

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

CISCO SYSTEMS, INC.,
Petitioner,

v.

FOCAL IP, LLC,
Patent Owner.

Case IPR2016-01257
Patent 8,457,113 B2

Before SALLY C. MEDLEY, JONI Y. CHANG, and
BARBARA A. PARVIS, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

PARVIS, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

DECISION

Granting Institution of *Inter Partes* Review
37 C.F.R. § 42.108

I. INTRODUCTION

A. *Background*

Cisco Systems, Inc. (“Petitioner”) filed a Petition (Paper 2, “Pet.”) requesting that we institute *inter partes* review of claims 143–147, 149, 150, 163, and 176–178 (“challenged claims”) of U.S. Patent No. 8,457,113 B2 (Ex. 1101, “the ’113 Patent”). Petitioner also proffers a Declaration of

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Mr. Dean Willis, who has been retained as an expert witness for the instant proceeding. Ex. 1102 ¶ 3.

Focal IP, LLC (“Patent Owner”) filed a Preliminary Response (Paper 8, “Prelim. Resp.”). Patent Owner also proffers a Declaration of Mr. Regis J. Bates, who has been retained as an expert witness for the instant proceeding. Ex. 2001 ¶¶ 1, 2.

We have jurisdiction under 35 U.S.C. § 314, which provides that an *inter partes* review may not be instituted “unless . . . the information presented in the petition . . . shows that there is a reasonable likelihood that the petitioner would prevail with respect to at least 1 of the claims challenged in the petition.” For the reasons given below, on behalf of the Director (*see* 37 C.F.R. § 42.4(a)), we institute an *inter partes* review of the challenged claims of the ’113 Patent.

B. Related Proceedings

The parties state that the ’113 Patent is the subject of pending lawsuits in the Middle District of Florida, and these lawsuits include assertions against Bright House Networks, LLC, WideOpenWest Finance, LLC, YMax Corporation, Birch Communications, Inc., and T3 Communications, Inc. Pet. 2; Paper 4 (Patent Owner’s Mandatory Notices), 2–3; Paper 6 (Petitioner’s Updated Notice), 1. Petitioner also has filed IPR2016-01254, which requests *inter partes* review of different claims of the ’113 Patent. Patent Owner’s Mandatory Notices, 3; Petitioner’s Updated Notice, 1. Additional petitions have been filed challenging claims of the ’113 Patent (i.e., IPR2016-01260 and IPR2016-01261). *Id.* Further petitions have been filed challenging claims of related patents. Petitioner’s Updated Notice, 1, 2.

C. Asserted Grounds of Unpatentability

Petitioner asserts that the challenged claims are unpatentable based on the following grounds of unpatentability (Pet. 4):

Basis	Reference(s)
§ 103	U.S. Patent No. 6,353,660 B1 (“Burger,” Ex. 1103) and the knowledge of a person of ordinary skill in the art
§ 103	Burger and U.S. Patent No. 6,798,767 B1 (“Alexander,” Ex. 1106)
§ 103	U.S. Patent No. 6,683,870 B1 (“Archer,” Ex. 1104) and the knowledge of a person of ordinary skill in the art

D. The ’113 Patent

The ’113 Patent is directed to a system for allowing a subscriber to select telephone service features. Ex. 1101, 1:22–25. Figure 1 of the ’113 Patent is reproduced below.

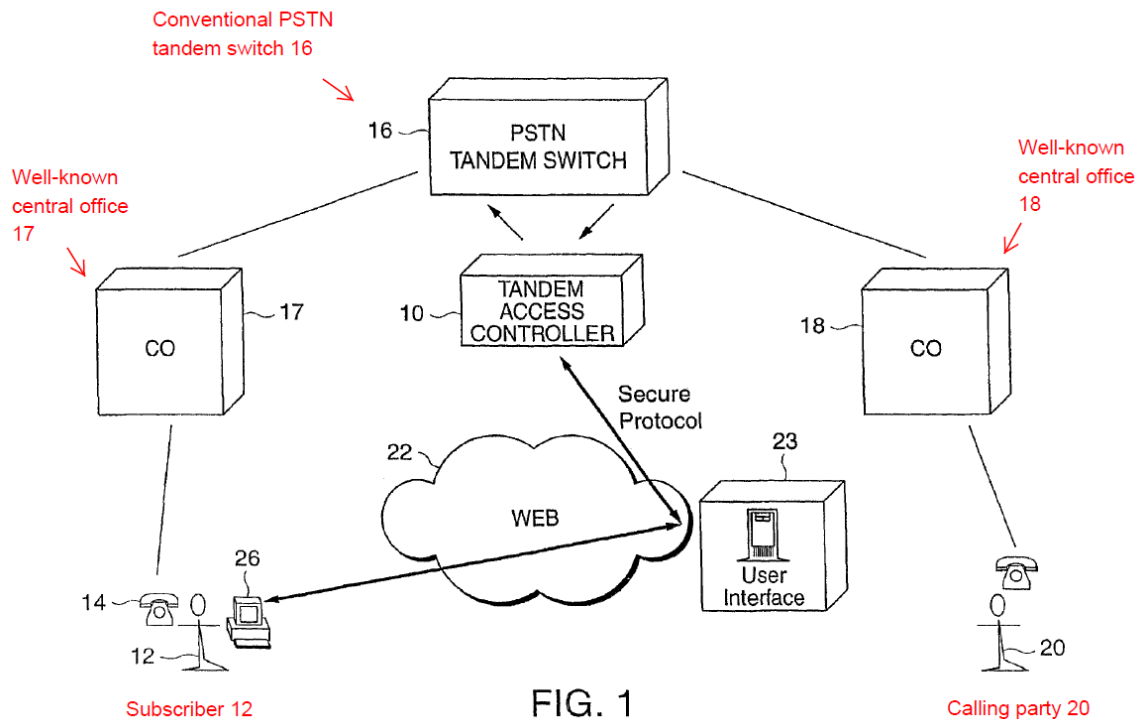


Figure 1 illustrates a tandem access controller connected to an existing PSTN tandem switch.

Figure 1 illustrates tandem access controller 10 connected to conventional Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) tandem switch 16. *Id.* at 4:43, 44. According to the '113 Patent, “[d]etails of the operation of the existing phone network,” including directing of phone calls by “existing” PSTN tandem switch 16 to central offices 17, 18 are further described in a publication incorporated by reference, as well as “numerous books describing the PSTN.” *Id.* at 4:43–54.

The call flow in the network illustrated in Figure 1 with tandem access controller 10 remains the same as that in a conventional network, “except that additional 3rd-party features are applied to the call.” *Id.* at 4:43–47. More specifically, in the network illustrated in Figure 1, a call from calling party 20 to subscriber’s phone 14 is directed to tandem access controller 10,

which places a second call, subject to 3rd party control information to subscriber 12. *Id.* at 4:55–58. The second call is placed “to the subscriber’s ‘private’ phone number,” without terminating the first call. *Id.* at 4:58–60. When subscriber 12 answers the call, tandem access controller 10 connects the first call to the second call so as to connect calling party 14 to subscriber 12. *Id.* at 4:62–65.

Figure 1 also shows web server 23 within world wide web 22, which is connected to tandem access controller 10. *Id.* at Fig. 1. Subscriber 12 specifies 3rd-party call control features via web server 23 and these features are then relayed via world wide web 22 to tandem access controller 10. *Id.* at 5:16–24.

E. Illustrative Claim

Claims 143 and 163 are the independent claims challenged in this proceeding. Claims 144–47, 149, 150, and 176–78 depend directly from one of claims 143 or 163. Independent claim 143 is illustrative of the claimed subject matter and is reproduced below:

143. A method of providing an intelligent interconnection between a first communication network and a second communication network, comprising:

receiving at a controller call data which is associated with a first call via a first communication network;

accessing control criteria by the controller based upon the call data;

initiating a second call via a second communication network by the controller using the call data and the control criteria, wherein at least one of the first and the second communication networks is a voice over IP (VOIP) network; and

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