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

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.



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***EX PARTE* REEXAMINATION COMMUNICATION TRANSMITTAL FORM**

REEXAMINATION CONTROL NO. 90/014,865 .

PATENT UNDER REEXAMINATION 6411941 .

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)).

|                                                              |                                       |                                              |                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Order Granting Request For<br/>Ex Parte Reexamination</b> | <b>Control No.</b><br>90/014,865      | <b>Patent Under Reexamination</b><br>6411941 |                                |
|                                                              | <b>Examiner</b><br>MINH DIEU T NGUYEN | <b>Art Unit</b><br>3992                      | <b>AIA (FITF) Status</b><br>No |

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

The request for *ex parte* reexamination filed 09/21/2021 has been considered and a determination has been made. An identification of the claims, the references relied upon, and the rationale supporting the determination are attached.

Attachments: a) ☒ PTO-892,      b) ☐ PTO/SB/08,      c) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

1. ☒ The request for *ex parte* reexamination is GRANTED.

**RESPONSE TIMES ARE SET AS FOLLOWS:**

For Patent Owner's Statement (Optional): TWO MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication (37 CFR 1.530 (b)). **EXTENSIONS OF TIME ARE GOVERNED BY 37 CFR 1.550(c).**

For Requester's Reply (optional): TWO MONTHS from the **date of service** of any timely filed Patent Owner's Statement (37 CFR 1.535). **NO EXTENSION OF THIS TIME PERIOD IS PERMITTED.** If Patent Owner does not file a timely statement under 37 CFR 1.530(b), then no reply by requester is permitted.

|                                                       |  |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
| /MINH DIEU NGUYEN/<br>Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3992 |  |  |
| cc:Requester ( if third party requester )             |  |  |

***Notice of Pre-AIA or AIA Status***

The present application is being examined under the pre-AIA first to invent provisions.

**DECISION GRANTING *EX PARTE* REEXAMINATION**

This is in response to a request for an Ex Parte Reexamination of claims 1-3, 6-14 and 16 U.S. Patent No. 6,411,941 (hereinafter "the '941 Patent"). The '941 Patent was issued on June 25, 2002.

A substantial new question of patentability affecting claims 1-3, 6-14 and 16 of U.S. Patent No. 6,411,941 **is raised** by the present request for *ex parte* reexamination filed September 21, 2021.

Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) will not be permitted in *ex parte* proceedings because the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 apply only to "an applicant" and not to parties in a reexamination proceeding. Additionally, 35 U.S.C. 305 requires that *ex parte* reexamination proceedings "will be conducted with special dispatch" (37 CFR 1.550(a)). Extensions of time in *ex parte* reexamination proceedings are provided for in 37 CFR 1.550(c).

**Notification of Concurrent Proceedings**

The patent owner is reminded of the continuing responsibility under 37 CFR 1.985 to apprise the Office of any litigation activity, or other prior or concurrent proceeding, involving the '941 Patent throughout the course of this reexamination

proceeding. The third party requester is also reminded of the ability to similarly apprise the Office of any such activity or proceeding throughout the course of this reexamination proceeding. See MPEP § 2686 and 2686.04.

### **PROSECUTION HISTORY**

The '941 Patent was originally filed as Application No. 09/164,777 on October 1, 1998, having claims 1-15. Foreign priority was claimed to Israel Patent Application No. 124571, filed May 21 1998, for which a certified copy in English was concurrently filed.

The Office mailed a non-final office action on October 18, 2000, rejecting claims 1-15. Claims 1-4 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 5,892,900 to Ginter et al. (hereinafter Ginter). Claims 5, 7, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Ginter in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,684,951 to Goldman et al. (hereinafter Goldman). Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Ginter in view of Goldman further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,490,216 to Richardson, III (hereinafter Richardson), although the explanation of the rejection to that claim did not rely upon Richardson at all. It is noted that the explanation of this rejections also suggested that claims 6 and 10 should also have been rejected over Ginter. Claims 14 and 15 were not discussed.

A second non-final rejection was mailed on December 20, 2000 that clarified the previous office action, stating that claims 1-4, 6, and 10-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Ginter and claims 5, 7-9, 14, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Ginter in view of Goldman.

The Applicant responded on May 21, 2001, amending claim 1, cancelling claims 14 and 15, and adding claims 16-20.

The Office mailed a final rejection on June 22, 2001, rejecting claims 1-13 and 16-20. Claims 1-13 and 16-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, for incorporating new matter. Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph for being incomplete. Claims 1-4, 6, and 10-13 were rejected under 35 102(e) over Ginter. Claims 5, 7-9, and 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Ginter in view of Goldman.

The Applicant filed an amendment on November 14, 2001 with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE), amending claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, and 16-20 and adding claims 21-23.

The Office then mailed a non-final rejection on January 15, 2002, rejecting all of the claims. Claims 11, 12, 15, 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph for lacking enablement. Claims 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph for being indefinite. The office action stated that claims 1-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,189,146 to Misra et al. (hereinafter Misra) in view of Goldman further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,479,639 to Ewertz et al. (hereinafter Ewertz). It is noted that only claims 1-13 and 16-23 should have been rejected in this action, as claims 14 and 15 had been previously cancelled.

The Applicant responded by filing an amendment on February 5, 2002, amending claims 16 and 20 and cancelling claims 11 and 12, leaving claims 1-10, 13, and 16-23 to be examined.

A Notice of Allowance was mailed by the Office on March 28, 2002, including an Examiner's Amendment amending claims 1 and 20. Regarding claims 1-10, 13, and 16-19, the Examiner noted that,

*"...the key distinction between the present invention and the closest prior art, is that the Misra et al., and Ginter et al. systems and the Ewertz et al. system run at the operating system level and BIOS level, respectively. More specifically, the closest prior art systems, singly or collectively, do not teach licensed programs running at the OS level interacting with a program verification structure stored in the BIOS to verify the program using the verification structure and having a user act on the program according to the verification. Further, it is well known to those of ordinary skill of the art that a computer BIOS is not setup to manage a software license verification structure. The present invention overcomes this difficulty by using an agent to set up a verification structure in the erasable, non-volatile memory of the BIOS."*

Regarding claims 20-23, the Examiner noted that,

*"... a key distinction between the present invention and the closest prior art, is that the Misra et al., and Ginter et al. systems and the Ewertz et al. system run at the operating system level and BIOS level, respectively. More specifically, the closest prior art systems, singly or collectively, do not teach extracting licensing information from a software program, encrypting the information and storing it in the BIOS. Further, it is well known to those of ordinary skill of the art that a computer BIOS is not setup to store license information. The present invention overcomes this difficulty by utilizing an agent*

*to verify the application software program using the license information stored in the erasable, writable, non-volatile memory of the BIOS.”*

The claims were renumbered as claims 1-19. None of the claims of the '941 patent have been subject to a final holding of invalidity by a court.

The '941 Patent has been involved in:

***Ex parte* reexamination by control number 90/010,560** (hereinafter “the ‘560 Reexam”) filed on May 28, 2009. The prior art submitted by the requester, U.S. Patent No. 5,734,819 to Lewis. The Office states that Lewis did disclose license information stored in the non-volatile memory of a BIOS (see NIRC dated March 9, 2010, page 4). However, the system in Lewis uses the license information to verify the device itself, not a program running on the device. That is, the program in Lewis uses the encrypted license information in the BIOS memory to verify that the serial number of the device has not been altered, instead of using the encrypted license information to verify that the program was licensed. The Office allowed issuance of the reexamination certificate on March 9, 2010.

**Apple Inc. v. Ancora Techs., Inc., Case CBM2016-00023**

The Board ordered that the joint motion to terminate CBM2016-00023 is granted, and this proceeding is terminated as to all parties including Apple and Ancora.

**HTC Corp. v. Ancora Techs., Inc., Case CBM2017-00054**

The Board denied institution, finding that the '941 Patent is not a covered business method patent because it discloses a technical solution in the form of storing the license record in the memory of the BIOS. *HTC Corp. v. Ancora Techs., Inc.*, No. CBM2017-00054, Institution Decision, Paper 7, pp. 10-12 (Dec. 1, 2017). The Board therefore did not consider the merits of the prior art-based invalidity grounds present in the CBM petition.

**IPR2020-01184: *Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd v. Ancora Techs., Inc.***

Samsung filed a petition for *inter partes* review against the '941 Patent on June 25, 2020. The Board denied the Samsung IPR on January 5, 2021, no trial is instituted. The litigation was settled right before trial.

**IPR2020-01609: TCT Mobile (US) Inc. v. *Ancora Techs., Inc.***

On September 10, 2020, TCT filed a petition for *inter partes* review against claims 1-3, 6-14, and 16 of the '941 Patent. On February 16, 2021, the PTAB instituted *inter partes* review proceedings in the TCT IPR. On April 5, 2021, the parties filed a Joint Motion to Terminate Proceedings based on settlement. On June 10, 2021, the Board ordered an *inter partes* review is instituted for the following grounds: claims 1-2, 11, 13 are unpatentable under 103(a) as obvious over Hellman and Chou and claims 1-3, 6-14, 16 are unpatentable under 103(a) as obvious over Hellman, Chou and

Schneck. On July 16, 2021, the Board ordered that the Joint Motion to Terminate filed in both proceedings (IPR2020-01609 and IPR2021-00663) is granted and terminated both proceedings due to settlement after institution of trial.

**IPR2021-00570: HTC Corp. v. Ancora Techs., Inc.,**

The grounds and prior art references presented in this IPR are the same as the grounds presented in the TCT instituted petition. The Board denied the institution based on the majority of General Plastics factors (Factors 1-3, 5, and 6). The Board further ordered that the Motion for Joinder is denied.

**IPR2021-00581: LG Electronics v. Ancora Techs., Inc.,**

The grounds and prior art references presented in this IPR are the same as the grounds presented in the TCT instituted petition and other “copycat” IPR petitions filed based on the TCT instituted petition. The Board denied the institution related to Fintiv (Factors 2-3 and 4-5). The Board further ordered that the Motion for Joinder is denied.

**IPR2021-00583: Samsung Electronics v. Ancora Techs., Inc.,**

The grounds and prior art references presented in this IPR are the same as the grounds presented in the TCT instituted petition and other “copycat” IPR petitions filed

based on the TCT instituted petition. The Board ordered that the proceeding is terminated in light of the settlement agreement among parties.

**IPR2021-00663: Sony Mobile Communications v. Ancora Techs., Inc.,**

The grounds and prior art references presented in this IPR are the same as the grounds presented in the TCT instituted petition and other “copycat” IPR petitions filed based on the TCT instituted petition. Petitioner Sony and Ancora Technologies, Inc. (Patent Owner”) filed a Joint Motion to Terminate in each of the IPR2020-01609 and IPR2021-00663. Although the instant *inter partes* reviews have been instituted, a final written decision has not entered.

The Board ordered that the Joint Motion to Terminate filed in IPR2020-01609 and IPR2021-00663 is granted. It is further ordered that both IPR2020-01609 and IPR2021-00663 are terminated in light of the settlement agreement among parties.

**IPR2021-01338: Nintendo Co., v. Ancora Techs., Inc.,**

The grounds and prior art references presented in this IPR are the same as the grounds presented in the TCT instituted petition and other “copycat” IPR petitions filed based on the TCT instituted petition. The proceeding is pending.

**IPR2021-01406: Roku Inc., v. Ancora Techs., Inc.,**

The grounds and prior art references presented in this IPR are the same as the grounds presented in the TCT instituted petition and other “copycat” IPR petitions filed based on the TCT instituted petition. The proceeding is pending.

### **PROPOSED SUBSTANTIAL NEW QUESTIONS OF PATENTABILITY**

The Requestor requested reexamination of claims 1-3, 6-14 and 16 of the '941 patent based upon the following prior art patents:

U.S. Patent No. 4,658,093 to Hellman, filed on July 11, 1983, and issued on April 14, 1987 (“Hellman”).

U.S. Patent No. 5,892,906 to Chou, filed on July 19, 1996 and issued on April 6, 1999 (“Chou”).

U.S. Patent No. 5,933,498 to Schneck, filed on November 5, 1997 and that claims priority to an application filed on January 11, 1996 and issued on August 3, 1999 (“Schneck”).

The Requestor proposes rejection as follows:

**SNQ1:** Claims 1-2, 11, 13 are rendered obvious by Hellman in view of Chou under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

**SNQ2:** Claims 1-3, 6-14, 16 are rendered obvious by Hellman in view of Chou and further in view of Schneck under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

## ANALYSIS OF SUBSTANTIAL NEW QUESTIONS OF PATENTABILITY

### *Claim Construction*

During reexamination, claims are given the broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification and limitations in the specification are not read into the claims (*In re Yamamoto*, 740 F.2d 1569, 222 USPQ 934 (Fed. Cir. 1984)).

#### *“license record”*

Claim 1 recites “using an agent to set up a verification structure in the erasable, non-volatile memory of the BIOS, the verification structure accommodating data that includes at least one *license record*.” (emphasis added).

A claim term should be given its ordinary meaning in the pertinent context, unless the patentee has made clear its adoption of a different definition or otherwise disclaimed that meaning. (*Thorner v. Sony Computer Entm’t Am. LLC*, 669 F.3d 1362, 1365 (Fed. Cir. 2012)).

The Specification expressly discloses that “according to the invention, each application program that is to be licensed to run on the specified computer, *is associated with a license record*.” (the ‘941 Patent, 1:53–55 (emphasis added)). A license record “consists of author name, program name and number of licensed users (for network).” (the ‘941 Patent, 1:55-57).

Only in the “Detailed Description of a Preferred Embodiment” section, the Specification describes “the licensed-software-program includes contents used to form a

license-record.” (the ‘941 Patent, 5:25-29, 6:7-10). Notably, claim 1 itself does not recite such a requirement.

Therefore, in light of the claim language, the Specification, and the evidence in this present record, it is determined that a “license record” associated with a licensed program is “a record having information for verifying that licensed program” for purposes of this Decision.

A substantial new question of patentability is raised by a cited patent or printed publication when there is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider the prior art patent or printed publication important in deciding whether or not the claim is patentable. A substantial new question of patentability is not raised by prior art presented in a reexamination request if the Office has previously considered (in an earlier examination of the patent) the same question of patentability as to a patent claim favorable to the patent owner based on the same prior art patents or printed publications. In re Swanson, 88 USPQ2d 1196 (Fed. Cir. 2008).

### ***Hellman in view of Chou***

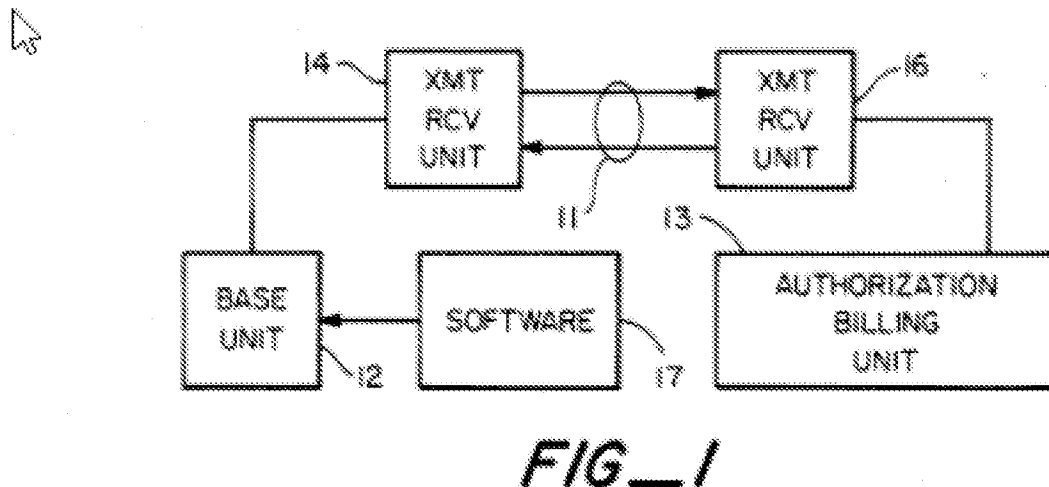
Hellman in view of Chou raises a substantial new question of patentability regarding claims 1-2, 11,13 as presented in SNQ 1. Hellman in view of Chou raises a substantial new question by providing teachings that was considered during the prosecution history of the ‘941 patent. Although the grounds and prior art references overlap with the TCT instituted petition, a substantial new question of patentability exists and is not cumulative of the TCT instituted petition because Ancora settled each

instituted IPR such that no IPR on the '941 Patent resulted in a final written decision.

Thus, the prior art references are not cumulative of any concluded examination or concluded review of the patent or pending reexamination.

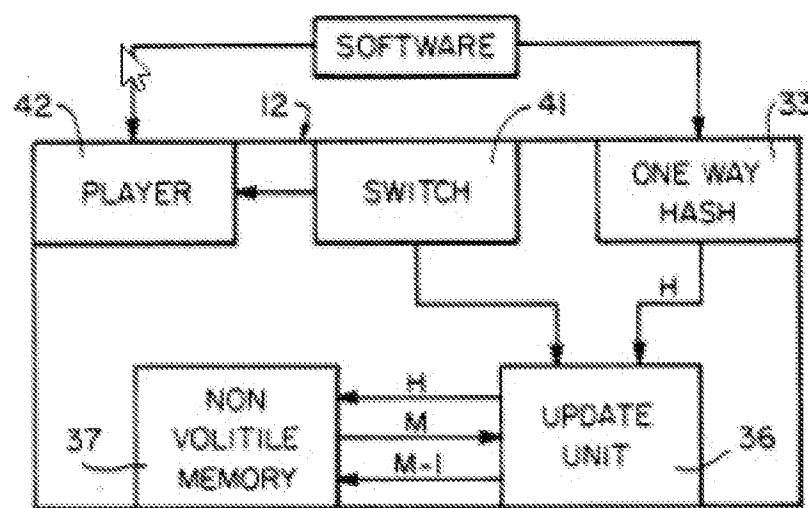
Accordingly, Hellman in view of Chou are relevant to the reason for allowance of the claims.

Hellman discloses a method and apparatus in which use of a software package can be authorized for a particular base unit a specific number of times (Hellman, 4:37-40).



Above is Fig. 1 of Hellman illustrates a block diagram of a pay-per-use software control system (Hellman, 5:1-2). The system includes a base unit 12 which can be a computer (Hellman, 2:24-27), a software of "software package" 17, and an authorization billing unit 13. The base unit 12 communicates with authorization billing unit 13 over an insecure communication channel 11, using transmitter-receiver units 14, 16 (Hellman, 5:39-50). The user at base unit 12 obtains software package 17 by purchasing it at a store, over telephone line, or in some similar manner (Hellman, 5:51-53). The base unit

12 sends to authorization billing unit 13 a "user originated request for software use" (Hellman, 5:57-59). The request includes software name ("the software package to be used"), serial number ("a serial number, identification number, user name or similar identifier unique to base unit 12"), N ("the number of additional uses of software requested"), R ("random number, counter value, or other non-repeating number generated by the base unit 12"), and billing information (Hellman:5:57-6:2). The authorization billing unit 13 receives the user's request, generates authorization A for unit 12 to use software package 17 an additional N times and sends authorization A to the base unit 12 (Hellman, 6:3-8).



**FIG\_8**

Above is Fig. 8 depicts an implementation of base unit 12 during use of a software package (Hellman, 10:33-34). Software package 17 is connected to base unit 12 and a signal representing software package 17 is operated on by one-way hash function generator 33 to produce an output signal which represents hash value H

(Hellman, 10:34-38). Signal H is transmitted to update unit 36 to indicate which software package is being used (Hellman, 10:38-40). Update unit 36 uses value H as an address to non-volatile memory 37, which responds with a signal representing M, the number of uses of software package 17 which are still available (Hellman, 10:40-43).

If value M is greater than 0, then update unit 36 sends a control signal to switch 41 which activates software player 42, allowing it to use software package 17 (Hellman, 10:44-46). Update unit 36 also decrements M to  $M-1$  and stores this as the new value in address H in non-volatile memory 37 (Hellman, 10:46-49). If  $M=0$ , then update unit 36 does not change the contents of nonvolatile memory 37, but neither does it send a control signal to activate software player 42 (Hellman, 10:50-53). Thus, the user is prevented from using software package 17 for which he does not have current authorized use (Hellman, 10:53-54).

Chou discloses an apparatus and a method for discouraging computer theft (Chou, Abstract). Chou's invention requires that a user enters a unique word or number related to the particular computer each time the computer is powered up (Chou, 2:11-14). The technique is implemented with a security routine that is stored in the BIOS memory (Chou, 2:10-32). The security routine requires verification of a password entered by the user, or a verification of a quantity read from an externally connected memory device (Chou, 2:16-18).

Chou also discloses that, at the time of its invention, "[r]ecent changes in the computer BIOS memory storage devices permit writing data to the BIOS memory, offering the opportunity to provide password protection within the same memory which

stores the BIOS routines.” (Chou, 1:63-66). And, “any attempt to delete the protection will result in the BIOS routine being disabled, disabling the boot up process.” (Chou, 1:66-2:1). “EEPROM flash devices may be programmed with BIOS routines which permit the user to enter data without requiring the computer to be returned to the manufacture.” (Chou, 2:2-4). According to Chou, its “invention makes use of these new BIOS memory devices for effecting security measures which discourage theft.” (Chou, 2:4-7).

Hellman discloses using update unit 36 (acting as the required “agent”) to set up a verification structure in non-volatile EEPROM memory 37 (the required “erasable, non-volatile memory”) (Hellman, 10:1-4).

The update unit 36 sets up the required “verification structure” in the non-volatile memory 37 at least in the form of storing the value M at a specific address H for a software program identified by that hash value H. The value M is the required “license record”, because it indicates the scope of authorized use – the number of uses, where “M” is the number – for the specific software package 17 identified by hash value H. Storing the value M at the address H constitutes setting up a verification structure because it includes storing a license record at a specific license record location that corresponds to the licensed program (‘941 Patent, 1:59-62; 6:17-21).

Hellman discloses using value M (the required “license record”) that is stored in non-volatile memory 37 to verify software package 17 (the required “program”) (Hellman, 10:33-54). In particular, Hellman discloses that when an attempt is made to run software package 17, the value H is generated and sent to the update unit 36, which

uses value H as an address in non-volatile memory to verify if a license exists for software package 17 (Hellman, 10:33-54). If a license does exist, update unit 36 retrieves the number of remaining authorized uses value M, and a determination is made as to whether the number of authorized uses is greater than zero (Hellman, 10:44-54).

Hellman discloses allowing software package 17 to be used if a license record is found in non-volatile memory 37 and there are authorized uses remaining (Hellman, 10:40-49).

There is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider Hellman in view of Chou important in determining the patentability of at least claim 1. Accordingly, Hellman in view of Chou raises a substantial new question of patentability as to at least claim 1.

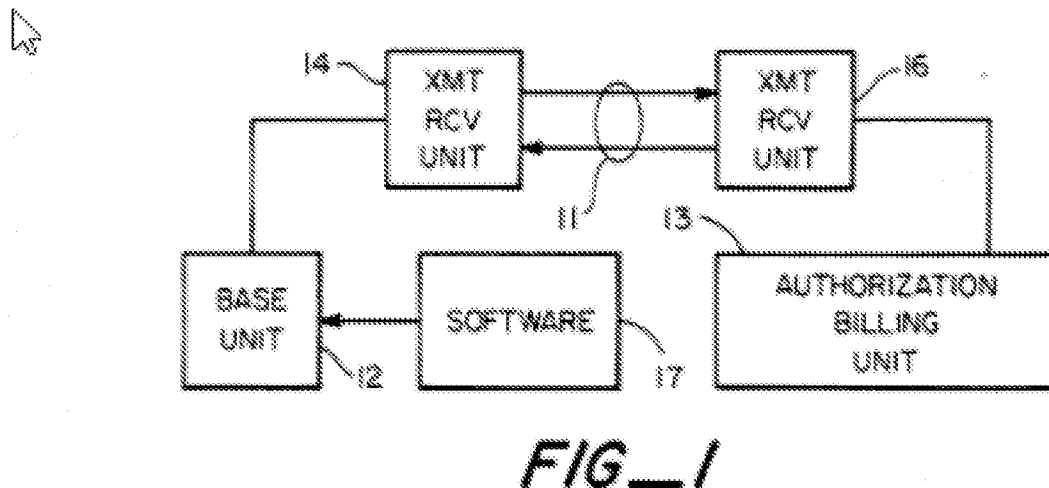
### ***Hellman in view of Chou and Schneck***

Hellman in view of Chou and Schneck raises a substantial new question of patentability regarding claims 1-3, 6-14, 16 as presented in SNQ 2. Hellman in view of Chou and Schneck raises a substantial new question by providing teachings that was considered during the prosecution history of the '941 patent. Although the grounds and prior art references overlap with the TCT instituted petition, a substantial new question of patentability exists and is not cumulative of the TCT instituted petition because Ancora settled each instituted IPR such that no IPR on the '941 Patent resulted in a final

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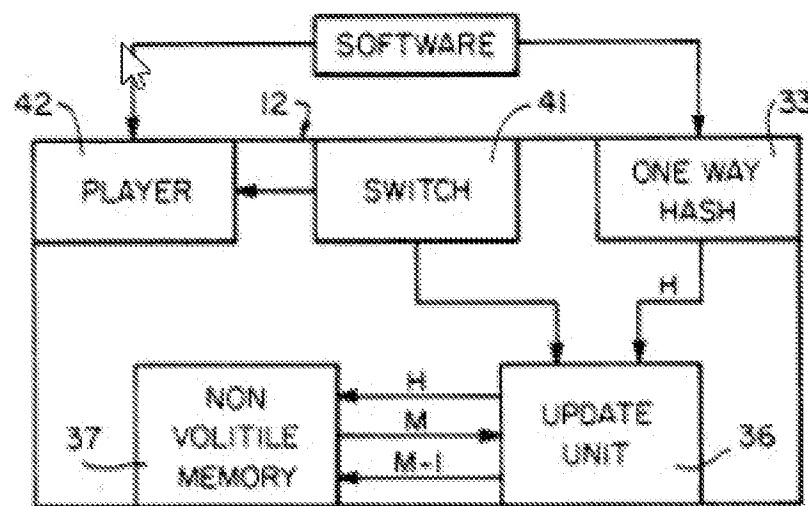


**FIG. 8**

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Chou also discloses that, at the time of its invention, "[r]ecent changes in the computer BIOS memory storage devices permit writing data to the BIOS memory, offering the opportunity to provide password protection within the same memory which stores the BIOS routines." (Chou, 1:63-66). And, "any attempt to delete the protection

will result in the BIOS routine being disabled, disabling the boot up process.” (Chou, 1:66-2:1). “EEPROM flash devices may be programmed with BIOS routines which permit the user to enter data without requiring the computer to be returned to the manufacture.” (Chou, 2:2-4). According to Chou, its “invention makes use of these new BIOS memory devices for effecting security measures which discourage theft.” (Chou, 2:4-7).

Schneck discloses a technique that “controls access to and use and distribution of data” (Schneck, 6:49-50). Schneck’s technique can be used to “control how much of the software’s functionality is available” (Schneck, 6:53-56). Schneck prevents the authorization to use software on one device from being used on another, unauthorized device, which addresses the “secondary distribution” problem (Schneck, 6:57-62)

Hellman discloses using update unit 36 (acting as the required “agent”) to set up a verification structure in non-volatile EEPROM memory 37 (the required “erasable, non-volatile memory”) (Hellman, 10:1-4).

The update unit 36 sets up the required “verification structure” in the non-volatile memory 37 at least in the form of storing the value M at a specific address H for a software program identified by that hash value H. The value M is the required “license record”, because it indicates the scope of authorized use – the number of uses, where “M” is the number – for the specific software package 17 identified by hash value H. Storing the value M at the address H constitutes setting up a verification structure because it includes storing a license record at a specific license record location that corresponds to the licensed program (‘941 Patent, 1:59-62; 6:17-21).

Hellman discloses using value M (the required “license record”) that is stored in non-volatile memory 37 to verify software package 17 (the required “program”) (Hellman, 10:33-54). In particular, Hellman discloses that when an attempt is made to run software package 17, the value H is generated and sent to the update unit 36, which uses value H as an address in non-volatile memory to verify if a license exists for software package 17 (Hellman, 10:33-54). If a license does exist, update unit 36 retrieves the number of remaining authorized uses value M, and a determination is made as to whether the number of authorized uses is greater than zero (Hellman, 10:44-54).

Hellman discloses allowing software package 17 to be used if a license record is found in non-volatile memory 37 and there are authorized uses remaining (Hellman, 10:40-49).

There is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider Hellman in view of Chou and Schneck important in determining the patentability of at least claim 1. Accordingly, Hellman in view of Chou raises a substantial new question of patentability as to at least claim 1.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

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

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