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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
90/010,421	02/24/2009	6,701,365	2655-0187	6411
42624	7590	08/14/2009	EXAMINER	
DAVIDSON BERQUIST JACKSON & GOWDEY LLP 4300 WILSON BLVD., 7TH FLOOR ARLINGTON, VA 22203			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 08/14/2009

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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EX PARTE REEXAMINATION COMMUNICATION TRANSMITTAL FORM

REEXAMINATION CONTROL NO. 90/010,421.

PATENT NO. 6,701,365.

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)).

Office Action in Ex Parte Reexamination	Control No. 90/010,421	Patent Under Reexamination 6,701,365	
	Examiner ALEXANDER J. KOSOWSKI	Art Unit 3992	

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

- a ☒ Responsive to the communication(s) filed on 24 February 2009. b ☐ This action is made FINAL.
c ☒ A statement under 37 CFR 1.530 has not been received from the patent owner.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 2 month(s) from the mailing date of this letter. Failure to respond within the period for response will result in termination of the proceeding and issuance of an *ex parte* reexamination certificate in accordance with this action. 37 CFR 1.550(d). **EXTENSIONS OF TIME ARE GOVERNED BY 37 CFR 1.550(c).** If the period for response specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a response within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.

Part I THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENT(S) ARE PART OF THIS ACTION:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited by Examiner, PTO-892. | 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary, PTO-474. |
| 2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement, PTO/SB/08. | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Part II SUMMARY OF ACTION

- 1a. ☒ Claims 1-3 are subject to reexamination.
- 1b. ☐ Claims _____ are not subject to reexamination.
2. ☐ Claims _____ have been canceled in the present reexamination proceeding.
3. ☐ Claims _____ are patentable and/or confirmed.
4. ☒ Claims 1-3 are rejected.
5. ☐ Claims _____ are objected to.
6. ☐ The drawings, filed on _____ are acceptable.
7. ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ has been (7a) ☐ approved (7b) ☐ disapproved.
8. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of the priority claim under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the certified copies have
 - 1 ☐ been received.
 - 2 ☐ not been received.
 - 3 ☐ been filed in Application No. _____
 - 4 ☐ been filed in reexamination Control No. _____
 - 5 ☐ been received by the International Bureau in PCT application No. _____
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
9. ☐ Since the proceeding appears to be in condition for issuance of an *ex parte* reexamination certificate except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte* Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.
10. ☐ Other: _____

cc: Requester (if third party requester)

DETAILED ACTION

1) This Office action addresses claims 1-3 of United States Patent Number 6,701,365 (Hutton et al), for which it has been determined in the Order Granting Ex Parte Reexamination (hereafter the "Order") mailed 3/13/09 that a substantial new question of patentability was raised in the Request for *Ex Parte* reexamination filed on 2/24/09 (hereafter the "Request").

IDS

2) With regard to the IDS filed 6/11/09:

Where the IDS citations are submitted but not described, the examiner is only responsible for cursorily reviewing the references. The initials of the examiner on the PTO-1449 indicate only that degree of review unless the reference is either applied against the claims, or discussed by the examiner as pertinent art of interest, in a subsequent office action. See Guidelines for Reexamination of Cases in View of *In re Portola Packaging, Inc.*, 110 F.3d 786, 42 USPQ2d 1295 (Fed. Cir. 1997), 64 FR at 15347, 1223 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office at 125 (response to comment 6).

Consideration by the examiner of the information submitted in an IDS means that the examiner will consider the documents in the same manner as other documents in Office search files are considered by the examiner while conducting a search of the prior art in a proper field of search. The initials of the examiner placed adjacent to the citations on the PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08A and 08B or its equivalent mean that the information has been considered by the examiner to the extent noted above. MPEP § 609 (Eighth Edition, Rev. 5, August 2006).

Regarding IDS submissions MPEP 2256 recites the following: "Where patents, publications, and other such items of information are submitted by a party (patent owner or requester) in compliance with the requirements of the rules, the requisite degree of consideration to be given to such 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."

Accordingly, the IDS submissions have been considered by the Examiner only with the scope required by MPEP 2256.

Rejections

3) The following three rejections are utilized by the examiner below, referencing the proposed prior art listed on pages 4-6 of the Request:

Issue 1: Claims 1-3 in view of NetBIOS and RFC 1531

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Issue 2: Claims 1-3 in view of Etherphone, Vin and RFC 1531

Issue 3: Claims 1-3 in view of VocalChat and RFC 1531

Claim Rejection Paragraphs

4) *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Issue 1

5) Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by NetBIOS, further in view of RFC 1531.

Referring to **(Claim 1)**, NetBIOS teaches a computer program product for use with a server operatively coupled over a computer network to a plurality of processes, the computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having program code embodied thereon (NetBIOS, pg. 356, 357, whereby the system is run on personal computers over TCP/IP networks including the Internet) the program code comprising:

a. program code configured to receive the current network protocol address of one of the processes coupled to the network (NetBIOS, pg. 367, 385-388, 431, whereby current IP addresses of nodes are registered and made available)

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b. program code configured to receive an identifier associated with said one process (NetBIOS, pg. 367, 385, whereby an end node's name is registered, which is considered an identifier); and

c. program code configured to receive queries for one of the network protocol address and the associated identifier of said one of the processes from other processes over the computer network at the server, and to allow the establishment of a packet-based point-to-point communication between said one of the processes and one of said other processes (NetBIOS, pg. 377, 388-389, 398-400, 446, whereby an end-node sends a query to determine whether a target name is registered, and whereby an IP address is returned in response and used to establish point-to-point communication).

In addition, NetBIOS teaches the use of TCP/IP (NetBIOS, pg. 356-357). However, NetBIOS does not explicitly teach that the network protocol address is received by said one of the processes from an Internet access server.

RFC 1531 teaches dynamically assigning IP addresses on a TCP/IP network by an Internet access server (RFC 1531, Section 2.2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize dynamically assigned IP addresses from Internet access servers in the invention taught by NetBIOS above since this allows for automatic reuse of an address that is no longer needed by the host to which it was assigned (RFC 1531, Pg. 2), and since examiner notes the use of dynamic IP address assignment in a TCP/IP network are old and well known in the art, and are useful to eliminate the burdensome task of manually assigning IP addresses for all networked computers.

Referring to **(Claim 2)**, NetBIOS teaches a computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave (NetBIOS, pg. 356, 357, whereby the system is implemented in software) comprising:

a. program code configured to receive a current network protocol address of a process coupled to a computer network (NetBIOS, pg. 367, 385-388, 431, whereby current IP addresses of nodes are registered and made available);

b. program code configured to receive an identifier associated with said one process (NetBIOS, pg. 367, 385, whereby an end node's name is registered, which is considered an identifier); and

c. program code configured to receive queries for one of the network protocol address and the associated identifier of said one process from other processes over the computer network at a connection server, and to allow the establishment of a packet-based point-to-point communication between said one process and one of said other processes (NetBIOS, pg. 377, 388-389, 398-400, 446, whereby an end-node sends a query to determine whether a target name is registered, and whereby an IP address is returned in response and used to establish point-to-point communication).

In addition, NetBIOS teaches the use of TCP/IP (NetBIOS, pg. 356-357). However, NetBIOS does not explicitly teach that the network protocol address is received by the process from an Internet access server.

RFC 1531 teaches dynamically assigning IP addresses on a TCP/IP network by an Internet access server (RFC 1531, Section 2.2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize dynamically assigned IP addresses from Internet access servers in the invention taught by NetBIOS above since this allows for automatic reuse of an address that is no longer needed by the host to which it was assigned (RFC 1531, Pg. 2), and since examiner notes the use of dynamic IP address assignment in a TCP/IP network are old and well known in the art, and are useful to eliminate the burdensome task of manually assigning IP addresses for all networked computers.

Referring to **(Claim 3)**, NetBIOS teaches in a computer system operatively coupled over a computer network to a plurality of processes (NetBIOS, pg. 356, 357, whereby the system is run on personal computers over TCP/IP networks including the Internet), a method comprising the steps of:

a. receiving the current network protocol address of a process coupled to the network (NetBIOS, pg. 367, 385-388, 431, whereby current IP addresses of nodes are registered and made available),

b. receiving an identifier associated with said one process (NetBIOS, pg. 367, 385, whereby an end node's name is registered, which is considered an identifier);

c. receiving a query for one of the network protocol address and the associated identifier of said one process from another of the processes over the computer network at a connection server (NetBIOS, pg. 377, 388-389, 398-400, 446, whereby an end-node sends a query to determine whether a target name is registered); and

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d. providing one of the network protocol address and the associated identifier of said one process to a said another process over the computer network, if the said one process is connected to the computer network, and to allow the establishment of a packet-based point-to-point communication between said one process and one of said another processes (NetBIOS, pg. 361, 397-401, whereby an end-node sends a query to determine whether a target name is registered, and if an IP address is returned in response it is used to establish point-to-point communication).

In addition, NetBIOS teaches the use of TCP/IP (NetBIOS, pg. 356-357). However, NetBIOS does not explicitly teach that the network protocol address is received by the process from an Internet access server.

RFC 1531 teaches dynamically assigning IP addresses on a TCP/IP network by an Internet access server (RFC 1531, Section 2.2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize dynamically assigned IP addresses from Internet access servers in the invention taught by NetBIOS above since this allows for automatic reuse of an address that is no longer needed by the host to which it was assigned (RFC 1531, Pg. 2), and since examiner notes the use of dynamic IP address assignment in a TCP/IP network are old and well known in the art, and are useful to eliminate the burdensome task of manually assigning IP addresses for all networked computers.

Issue 2

6) Examiner notes the following will represent the Etherphone references utilized for the rejection below (All considered a single reference as published together):

“Zellweger”: An Overview of the Etherphone System and its Applications

“Swinehart”: Telephone Management in the Etherphone System

“Terry”: Managing Stored Voice in the Etherphone System

7) Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by Etherphone, further in view of Vin, further in view of RFC 1531

Referring to (**Claim 1**), Etherphone teaches a computer program product for use with a server operatively coupled over a computer network to a plurality of processes, the computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having program code embodied thereon (Zellweger, pg. 2, Terry, pg. 4) the program code comprising:

a. program code configured to receive the current network protocol address of one of the processes coupled to the network (Swinehart, pg. 2, 4, Zellweger, pg. 5, whereby network addresses are stored in a voice control server and provides the addresses on request)

b. program code configured to receive an identifier associated with said one process (Zellweger, pg. 4, whereby attributes such as name can be associated with addresses); and

c. program code configured to receive queries for one of the network protocol address and the associated identifier of said one of the processes from other processes over the computer network at the server, and to allow the establishment of a packet-based point-to-point communication between said one of the processes and one of said other processes (Zellweger,

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pg. 3, 5, Swinehart, pg. 2, 4, whereby remote procedure calls are used to establish calls between two or more parties by bypassing the voice control server).

However, Etherphone does not explicitly teach that the network protocol address is received by said one of the processes from an Internet access server.

Vin teaches an Etherphone implementation whereby Internet communications and IP addresses are used (Vin, page 77 and Figure 5).

RFC 1531 teaches dynamically assigning IP addresses on a TCP/IP network by an Internet access server (RFC 1531, Section 2.2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the computer program product taught by Etherphone above in an Internet based system utilizing dynamically assigned IP addresses from Internet access servers as taught by Vin and RFC 1531 since Etherphone was intended for use in multiple networks and communication protocols (Terry, page 3), since Vin and Etherphone both describe the same Etherphone system, since examiner notes that Internet and IP address-based networks are old and well known in the art and would be a natural extension from an ethernet-based system, since dynamic allocation of IP addresses allows for automatic reuse of an address that is no longer needed by the host to which it was assigned (RFC 1531, Pg. 2), and since examiner notes the use of dynamic IP address assignment in a TCP/IP network are old and well known in the art, and are useful to eliminate the burdensome task of manually assigning IP addresses for all networked computers.

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Referring to **(Claim 2)**, Etherphone teaches a computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave (Zellweger, pg. 2, 5, Swinehart, pg. 2, whereby the system is implemented as software) comprising:

- a. program code configured to receive a current network protocol address of a process coupled to a computer network (Swinehart, pg. 2, 4, Zellweger, pg. 5, whereby network addresses are stored in a voice control server and provides the addresses on request);
- b. program code configured to receive an identifier associated with said one process (Zellweger, pg. 4, whereby attributes such as name can be associated with addresses); and
- c. program code configured to receive queries for one of the network protocol address and the associated identifier of said one process from other processes over the computer network at a connection server, and to allow the establishment of a packet-based point-to-point communication between said one process and one of said other processes (Zellweger, pg. 3, 5, Swinehart, pg. 2, 4, whereby remote procedure calls are used to establish calls between two or more parties by bypassing the voice control server).

However, Etherphone does not explicitly teach that the network protocol address is received by said one of the processes from an Internet access server.

Vin teaches an Etherphone implementation whereby Internet communications and IP addresses are used (Vin, page 77 and Figure 5).

RFC 1531 teaches dynamically assigning IP addresses on a TCP/IP network by an Internet access server (RFC 1531, Section 2.2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the computer program product taught by Etherphone above in an Internet

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based system utilizing dynamically assigned IP addresses from Internet access servers as taught by Vin and RFC 1531 since Etherphone was intended for use in multiple networks and communication protocols (Terry, page 3), since Vin and Etherphone both describe the same Etherphone system, since examiner notes that Internet and IP address-based networks are old and well known in the art and would be a natural extension from an ethernet-based system, since dynamic allocation of IP addresses allows for automatic reuse of an address that is no longer needed by the host to which it was assigned (RFC 1531, Pg. 2), and since examiner notes the use of dynamic IP address assignment in a TCP/IP network are old and well known in the art, and are useful to eliminate the burdensome task of manually assigning IP addresses for all networked computers.

Referring to **(Claim 3)**, Etherphone teaches in a computer system operatively coupled over a computer network to a plurality of processes (Zellweger, pg. 2, 5, Swinehart, pg. 2), a method comprising the steps of:

a. receiving the current network protocol address of a process coupled to the network (Swinehart, pg. 2, 4, Zellweger, pg. 5, whereby network addresses are stored in a voice control server and provides the addresses on request),

b. receiving an identifier associated with said one process (Zellweger, pg. 4, whereby attributes such as name can be associated with addresses);

c. receiving a query for one of the network protocol address and the associated identifier of said one process from another of the processes over the computer network at a connection

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server (Zellweger, pg. 4, whereby a system directory database is queried to place a call by user name); and

d. providing one of the network protocol address and the associated identifier of said one process to a said another process over the computer network, if the said one process is connected to the computer network, and to allow the establishment of a packet-based point-to-point communication between said one process and one of said another processes (Zellweger, pg. 3, 5, Swinehart, pg. 2, 4, whereby remote procedure calls are used to establish calls between two or more parties by bypassing the voice control server using network addresses available if users are connected).

However, Etherphone does not explicitly teach that the network protocol address is received by said one of the processes from an Internet access server.

Vin teaches an Etherphone implementation whereby Internet communications and IP addresses are used (Vin, page 77 and Figure 5).

RFC 1531 teaches dynamically assigning IP addresses on a TCP/IP network by an Internet access server (RFC 1531, Section 2.2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the computer program product taught by Etherphone above in an Internet based system utilizing dynamically assigned IP addresses from Internet access servers as taught by Vin and RFC 1531 since Etherphone was intended for use in multiple networks and communication protocols (Terry, page 3), since Vin and Etherphone both describe the same Etherphone system, since examiner notes that Internet and IP address-based networks are old and well known in the art and would be a natural extension from an ethernet-based system, since

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dynamic allocation of IP addresses allows for automatic reuse of an address that is no longer needed by the host to which it was assigned (RFC 1531, Pg. 2), and since examiner notes the use of dynamic IP address assignment in a TCP/IP network are old and well known in the art, and are useful to eliminate the burdensome task of manually assigning IP addresses for all networked computers.

Issue 3

8) Examiner notes the following will represent the VocalChat references utilized for the rejection below:

"User's Guide": VocalChat User's Guide, Version 2.0

"Readme": VocalChat Readme File, Version 2.02

"Networking Information": VocalChat 1.01 Networking Information

"Help File": VocalChat Information, Version 2.02

"Troubleshooting Help File": VocalChat Troubleshooting Help File, Version 2.02

9) Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by the combination of all five VocalChat references listed above (hereafter "VocalChat References"), further in view of RFC 1531.

Referring to **(Claim 1)**, the VocalChat References teach a computer program product for use with a server operatively coupled over a computer network to a plurality of processes, the computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having program code

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embodied thereon (User's Guide, pg. 5, 7-8, readme, pg. 1, Help File, pg. 2) the program code comprising:

a. program code configured to receive the current network protocol address of one of the processes coupled to the network (User's Guide, pg. 5, Network Information, pg. 10, Help File, pg. 2, Troubleshooting Help File, pg. 28, whereby users connect to a server to register name and network protocol address and the server can response to requests)

b. program code configured to receive an identifier associated with said one process (Network Information, pg. 10, whereby names of users are associated with network addresses);
and

c. program code configured to receive queries for one of the network protocol address and the associated identifier of said one of the processes from other processes over the computer network at the server, and to allow the establishment of a packet-based point-to-point communication between said one of the processes and one of said other processes (Help File, pg. 2, 17, 26, whereby the server receives queries for network protocol addresses from clients who are logged in, returns these addresses to the requester and communication between clients proceeds using packet-based point-to-point communication).

In addition, VocalChat teaches the use of TCP/IP (Troubleshooting Help File, pg. 28). However, VocalChat does not explicitly teach that the network protocol address is received by said one of the processes from an Internet access server.

RFC 1531 teaches dynamically assigning IP addresses on a TCP/IP network by an Internet access server (RFC 1531, Section 2.2).

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine all five VocalChat References utilized above since they all describe a VocalChat system which shares numerous common features including a central server to store addresses and VocalChat client software and which all interoperate in the same basic manner. In addition it would have been obvious to utilize dynamically assigned IP addresses from Internet access servers in the invention taught by VocalChat above since this allows for automatic reuse of an address that is no longer needed by the host to which it was assigned (RFC 1531, Pg. 2), and since examiner notes the use of dynamic IP address assignment in a TCP/IP network are old and well known in the art, and are useful to eliminate the burdensome task of manually assigning IP addresses for all networked computers.

Referring to **(Claim 2)**, the VocalChat References teach a computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave (User's Guide, pg. 5, 7-8, readme, pg. 1, Help File, pg. 2) comprising:

a. program code configured to receive a current network protocol address of a process coupled to a computer network (User's Guide, pg. 5, Network Information, pg. 10, Help File, pg. 2, Troubleshooting Help File, pg. 28, whereby users connect to a server to register name and network protocol address and the server can response to requests);

b. program code configured to receive an identifier associated with said one process (Network Information, pg. 10, whereby names of users are associated with network addresses);

and

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c. program code configured to receive queries for one of the network protocol address and the associated identifier of said one process from other processes over the computer network at a connection server, and to allow the establishment of a packet-based point-to-point communication between said one process and one of said other processes (Help File, pg. 2, 17, 26, whereby the server receives queries for network protocol addresses from clients who are logged in, returns these addresses to the requester and communication between clients proceeds using packet-based point-to-point communication).

In addition, VocalChat teaches the use of TCP/IP (Troubleshooting Help File, pg. 28). However, VocalChat does not explicitly teach that the network protocol address is received by said one of the processes from an Internet access server.

RFC 1531 teaches dynamically assigning IP addresses on a TCP/IP network by an Internet access server (RFC 1531, Section 2.2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine all five VocalChat References utilized above since they all describe a VocalChat system which shares numerous common features including a central server to store addresses and VocalChat client software and which all interoperate in the same basic manner. In addition it would have been obvious to utilize dynamically assigned IP addresses from Internet access servers in the invention taught by VocalChat above since this allows for automatic reuse of an address that is no longer needed by the host to which it was assigned (RFC 1531, Pg. 2), and since examiner notes the use of dynamic IP address assignment in a TCP/IP network are old

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and well known in the art, and are useful to eliminate the burdensome task of manually assigning IP addresses for all networked computers.

Referring to **(Claim 3)**, the VocalChat References teach in a computer system operatively coupled over a computer network to a plurality of processes (User's Guide, pg. 5, 7-8, readme, pg. 1, Help File, pg. 2), a method comprising the steps of:

a. receiving the current network protocol address of a process coupled to the network (User's Guide, pg. 5, Network Information, pg. 10, Help File, pg. 2, Troubleshooting Help File, pg. 28, whereby users connect to a server to register name and network protocol address and the server can response to requests),

b. receiving an identifier associated with said one process (Network Information, pg. 10, whereby names of users are associated with network addresses);

c. receiving a query for one of the network protocol address and the associated identifier of said one process from another of the processes over the computer network at a connection server (Help File, pg. 2, 22, 26, whereby the server receives queries for network protocol addresses from clients); and

d. providing one of the network protocol address and the associated identifier of said one process to a said another process over the computer network, if the said one process is connected to the computer network, and to allow the establishment of a packet-based point-to-point communication between said one process and one of said another processes (Help File, pg. 2, 17, 26, whereby the server receives queries for network protocol addresses from clients who are

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logged in, returns these addresses to the requester and communication between clients proceeds using packet-based point-to-point communication).

In addition, VocalChat teaches the use of TCP/IP (Troubleshooting Help File, pg. 28). However, VocalChat does not explicitly teach that the network protocol address is received by said one of the processes from an Internet access server.

RFC 1531 teaches dynamically assigning IP addresses on a TCP/IP network by an Internet access server (RFC 1531, Section 2.2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine all five VocalChat References utilized above since they all describe a VocalChat system which shares numerous common features including a central server to store addresses and VocalChat client software and which all interoperate in the same basic manner. In addition it would have been obvious to utilize dynamically assigned IP addresses from Internet access servers in the invention taught by VocalChat above since this allows for automatic reuse of an address that is no longer needed by the host to which it was assigned (RFC 1531, Pg. 2), and since examiner notes the use of dynamic IP address assignment in a TCP/IP network are old and well known in the art, and are useful to eliminate the burdensome task of manually assigning IP addresses for all networked computers.

Conclusion

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

By U.S. Postal Service Mail to:

Mail Stop Ex Parte Reexam
ATTN: Central Reexamination Unit
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By FAX to:

(571) 273-9900
Central Reexamination Unit

By hand to:

Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

By EFS-Web:

Registered users of EFS-Web may alternatively submit such correspondence via the electronic filing system EFS-Web, at

<https://sportal.uspto.gov/authenticate/authenticateuserlocalepf.html>

EFS-Web offers the benefit of quick submission to the particular area of the Office that needs to act on the correspondence. Also, EFS-Web submissions are "soft scanned" (i.e., electronically uploaded) directly into the official file for the reexamination proceeding, which offers parties the opportunity to review the content of their submissions after the "soft scanning" process is complete.

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14) Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Reexamination Legal Advisor or Examiner, or as to the status of this proceeding, should be directed to the Central Reexamination Unit at telephone number (571) 272-7705.

/Alexander J Kosowski/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3992

ESK

Cme