

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

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APPLE INC.,  
Petitioner,

v.

PARUS HOLDINGS, INC.,  
Patent Owner.

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IPR2020-00686  
Patent 7,076,431 B2

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Before DAVID C. McKONE, STACEY G. WHITE, and  
SHELDON M. McGEE, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

McKONE, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

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

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. *Background and Summary*

Apple Inc. (“Petitioner”) filed a Petition requesting an *inter partes* review of claims 1–7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 18–21, and 25–30 of U.S. Patent No. 7,076,431 B2 (Ex. 1001, “the ’431 patent”). Paper 1 (“Pet.”). Parus Holdings, Inc. (“Patent Owner”) filed a Preliminary Response to the Petition. Paper 6 (“Prelim. Resp.”). Pursuant to our authorization (Ex. 1033), Petitioner filed a Reply, Paper 7 (“Reply”), and Patent Owner filed a Sur-reply, Paper 8 (“Sur-reply”).

We have authority to determine whether to institute an *inter partes* review. *See* 35 U.S.C. § 314 (2016); 37 C.F.R. § 42.4(a) (2019). The standard for instituting an *inter partes* review is set forth in 35 U.S.C. § 314(a), which provides that an *inter partes* review may not be instituted “unless . . . there is a reasonable likelihood that the petitioner would prevail with respect to at least 1 of the claims challenged in the petition.” For the reasons explained below, we institute an *inter partes* review of the ’431 patent.

### B. *Related Matters*

The parties identify the following district court proceedings as related to the ’431 patent: *Parus Holdings Inc. v. Apple, Inc.*, No. 6:19-cv-00432 (W.D. Tex.) (“the Texas case”); *Parus Holdings Inc. v. Amazon.com, Inc.*, No. 6:19-cv-00454 (W.D. Tex.); *Parus Holdings Inc. v. Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd., et al.*, No. 6:19-cv-00438 (W.D. Tex.); *Parus Holdings Inc. v. Google LLC*, No. 6:19-cv-00433 (W.D. Tex.); and *Parus Holdings Inc. v. LG Electronics, Inc., et al.*, No. 6:19-cv-00437 (W.D. Tex.). Pet. 72; Paper 5, 1.

The parties also identify U.S. Patent No. 6,721,705 and U.S. Patent No. 9,451,084 as related to the '431 patent, and further identify that U.S. Patent No. 9,451,084 has been asserted in the district court proceedings listed above, and is the subject of IPR2020-00687. Pet. 72; Paper 5, 1.

*C. The '431 Patent*

The '431 patent describes a system that allows users to browse web sites and retrieve information using conversational voice commands. Ex. 1001, 1:20–23. Figures 1 and 3, reproduced below, illustrate an example:

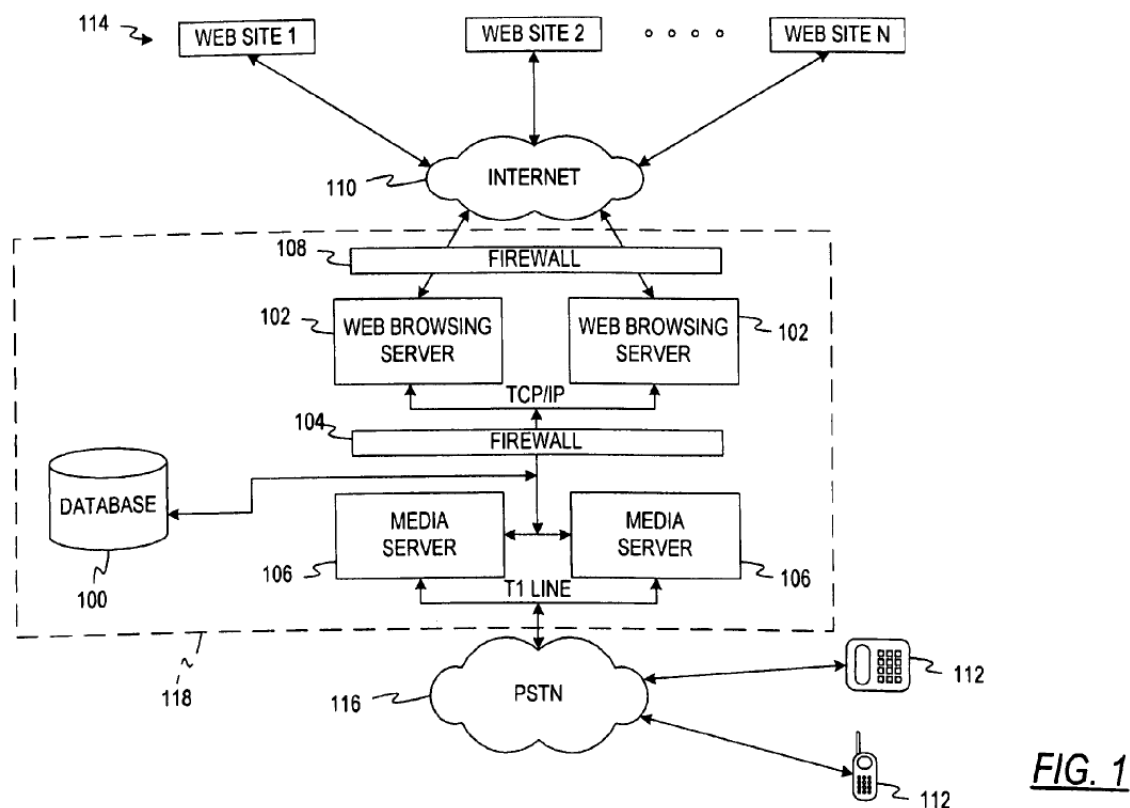
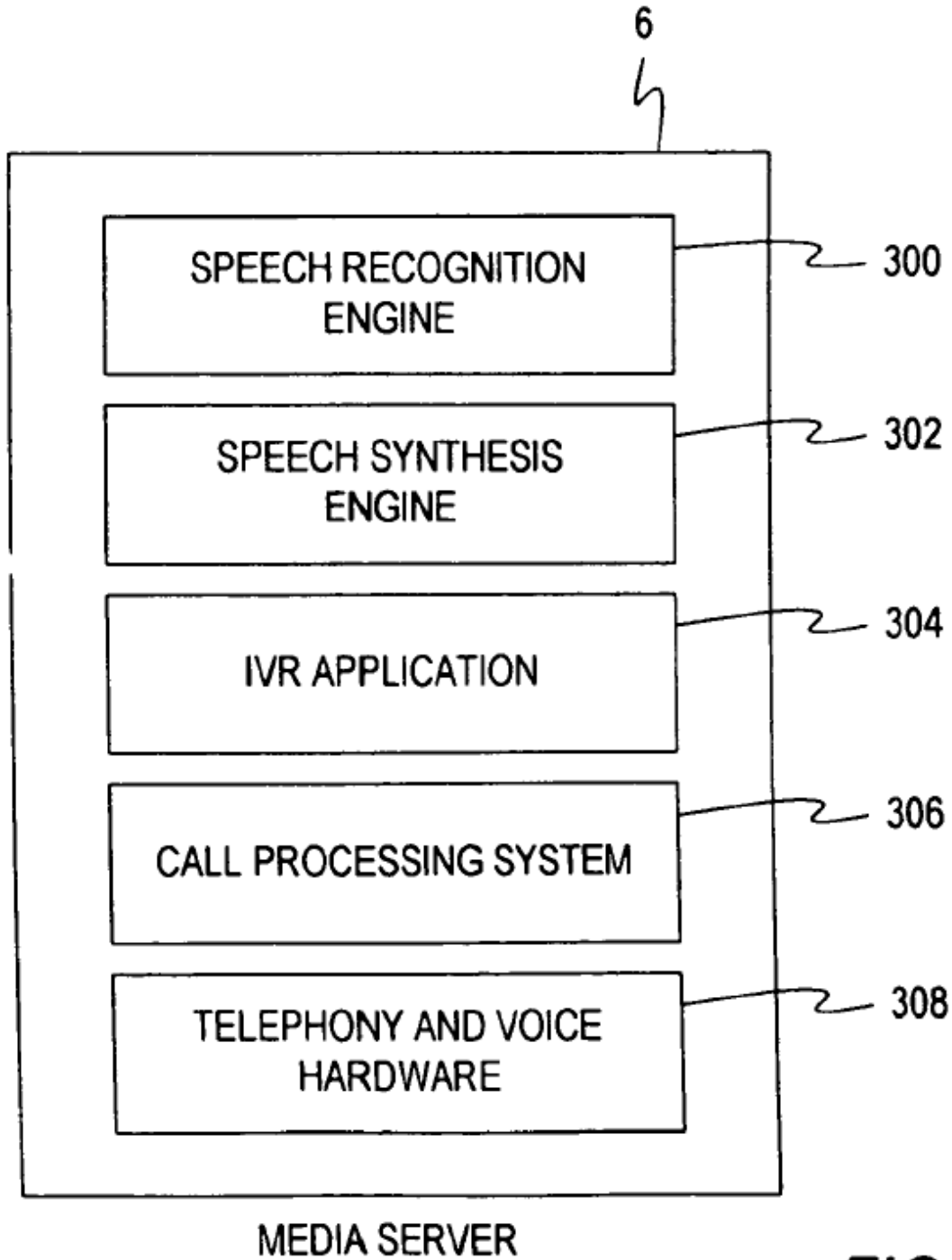


Figure 1 is a block diagram of a voice browsing system. *Id.* at 4:16–17.



**FIG. 3**

Figure 3 is a block diagram of Figure 1's media server 106. *Id.* at 4:20–21.

Media server 106 includes speech recognition engine 300, speech synthesis engine 302, Interactive Voice Response (IVR) application 304, call

processing system 306, and telephony and voice hardware 308 to communicate with Public Switched Telephone Network (PTSN) 116. *Id.* at 5:62–6:1. When a user speaks into voice enable device 112 (e.g., a wireline or wireless telephone), speech recognition engine 300 converts voice commands into data messages. *Id.* at 6:4–8. Media server 106 uses results (e.g., keywords) generated by speech recognition engine 300 to retrieve web site record 200 stored in database 100 that can provide the information requested by the user. *Id.* at 6:44–50. Media server 106 selects the highest ranked web site record and transmits it to web browsing server 102 along with an identifier indicating what information is being requested. *Id.* at 6:52–56. Speech synthesis engine converts the data retrieved by web browsing server 102 into audio messages that are transmitted to voice enable device 112. *Id.* at 6:57–60.

Claim 1, reproduced below, is illustrative of the invention:<sup>1</sup>

1. A system for retrieving information from pre-selected web sites by uttering speech commands into a voice enabled device and for providing to users retrieved information in an audio form via said voice enabled device, said system comprising:

- [a] a computer, said computer operatively connected to the internet;
- [b] a voice enabled device operatively connected to said computer, said voice enabled device configured to receive speech commands from users;
- [c] at least one speaker-independent speech recognition device, said speaker-independent speech

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<sup>1</sup> For consistency with the parties' arguments, we add bracketed lettering to track the lettering supplied by Petitioner. *See* Pet. 74–75 (Claims listing appendix).

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