

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

YEALINK (USA) NETWORK
TECHNOLOGY CO., LTD., and
YEALINK NETWORK TECHNOLOGY
CO., LTD.,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

BARCO N.V.,

Patent Owner.

Case No.
IPR2025-00491

DEPOSITION OF KEVIN C. ALMEROTH, PH.D.
Santa Barbara, California
Monday, September 22, 2025

Stenographically Reported by:
JUSTYNE N. JOHNSON
RPR, CSR. No. 14301

Job No. 600267

Pages 1-45

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3 The Deposition of KEVIN C. ALMEROOTH, PH.D. was taken
4 on behalf of Patent Owner, at 1111 East Cabrillo
5 Boulevard, Santa Barbara, California, beginning at 9:03
6 a.m., Pacific time, on September 22, 2025, before Justyne
7 N. Johnson, Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for the
8 State of California; National Registered Professional
9 Reporter.
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WITNESS

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EXHIBITS

(None)

WITNESS INSTRUCTED NOT TO ANSWER

(None)

1 Santa Barbara, California

2 September 22, 2025 | 9:03 a.m.

3

4 THE STENOGRAPHER: Good morning. We are going on
5 the record at 9:03 a.m. on Monday, September 22, 2025, in
6 the matter of Yealink (USA) Network Technology Co., Ltd.,
7 et al., v. Barco N.V., Case Number IPR2025-00491. Today's
8 deposition is taking place at 1111 East Cabrillo
9 Boulevard, Santa Barbara, California.

10 My name is Justyne Johnson. I am a California
11 certified shorthand reporter, representing the firm Planet
12 Depos, and my certification number is 14301. The deponent
13 is Kevin C. Almeroth, Ph.D.

14 Counsel, can you please introduce yourselves.

15 MR. HALVERSON: Erik Halverson from K&L Gates on
16 behalf of Patent Owner, Barco.

17 MR. GOTHIA: Forrest Gothia for Dentons U.S. on
18 behalf of Petitioners. And with me is my colleague Kevin
19 Greenleaf, also of Dentons.

20 THE STENOGRAPHER: Dr. Almeroth, can you raise
21 your right hand, please?

22 ///

23 ///

24 ///

25 ///

1 KEVIN C. ALMEROOTH, PH.D.
2 having first been sworn by the Certified Shorthand
3 Reporter, was examined and testified as follows:

4 THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am, I do.

5
6 EXAMINATION

7 BY MR. HALVERSON:

8 Q Good morning, Dr. Almeroth.

9 A Good morning.

10 Q Have you been deposed before?

11 A I have.

12 Q Approximately how many times?

13 A North of about 200.

14 Q So I suspect this is old hat for you, but handful
15 of ground rules before we dive in. First is let's do our
16 best not to talk over each other. This is probably just
17 as much for me as it is for you. But if you could wait
18 for me to finish asking my question before you answer it,
19 I will wait for you to answer my question before I try to
20 ask the next one. Is that fair?

21 A Yes.

22 Q If at any point in time today, you need a break,
23 use the restroom, get some water, stretch your legs, just
24 let me know. The only caveat is to the extent there is a
25 question pending, I ask that you answer that question

1 before we go on break. Is that fair?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Is there any reason why you can't give truthful
4 and accurate testimony today?

5 A No reason.

6 Q Let's dive in.

7 So you've got a handful of documents before you.
8 This IPR proceeding includes Exhibit 1002, your
9 declaration. Do you see that?

10 A I do.

11 Q And if you look at the back page of that
12 declaration, is that your signature?

13 A It is.

14 Q And does the date on that correspond to
15 approximately when you remember finalizing this
16 declaration?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Approximately how much time did you spend on this
19 declaration?

20 A I don't specifically recall. It probably would
21 have been in the neighborhood of about 30 to 40 hours.

22 Q And we were discussing a couple of months ago
23 some other patents that belong to Barco that you have also
24 offered some opinions on. Do you recall, did you spend
25 more, less, or approximately the same amount of time on

1 this declaration as you did on those other declarations?

2 A It should be about the same when you average it
3 out. I think one of the things I testified to previously
4 was I spent less time on the later declarations, in large
5 part because reviewing some of the references I had
6 already done for the earlier declarations. But if you do
7 some complicated math and try and take, say, the time I
8 spent reviewing Kaplan and divide it up across all of the
9 different declarations, I don't think one declaration took
10 any more time than another one.

11 Q And did you review this declaration in
12 preparation for our time here today?

13 A I did.

14 Q Is there anything that you'd like to change in
15 this declaration?

16 A In my review, I did not see anything I needed to
17 change.

18 Q If you'd go to paragraph 2 for me. It's on
19 page 4.

20 A Okay. I'm there.

21 Q You list a couple of claims that you are giving
22 your opinion on in paragraph 2.

23 Do you see that?

24 A I do.

25 Q And then in paragraph 4, you also list some

1 claims that you are giving opinion on. Those two numbers
2 are different. Do you see that?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Which one is correct?

5 A Paragraph 4, 1 through 18, all the claims.

6 Q All right. You've also been given the references
7 that make up -- oops -- make up your opinions in this
8 case. Do you have those in front of you --

9 A I do.

10 Q -- Dr. Almeroth? That one too.

11 (Mr. Halverson handed document to Dr. Almeroth.)

12 BY MR. HALVERSON:

13 Q So for naming convention today, the patent in
14 this matter 10,684,972. Is it all right if I refer to
15 that as the "'972 patent"?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And so it's my understanding that you offer two
18 different theories of unpatentability for the '972 patent;
19 is that right?

20 A I think there are two grounds.

21 Q And how do you refer to the references in those
22 two grounds?

23 A I think by the last name of the first inventor.
24 Basically, the names that are on the face of the
25 references.

1 Q So if we look at page 2 of your declaration, in
2 the table of contents, you have five references listed
3 under the "overview of the prior art" along with the
4 section on "applicant (phonetic) of the prior art."

5 Do you see that?

6 A I do.

7 Q And it lists both a name and an exhibit number?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Is that consistent with how you refer to those
10 names and exhibit numbers for the prior art in this
11 proceeding?

12 A It is.

13 Q So if I use "Beel," you'll understand I'm talking
14 about Exhibit 1005?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And it's consistent with what's reflected on the
17 rest of that page?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Perfect. Start with Beel, if you don't mind.

20 And you have all the paper (indicating). Feel
21 free to use whatever you want. I will do my best to
22 orient you a little bit, if I think it might be helpful
23 for context or what have you. But if at any point in
24 time, you feel like it would be more helpful to look at
25 something else, be it your declaration, another reference,

1 the reference itself that we're talking about, by all
2 means, go ahead. Anything you don't have, I think I have
3 them. So just ask.

4 A Okay.

5 Q When's the first time that you reviewed Beel?

6 A I don't specifically recall. I don't remember if
7 it came up in the context of the district court case or in
8 the context of this IPR. It would have been in short
9 order after I started working on this IPR.

10 Q And do you understand that Beel is a patent
11 publication?

12 A I do.

13 Q What is a patent publication?

14 A I -- it -- it's a publication of a patent
15 application.

16 Q Is a patent publication different from an issued
17 patent?

18 A I believe so.

19 Q So part of what I understand your -- (door
20 banging loudly) Beel for --

21 THE STENOGRAPHER: I'm sorry?

22 MR. HALVERSON: Repeat the whole thing?

23 THE STENOGRAPHER: (Gesturing.)

24 MR. HALVERSON: Yeah.

25 ///

1 BY MR. HALVERSON:

2 Q Part of what I understand you relying on Beel for
3 is depicted in figure 1A. Are you familiar with 1A?

4 A I am.

5 Q What are the cameras in 1A connected to?

6 A Let me look.

7 I'm assuming you didn't refer me to a paragraph
8 number, so I will...

9 Q I did not.

10 A Okay.

11 Q But I think there's a table of contents which may
12 direct you to what you're potentially looking for.

13 A At paragraph 120, "Optional equipment can be
14 cameras 39, 40, 41 for recording the progress of the
15 meeting. These cameras can be linked by network 51, e.g.
16 a cable network to the router 42, and/or the base
17 station 36."

18 So at least in part of what the disclosure is,
19 they can be linked by wired. I think there's also another
20 portion that talks about how they can be linked by
21 wireless to a base station.

22 Q Where is that portion?

23 A The -- I'm sorry?

24 Q The wireless connection portion.

25 A I will continue to look.

1 I'm trying to see 'em. I probably passed over
2 it. Keep going, though, if you want.

3 Q So I think the only two spots that cameras come
4 up are in 119 and 120.

5 A I don't think -- my recollection is it wasn't
6 around the camera portion. It was around discussing, in
7 the context of the system, the different communication
8 technologies that could be used to connect the components
9 of the system together. And my recollection is there was
10 some language that basically said you could use any one of
11 a variety of different connection techniques, including
12 wired and wireless.

13 Q And was that in the context of connection units,
14 like connection unit 47 or connection unit 52, or was that
15 in context of the cameras 41 and 40, 39 and 35?

16 A I did see some examples with respect to the base
17 station in the peripheral device. So, like, the dongle.
18 I was trying to see if there was something that said the
19 same thing about -- between the base station and the
20 cameras.

21 I mean, certainly there are examples like in
22 figure 3 where it has a Wi-Fi interface, a USB interface.
23 So -- I mean, if I had a searchable version, I could
24 probably chase down those numbers a little bit more
25 efficiently. But I -- it was -- it's my recollection, it

1 was some support in here. And let me actually look at the
2 declaration since I think this comes up in the context of
3 one or more limitations.

4 And where this is really discussed in the context
5 of the declaration is around paragraph 125. And so in
6 discussions of -- about what the endpoints are and where
7 the endpoints can be, in one of the places that Beel
8 describes where endpoints can be is in the context of
9 functional devices.

10 And then I think in the context of what those
11 endpoints can be, there are disclosures about those
12 endpoints supporting all sorts of different communication.
13 And so there are some cites there that include both
14 discriminations of audio data, communicated from and to
15 endpoints, as well as video data in the context of
16 endpoints, both if an endpoint is in the functional device
17 and an input -- point is in a peripheral device, and then
18 there are descriptions of functionality of what the
19 endpoints can be.

20 And that goes to the range of functionality and
21 types of devices that can be functional devices. So... I
22 can chase some of that down, if you would like.

23 Q So you said one of -- "Beel describes where
24 endpoints can be in the context of functional devices."

25 Where does Beel do that?

1 A Okay. So there's the term "endpoint" and there
2 is what that term would be understood by a person of skill
3 in the art to be. So that is back on page 52 of
4 Exhibit 1002, is where it starts. It's a little bit of a
5 longer section.

6 Q And so what I took away from your --

7 A What was it? Oh, sorry.

8 Q Oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead.

9 A Yeah. So ultimately in paragraph 91, that input
10 is a data source or sync that is fixed or configurable and
11 used to transfer data between the peripheral device and
12 the functional device. And so in the context of Beel, the
13 thing that is doing that is the component within, at least
14 to your question, the video cameras as the functional
15 device. And you look at the functionality of the
16 functional devices and how they can send and receive data.

17 There's the examples in 119 and 120 for wire
18 transmission, and then I think there's more general
19 descriptions about functional devices and their ability to
20 send and receive wirelessly that aren't limited to one
21 type of functional device or not.

22 So kind of the paragraphs in 125, 43, 50, 313,
23 317 are examples of where it's talking about functionality
24 of functional devices. In particular, the portion that's
25 doing what's required of an endpoint.

1 Ultimately, to your question about video cameras,
2 I don't know if Beel says specifically that video cameras
3 can communicate wirelessly. I do think it talks generally
4 about functional devices being able to transmit
5 wirelessly. And that would include the video cameras as
6 examples of functional devices.

7 Q What is a fixed endpoint?

8 A There is a paragraph that tries to answer that
9 question.

10 Q I think it's on page 52 or that section.

11 A It is in that section.

12 Q You talking about 85?

13 (Stenographer clarification.)

14 THE WITNESS: Yes. That's where I discuss that
15 concept.

16 And I don't know if you want me to read that for
17 you or not.

18 BY MR. HALVERSON:

19 Q Not particularly.

20 A Okay.

21 Q I guess -- so I was asking that with the goal of
22 trying to have a discussion about what it means to be
23 configurable. Because what you say is a device is either
24 configurable or it's not, i.e., it's fixed such that it
25 sounds like configurable is just something that is not

1 fixed.

2 A It is circular if you look at the relationship
3 between configurable and fixed. Fixed is not
4 configurable; configurable is not fixed. But it goes on
5 to identify some examples there. For example, in the
6 context of USB devices, there are aspects of types of USB
7 devices that is part of the negotiation to determine what
8 kind of device it is and what kind of communication can be
9 used. Aspects of that are configurable under the USB
10 specification.

11 There are also instances -- and I think I've got
12 one here where it's just a simple mass storage device
13 where it can be identified as an endpoint and not require
14 any -- not require or allow for any more configuration
15 than just the identified -- identification of it as a
16 fixed endpoint.

17 Q So starting with that mass storage device as a
18 fixed endpoint, that mass storage device serves as a data
19 source and a data sink depending on whether or not you are
20 reading to it or re- -- excuse me, reading from it or
21 writing to it; is that right?

22 A In a general sense for the mass storage device,
23 you can read or write. You can send or sync data. But
24 there's also the endpoint which, within that functional
25 device, would have one or more components that would

1 actually send or receive the data.

2 Q Can you have a data source that is not an
3 endpoint?

4 A I can think of examples where that would be the
5 case.

6 Q What would be an example of a data source that is
7 not an endpoint?

8 A So paragraph 80 includes a portion from the '972
9 patent which gives guidance on what an endpoint is.
10 Endpoints, in the context of how that term is used in the
11 claims, is described as a data source or sync and are
12 defined for USB devices. So it would seem like, according
13 to the definition from the '972 patent or the guidance
14 from the '972 patent, if it's not a USB device, then it
15 might not be an endpoint.

16 So I could think of, for example, just a hard
17 drive in a computer that was not a USB device, didn't meet
18 the requirements being fixed or configurable. It wasn't a
19 data source or a data sync. It wasn't a functional device
20 or part of a functional device that was exposed or made
21 available on the first peripheral device. So there is a
22 collection of requirements there, and just a hard drive
23 mounted in a computer would seem to be missing one or more
24 of those requirements.

25 Q And so for ground 1, your Beel, Dinka, and

1 optionally Christison ground, what is it that you are
2 mapping to the claim functional device?

3 A I believe there are some examples from Beel for
4 where there are functional devices that are identified.
5 Let me see if I can find the paragraph for you.

6 Q It might be 114.

7 A I'm looking. Beel describes functional devices
8 such as microphones, cameras, and speakers connected to a
9 base node via a network.

10 Yeah.

11 Q And so figure 1A depicts four participants, each
12 of whom have their own laptop; right?

13 A I think that's right. Or a device in front of
14 them, if you're referring to the 31s.

15 Q Yeah. So the 31s in figure 1A of Beel, I think
16 the examples that are given are client-processing device
17 or computer device. But -- so for each of those computer
18 devices or client-processing devices of Beel, are those
19 devices aware of the presence of camera 39, 40, or 41?

20 MR. GOTHIA: Objection. Form.

21 THE WITNESS: "Aware" is a bit anthropomorphic.
22 Can you be more precise in your question?

23 You can say "no." I'll give it a try.

24 BY MR. HALVERSON:

25 Q Yeah. No. I can, and I'm trying to figure out

1 if I want to. Give me one second.

2 I guess are -- is camera 39 exposed to personal
3 computing device 31 in Beel?

4 MR. GOTHIA: Objection. Form.

5 THE WITNESS: I believe it is.

6 BY MR. HALVERSON:

7 Q And why is that?

8 A Okay. So this -- this context, this is the
9 portion of the claims -- the independent claims, and it
10 talks about that endpoint in the functional device being
11 exposed or made available on the first peripheral device.
12 So for the exposed portion, it's not really a term of art.
13 There's kind of a construction or at least an example of
14 what "exposed" means, which gets into descriptor fields.

15 So let me -- let me just tell you what the paths
16 are, and then we can figure out which one you want.

17 So it depends on if you're interpreting "exposed"
18 to require USB descriptor fields and what those descriptor
19 fields are being provided to the processing device. And I
20 believe there is, in that context. That, in part,
21 depending on how much specificity you want, pulls in the
22 Christison reference.

23 If you're using "exposed" more generally or
24 including the idea of, as you said, kind of "aware of,"
25 that you're operating in the context of one of those

1 processing devices, and you have the ability to select
2 that device as a place to send audio to. If it's going to
3 a functional device or to select the input microphone
4 coming from the functional device, then that is something
5 that is exposed to some sort of -- or exposes part of the
6 system that is on the processing device.

7 And then in part, this also pulls in or
8 recognizing -- this pulls in Dinka in terms of the fact
9 that you have kind of the underlying system that would
10 make available or expose these functional devices. And
11 that's the kind of thing that an application software,
12 Skype or anything else, would be able to have a user
13 select, on one of those devices, either the microphone for
14 input or a speaker for output.

15 So in that sense, through the system, the
16 processing device is aware of those devices have been
17 exposed to the processing device, and would do so, as an
18 example through USB, using descriptor fields based at
19 least in part on Christison.

20 Q So I guess sticking just with Beel, does Beel
21 allow for a user to select a given camera? Sorry, strike
22 that.

23 Sticking just with Beel, does Beel describe a
24 user selecting a given camera?

25 A I don't recall if it does or not. I don't think

1 I relied on Beel for that. But let me look to see, first,
2 if it's in the declaration. And then there might also be
3 support in Beel. Okay.

4 Okay. Since its -- I don't see it's a specific
5 requirement of a claim. I think the closest it gets to,
6 at least under the limitation that begins "at least one
7 fixed or configurable endpoint," it talks about the
8 processing device providing information to or receiving
9 information from functional devices.

10 In terms of whether Beel talks about a user being
11 able to select which ones are to be used in a particular
12 application, I don't see anything under that section F
13 limitation. Maybe it's in one of the other limitations.
14 And then it -- there might be some support for it in Beel,
15 if you want me to go look briefly.

16 Q I don't know that there is. So if you think
17 there is, I would welcome you to have that opportunity.

18 A I don't -- I'd have to look a little bit more
19 deeply to see if Beel talks much about the role of the
20 user. I think there might be some discussion in the
21 background section about tools for collaboration and how
22 these things would be used. Certainly it's something a
23 person of skill in the art would understand from the
24 reference that the functionality of the system would be
25 based on users. There are users...

1 Q Thirty-seven.

2 A Yeah. Participants, 37. So there are users and
3 there is functionality that's performed by the system. So
4 it would be straightforward to a person of skill in the
5 art that that functionality would be initiated in many
6 circumstances by the user actions.

7 There's paragraphs like 316 where it talks about
8 when audio is present on a client-processing device, the
9 base unit is notified that additional multimedia streams
10 presented to it contain audio. I mean, that would be an
11 example of audio being sent through the base unit to a
12 speaker, for example.

13 That's a good example of where it would be based
14 on a user selecting which one of the functional devices
15 would output the audio. There's additional examples
16 about, you know, instead of scraping the audio,
17 essentially what the components of the video conference
18 would be.

19 Q The example that you found in 316 about audio
20 being streamed to a base unit -- the base unit being... I
21 guess, audio being streamed to the base unit. Is that
22 required to be from a user-selected output or could that
23 have been performed through some sort of software-selected
24 output?

25 MR. GOTHIA: Objection. Form.

1 THE WITNESS: I'm not sure the ors are the only
2 two choices. Certainly to a person of skill in the art
3 reading the reference, they would understand that you
4 would have some software, and there's lots of different
5 software that would do different things.

6 But some of the basic functionality that existed
7 in software at the time that would run on top of a system
8 like this could do things like -- a user could select it
9 as it was happening. A user could configure a conference
10 beforehand. So you had the configuration and then the
11 software made it happen when the -- the audio came in.

12 And that's, in part, both an understanding a
13 person of skill in the art would have based on how a
14 reference like Beel would operate, and then also, the
15 ground here and the combination here is based on Dinka,
16 which would use something like Skype. And Skype had
17 exactly that kind of functionality where a user could
18 select the output from an available set of output devices.
19 And so, 'cause the audio to be sent to a speaker could use
20 the room audio as an input, could project received video
21 onto a screen, could direct camera feeds received out over
22 the network.

23 BY MR. HALVERSON:

24 Q Do you have Dinka in front of you?

25 A I do have Dinka.

1 Q 1-0 -- or 1006. I think a big part of your
2 analysis was based on Dinka being a Skype reference, and
3 Dinka describes a Skype TV. You agree with that?

4 A I do believe Dinka talks about Skype TV as an
5 application.

6 Q Have you ever used Skype TV?

7 A Actually, I think I have.

8 Q Fantastic. For what?

9 A As Skype was coming out and was an application,
10 even from its earliest days in being able to stream audio,
11 and that was an area of my research, I was very much
12 interested in how commercial products were dealing with
13 the engineering challenges of minimizing delay for two-way
14 interactive communication.

15 Q And was that TV a piece of hardware provided by
16 Skype or software that was run on some other television or
17 a third thing?

18 A My recollection of how I used it at the time was
19 a third thing. It was, essentially, something that would
20 be able to accept video input.

21 Q So, like, the TV in this room is an LG TV
22 (indicating). Ostensibly, because it's 2025, it's some
23 form of a smart TV with a processor and a memory in it.
24 Was the TV that you used a TV that had a computer like
25 that in it, or was it running off of a different computer

1 and acting more like just a display?

2 MR. GOTHIA: Objection. Form.

3 THE WITNESS: In the time I was using it, I think
4 the TV was largely the display. I think the processing
5 was in an associated hardware. And I don't remember if
6 that was Skype hardware or not and how integrated it was.
7 I think that at the time, I thought Skype could do -- was
8 fairly flexible in terms of the kinds of hardware
9 configurations it supported.

10 BY MR. HALVERSON:

11 Q And was the camera that you were using an
12 integrated camera in the TV or was it something else?

13 A In my example, I don't think the camera was
14 integrated in the TV.

15 Q And what did you use that -- okay. Strike that.
16 Did you use that Skype TV to make Skype phone
17 calls?

18 A Yes, in part. It was more than just phone calls.
19 I think it was video calls, video conferencing. I think
20 we even also sent, you know, streaming video from a show
21 over that session as well or another session.

22 Q And so there was another -- I'm not sure the
23 right word for this, but there was a recipient of that
24 call; right?

25 A There was.

1 Q And where was that recipient located?

2 A I think initially it was in the same lab, like,
3 next to the first setup so that we could -- I could see
4 what was happening. Yeah. And then I think eventually
5 across labs, across floors in our building.

6 Q Do you know what happened to Skype TV?

7 A I do not. Sitting here right now, I don't think
8 I know what happened.

9 Q And so there are a handful of cameras here. And
10 looking at figure 1 -- and by all means go through
11 anything else that you'd like to. But there's camera 115
12 and a camera 112, and there appears to be a camera
13 associated with Mary as well. But it's not numbered.

14 Do you see that?

15 A I do.

16 Q Do you know how those cameras are connected to
17 those respective computers or TVs?

18 A How they're connected. I don't specifically
19 recall.

20 Based on what Dinka says, it starts in about
21 column 5 and continues on. I think it basically describes
22 a variety of different configurations of hardware that
23 were envisioned could be controlled by the software.

24 Q And so in column 6, I see a description about
25 audio transceiver 111, webcam 112, webcam 115. Are there

1 other descriptions outside of this portion of Dinka that
2 describe the connection between speakers, microphones, and
3 cameras on the one hand and then computer terminal or
4 television set on the other hand?

5 A So there's -- so to answer your question, yes, I
6 would think so.

7 Q Where?

8 A Well, so my understanding of Dinka is it's got a
9 couple of embodiments that are described here. But
10 starting off with kind of the preferred embodiment in
11 column 5, it talks about kind of the variety of different
12 kinds of hardware and how it could be arranged and then
13 has some specific examples as you get into column 6.

14 And then, generally, my recollection was that the
15 rest of the specification used examples of how that
16 hardware could be controlled by the Skype software, for
17 example, to create a unified stream and transmission.

18 I can do a deep dive for you. It's going to take
19 some time to go through kind of all of the columns in
20 Dinka and sort of tease the out the portions that I think
21 would be particularly responsive to what you're asking
22 for.

23 Q I've got a couple of other questions on ground 1
24 for you. So there are a handful of claims that are
25 challenged, and I think the declaration speaks for itself.

1 But I want to make sure. So your analysis for claim 9,
2 which begins on page 89, for ground 1.

3 A Okay.

4 Q All of your analysis for claim 9, you cite back
5 to what you've done for claim 1; is that right?

6 A I do. The evidence that I relied on for claim 1
7 and the analysis would apply and would be sufficient to
8 show the limitations of claim 9 were met.

9 Q And that's the same for claim 15 on page 91?

10 A Yes. Similar kind of analysis.

11 Q And those are the three independent claims --
12 right? -- claim 1, claim 9, and claim 15?

13 A That is my recollection.

14 Q And then one question on claim 18 on page 93.
15 Says, "where the at least one fixture configurable
16 endpoint has one transfer direction." My understanding of
17 what you're describing in paragraph 179 is your
18 interpretation that that one transfer direction is at
19 least one transfer direction, meaning one or more transfer
20 directions; is that right?

21 A That is what 179 covers. 180 covers if it's one
22 and only one transfer direction. So, like, a microphone
23 would be an only one transfer direction, and then the same
24 thing for a speaker would be in the opposite direction but
25 only in one direction. So there's both examples described

1 in there.

2 Q And then so ground 2 will have some two other
3 references: Vandilar and Kaplan; is that right?

4 A And optionally Christison.

5 Q Pardon me. And optionally Christison. Yes.

6 And I believe based on paragraph 189, it -- the
7 functional device that you're relying on in ground 2 are
8 the devices in Kaplan; is that right?

9 A I do identify functional devices in Kaplan. I
10 think consistent with kind of the motivation to combine it
11 recognizes that the Vandilar system is combining the kinds
12 of functional devices that are described in Vandilar that
13 are also in Kaplan. So in the combination, I'm largely
14 relying on the Kaplan functional devices, but they're
15 similarly referenced in Vandilar.

16 Q You highlighted on page 98, page you're looking
17 at right now, "communication network" in purple there, the
18 bidirectional arrow there.

19 Do you see that?

20 A Yes.

21 Q What data does Kaplan describe as being sent from
22 the display 210 to the transmitter 120?

23 A My recollection is that it was bidirectional
24 data, audio, video data in both directions, but I can
25 confirm that. Let me see what the declaration says, and

1 then I may dig into Kaplan.

2 Q Yeah. If you could let me know, that would be
3 great.

4 A It -- can you remind me the two numbers you're
5 asking?

6 Q So it was from 210, the display, and then to 120,
7 the transmitter.

8 A Okay.

9 Okay. So 187, I think, covers both directions.
10 I think it -- it talks about flow end to end, but it goes
11 through those components. So we can start with the first
12 one.

13 Kaplan describes the transmitter 120 that's got a
14 wireless transceiver, and it transmits data from the
15 computer to the receiver 110, and then that would continue
16 on to 210. And so there's cites there, and then it says,
17 "A POSA would recognize that the transmitter 120 connects
18 a processing device to a base unit." And then Kaplan
19 further specifies that "video footage may be transmitted
20 from the computer 220 through the transmitter 120 to the
21 receiver 110 and then displayed on 210."

22 Q So that's all right to left. My question's left
23 to right.

24 A Sure. And then that is the example... 188 talks
25 about establishing a channel between the transmitter and

1 the receiver. That's agnostic in terms of direction. It
2 operates in accordance with commercially available
3 wireless communication standards. So things like Wi-Fi.
4 That's also bidirectional.

5 And then in 189, it talks about functional
6 devices that can also be sources. And that would take
7 advantage of the bidirectional nature of the
8 communications network to be able to send data in the
9 left-to-right direction. So cameras, microphones,
10 displays can be bidirectional.

11 Q And for that, you cite to paragraph 21 of Kaplan;
12 right?

13 A In that particular sentence, I do. In that
14 particular sentence of that particular paragraph, I do.

15 Q And what in 21, or anywhere else in Kaplan,
16 describes data going from the display 210 to the
17 transmitter 120?

18 A I think it's based on the collection of pieces of
19 information being that the functional devices can be
20 sources and that the communications network is
21 bidirectional, and it describes both syncs and sources as
22 functional devices. A person of skill in the art would
23 understand that as bidirectional communication of data.

24 Again, that's just in this sentence. There might
25 be other portions of the declaration that provide

1 additional bases for support since this is really only
2 under the portion of my analysis that deals with the
3 preamble.

4 And again, this -- I can at least think of -- and
5 I can -- we can go through it, if you want. But on the
6 endpoint side, again, kind of this issue of where the
7 endpoint exists, it could be in what's in -- called a
8 functional device. Kaplan describes functional devices as
9 both being sources of data -- functional devices providing
10 sources of data through the base station over the
11 communication network.

12 So starting at paragraph 200, I think there's a
13 whole discussion that, I think, provides additional
14 sources of support to go in the, as you termed it,
15 left-to-right direction.

16 I was going to do a break when you switched
17 grounds, but it was fairly quick. So can we do a break,
18 if you don't mind?

19 MR. HALVERSON: Of course.

20 THE STENOGRAPHER: Off the record at 10:08 a.m.

21 (Off the record.)

22 THE STENOGRAPHER: Back on the record at
23 10:18 a.m.

24 BY MR. HALVERSON:

25 Q Dr. Almeroth, we were talking in [sic] Kaplan,

1 and you identified paragraph 21 in an answer a little bit
2 ago. I'm going to ask you about a term that appears in
3 there, "the walled garden," which appears towards the end
4 of paragraph 21, about halfway down on page 10 of 16 of
5 Kaplan. It's in quotes.

6 A Okay.

7 Q What's a "walled garden"?

8 A Well, normally I would say a walled garden -- at
9 least the example that comes to mind is, like, where
10 you're redirected to a splash page in order to enter some
11 sort of credentials to get access either to a network or a
12 site. And so access is limited beyond the walled garden
13 until some sort of credentials are entered.

14 This, though, says "embodiments of a present
15 invention provide a 'walled garden approach' in which no
16 configuration actions on the part of the user are needed."

17 I mean, it almost seems fairly -- I wouldn't say
18 "definitional," but it's instructive that the walled
19 garden approach as used in Kaplan refers to a "no
20 configuration actions on the part of the user are needed."

21 Q And so in the example that you were thinking of
22 with the limited access -- pardon me. In the example that
23 you were thinking of in the limited access setting,
24 authorized individuals who have a permanent credential
25 would be allowed to enter; right?

1 A No. They would be allowed to exit. So, I mean,
2 the example I was thinking of is if you try and go to any
3 website from a computer in this room, you are sent to the
4 walled garden. You're sent to a splash page, and you're
5 only allowed access to that page. You're not allowed
6 outside of that walled garden. Once you enter
7 credentials, then the walls fall down, and you're allowed
8 access to the internet as a whole.

9 Q So it's like when you try to access the internet
10 at a hotel or on an airplane and you're allowed to get to,
11 perhaps, the generic landing page for American or
12 Marriott, but not the wider internet?

13 A You would -- I characterize it as you'd be able
14 to get to whatever splash screen for the particular
15 network provider, either the airline or the underlying
16 provider, like GoGo, as an example.

17 Q What's a "splash screen"?

18 A A splash screen is like a landing page. That's
19 where you would enter your user credentials.

20 Q Have you ever heard of "walled garden" being used
21 to describe, for example, Apple's iOS?

22 A Sitting here right now, I don't recall an
23 instance of a walled garden used in the context of Apple
24 iOS.

25 Q How about in hardware settings like with Xbox,

1 for example?

2 A Not with any specificity.

3 Q So before we went on break, we were talking a
4 little bit about what kinds of communications went from
5 left to right in figure 2 of Kaplan.

6 Do you remember that?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And so there are some passages in Kaplan that
9 talk about how receiver 120 -- excuse me. Maybe I said
10 that wrong. One second.

11 Yeah. Strike that. Start over.

12 How receiver 110 may be also a transceiver, which
13 includes the ability to transmit and receive data. But
14 because it is primarily used to receive data for display
15 on the display device 120, it's referred to in Kaplan as
16 receiver 110.

17 Do you recall reading that in Kaplan?

18 A I don't.

19 Q Paragraph 16 for me, from Kaplan. Give it a
20 read, and we'll sit tight for a second.

21 A Okay.

22 Okay. I think I see where you were generally
23 reading from. I see what Kaplan says.

24 Q And so Kaplan does describe certain embodiments
25 where signals from remote control 130 are transmitted to

1 the receiver 110 and then passed along to transmitter 120;
2 correct?

3 A I don't see a reference to remote control 130. I
4 guess that's over in paragraph 20. But my recollection is
5 that with remote control 130, there were different ways
6 described in Kaplan as to how commands on the remote
7 control can be received into the system.

8 Q So if you go to paragraph 28 for me.

9 A 2-8?

10 Q 2-8.

11 A I am there.

12 Q And so here, we're talking about a two-way
13 communication link between receiver 110 and
14 transmitter 120 so that requests from the user may pass
15 from remote control 130 to receiver 110 and then onwards
16 to transmitter 120 into the computer 220.

17 Do you see that?

18 A I see where you're reading from. I don't think
19 it's as narrowly characterized as you offered in your
20 question.

21 Q Do you have Vandilar in front of you?

22 A I do.

23 Q Does Vandilar have a base unit?

24 A I do not recall if it does or not. Let me check.

25 Around paragraph 195 is where I talk about the

1 combination, and the base unit, it relies primarily on
2 Kaplan. So as to whether or not Vandilar has anything
3 that could map to a base unit, I don't think I've offered
4 an opinion, one way or another. If you want me to check
5 Vandilar to see if there is something there that would be
6 similar to -- or would be sufficient to meet the
7 limitation of the base unit, I can certainly check.

8 Oh, and like before, in the combination, I think
9 I pointed to general similarities in the architecture
10 between Kaplan and Vandilar. And so that might provide
11 some additional support as well.

12 Q Do you cite to Vandilar at all in 195?

13 A 195, I don't see a pin cite to Vandilar.

14 Q Or 196?

15 A Or 196.

16 Q And so Vandilar -- I'm sure you'll correct me,
17 but Vandilar has a wireless USB, unit WDH, into which a
18 number of wired USB devices on -- sorry -- 221 and 220 can
19 be connected. And then he uses wonderfully clear
20 terminology like "dockee," "dock," and "docking host."
21 But is that structure generally consistent with your
22 understanding of what Vandilar is?

23 A I think that's one aspect of Vandilar. I don't
24 know that its -- its architecture on which it operates is
25 limited to that kind of structure. In fact, my

1 recollection is that there is some open-ended language
2 when you get into the preferred embodiment in terms of
3 both how they can be connected. There's some wireless
4 description, I think. And in terms of whether or not it
5 has to be directly connected or could go through a network
6 including access points or base stations...

7 Q If you could find --

8 A I'd have to --

9 Q -- that part for me, that would be great.

10 A Which part?

11 Q "There's some wireless description in terms of
12 whether or not it has to be directly connected or could go
13 through a network including access points or base
14 stations." That part.

15 A Sure. Paragraph 3 under "field of the invention"
16 talks about Wi-Fi. Paragraph 5 sets up some of the
17 nomenclature terminology. Then paragraph 6 talks about
18 having a host device and dockee devices can be based on
19 using Wi-fi as described in IEEE 802.11 base wireless
20 docking station.

21 Certainly, the idea of 802.11 is to allow
22 communication through an access point between particular
23 devices. It goes on to describe some of the examples of
24 the use of 802.11 there. Let me see if it says anything
25 more other than just it's Wi-Fi and uses 802.11. One

1 second.

2 I think it's really, at least in paragraph 6,
3 just a reference to the Wi-Fi standard, and that includes
4 various ways in which devices can be connected to each
5 other.

6 Q Was that talking about how somebody accesses the
7 WDH or how the WDH interacts with various dockees?

8 A I think it's more than either of those. It
9 actually describes use of Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, NFC; talks
10 about in band, out of band; talks about Wi-Fi direct as an
11 example. Doesn't say "Wi-Fi direct," but the discovery
12 that's being described in 6 can either be direct based on
13 beacons, for example. Beacons can also be sent from
14 access points.

15 So I think it's, again, sort of an open-ended
16 description with respect to how wireless communication can
17 take place between the docking station and the dockees.

18 Q We had spent a fair amount of time last time we
19 chatted about -- or talking about the Kaplan reference.
20 Do you remember that?

21 A I do.

22 Q Has anything changed in your understanding about
23 Kaplan?

24 A I wouldn't say anything changed about the Kaplan
25 reference. I suspect in this declaration it relies on

1 additional portions of Kaplan that I -- that weren't
2 relied on in the other declarations. And so it might be
3 relying on different or additional disclosures. All would
4 be consistent with respect to a person of skill in the
5 art's understanding of the reference. But certainly under
6 the idea that there are additional relevant portions for
7 this IPR based on additional citations.

8 Q But as far as the description of Kaplan -- I
9 mean, we can go back and ask the same questions again, but
10 would the answers be the same?

11 A If you ask the same questions about just purely
12 what Kaplan discloses, and the understanding a person of
13 skill in the art would be they could be the same.

14 Q And then in Vandilar, does Vandilar describe
15 having multiple primary dockees?

16 A I don't recall. I don't think that's something I
17 relied on for my declaration. So I would have to go back
18 and check.

19 Q If you don't mind.

20 A I -- it's been kind of hard this morning 'cause I
21 don't have a searchable version to go through and look for
22 words like "primary." I'm not even sure where to look
23 other than to start kind of with paragraph 1 and read to
24 the end. It's going to take a fair bit of time.

25 If you got a searchable version and can tell me

1 where "primary" shows up, then that might be helpful.

2 Q Probably. Hang on.

3 Quite a bit.

4 A And could you repeat the question?

5 Q Yeah. So "in Vandilar, does Vandilar describe
6 having multiple primary dockees"?

7 A Short answer, I don't recall. I don't have that
8 detail in mind, and I don't think it's something I relied
9 on as a basis for the opinions in my declaration. The
10 aspects of Vandilar that I relied on in the combination
11 are pretty clearly specified in the declaration.

12 MR. HALVERSON: Can you give me about five
13 minutes?

14 THE WITNESS: Sure.

15 MR. HALVERSON: I'm almost done.

16 Yeah.

17 THE STENOGRAPHER: Off the record at 10:36 a.m.

18 (Off the record.)

19 THE STENOGRAPHER: Back on the record at
20 10:44 a.m.

21 MR. HALVERSON: Pending anything from your
22 counsel, Dr. Almeroth, nothing else from me.

23 MR. GREENLEAF: Do you have any questions? You
24 want to take a break, if you want?

25 MR. GOTHIA: I thought you had had more

1 questions. So yeah. If we can go off the record for just
2 a few minutes.

3 THE STENOGRAPHER: Off the record at 10:45 a.m.
4 (Off the record.)

5 THE STENOGRAPHER: Back on the record at
6 10:48 a.m.

7 MR. GOTHIA: No further questions from
8 Petitioners.

9 THE STENOGRAPHER: Off the record at 10:48 a.m.
10 (Time noted 10:48 a.m.)

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, JUSTYNE N. JOHNSON, do hereby certify that the witness in the foregoing deposition was by me duly affirmed to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth in the within-entitled cause; that said deposition was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witness was reported by me and was thereafter transcribed under my direction and supervision; that the foregoing is a full, complete and true record of said testimony; that the witness was given an opportunity to read and, if necessary, correct said deposition and to subscribe the same.

I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for any of the parties in the foregoing deposition and caption named, or in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
this 22nd day of September, 2025.

Justyne Johnson

JUSTYNE N. JOHNSON, CSR NO. 14301

A			
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