readable media, method), and accordingly rejected on the same basis.

As per claim(s) **13**, Ladas in view of Isley discloses substantial features of the invention as above. In particular, Isley discloses the additional recited feature(s) of the computing device further comprising program instructions stored on the non-transitory computer-readable medium that, when executed by the at least one processor, cause the computing device to perform functions comprising **after transitioning to communicating with computing device via the secure WLAN, receiving, from the computing device, a command to form a group with at least a first playback device of a networked audio system such that the playback device is configured to play back audio content in synchrony with at least the first playback device** (Isley: e.g., expressly teaches in one aspect that "the **User Interface device 130**, in combination with the **Controller 125**, provides a 'user interface' configured to receive a **user designation of 'aggregations'** {groupings} **of the audio equipment 145, 150** located at the site so as to provide **dynamic zone aggregation**. **Controller 125** operates to *designate* the 'associated identifiers' to be received by respective ones of the plurality of network attached audio devices 105. **In other words, the **Controller 125** essentially 'tells' the **network audio devices 105** the "channel" to which they should tune. The **controller 125** makes this 'designation' based on the 'user designation' from the **user device 130** to provide 'dynamic zone aggregation'. Thus, 'individual ones' of the network attached audio devices may be '**grouped**' together and '**instructed**' to listen to the '**same channel**' to provide '**common audio signals**' to multiple rooms in a house, while '**other groupings**' of the **network attached audio devices 105** may be '**assigned a different channel**' to**

provide a 'different audio signal source' in another set of rooms within the residence .") [0039] [Fig. 1].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify and/or combine Ladas's invention with the above said additional feature, as disclosed by Isley, for the motivation of providing a system and method for dynamic distribution of 'audio signals' at a 'site' {i.e., a '**home audio system**'} based on defined zones with the site [Isley: Abstract] [0011].

3. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Ladas** in view of **Vasisht** et al (hereinafter Vasisht), US Patent Publication 2004/0133689 A1

As per claim(s) 9, while Ladas discloses features of the invention as above, he does not explicitly disclose the additional recited feature{s} of the computing device further comprising program instructions stored on the non-transitory computer-readable medium that, when executed by the at least one processor, cause the computing device to perform functions comprising **receiving, from the computing device, a command to assign a name to the playback device**. Nonetheless, the said feature(s) is/are expressly disclosed by Vasisht in a related endeavor.

Vasisht discloses as his invention a system and method for automatically configuring a communications network for a user, including the instantiation of a communications network and automatically generating a plurality of unique network configurations settings for one or more network devices of the communications network [Vasisht: Abstract] [0024-0025] [Figs. 2 & 4]. In particular, Vasisht discloses the

additional recited feature{s} of the computing device further comprising program instructions stored on the non-transitory computer-readable medium that, when executed by the at least one processor, cause the computing device to perform functions comprising **receiving, from the computing device, a command to assign a name to the playback device** (Vasisht: e.g., expressly teaches in one aspect **'Entering a Unique Node Name for the Node device' _s424**) [0092].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify and/or combine Ladas's invention with the above said additional feature, as disclosed by Vasisht, for the motivation of providing a system and method for automatically installing and configuring a communications network for a user, such as a 'home network', Small Office and Home Office {SOHO} networks, and the like [Vasisht: Abstract] [0003] [0024].

Claim(s) **17** recite(s) substantially the same limitations as claim 8, is/are distinguishable only by its/their statutory category (computer-readable media, method), and accordingly rejected on the same basis.

Conclusion

1. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GLENFORD J MADAMBA whose telephone number is (571)272-7989. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 9am-5pm.

Examiner interviews are available via telephone, in-person, and video conferencing using a USPTO supplied web-based collaboration tool. To schedule an interview, applicant is encouraged to use the USPTO Automated Interview Request (AIR) at <http://www.uspto.gov/interviewpractice>.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Parry can be reached on 571-272-8328. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/GLENFORD J MADAMBA/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2451

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(Docket No. 05-0601-CON0120)**

In the Application of:)	
Sonos, Inc.)	Examiner: Glenford Madamba
)	
Application No.: 16/746,294)	Group Art Unit: 2451
)	
Filed: January 17, 2020)	Confirmation No. 1099
)	
Title: Playback Device Connection)	
)	

**RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION
MAILED FEBRUARY 21, 2020**

In response to the Non-Final Office Action mailed February 21, 2020, Applicant submits the following amendments and remarks.

Specification Amendments begin at page 2.

Claim Amendments begin at page 3.

Remarks begin at page 13.

Applicant believes that all fees required for the present response have been filed during the electronic filing process. Applicant authorizes the office to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 506632, and to treat any filing in this matter that requires an extension of time as incorporating a request for the extension.

Amendment to the Specification

- Please insert the following new paragraph into the specification immediately after current paragraph [0039] and update all subsequent paragraph numbers:

[0040] In one embodiment, a user creates a zone group including at least two zone players from the controller 240 that sends signals or data to one of the zone players. As all the zone players are coupled on a network, the received signals in one zone players can cause other zone players in the group to be synchronized so that all the zone players in the group playback an identical audio source or a list of identical audio sources in a timely synchronized manner. Similarly, when a user increases the audio volume of the group from the controller, the signals or data of increasing the audio volume for the group are sent to one of the zone players and causes other zone players in the group to be increased together in volume and in scale.

Claim Amendments

1. (Currently Amended) A playback device comprising:
 - a network interface that is configured to provide an interconnection with at least one data network;
 - at least one processor;
 - a non-transitory computer-readable medium; and
 - program instructions stored on the non-transitory computer-readable medium that, when executed by the at least one processor, cause the playback device to perform functions comprising:
 - detecting a triggering event that causes the playback device to enter a setup mode in which the playback device transmits ~~at least a first set of one or more messages collectively~~ indicating that the playback device is available for setup;
 - while in the setup mode, ~~receiving a response to the first message that facilitates~~ establishing an initial communication path with a computing device ~~that is installed with software for controlling the playback device, wherein the computing device is connected to operating on a secure wireless local area network (WLAN) for exchanging digital data packets that is defined by one or more network devices, and wherein the initial communication path is outside of the secure WLAN with the computing device does not traverse any of the one or more network devices;~~
 - ~~processing a second set of one or more messages received~~ ~~receiving~~ from the computing device via the initial communication path, ~~wherein the second set of one or more messages collectively comprises at least a second message containing~~ network configuration parameters for the secure ~~WLAN~~ wireless network, and wherein the

network configuration parameters comprise an identifier of the secure ~~WLAN~~ wireless network and ~~[[a]] security key information for the secure WLAN wireless network;~~

using the network configuration parameters to connect to the secure ~~WLAN~~ wireless network; and

transitioning from communicating with the computing device via the initial communication path to communicating with the computing device via the secure ~~WLAN~~ wireless network.

2. (Currently Amended) The playback device of claim 1, wherein the triggering event comprises ~~one of (a) powering on the playback device or (b) receiving user input via a physical interface of the playback device.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The playback device of claim 1, wherein the ~~computing device comprises a controller device of a networked audio system~~ initial communication path with the computing device comprises a direct communication path between the playback device and the computing device that does not traverse any of the one or more network devices.

4. (Currently Amended) The playback device of claim 1, further comprising program instructions stored on the non-transitory computer-readable medium that, when executed by the at least one processor, cause the playback device to perform functions comprising:

~~after receiving the second message~~ using the one or more network configuration parameters to connect to the secure wireless network, providing an indication that the playback

~~device has successfully received the network configuration parameters for the secure WLAN connected to the secure wireless network.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The playback device of claim 4, wherein providing the indication comprises ~~transmitting, to the computing device via the initial communication path, at least a third message indicating that the playback device has successfully received the network configuration parameters causing the computing device to present a visualization, via the software for controlling the playback device, indicating that the playback device has connected to the secure wireless network.~~

6-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The playback device of claim 1, wherein communicating with the computing device via the secure ~~WLAN wireless network~~ comprises receiving a command related to playback of audio content.

11. (Currently Amended) The playback device of claim 10, wherein the command comprises a command to retrieve audio content for playback from an audio source that is accessible via a communication path that includes the secure ~~WLAN wireless network~~, and wherein the playback device further comprises program instructions stored on the non-transitory computer-readable medium that, when executed by the at least one processor, cause the playback device to perform functions comprising:

~~based on its response to receiving the command, retrieving the audio content from the audio source via the communication path that includes the secure-WLAN wireless network.~~

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The computing-playback device of claim 1, wherein communicating with the computing device via the secure wireless network comprises receiving further-comprising program-instructions-stored-on-the-non-transitory-computer-readable-medium that, when-executed-by-the-at-least-one-processor, cause-the-computing-device-to-perform functions-comprising:~~

~~after-transitioning-to-communicating-with-computing-device-via-the-secure-WLAN;~~
receiving, from the computing device, a command to form a group with at least-a-first-one additional playback device of-a-networked-audio-system that is connected to the secure wireless network such that the playback device is configured to play back audio content in synchrony with-at-least-the-first-the-at-least-one-additional playback device.

14. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory, computer-readable storage medium, wherein the non-transitory computer-readable storage medium is provisioned with program instructions that are executable to cause a playback device to perform functions comprising:

detecting a triggering event that causes the playback device to enter a setup mode in which the playback device transmits at-least-a-first-set-of-one-or-more-messages collectively indicating that the playback device is available for setup;

while in the setup mode, ~~receiving a response to the first message that facilitates~~ establishing an initial communication path with a computing device ~~that is installed with~~ software for controlling the playback device, wherein the computing device is connected to ~~operating on a~~ secure wireless local area network (WLAN) for exchanging digital data packets that is defined by one or more network devices, and wherein the initial communication path is ~~outside of the secure WLAN~~ with the computing device does not traverse any of the one or more network devices;

~~processing a second set of one or more messages received~~ receiving from the computing device via the initial communication path, wherein the second set of one or more messages collectively comprises at least a second message containing network configuration parameters for the secure WLAN wireless network, and wherein the network configuration parameters comprise an identifier of the secure WLAN wireless network and ~~[[a]] security key information~~ for the secure WLAN wireless network;

using the network configuration parameters to connect to the secure WLAN wireless network; and

transitioning from communicating with the computing device via the initial communication path to communicating with the computing device via the secure WLAN wireless network.

15. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory, computer-readable storage medium of claim 14, wherein the triggering event comprises ~~one of (a) powering on the playback device or (b) receiving user input via a physical interface of the playback device.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory, computer-readable storage medium of claim 14, wherein the non-transitory computer-readable medium is also provisioned with program instructions that are executable to cause the playback device to perform functions comprising:

~~after receiving the second message using the one or more network configuration parameters to connect to the secure wireless network, providing an indication that the playback device has successfully received the network configuration parameters for the secure WLAN connected to the secure wireless network.~~

17. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory, computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein providing the indication comprises ~~transmitting, to the computing device via the initial communication path, at least a third message indicating that the playback device has~~

~~successfully received the network configuration parameters; causing the computing device to present a visualization, via the application for controlling the playback device, indicating that the playback device has been added to the networked audio system.~~

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory, computer-readable storage medium of claim 14, wherein communicating with the computing device via the ~~secure-WLAN~~ wireless network comprises receiving a command to retrieve audio content for playback from an audio source that is accessible via a communication path that includes the ~~secure-WLAN~~ wireless network, and wherein the non-transitory computer-readable medium is also provisioned with program instructions that are executable to cause the playback device to perform functions comprising:

~~based on its response to~~ receiving the command, retrieving the audio content from the audio source via the communication path that includes the secure ~~WLAN~~ wireless network.

20. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

detecting, by a playback device, a triggering event that causes the playback device to enter a setup mode in which the playback device transmits ~~at least a first~~ set of one or more messages collectively indicating that the playback device is available for setup;

while in the setup mode, ~~receiving a response to the first message that facilitates~~ establishing an initial communication path with a computing device that is installed with software for controlling the playback device, wherein the computing device is connected to operating on a secure wireless local area network (WLAN) for exchanging digital data packets that is defined by one or more network devices, and wherein the initial communication path is outside of the secure WLAN with the computing device does not traverse any of the one or more network devices;

processing a second set of one or more messages received ~~receiving,~~ from the computing device via the initial communication path, wherein the second set of one or more messages collectively comprises at least a second message containing network configuration parameters for the secure ~~WLAN~~ wireless network, and wherein the network configuration parameters comprise an identifier of the secure ~~WLAN~~ wireless network and ~~[[a]] security key information for the secure ~~WLAN~~ wireless network;~~

using the network configuration parameters to connect to the secure ~~WLAN~~ wireless network; and

transitioning from communicating with the computing device via the initial communication path to communicating with the computing device via the secure-~~WLAN~~ wireless network.

21. (New) The playback device of claim 13, wherein the playback device and the at least one additional playback device are associated with a common networked-audio-system identifier.

22. (New) The playback device of claim 21, wherein the computing device is associated with the common networked-audio-system identifier.

23. (New) The playback device of claim 13, wherein communicating with the computing device via the secure wireless network further comprises receiving a command to adjust a volume of the group of playback devices, and wherein the playback device further comprises program instructions stored on the non-transitory computer-readable medium that, when executed by the at least one processor, cause the playback device to perform functions comprising:

based on the command to adjust the volume of the group, (a) causing an adjustment of an individual volume of the playback device and (b) transmitting, to the at least one additional playback device via the secure wireless network, a command to adjust an individual volume of the at least one additional playback device.

24. (New) The playback device of claim 1, wherein, after using the network configuration parameters to connect to the secure wireless network, the playback device is included in the one or more network devices that define the secure wireless network.

25. (New) The playback device of claim 1, wherein, after using the network configuration parameters to connect to the secure wireless network, the playback device is associated with a networked-audio-system identifier that is defined based on user input provided via the software for controlling the playback device.

26. (New) The playback device of claim 1, wherein the first set of one or more messages is a single first message.

27. (New) The playback device of claim 1, wherein the second set of one or more messages is a single second message that contains both the identifier of the secure wireless network and the security information for the secure wireless network.

28. (New) The playback device of claim 1, wherein the security information for the secure wireless network comprises a security key.

29. (New) The playback device of claim 1, wherein the secure wireless network comprises a local area network (LAN).

30. (New) The playback device of claim 1, wherein the playback device further comprises program instructions stored on the non-transitory computer-readable medium that, that, when executed by the at least one processor, cause the playback device to perform functions comprising:

after connecting to the secure wireless network, joining a networked audio system that is operating on the secure wireless network.

31. (New) The playback device of claim 30, wherein the software for controlling the playback device comprises software for controlling the networked audio system.

REMARKS

1. Summary of the Office Action

In the Non-Final Office Action dated February 21, 2020, (“the Action”) the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 on the ground of nonstatutory double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-20 of co-pending application 16/298,542; rejected claims 1, 2, 4-6, 12, 14-18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Publication 2004/0168081 (Ladas et al.); rejected claims 3, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ladas in view of U.S. Publication 2002/0124097 (Isley et al.); and rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ladas in view of U.S. Publication 2004/0133689 (Vasisht et al.).

2. Summary of Examiner Interview

A telephonic Examiner Interview took place on May 21, 2020. Participants included Examiner Glenford Madamba and Applicant’s representative Brandon Kennedy. During the interview, the participants discussed proposed amendments to the claims and previously allowed applications related by priority. No agreement regarding allowance was reached. Applicant thanks the Examiner for his time in conducting the interview.

3. Amendments to the Specification

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.57(g), Applicant inserts material into the specification that was previously incorporated by reference in this application. In particular, the inserted material can be found at least at p. 12, lines 15-19 of provisional application 60/577,284, the entirety of

which was incorporated by reference on the filing date of this application. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

4. Status of the Claims

Without conceding the merits of the claim rejections and solely to advance prosecution, Applicant has amended claims 1-5, 10-11, 13-17, and 19-20, has canceled claims 6-9, 12, and 18, and has added new claims 21-31. Now pending are claims 1-5, 10-11, 13-17, and 19-31, of which claims 1, 14, and 20 are independent and the remainder are dependent.

5. Response to Non-Statutory Double Patenting Rejections

As noted above, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 on the ground of nonstatutory double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-20 of co-pending application 16/298,542 (now US Patent 10,439,896). Applicant respectfully requests that the double patenting rejections be held in abeyance until the claims of the present application have been allowed.

6. Response to § 102 Rejections

As noted above, the Examiner rejected independent claims 1, 14 and 20 under § 102 as anticipated by Ladas. However, Applicant submits that Ladas does not teach at least “establishing an initial communication path with a computing device that is installed with software for controlling the playback device, wherein the computing device is connected to a secure wireless network for exchanging digital data packets that is defined by one or more network devices, and wherein the initial communication path with the computing device does not traverse any of the one or more network devices . . . [and] connect to the secure wireless network” in combination with the other elements of amended claims 1, 14 and 20.

In the Action, the Examiner equated the access point 102 in Ladas to the “computing device” of Applicant’s claims. (Action at p. 6). For example, the Examiner points to paragraph [0041] in Ladas for the discussion of a “temporary alternate network” (Action at p. 6), which the Examiner has construed as the “initial communication path” of Applicant’s claims. Ladas states that “[a] new temporary alternate network used only while joining the computing device to the secure wireless network is created in a step 404; this alternate network is used only by the access device and the computing device when joining the computing device to the normal secure network.” Ladas at [0041].

Ladas also states that “[t]he computing device then uses the SSID and WEP key that it received from the access point to make a connection to the wireless network in a step 222. The access point . . . accepts the connection in a step 224 so that the computing device is now joined to the secure wireless network.” *Id.* at [0039]. Thus, the connection to the secure wireless network in Ladas is another connection to the access point 102, which can be seen visually in Figure 5 (i.e., “CONNECT” at steps 222 and 224). The same is shown in Figure 6, at steps 322 and 324.

This arrangement in Ladas cannot anticipate Applicant’s claims, as amended. In particular, Applicant’s claims include “the initial communication path with the computing device does not traverse any of the one or more network devices . . . [and] connect to the secure wireless network.” Accordingly, the access point 102 of Ladas cannot be construed as both the “one or more network devices” and the “computing device” as presented in Applicant’s claims.

Because Ladas does not teach every element of independent claims 1, 14, and 20, Ladas does not render claims 1, 14, and 20 unpatentable. Consequently, Applicant requests withdrawal of the § 102 rejections of claims 1, 14, and 20 over Ladas, and submits that claims 1, 14, and 20

should be allowed. Further, Applicant submits that dependent claims 2-5, 10-11, 13, 15-17, and 19-26 should be allowed as well for at least the reason that they each depend from an allowable independent claim.

7. Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant thus respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims. Applicant does not acquiesce in any assertion by the Examiner that is not expressly addressed by these remarks. Should the Examiner wish to discuss this case, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (312) 754-9315.

Respectfully submitted,

**LEE SULLIVAN SHEA &
SMITH LLP**

Date: July 31, 2020

By: /Brandon J. Kennedy/
Brandon J. Kennedy
Reg. No. 67,894

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	16746294			
Filing Date:	17-Jan-2020			
Title of Invention:	PLAYBACK DEVICE CONNECTION			
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Nicholas A.J. Millington			
Filer:	Brandon Jacob Kennedy/Holly Mueller			
Attorney Docket Number:	05-0601-CON0120			
Filed as Large Entity				
Filing Fees for Utility under 35 USC 111(a)				
Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
CLAIMS IN EXCESS OF 20	1202	5	100	500
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Extension-of-Time:				
Extension - 3 months with \$0 paid	1253	1	1400	1400
Miscellaneous:				
Total in USD (\$)				1900

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	40166161
Application Number:	16746294
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	1099
Title of Invention:	PLAYBACK DEVICE CONNECTION
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Nicholas A.J. Millington
Customer Number:	135176
Filer:	Brandon Jacob Kennedy
Filer Authorized By:	
Attorney Docket Number:	05-0601-CON0120
Receipt Date:	31-JUL-2020
Filing Date:	17-JAN-2020
Time Stamp:	16:44:01
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	CARD
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$1900
RAM confirmation Number	E20207UG44234165
Deposit Account	506632
Authorized User	Brandon Kennedy

The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows:

37 CFR 1.16 (National application filing, search, and examination fees)

37 CFR 1.17 (Patent application and reexamination processing fees)

37 CFR 1.19 (Document supply fees)
 37 CFR 1.20 (Post Issuance fees)
 37 CFR 1.21 (Miscellaneous fees and charges)

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1		05-0601-CON0120-Response_to_NFOA.pdf	150092 edcc7d24c4d95f8a4fa3770c264f455fe1e0a8e2	yes	16
Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description					
	Document Description		Start		End
	Amendment/Req. Reconsideration-After Non-Final Reject		1		1
	Specification		2		2
	Claims		3		12
	Applicant Arguments/Remarks Made in an Amendment		13		16
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Fee Worksheet (SB06)	fee-info.pdf	32456 56373dea5306da434e7f9ec4e231286abcc5b162	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
Total Files Size (in bytes):			182548		

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

Electronic Petition Request	TERMINAL DISCLAIMER TO OBLIATE A PROVISIONAL DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION OVER A PENDING "REFERENCE" APPLICATION
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Application Number	16746294
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Filing Date	17-Jan-2020
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First Named Inventor	Nicholas Millington
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Attorney Docket Number	05-0601-CON0120
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Title of Invention	PLAYBACK DEVICE CONNECTION
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- Filing of terminal disclaimer does not obviate requirement for response under 37 CFR 1.111 to outstanding Office Action
- This electronic Terminal Disclaimer is not being used for a Joint Research Agreement.

Owner	Percent Interest
Sonos, Inc.	100%

The owner(s) of percent interest listed above in the instant application hereby disclaims, except as provided below, the terminal part of the statutory term of any patent granted on the instant application which would extend beyond the expiration date of the full statutory term of any patent granted on pending reference Application Number(s)

16298542 filed on 03/11/2019

as the term of any patent granted on said reference application may be shortened by any terminal disclaimer filed prior to the grant of any patent on the pending reference application. The owner hereby agrees that any patent so granted on the instant application shall be enforceable only for and during such period that it and any patent granted on the reference application are commonly owned. This agreement runs with any patent granted on the instant application and is binding upon the grantee, its successors or assigns.

In making the above disclaimer, the owner does not disclaim the terminal part of any patent granted on the instant application that would extend to the expiration date of the full statutory term of any patent granted on said reference application, "as the term of any patent granted on said reference application may be shortened by any terminal disclaimer filed prior to the grant of any patent on the pending reference application," in the event that any such patent granted on the pending reference application: expires for failure to pay a maintenance fee, is held unenforceable, is found invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, is statutorily disclaimed in whole or terminally disclaimed under 37 CFR 1.321, has all claims canceled by a reexamination certificate, is reissued, or is in any manner terminated prior to the expiration of its full statutory term as shortened by any terminal disclaimer filed prior to its grant.

- Terminal disclaimer fee under 37 CFR 1.20(d) is included with Electronic Terminal Disclaimer request.

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4), that the terminal disclaimer fee under 37 CFR 1.20(d) required for this terminal disclaimer has already been paid in the above-identified application.

Applicant claims the following fee status:

- Small Entity
- Micro Entity
- Regular Undiscounted

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am:

- An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office who is of record in this application

Registration Number 67894
- A sole inventor
- A joint inventor; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all of the inventors as evidenced by the power of attorney in the application
- A joint inventor; all of whom are signing this request

Signature	/Brandon J. Kennedy/
Name	Brandon J. Kennedy

*Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is required if terminal disclaimer is signed by the assignee (owner).
Form PTO/SB/96 may be used for making this certification. See MPEP § 324.

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	16746294
Filing Date:	17-Jan-2020
Title of Invention:	PLAYBACK DEVICE CONNECTION
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Nicholas A.J. Millington
Filer:	Brandon Jacob Kennedy
Attorney Docket Number:	05-0601-CON0120

Filed as Large Entity

Filing Fees for Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
STATUTORY OR TERMINAL DISCLAIMER	1814	1	160	160

Pages:

Claims:

Miscellaneous-Filing:

Petition:

Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:

Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Extension-of-Time:				
Miscellaneous:				
Total in USD (\$)				160

Doc Code: DISQ.E.FILE

Document Description: Electronic Terminal Disclaimer – Approved

Application No.: 16746294

Filing Date: 17-Jan-2020

Applicant/Patent under Reexamination: Millington

Electronic Terminal Disclaimer filed on September 17, 2020

APPROVED

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer

DISAPPROVED

Approved/Disapproved by: Electronic Terminal Disclaimer automatically approved by EFS-Web

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office