

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

GOOGLE LLC, SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO., LTD., SAMSUNG
ELECTRONICS AMERICA, INC., LG ELECTRONICS INC., and LG
ELECTRONICS U.S.A., INC.,
Petitioner,

v.

PARUS HOLDINGS, INC.,
Patent Owner.

IPR2020-00846
Patent 7,076,431 B2

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*

Google LLC, Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd., Samsung Electronics America, Inc., LG Electronics Inc., and LG Electronics U.S.A., Inc., (collectively, “Petitioner”) filed a Petition requesting an *inter partes* review of claims 1, 2, 4–7, 9, 10, 13, and 14 of U.S. Patent No. 7,076,431 B2 (Ex. 1001, “the ’431 patent”). Paper 2 (“Pet.”). Parus Holdings, Inc. (“Patent Owner”) filed a Preliminary Response to the Petition. Paper 6 (“Prelim. Resp.”). Pursuant to our authorization, 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 (2018); 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.” The following findings of fact and conclusions of law are not final, but are made for the sole purpose of determining whether Petitioner meets the threshold for initiating review. Any final decision shall be based on the full trial record, including any response timely filed by Patent Owner. Any arguments not raised by Patent Owner in a timely-filed response may be deemed waived, even if they were presented in the Preliminary Response. 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.); *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. xi; Paper 5, 1. The case against LG Electronics, 6:19-cv-00437, has been transferred to the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. Ex. 1032. The remaining cases have been consolidated. Ex. 2017. We refer to these cases collectively as “the Texas case” and the Waco Division of the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas as “the Texas court.”

The parties also identify the following *inter partes* review proceedings: *Apple Inc. v. Parus Holdings, Inc.*, IPR2020-00686 (challenging the '431 patent) and *Apple Inc. v. Parus Holdings, Inc.*, IPR2020-00687 (challenging U.S. Patent No. 9,451,084 (“the '084 patent”)) (“the Apple IPRs”); and *Google LLC v. Parus Holdings, Inc.*, IPR2020-00847 (challenging the '084 patent). Pet. xii–xiii; Paper 5, 1–2.

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:

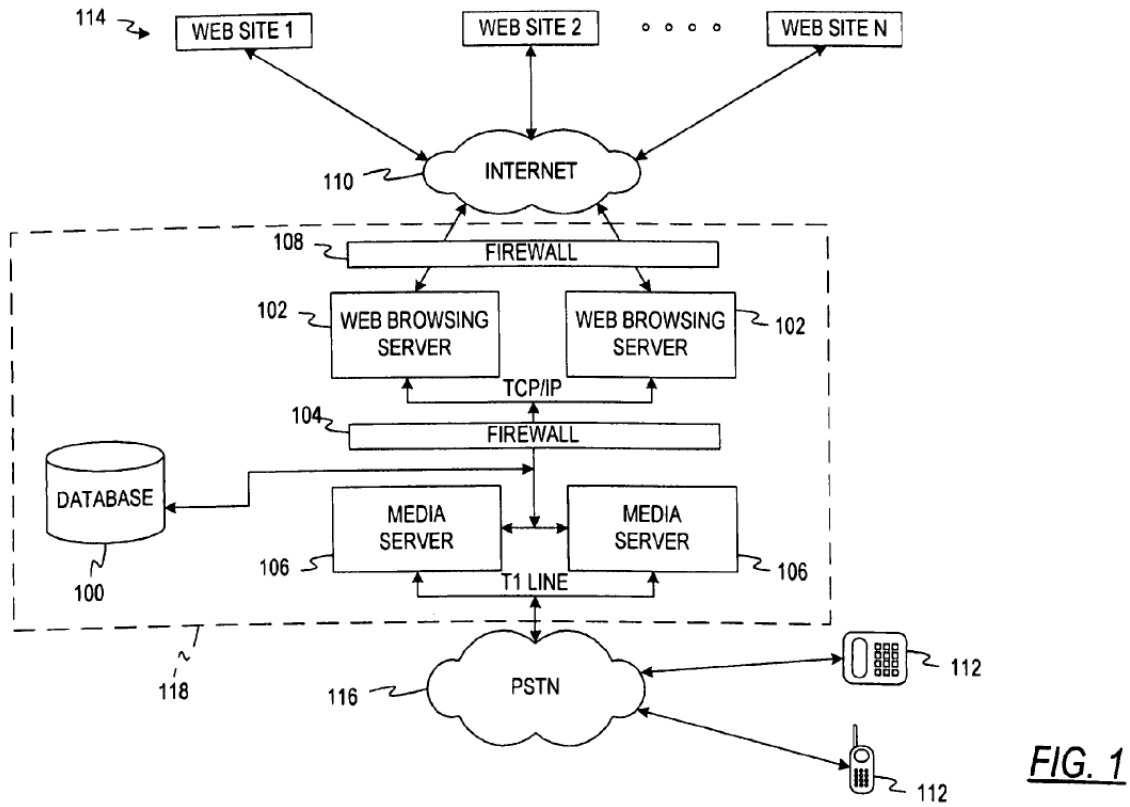


Figure 1 is a block diagram of a voice browsing system. *Id.* at 4:16–17.

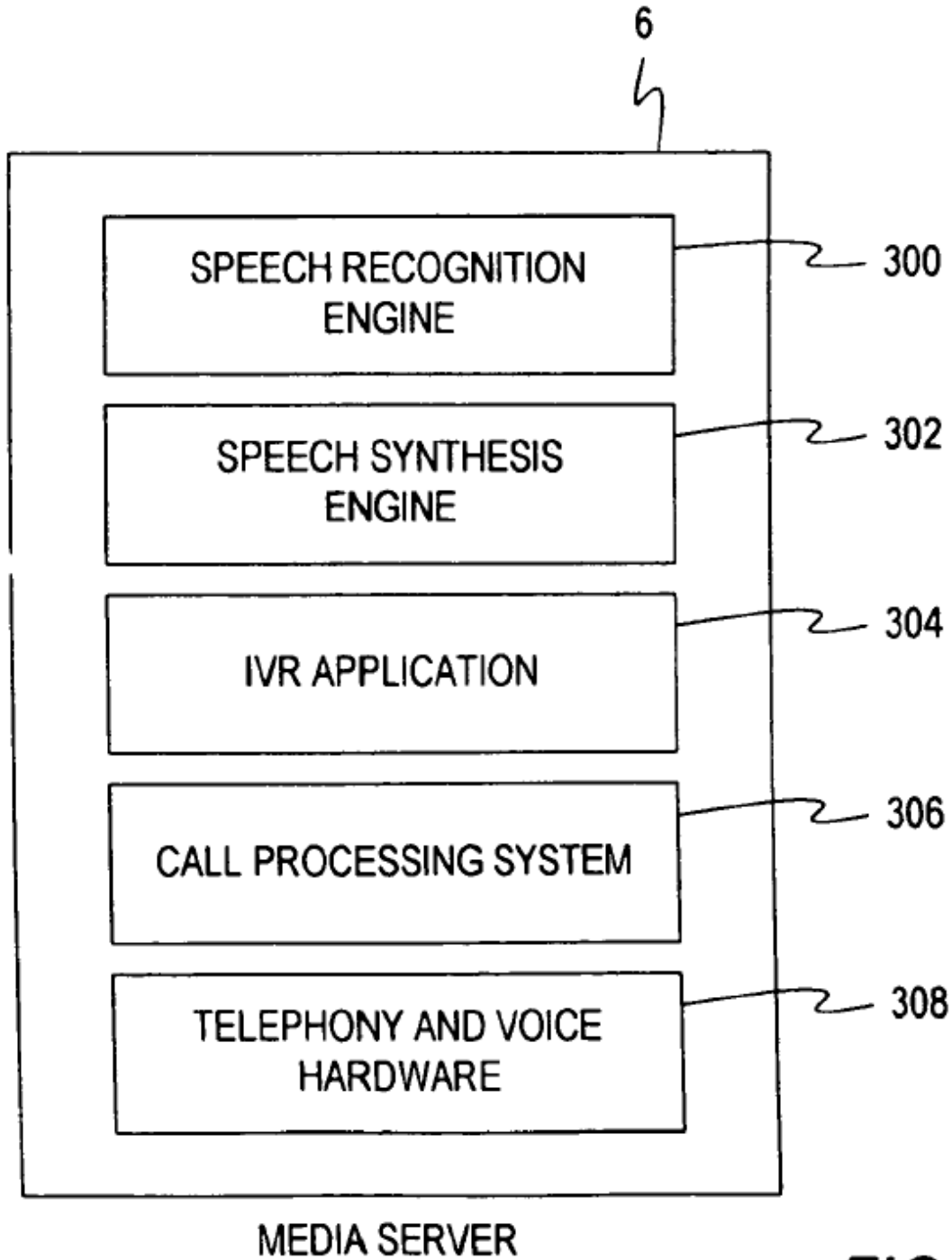


FIG. 3

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

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