Paper No. 78 Date: April 30, 2020

# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD MICROSOFT CORPORATION, Petitioner, v. FG SRC LLC, Patent Owner. IPR2018-01599 Patent 6,076,152 B1

Before KALYAN K. DESHPANDE, JUSTIN T. ARBES, and CHRISTA P. ZADO, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

ZADO, Administrative Patent Judge.

JUDGMENT
Final Written Decision
Determining All Challenged Claims Unpatentable
35 U.S.C. § 318(a)



## I. INTRODUCTION

We have authority to hear this *inter partes* review under 35 U.S.C. § 6. This Final Written Decision issues pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 318(a) and 37 C.F.R. § 42.73. For the reasons discussed herein, we determine that Microsoft Corporation ("Petitioner")<sup>1</sup> has shown, by a preponderance of the evidence, that claims 11, 12, 15, and 18–21 ("challenged claims") of U.S. Patent No. 6,076,152 (Ex. 1001, "the '152 patent") are unpatentable. *See* 35 U.S.C. § 316(e) (2012); 37 C.F.R. § 42.1(d) (2017).

# A. Procedural History

Petitioner filed a Petition for *inter partes* review of claims 1–7, 11, 12, 15, and 18–21 of the '152 patent. Paper 1 ("Pet." or "Petition"). FG SRC LLC, (Patent Owner")<sup>2</sup> subsequently filed a Preliminary Response. Paper 14 ("Prelim. Resp."). On February 19, 2019, the Board entered a decision instituting an *inter partes* review of all claims and all grounds presented in the Petition. Paper 20 ("Institution Decision" or "Inst. Dec.").

After institution, Patent Owner filed a Response to the Petition.

Paper 37 ("Response" or "PO Resp."). In the Response, Patent Owner states that it "surrenders challenged claims 1–7 of the '152 Patent." PO Resp. 4.

In addition, on February 11, 2020, Patent Owner filed a statutory disclaimer of claims 1–7 of the '152 patent. Paper 75 (Notice of statutory disclaimer);

Ex. 2170 (statutory disclaimer). Accordingly, claims 1–7 have been

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, originally named as Patent Owner, assigned the '152 patent to DirectStream, LLC on May 21, 2019. Paper 26, 1. DirectStream, LLC assigned the '152 patent to FG SRC LLC on January 22, 2020. Paper 72, 1. Patent Owner identifies only itself as a real party-in-interest to this proceeding. *Id*.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Petitioner identifies only itself as a real party-in-interest to the Petition. Pet. 2.

removed from this proceeding. Petitioner filed a Reply to Patent Owner's Response. Paper 55 ("Reply"). Thereafter, Patent Owner filed a Sur-Reply to Petitioner's Reply to Patent Owner's Response. Paper 61 ("Sur-Reply").

An oral hearing was held on February 3, 2019. A transcript of the hearing is included in the record. Paper 77 ("Tr.").

# B. Related Matters

The parties advise that the '152 patent has been subject to, or relates to, the following district court proceedings: *SRC Labs, LLC et al. v. Microsoft Corp.*, 2:18-cv-00321 (W.D. Wash.); and *SRC Labs, LLC et al. v. Microsoft Corp.*, 1:17-cv-01172 (E.D. Va.). Pet. 3; Paper 4, 1. Patent Owner further advises the following proceeding may affect or be affected by this proceeding: *SRC Labs, LLC and Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe v. Amazon Web Services, Inc. et al.*, 2:18-cv-00317 (W.D. Wash.). Paper 72, 1. Also, the following proceedings before the Board involve Petitioner and Patent Owner: IPR2018-01594, IPR2018-01600, IPR2018-01601, IPR2018-01604, and IPR2018-01605.

## C. The '152 Patent

The '152 patent generally relates to a multiprocessor computer architecture incorporating multiple programmable memory algorithm processors ("MAP") in a memory subsystem, wherein the MAP may comprise one or more field programmable gate arrays ("FPGAs"). Ex. 1001, code (57).

The specification of the '152 patent ("Specification") describes general purpose computers, stating that they are flexible in that they can handle a variety of functions, but are slower than they would be if they were designed to handle only one particular function:



All general purpose computers are based on circuits that have some form of processing element. These may take the form of microprocessor chips or could be a collection of smaller chips coupled together to form a processor. In any case, these processors are designed to execute programs that are defined by a set of program steps. The fact that these steps, or commands, can be rearranged to create different end results using the same computer the computer's flexibility. hardware key to Unfortunately, this flexibility dictates that the hardware then be designed to handle a variety of possible functions, which results in generally slower operation than would be the case were it able to be designed to handle only one particular function. On the other hand, a single function computer is inherently not a particularly versatile computer.

Ex. 1001, 1:15–30. The Specification states, however, that several groups had begun experimenting with creating a processor out of electrically reconfigurable circuits. *Id.* at 1:31–33. According to the Specification, this would allow the processor to be configured to execute particular functions more quickly than a processor of a general purpose computer, thereby accelerating application program execution speeds. *Id.* at 1:33–35. The Specification states, however, that certain functions cannot be implemented well in a system comprising reconfigurable processors due to limitations on the circuit densities that can be achieved. *Id.* at 1:35–39. In addition, systems including such reconfigurable processors intended for the processors to operate alone, which would present problems in high performance systems involving program applications that use several processors to solve a single problem. *Id.* at 1:41–47.

To address these issues, the Specification states that the inventors "developed a Memory Algorithm Processor ('MAP') multiprocessor computer architecture that utilizes very high performance microprocessors in



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conjunction with user reconfigurable hardware elements." *Id.* at 1:52–57. In a preferred embodiment, the MAP may comprise a Field Programmable Gate Array ("FPGA"). *Id.* at 1:62–64. The Specification discloses, particularly, a computer system including a *microprocessor* and one or more FPGAs:

Particularly disclosed herein is the utilization of one or more FPGAs to perform user defined algorithms in conjunction with, and tightly coupled to, a *microprocessor*. More particularly, in a multi-processor computer system, the FPGAs are globally accessible by all of the system processors for the purpose of executing user definable algorithms.

*Id.* at 1:66–2:4 (emphasis added). However, the Specification also discloses, broadly, a computer including a *data processor* and a MAP

Broadly, what is disclosed herein is a computer including at least one *data processor* for operating on user data in accordance with program instructions. The computer includes at least one memory array presenting a data and address bus and comprises a memory algorithm processor associated with the memory array and coupled to the data and address buses. The memory algorithm processor is configurable to perform at least one identified algorithm on an operand received from a write operation to the memory array.

Id. at 2:30–39 (emphasis added).

Figure 3 of the '152 patent is reproduced below.



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