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Table with columns: APPLICATION NO., FILING DATE, FIRST NAMED INVENTOR, ATTORNEY DOCKET NO., CONFIRMATION NO.
Row 1: 90/015,536, 09/23/2025, 10439896, 15384.0014-00000, 9327
Row 2: 135176, 7590, 10/16/2025, [EXAMINER: WASSUM, LUKE S]
Row 3: [ART UNIT: 3992], [PAPER NUMBER]
Row 4: [MAIL DATE: 10/16/2025], [DELIVERY MODE: PAPER]

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.



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***EX PARTE* REEXAMINATION COMMUNICATION TRANSMITTAL FORM**

REEXAMINATION CONTROL NO. 90/015,536.

PATENT UNDER REEXAMINATION 10439896.

ART UNIT 3992.

Enclosed is a copy of the latest communication from the United States Patent and Trademark Office in the above identified *ex parte* reexamination proceeding (37 CFR 1.550(f)).

Where this copy is supplied after the reply by requester, 37 CFR 1.535, or the time for filing a reply has passed, no submission on behalf of the *ex parte* reexamination requester will be acknowledged or considered (37 CFR 1.550(g)).

Order Granting Request For Ex Parte Reexamination	Control No. 90/015,536	Patent Under Reexamination 10439896	
	Examiner Luke S Wassum	Art Unit 3992	AIA (FITF) Status No

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

The request for *ex parte* reexamination filed 09/23/2025 has been considered and a determination has been made. An identification of the claims, the references relied upon, and the rationale supporting the determination are attached.

Attachments: a) PTO-892, b) PTO/SB/08, c) Other: _____

1. The request for *ex parte* reexamination is GRANTED.

RESPONSE TIMES ARE SET AS FOLLOWS:

For Patent Owner's Statement (Optional): TWO MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication (37 CFR 1.530 (b)). **EXTENSIONS OF TIME ARE GOVERNED BY 37 CFR 1.550(c).**

For Requester's Reply (optional): TWO MONTHS from the **date of service** of any timely filed Patent Owner's Statement (37 CFR 1.535). **NO EXTENSION OF THIS TIME PERIOD IS PERMITTED.** If Patent Owner does not file a timely statement under 37 CFR 1.530(b), then no reply by requester is permitted.

		/LUKE S WASSUM/ Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3992
cc:Requester (if third party requester)		

Decision Granting *Ex Parte* Reexamination

A substantial new question of patentability affecting claims 1-20 of U.S. Patent Number 10,439,896 ("the '896 patent") is raised by the request for *Ex Parte* Reexamination filed by Requester *Google LLC* on 23 September 2025 ("the Request").

5 The request for Reexamination is therefore granted. Claims 1-20 are subject to reexamination.

The application which issued as the '896 patent was application no. 16/298,542 ("the '542 application"), filed 11 March 2019.

10

Priority

At the time of filing, the '542 application claimed priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 as a continuation of application 15/091,113, filed 5 April 2016, now U.S. Patent 10,979,310, which is a continuation of application 14/486,667, filed 15 September 2014, now U.S. Patent 9,866,447, which is a continuation of application 13/618,829, filed 14
15 September 2012, now U.S. Patent 8,868,698, which is a continuation of application 11/147,116, filed 6 June 2005, now U.S. Patent 8,326,951.

The '542 application also claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) to provisional application 60/577,284, filed 5 June 2004.

Because the effective filing date of claims 1-20 of the '542 application is presumed to be prior to March 16, 2013, the AIA First Inventor to File ("AIA-FITF") provisions will not apply. Instead, the earlier pre-AIA 'First to Invent' provisions will apply.

5 In the event the determination of the status of the '542 application as subject to AIA 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 (or as subject to pre-AIA 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103) is incorrect, any correction of the statutory basis for the rejection will not be considered a new ground of rejection if the prior art relied upon, and the rationale supporting the rejection, would be the same under either status.

10

Related Proceedings

After review of the '896 patent and its prosecution history, the examiner has located one instance of currently ongoing litigation. On 7 January 2020, Patent Owner *Sonos Inc.* filed a complaint in the Central District of California, alleging infringement of
15 five patents by Requester *Google LLC*, including the '896 patent (*Sonos Inc. v. Google LLC*, 2:20cv00169 (C.D. Cal.)). The litigation remains open as of the date of the instant Office action.

The examiner has failed to locate any previous reexaminations (*ex parte* or *inter partes*), supplemental examinations, or other post issuance proceedings before the Office.

5

Claim Construction

The Office notes that the '896 patent claims priority back to application 11/147,116, which was filed on 6 June 2005. At the time of issue, the '896 patent was accorded a Patent Term Adjustment of 0 days. Therefore, the '896 patent expired on or about 6 June 2025.

10

In a reexamination proceeding involving claims of an expired patent, claim construction pursuant to the principle set forth by the court in *Phillips v. AWH Corp.*, 415 F.3d 1303, 1316, 75 USPQ2d 1321, 1329 (Fed. Cir. 2005) (words of a claim "are generally given their ordinary and customary meaning" as understood by a person of ordinary skill in the art in question at the time of the invention) should be applied since the expired claims are not subject to amendment. See *Ex parte Papst-Motoren*, 1 USPQ2d 1655 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1986).

15

Upon review of the original specification and prosecution history, the examiner has found no instances of lexicographic definitions, either express or implied, that are

inconsistent with the ordinary and customary meaning of the respective terms.

Therefore, for the purposes of claim interpretation, the examiner concludes that there are no claim terms for which Patent Owner is acting as their own lexicographer. See MPEP § 2111.01(IV).

5

Additionally, upon review of the pending claims, the examiner finds no instances where the claim term explicitly includes functional language which invokes the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 112(f) or pre-AIA 35 U.S.C. § 112, sixth paragraph.

10

The Office notes that several claim terms were construed during previous litigation¹ before the U.S. International Trade Commission (“USITC”) involving the ‘896 patent.

Specifically, in *Order 20: Construing the Terms of the Asserted Claims of the Patents at Issue*, issued on 25 September 2020, the USITC construed the following claim terms.

Claim Term	Construction
“playback device”	“data network device configured to process and output audio”
“network interface”	“physical component of a device that provides an interconnection with a data network”

¹ *In the Matter of Certain Audio Players and Controllers, Components Thereof, and Products Containing Same*, Inv. No. 337-TA-1191, filed 7 January 2020.

“wireless local area network”	“a wireless data communications network spanning a limited geographical area, such as an office, an entire building, or industrial park”
“security key”	Plain and ordinary meaning
“while operating...” and “after receiving...”	Plain and ordinary meaning, which includes a sequence of steps
“program instructions stored on the non-transitory computer-readable medium that...”	Plain and ordinary meaning
“at least a second message containing network configuration parameters, wherein the network configuration parameters comprise an identifier of the secure WLAN and a security key for the secure WLAN”	“at least one second message containing network configuration parameters, wherein the network configuration parameters comprise an identifier of the secure WLAN and a security key for the secure WLAN”

Although not binding on the Office, the USITC’s construction of these terms is reasonable, and is therefore adopted for the purposes of the instant reexamination proceeding.

The Claimed Invention

The '896 patent is directed to techniques for automatically configuring necessary parameters of a device to be coupled to a network with minimum human intervention (see col. 4, lines 65-67).

5 The '896 patent recognizes that setting up consumer electronics devices to communicate over a wireless network typically involves a complicated set-up process requiring at least some knowledge of Internet Protocol (IP) networking and Ethernet, and that it is impractical to require average consumers to have such knowledge (see col. 1, lines 36-49). The '896 patent discloses "simple methods of setting up and maintaining
10 a secure wireless/wired in-home network with minimum human interventions" (see col. 2, lines 1-4).

Disclosed are "techniques for automatically configuring necessary parameters of a device to be coupled to a network. According to one aspect of the present invention, an Ad-hoc (wireless or wired) network is established to facilitate communications
15 among a group of devices. When a new device is added to the network, a rudimentary communication path is initially established between one of the devices in the network ("first device") and the new device ("second device") such that necessary parameters (e.g., SSID, WEP security, channel frequency) can be exchanged for the second device to function properly in the network" (see col. 2, lines 16-27).

Figure 3A displays an exemplary environment in which the disclosed invention is utilized, an "audio system" including a "controller" (i.e., first device 308) and at least one "zone player" (i.e., second devices 302, 304, 306). The devices are connected to form an ad-hoc network 310.

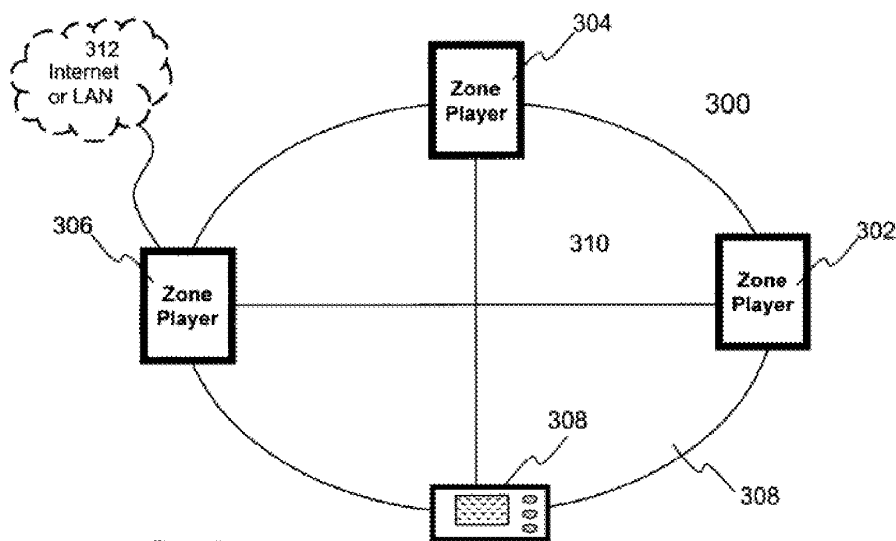


FIG. 3A

5

'896 patent, Figure 3A

When a user wants to connect a new device (e.g., a zone player, or ZP) to the network, they must manually activate an auto-configuration process. The process
10 initiates a number of data exchanges between the new device and an existing network device (e.g., a control point, or CP). The ZP sends an "Alive" message, including an identifier that uniquely identifies the ZP. The CP responds by requesting the ZP to

transmit its current network configuration information. When the ZP returns its current network configuration information, the CP sends a command to the ZP to reconfigure its network parameters to match those of the existing network. After receiving the network configuration information and applying the network parameters successfully, the ZP sends an acknowledgement to the CP. The ZP can then use the new network configuration information to join the existing network.

The process is illustrated in Figure 3B, and discussed at col. 12, line 21 through col. 14, line 37.

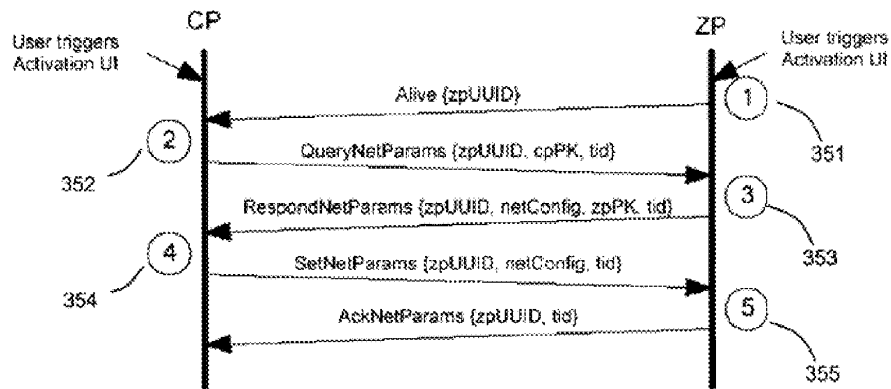


FIG. 3B

10

'896 patent, Figure 3B

Prior Art Cited in the Request

The following references were cited by the third party Requester in the request for *ex parte* reexamination:

U.S. Patent No. 7,532,862 to Stuart D. Cheshire ("**Cheshire**").

5 U.S. Patent No. 7,313,384 to Patrick Meenan et al. ("**Meenan**").

U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0174243 to Jeffrey Jonathan Spurgat et al. ("**Spurgat**").

U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0092395 to Kazuhito Gassho et al. ("**Gassho**").

10

The request is also supported by the Expert Declaration of Stuart J. Lipoff ("**Lipoff Declaration**").

None of the cited prior art references were made of record nor relied upon in
15 rejecting the claims of the '896 patent during original prosecution.

Information Disclosure Statement

Requester's Information Disclosure Statement (IDS), filed 23 September 2025, has been received and entered into the record. Since the IDS complies with the provisions of MPEP § 2280, the references cited therein have been considered by the examiner.

5 See attached form PTO-1449.

With respect to the Information Disclosure Statement considered with this action, the information cited has been considered as described in the MPEP. Note that MPEP §§ 2256 and 2656 indicate that the degree of consideration to be given to such
10 information will be normally limited by the degree to which the party filing the information citation has explained the content and relevance of the information. Information that does not appear to be "patents or printed publications" as identified in
35 U.S.C. § 301 have been considered to the same extent.

The Substantial New Question of Patentability

15 The standard for establishing a Substantial New Question of Patentability is defined in the following sections of the MPEP:

MPEP § 2242(I) provides, in pertinent part:

5 A prior art patent or printed publication raises a substantial question of patentability where there is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider the prior art patent or printed publication important in deciding whether or not the claim is patentable.

10 During original prosecution of the '542 application, in a non-final Office action mailed 30 May 2019, independent claims 1, 13, and 20 were rejected as anticipated by U.S. PgPub 2004/0168081 to Ladas et al.

15 In a response filed 22 July 2019, patent owner amended the independent claims to incorporate the limitations that a wireless local area network (WLAN) is defined by an access point, and that an initial communication path established between a computing device and a playback device does not traverse the access point.

The art rejections were subsequently withdrawn by the examiner, and after resolution of a double-patenting rejection, the claims were allowed on 26 August 2019.

20

Issue 4B: Whether claims 1-5, 7-11, 13, 14, and 16-20 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over **Cheshire** in view of **Meenan** and **Gassho**.

Issue 4C: Whether claims 1, 3-13, and 15-20 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over **Cheshire** in view of **Spurgat** and **Gassho**.

5 Issue 4D: Whether claims 1-20 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over **Cheshire** in view of **Meenan**, **Spurgat**, and **Gassho**.

Analysis

The examiner agrees that based upon the following analysis, the teachings of the cited prior art raise a substantial new question of patentability with regard to claims 1-20 of the '896 patent.

Issue 1: Cheshire

Cheshire raises a substantial new question of patentability with respect to claims 1-20 of the '896 patent, for the reasons discussed below.

Cheshire discloses a mechanism for allowing a new device to join an existing wireless network. The reference recognizes challenges in connecting a new device to an

existing wireless network, including the fact that the device needs to identify the network to join, and communication protocols and encryption keys need to be configured within the new device to match those of the network (col. 1, lines 28-45).

In order to address these challenges, **Cheshire** discloses a process for a new
5 device to join an existing wireless network. The process begins when the new device broadcasts an advertisement for itself, including an advertisement for a new wireless network. In response, an existing device on the existing wireless network requests to join the new wireless network, and once connected, transmits information to the new device specifying how to join the existing wireless network. The new device then uses
10 the information received from the existing device to join the existing wireless network (see col. 1, line 53 through col. 2, line 20).

It is particularly noted that **Cheshire's** existing devices (and new device) can be embodied in any type of computer system, peripheral device, or network appliance that can reside on a wireless network (see col. 3, lines 3-29), which means that **Cheshire**
15 discloses a mechanism for allowing new wireless devices to join an existing wireless network by establishing communication between an existing wireless device and the new wireless device without traversing an access point.

In view of the above-cited disclosures, the Office agrees that **Cheshire** discloses a mechanism for allowing a new (e.g., playback) device to join an existing wireless network by establishing an initial communication path between a computing device and a playback device that does not traverse the access point.

5

These features were recited in independent claims 1, 13, and 20 of the '896 patent, and were not found in the prior art of record during prosecution of the '542 application. Claims 2-12 and 14-19 include these limitations as well, by virtue of their dependence upon independent claims 1 and 13 respectively.

10

In light of these teachings, there is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider **Cheshire** important in deciding whether or not claims 1-20 of the '896 patent are patentable.

The teachings of **Cheshire** are new and non-cumulative with respect to the teachings of the prior art applied during the prosecution of the '542 application.

15

Furthermore, the teachings of **Cheshire** have not been considered in a final holding of invalidity by a federal court. Accordingly, **Cheshire** raises a substantial new question of patentability with regard to claims 1-20 that has not been decided in a previous examination, reexamination, or other proceeding before the Office.

Issue 2: **Cheshire** and **Meenan**

The combination of **Cheshire** and **Meenan** raises a substantial new question of patentability with respect to claims 1-20 of the '896 patent, by virtue of the inclusion of **Cheshire**, which alone raises an SNQ for the reasons discussed above with respect to

5 Issue 1.

Issue 3A: **Cheshire** and **Spurgat**

The combination of **Cheshire** and **Spurgat** raises a substantial new question of patentability with respect to claims 1-20 of the '896 patent, by virtue of the inclusion of **Cheshire**, which alone raises an SNQ for the reasons discussed above with respect to

10

Issue 1.

Issue 3B: **Cheshire**, **Meenan**, and **Spurgat**

The combination of **Cheshire**, **Meenan**, and **Spurgat** raises a substantial new question of patentability with respect to claims 1-20 of the '896 patent, by virtue of the inclusion of **Cheshire**, which alone raises an SNQ for the reasons discussed above with respect to Issue 1.

15

Issue 4A: **Cheshire** and **Gassho**

The combination of **Cheshire** and **Gassho** raises a substantial new question of patentability with respect to claims 1-20 of the '896 patent, by virtue of the inclusion of **Cheshire**, which alone raises an SNQ for the reasons discussed above with respect to

5 Issue 1.

Issue 4B: **Cheshire**, **Meenan**, and **Gassho**

The combination of **Cheshire**, **Meenan**, and **Gassho** raises a substantial new question of patentability with respect to claims 1-20 of the '896 patent, by virtue of the inclusion of **Cheshire**, which alone raises an SNQ for the reasons discussed above with respect to Issue 1.

10

Issue 4C: **Cheshire**, **Spurgat**, and **Gassho**

The combination of **Cheshire**, **Spurgat**, and **Gassho** raises a substantial new question of patentability with respect to claims 1-20 of the '896 patent, by virtue of the inclusion of **Cheshire**, which alone raises an SNQ for the reasons discussed above with respect to Issue 1.

15

Issue 4D: **Cheshire, Meenan, Spurgat, and Gassho**

The combination of **Cheshire, Meenan, Spurgat, and Gassho** raises a substantial new question of patentability with respect to claims 1-20 of the '896 patent, by virtue of the inclusion of **Cheshire**, which alone raises an SNQ for the reasons discussed above

5 with respect to Issue 1.

Conclusion

As discussed above, the prior art cited in the request raises an SNQ as to claims 1-20 of the '896 patent. Specifically, there is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider the new non-cumulative teachings of the cited prior art, as discussed above, regarding the claimed computing device, non-transitory computer-readable medium, and method for allowing a new (e.g., playback) device to join an existing wireless network by establishing an initial communication path between a computing device and a playback device that does not traverse the access point, important in deciding whether or not claims 1-20 of the '896 patent are patentable.

10

35 U.S.C. § 325(d)

A review of the post grant history for the underlying patent indicates that there have been no other Office post grant challenges made to the patent (Reexamination Proceedings, Inter Partes Reviews, Post Grant Review, or Covered Business Method trials). Accordingly, a discretionary denial of reexamination pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 325(d) is not applicable.

15

Extension of Time

Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) will not be permitted in these proceedings because the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 apply only to "an applicant" and not to parties in a reexamination proceeding. Additionally, 35 U.S.C. 305 requires that
5 *ex parte* reexamination proceedings "will be conducted with special dispatch" (37 CFR 1.550(a)). Extensions of time in *ex parte* reexamination proceedings are provided for in 37 CFR 1.550(c).

The Patent Owner is reminded of the continuing responsibility under 37 CFR
10 1.565(a), to apprise the Office of any litigation activity, or other prior or concurrent proceeding, involving U.S. Patent No. 10,439,896 throughout the course of this reexamination proceeding. The third party requester is also reminded of the ability to similarly apprise the Office of any such activity or proceeding throughout the course of this reexamination proceeding. See MPEP §§ 2207, 2282 and 2286.

15

Any document filed by the Patent Owner must be served on the third party requester (or requesters in a merged proceeding) in the reexamination proceeding in the manner provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.248. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.550(f) and MPEP § 2266.03.

All correspondence relating to this *ex parte* reexamination proceeding should be directed:

5 Electronically: Patent Center (patentcenter.uspto.gov) is available to registered users for electronic filing and management of patent applications. For more information, please visit the Patent Center information page at uspto.gov/patents/apply/patent-center.

10 By U.S. Mail to: Mail Stop *Ex Parte* Reexam
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For electronic transmissions, 37 CFR 1.8(a)(1)(i)(C) and (ii) states that correspondence (except for a request for reexamination and a corrected or replacement request for reexamination) will be considered timely filed if (a) it is transmitted via the
25 USPTO patent electronic filing system in accordance with 37 CFR 1.6(a)(4), and (b) includes a certificate of transmission for each piece of correspondence stating the date of transmission, which is prior to the expiration of the set period of time in the Office action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to the Central
Reexamination Unit at telephone number 571-272-7705.


/LUKE S WASSUM/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3992
(571) 272-4119

Conferees:

/MF/

Michael Fuelling
Supervisory Patent Examiner, AU 3992

5 lsw
6 October 2025


<p style="text-align: center;">Reexamination</p> 	Application/Control No. 90/015,536	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination 10439896
	Certificate Date	Certificate Number

Requester Correspondence Address: <input type="checkbox"/> Patent Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Third Party
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER LLP 901 NEW YORK AVENUE NW WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413

LITIGATION REVIEW <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	lsw (examiner initials)	24 September 2025 (date)
Case Name		Director Initials
Sonos, Inc. v. Int'l Trade Commission Inv. No. 337-TA-1191 (closed)		
Sonos, Inc. v. ITC 2022-1421 (Fed. Cir. 2024) (closed)		
Google LLC v. ITC 2022-1573 (Fed. Cir. 2024) (closed)		
Sonos, Inc. v. Google LLC 2:20cv00169 (C.D. Cal.) (open)		

COPENDING OFFICE PROCEEDINGS	
TYPE OF PROCEEDING	NUMBER

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Search Notes 	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	90/015,536	10439896
Examiner		Art Unit
Luke S Wassum		3992

CPC - Searched*		
Symbol	Date	Examiner

CPC Combination Sets - Searched*		
Symbol	Date	Examiner

US Classification - Searched*			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner

* See search history printout included with this form or the SEARCH NOTES box below to determine the scope of the search.

Search Notes		
Search Notes	Date	Examiner
Litigation Search	09/24/2025	lsw
Reviewed prosecution history 16/298,542	09/30/2025	lsw
Patent Data Portal (PDP) for continuity data	09/30/2025	lsw
P-TACTS for AIA Proceedings (none found)	09/30/2025	lsw

Interference Search			
US Class/CPC Symbol	US Subclass/CPC Group	Date	Examiner

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Doc code: IDS

Doc description: Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Filed

PTO/SB/08a (01-10)

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)	Application Number		
	Filing Date		
	First Named Inventor	Nicholas A. J. Millington	
	Art Unit		
	Examiner Name		
	Attorney Docket Number	15384.0014-00000	

U.S.PATENTS							Remove
Examiner Initial*	Cite No	Patent Number	Kind Code ¹	Issue Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages,Columns,Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	
	1	10439896		2019-10-08	Sonos, Inc.		
	2	7532862		2009-05-12	Apple, Inc.		
	3	6489986		2002-12-03	Vulcan Ventures Inc., Arris Enterprises LLC		
	4	5182552		1993-01-26	Bose Corp.		
	5	7313384		2007-12-25	Meta Platforms Inc.		
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	1	20020174243		2002-11-21	Meta Platforms Inc.		

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)	Application Number		
	Filing Date		
	First Named Inventor	Nicholas A. J. Millington	
	Art Unit		
	Examiner Name		
	Attorney Docket Number	15384.0014-00000	

	2	20040168081		2004-08-26	Microsoft Technology Licensing LLC	
	3	20020124097		2002-09-05	Home Director Inc.	
	4	20040133689		2004-07-08	Individual	
	5	20030212802		2003-11-13	Gateway Inc.	
	6	20030083024		2003-05-01	Aptiv Technologies Ltd.	
	7	20020072816		2002-06-13	Individual	
	8	20030092395		2003-05-15	138 East LCD Advancements Ltd.	

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Cite No	Foreign Document Number ³	Country Code ² i	Kind Code ⁴	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁵
	1	WO2003093950			2003-11-13	David Goldberg, et al.		<input type="checkbox"/>

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NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)	Application Number		
	Filing Date		
	First Named Inventor	Nicholas A. J. Millington	
	Art Unit		
	Examiner Name		
	Attorney Docket Number	15384.0014-00000	

Examiner Initials*	Cite No	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc), date, pages(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁵
	1	Rich Warren, "Remote Controls," Stereo Review (June 1991)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	2	Whitfield Diffie and Martin E. Hellman, New Directions in Cryptography, 22 IEEE Transactions on Information Theory 644 (1976)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	3	National Institute of Standards & Technology, Recommendation for Pair-Wise Key-Establishment Schemes Using Discrete Logarithm Cryptography (Revised), NIST Special Publication 800-56A rev. 3 (Apr. 2018), https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/SpecialPublications/NIST.SP.800-56Ar3.pdf	<input type="checkbox"/>
	4	Gene Steinberg, Apple AirPort Base Station 2.0 review: Apple AirPort Base Station 2.0, CNET (Jan. 25, 2002), https://www.cnet.com/reviews/apple-airportbase-station-2-0-review/	<input type="checkbox"/>

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EXAMINER SIGNATURE

Examiner Signature	/LUKE S WASSUM/	Date Considered	10/03/2025
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through a citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.USPTO.GOV or MPEP 901.04. ² Enter office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ³ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁴ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁵ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)	Application Number		
	Filing Date		
	First Named Inventor	Nicholas A. J. Millington	
	Art Unit		
	Examiner Name		
	Attorney Docket Number	15384.0014-00000	

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

Please see 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 to make the appropriate selection(s):

That each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement. See 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1).

OR

That no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement. See 37 CFR 1.97(e)(2).

See attached certification statement.

The fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17 (p) has been submitted herewith.

A certification statement is not submitted herewith.

SIGNATURE

A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with CFR 1.33, 10.18. Please see CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature.

Signature	/Forrest A. Jones/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2025-09-23
Name/Print	Forrest A. Jones	Registration Number	74,123

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

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6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
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9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Bibliographic Data

Application No: 90/015,536

Foreign Priority claimed: Yes No

35 USC 119 (a-d) conditions met: Yes No Met After Allowance

Verified and Acknowledged: /LUKE S WASSUM/

Examiner's Signature

Initials

Title:

Playback Device Connection

FILING or 371(c) DATE	CLASS	GROUP ART UNIT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/23/2025	709	3992	15384.0014-00000
RULE			

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CONTINUING DATA

This application is a REX of 16298542 03/11/2019 PAT 10439896

FOREIGN APPLICATIONS

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