

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

META PLATFORMS, INC.,

Petitioner,

v.

SITNET, LLC

Patent Owner

IPR2026-00113

U.S. Patent No. 12,336,052

**PATENT OWNER SITNET LLC'S
PRELIMINARY RESPONSE**

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2002	Amended Complaint, <i>SitNet LLC v. Meta Platforms, Inc.</i> , No. 1:25-cv-06389-6185-JAV, (Nov. 7, 2025).
2003	Amended Complaint Exhibit 1, <i>SitNet LLC v. Meta Platforms, Inc.</i> , No. 1:25-cv-06389-6185-JAV, (Nov. 7, 2025).
2004	U.S. Patent No. 8,069,202 (“Cona”)
2005	Patent Center Continuity Data for Provisional Patent Application No. 60/887,843 (accessed on December 8, 2025)
2006	U.S. Patent No. 9,412,136 (“Gertzfield”)
2007	U.S. Patent No. 8,045,455 (“Agronow”)
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2012	U.S. Patent No. 8,332,454 (“Cona”)

I. INTRODUCTION

Institution should be denied as petitioner Meta Platforms, Inc. (“Meta” or “Petitioner”) fails to show that its asserted combinations teach the features claimed by the patent-at-issue, SitNet LLC’s (“SitNet” or “Patent Owner”) U.S. Patent No. 12,336,052 (the “’052 Patent” or “Patent”).

Meta’s Petition is one of six recently filed challenges based on the misconception that these SitNet patents are essentially the same as another set of SitNet patents that Meta challenged two years ago. Indeed, the Petition recycles many of the same references and arguments from its previous round of IPRs. But the ’052 Patent is a recently issued patent that resulted from SitNet’s continued efforts to narrow its focus on a number of key aspects of its invention—aspects the Petition fails to show are met by the asserted combinations.

Petitioner’s first ground relies on a combination of Kraft, Nguyen, and Altman but fails to show numerous limitations. For example, the Petition does not demonstrate that Kraft teaches an “event node” that is “discoverable ... by browsing” a “respective *composite data feed*,” and does not even prove that Kraft has a “composite data feed” to begin with. *See* §IV.A. Next, the Petition fails to demonstrate that Kraft teaches “user devices *associated with* ... user nodes.” *See* §IV.B. The Petition further does not demonstrate that it would have been obvious to modify Kraft to create a “projection” comprising a “first subset” of “user nodes

associated with a first subset of ... user devices.” *See* §IV.C. Finally, the Petition’s Ground 1 combination does not meet the claimed creating a “projection” comprising a “first subset of user nodes” “based on respective distances” of associated “user devices from the event.” *See* §**Error! Reference source not found.**.

Petitioner’s second ground is based primarily on Wong and Burfeind, but fails for many of the same reasons as the first ground. The Petition does not show teachings of an “event node” that is “discoverable ... by browsing” a “respective *composite data feed*” or “user devices *associated with* ... user nodes.” *See* §§V.A-B.

II. BACKGROUND

A. Brief Overview of SitNet’s Technology

Nearly two decades ago, the inventors, including several affiliated with The Weather Channel in Atlanta, Georgia, began using networking and telecommunications equipment to address issues relating to weather and safety. In particular, mobile applications were developed to enable devices capable of determining a user’s location to receive highly pertinent information related to situations and events that could impact them (positively or negatively). Ex. 2001 ¶22.

The inventors describe a system in which an event or “situation” serves as the basis for dynamically creating a situational network that interconnects users and

entities for the purpose of distributing situation-specific information and coordinating responses. As described in the specification, such situations include weather-related emergencies, such as hurricanes and associated evacuation scenarios, in which targeted notifications, preparedness information, and resource availability may be communicated to different affected parties. The disclosure further contemplates that the same situational-network framework may be applied to other emergent events requiring rapid, controlled information sharing, including security-related incidents, such as airplane crashes, or public health crises. Ex. 1001 at 5:14–29. This situational network system identifies and interconnects parties that are potentially impacted by an event or situation, allowing them to acknowledge their safety, communicate with one another, and receive information items related to the event or situation. Ex. 2001 ¶22.

The situational network forms a subset network within a larger network, allowing for increased efficiency and faster response times when interconnecting the parties within the subset network when compared to conventional network architectures. At the time of its invention, the situational network represented an unconventional architecture, implementing a dynamic connection between users which improved upon then-conventional network architectures that were only capable of maintaining static connections of users. Ex. 2001 ¶24.

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To further this pioneering work, the inventors filed provisional patent application number 60/887,843 on February 2, 2007. Ex. 1001 at (60). Since then, numerous patent applications have been filed based on that original provisional application, resulting in a considerable portfolio of patents that includes the '052 Patent. *See* Ex. 2005; Ex. 2001 ¶25.

B. The Parallel Litigation

On July 28, 2025, Patent Owner filed a complaint for patent infringement against Petitioner in the Southern District of New York (the “Parallel Litigation”), including the '325 Patent and other patents belonging to Patent Owner. Ex. 2001 ¶1.

On November 7, 2025, to streamline the Parallel Litigation, Patent Owner filed an amended complaint removing U.S. Patent No. 10,117,290 (the “'290 Patent”) from the Parallel Litigation. Ex. 2002 ¶1; Ex. 2003 ¶1 (showing redlined edits from original complaint).

Petitioner Meta served invalidity contentions in mid-February 2026, and the Parties are preparing to exchange claim terms and constructions in March 2026.

C. The Previous IPRs And Federal Circuit Appeals

In early 2024 Meta filed IPR petitions against several patents related to the '052 Patent, including:

- U.S. Patent No. 8,332,454 (the “'454 Patent”), challenged in IPR2024-00529 (the “-529 IPR”)

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- U.S. Patent No. 9,877,345 (the “’345 Patent”), challenged in IPR2024-00530 (the “-530 IPR”)
- U.S. Patent No. 8,249,932 (the “’932 Patent”), challenged in IPR2024-00612 (the “-612 IPR”)

See Pet. at 69. SitNet is appealing the final written decisions in the -529 IPR, -530 IPR, and -612 IPR (the “SitNet Appeals”). Those appeals are currently pending before the Federal Circuit.¹

D. The ’052 Patent Is Materially Different From Previous SitNet Patents

Meta’s recent spate of challenges to patents from the “*SitNet IP*” litigation, including this Petition, seems to be based on the misconception that the “*SitNet IP*” patents are essentially the same as the patents Meta challenged in the “*SitNet I* IPRs.” *See, e.g., Meta Platforms, Inc. v. SitNet, LLC*, IPR2026-00112, Paper 8 at 2-6 (Feb. 20, 2026) (Petitioner Meta arguing that SitNet’s “’463 patent claims are substantively similar” to the claims “in the *SitNet I* IPRs” such as the “’454 Patent”). Indeed, Petitioner argues against discretionary denial in other “*SitNet IP*” IPRs, alleging that “substantially identical claims” in a related patent have been found unpatentable. *Id.* at 4-5 (citing *Arm Ltd. v. Daedalus Prime LLC* IPR2025-00207,

¹ Meta also filed two additional IPRs against claims of the ’932 Patent and U.S. Patent No. 11,470,682. The decisions in those IPRs are not being appealed.

Paper 14 at 3 (PTAB Aug. 6, 2025)); *see also Meta Platforms, Inc. v. SitNet, LLC*, IPR2026-00101, Paper 9 at 4-5 (Feb. 19, 2026) (similar).

But the '052 Patent claims are not “substantially identical” to the *SitNet I* patents. For example, compare claim 1 of the '052 Patent at issue in this IPR to claim 1 of the '454 Patent previously challenged by Petitioner Meta, shown below.

'454 Patent – Claim 1	'052 Patent – Claim 1
1. A method of creating a projection of a situational network, the method comprising: (a) creating, by an event node server, an event node in a multi-dimensional personal information network, the event node corresponding to a situation; (b) forming a projection of nodes of the situational network using geographic locations of a plurality of devices corresponding to nodes in the multi-dimensional personal information network; (c) transmitting an invitation to establish a link with the event node server to the devices corresponding to each node in the projection formed in step (b); (d) receiving a response from at least one of the devices from step (c) accepting the invitation to establish a link with the event node server; and (e) establishing a link with each device accepting the invitation.	1. A method for creating a situational network as a subset of a larger multi-dimensional information network comprising a plurality of nodes, wherein the situational network is formed in response to an event in a particular geographical area, and wherein the situational network is created for delivering information to selected user nodes based in at least part on the situational network, the method comprising: a) maintaining, by a networking server configured to maintain data defining the multi-dimensional information network, a database comprising: (i) a plurality of user nodes, and (ii) a plurality of multi-dimensional node-to-node links characterizing relationships between the plurality of user nodes via dimensions in the multi-dimensional information network, wherein at least some respective user nodes of the plurality of user nodes are associated with respectively user data; b) providing, by the networking server, to each user device of a plurality of user devices associated with the

'454 Patent – Claim 1	'052 Patent – Claim 1
	plurality of user nodes, a respective composite data feed that based on the database; c) establishing, by an event node server, an event node associated with the event in the particular geographical area, wherein the event node is discoverable by each user device of the plurality of user devices by browsing the respective composite data feed; d) creating, by the networking server, based on the database, a projection of the plurality of user nodes, the projection comprising a first subset of the plurality of user nodes associated with a first subset of the plurality of user devices, wherein the projection is created based on respective distances of devices of the first subset of the plurality of user devices from the event; e) transmitting, by the networking server, a respective request in a form of a roll call to connect to the event node to each respective device of the first subset of the plurality of user devices; f) joining, based on responses to each of the respective requests, a second subset of the plurality of user nodes to a centralized architecture for the event node, wherein the event node is configured as a central node in the centralized architecture for accessing information associated with the event from a location in the multi-dimensional information network, and wherein the second subset of the

'454 Patent – Claim 1	'052 Patent – Claim 1
	plurality of user nodes is associated with a second subset of the plurality of user devices; g) storing, as node-to-node links in the database, data representing the joining of the second subset of the plurality of user nodes to the event node; h) analyzing the database to identify a third subset of the plurality of user nodes in the database based at least in part on the data representing the joining of the second subset of the plurality of user devices to the event node; and i) delivering additional information to a third subset of user devices associated with the third subset of the plurality of user nodes, wherein the supplemental information was received from an information node configured to store and provide supplemental information via the multi-dimensional information network.

Ex. 1001 at 34:32-35:25; Ex. 2012 at 33:19-35.

Unlike the '454 Patent and other *SitNet I* patents, the '052 Patent claims narrowly focus on complex systems and processes for a multi-dimensional information network involving the formation of various subsets of groups with the end goal of transmitting information to particular individuals connected to an event node. *See* Ex. 1001 at 34:32-37:22.

III. CLAIM CONSTRUCTION

Patent Owner submits that no claim construction is necessary in order for the Director to deny institution on the merits. *Realtime Data, LLC v. Iancu*, 912 F.3d 1368, 1375 (Fed. Cir. 2019) (“The Board is required to construe ‘only those terms... that are in controversy, and only to the extent necessary to resolve the controversy.’” (quoting *Vivid Techs. v. Am. Sci. & Eng’g*, 200 F.3d 795, 803 (Fed. Cir. 1999))). Patent Owner reserves the right to present claim constructions if trial is instituted.

Additionally, as discussed above, the SitNet IPR Appeals are currently pending before the Federal Circuit. If those proceedings result in a decision that involves claim construction, Patent Owner reserves the right to address how those constructions impact this IPR.

IV. PETITION’S GROUND 1 COMBINATION OF KRAFT, NGUYEN, AND ALTMAN FAILS TO SHOW A REASONABLE LIKELIHOOD OF PREVAILING

A. The Petition Fails to Demonstrate That Kraft Teaches An “Event Node” That Is Discoverable Through A “Composite Data Feed.” (All Claims).

Each of the ’052 claims requires:

- Providing “to each user device of a plurality of user devices associated with the plurality of user nodes, a respective composite data feed ... based on the database” and

- An “event node [that] is discoverable by each user device ... by browsing the respective *composite data feed*.”

Ex. 1001 at 34:47-56 (claim 1); *id.* at 36:5-16 (claim 7).²

The Petition relies solely on Kraft for this limitation, contending that the claimed “composite data feed” is met by Kraft’s “search results” that are returned in response to a search query for entities “that match user-specified criteria.” Pet. at 17-18, 20-21; *see also id.* at 33 (relying on claim 1 arguments for the “substantially ... same” elements in independent claim 7). But Petitioner does not show that Kraft’s “search results” are even a “data feed,” much less the claimed “composite data feed.”

It is indisputable that Petitioner bore the burden of identifying in the Petition both “[h]ow the challenged claim is to be construed” and “[h]ow the construed claim is unpatentable” under the asserted grounds. *See* 37 C.F.R. § 42.104(b)(3)-(4). Petitioner contends that “no claim terms” in the ’052 Patent require construction for this IPR, and that generally “[c]laims must be given their ordinary and customary meaning in light of the specification.” Pet. at 6-7. But Petitioner does not explain how the ordinary and customary meaning of the claimed “composite data feed” in light of the ’052 Patent’s specification would include Kraft’s “search results.”

² All emphasis herein is added unless otherwise noted.

Petitioner contends that Kraft's search results are "consistent with the '052 Patent's use of the term 'data feed'" because the '052 Patent does not limit the "form of a data feed." Pet. at 18. But this is plainly incorrect as the '052 Patent *does* limit the type of data feed claimed to a "*composite* data feed." Ex. 1003 ¶121; Ex. 1001 at 9:41-43 (mentioning "composite and derived output data feeds"). Even so, this is irrelevant to whether Kraft's "search results Web page" is a "data feed" to begin with. Petitioner also points to the '052 Patent's disclosure of a personal information aggregator or "PIA" (e.g., user device) requesting "a data feed" from an entity and receiving "the requested data feed" in a "provideData message." Ex. 1001 at 12:55-66; Pet. at 18 (citing same). But Petitioner fails to explain how the ability of Kraft's "search results Web page" to be requested and received—which is generally true of *any* electronically stored information—makes it a "data feed," much less a "composite data feed."

Petitioner also notes the '052's disclosure of users granting "single use" authorization to another party (e.g., an "insurer") to access a data feed. Pet. at 18 (citing Ex. 1001 at 10:32-39, 13:34-45). But the Petition does not explain how this shows, or is even relevant to, Kraft meeting the limitation. *Id.*

Finally, the Petition points to a discussion in the '052 Patent of an embodiment where, if the user's PIA cannot automatically be connected to the event node, the "event node may be discovered" by a user's PIA either "searching or crawling the

network for information about the situation or event.” Ex. 1001 at 20:40-52; Pet. at 18. Petitioner, however, does not explain how this disclosure of one way to “discover[]” the “event node” (by “searching ... the network”) means that Kraft’s “search results Web page” teaches the claimed “data feed.” Indeed, the Federal Circuit has long recognized that claims “need not cover all embodiments.” *Intamin, Ltd. v. Magnetar Techs., Corp.*, 483 F.3d 1328, 1337 (Fed. Cir. 2007) (“A patentee may draft different claims to cover different embodiments.”); *see also Baran v. Med. Device Techs., Inc.*, 616 F.3d 1309, 1316 (Fed. Cir. 2010) (“It is not necessary that each claim read on every embodiment”).

Petitioner’s expert, Dr. Jansen, is no help either, as his declaration generally repeats Petitioner’s argument without adding any explanation of why one of skill in the art would understand Kraft’s “search results Web page” to be a “data feed,” as claimed. *Compare* Ex. 1003 ¶129 *with* Pet. at 17-18.

The Petition thus fails to demonstrate that Kraft’s “search results” are a “composite data feed.” Accordingly, the Petition does not show that its Ground 1 teaches providing each “user device” with “a respective composite data feed” or an “event node” that is “discoverable by each user device ... by browsing the respective composite data feed” as required by the claims.

B. The Petition Does Not Show That Kraft Teaches “User Devices Associated With ... User Nodes.” (All Claims).

The claims require “a plurality of user nodes” and “user devices associated with the plurality of user nodes.” Ex. 1001 at 34:39-51 (claim 1); *id.* at 35:60-36:24 (claim 7). This association between user nodes and user devices allows the ’052 Patent’s system to determine which user nodes should be connected to the situational network and receive information about the event—e.g., the user nodes whose *associated* user devices that are close to the event. *See e.g.*, Ex. 1001 at 21:41-67 (describing embodiments managing connections based on “geographic location” of the user, which may be “monitored using a geographic positioning device” in the user’s “PIA” device). In other words, by associating user nodes with particular devices, the system is able to tell which users are close to an event, such as an earthquake or fire, and then provide helpful information about the event to those users.

The Petition relies solely on Kraft for this limitation, arguing Kraft’s Person entity models correspond to the claimed “user nodes,” and Kraft’s “client systems” meet the claimed “user devices.” Pet. at 16-17; *see also id.* at 33 (relying on claim 1 arguments for claim 7). But the Petition does not show that Kraft’s Person entity models are ever “associated with” particular client systems as required by the ’052 claims.

Petitioner contends that the '052's "user devices" are met by Kraft's "client system[s] 120." Pet. at 16-17. For the claimed "user nodes," Petitioner appears to rely on Kraft's "Person entity models" created by a "real-world person ... to represent himself or herself in the world model." Pet. at 15; Ex1005 at 14:1-15.; *see also* Pet at 16-17.³

But the Petition does not show that Kraft's Person entity models are "associated with" particular client systems. Petitioner argues that Kraft's Person entity models "store contact information, such as an IM or other communication channel, to contact the entity manager" and thus Kraft's "users may be contacted at devices identified in the communication channel." Pet. at 17 (citing Ex. 1005 at 11:5-29; 13:61-14:15). But the sections of Kraft cited by Petitioner do not disclose a particular client system being identified by, and stored in, each of Kraft's Person entity model. Instead, these portions of Kraft simply mention that in some embodiments, entity managers can use an "e-mail address," "e-mail user name," or "IM screen name" as their "manager ID" or "virtual ID." *See* Ex. 1005 at 11:5-29; 13:61-14:15. But even if Kraft did store an "e-mail address" or "IM screen name," Petitioner does not point to any disclosure of a particular client system (alleged "user

³ The Petition appears to abbreviate Kraft's "Person entity models" as "Person models" or "Person entit[ies]." *See, e.g.*, Pet. at 16-17; Ex 1005 at 14:1-15.

device”) being associated with a particular email address or IM screen name. Pet. at 16-17.

Dr. Jansen’s declaration does not fill this gap, as he again simply repeats Petitioner’s argument without adding anything of substance. *Compare* Ex. 1003 ¶¶ 125-27 *with* Pet. at 16-17.

The Petition thus fails to demonstrate that Kraft teaches “a plurality of user devices *associated with* the plurality of user nodes.”

C. The Petition Fails to Show That Kraft-Altman Renders Obvious A “Projection Comprising A First Subset Of The Plurality Of User Nodes Associated With A First Subset Of The Plurality Of User Devices.” (All Claims).

The ’052 Patent claims require creating a “projection” of user nodes comprising “a first subset of the plurality of user nodes associated with a first subset of the plurality of user devices.” Ex. 1001 at 34:57-63 (claim 1); *id.* at 36:19-25 (claim 7).

The Petition relies on modifying Kraft to meet this limitation, but fails to show that such a modification would have been obvious. Pet. at 22-23; *see also id.* at 33 (relying on claim 1 arguments for claim 7).

As explained above, Kraft does not even disclose user devices that are associated with user nodes, *see* §IV.B *supra*, much less creating a projection comprising subset of user nodes associated with a subset of user devices. To attempt to get around this, Petitioner argues that Kraft teaches “thing” entities that can be

created and added to Kraft's relationship network world model. Pet. at 22 (citing Ex. 1005 at 10:7-15). Based on this, the Petition argues that it would be obvious for a user in Kraft to create a "thing" entity for a "user device," such as a cell phone and then associate that "thing" entity with the user's Person entity model. *Id.* But this complex, strained argument fails for several reasons.

As an initial matter, the Petition's argument is improperly based on general knowledge. On July 31, 2025, the Patent Office issued a memorandum explaining that it would now enforce rule 37 C.F.R. § 42.104(b)(4), which prohibits "applicant admitted prior art (AAPA), expert testimony, common sense, and other evidence that is not 'prior art consisting of patents or printed publications' (collectively, 'general knowledge')" from being "used to supply a missing claim limitation." Ex. 2011 at 1. Petitioner does not point to any disclosure of creating an entity in a relationship network for a specific user device (e.g., a user's cell phone) in Kraft or any other "prior art consisting of patents or printed publications." Pet. at 22-23. Instead, the Petition appears to rely on what a "POSA would have understood" to do based on their own creativity. *Id.* As this type of evidence and argument is no longer permitted in IPR to supply a missing limitation, the Petition's argument fails *ab initio*.

The Petition also fails to explain why or how one of skill would make the proposed modification—Kraft modified to have individual "thing" entity models for

individual users' devices (e.g., entity models for each user's cell phone). *Metalcraft of Mayville v. Toro Co.*, 848 F.3d 1358, 1367 (Fed. Cir. 2017) ("Without any explanation as to how or why the references would be combined to arrive at the claimed invention, we are left with only hindsight bias that *KSR* warns against."); *Palo Alto Networks v. BT Ams.*, IPR2023-00888, Paper 12 at 5-6 (PTAB Apr. 1, 2024) (Petitioner bears "burden to articulate both a *reason why*... [and] explain[] *how* [the art] would be modified to render the limitation obvious." (emphasis in original)). Contrary to Petitioner's argument, Kraft does not teach individual thing entity models for individual items owned by a user, e.g., an individual user's pair of bowling shoes or digital camera. Instead, Kraft's thing entity models are used to represent types or categories of items, such as a "brand of [bowling] shoes" or "particular models of digital cameras." Ex. 1005 at 15:4-8, 22:30-35. Petitioner does not explain why or how one of skill would modify Kraft to add individual thing entity models for each individual item owned by a user.

Petitioner further fails to explain why one of skill would have been motivated to add a thing entity model for a "user device." Petitioner first argues that a "POSA" would have been so motivated because Kraft says that "any" entity "can be represented by an entity model," including "tangible things." Pet. at 22-23 (citing Ex. 1005 at 8:23-31, 10:7-13, FIG. 3). But this is, at most, an argument that one of skill could make the modification, not an explanation of why one of skill would have

made the modification. *Belden v. Berk-Tek*, 805 F.3d 1064, 1073 (Fed. Cir. 2015) (“[O]bviousness concerns whether a skilled artisan not only could have made but *would have been motivated to make* the combinations or modifications of prior art to arrive at the claimed invention.” (emphasis in original)). Petitioner next contends that Altman describes such a “real-world relationship between a user and a device.” Pet. at 23 (citing Ex. 1010 ¶¶8, 32, 36-37, 44). But Altman does not describe any type of entity model for a tangible thing, much less for a user’s cell phone. *See generally* Ex. 1010. In any event, this still does not explain why one of skill would make the asserted modification.

Finally, Petitioner contends that a “POSA would have been further motivated to create an association between a user and a device in Kraft’s world model to allow the location of a user to be more precisely determined,” referencing Altman and Petitioner’s arguments in later sections. Pet. at 23. But Petitioner does not explain why one of skill would want to precisely determine the location of its users with any regularity. Indeed, Altman itself warns about the “significant amount of power and processing resources” required and the “great deal of network traffic” generated by determining the location of mobile devices. *See* Ex. 1010 ¶66. Petitioner does not even acknowledge this significant concern raised by Altman, much less explain why a POSITA would still make the proposed modification in spite of it. Pet. at 22-23.

For at least these reasons, the Petition fails to show that it would have been obvious to create a “projection” of user nodes comprising “a first subset of the plurality of user nodes associated with a first subset of the plurality of user devices.”

D. The Petition’s Ground 1 Does Not Show Creating A “Projection” Comprising A “First Subset” Of “User Nodes” That Is “Based On Respective Distances” Of Associated “User Devices From The Event.” (All Claims).

The claims require creating a “projection” of user nodes comprising “*a first subset* of the plurality *of user nodes* associated with a first subset of the plurality of user devices” that is “*based on respective distances of devices* of the first subset of the plurality of user devices *from the event.*” Ex. 1001 at 34:57-63 (claim 1); *id.* at 36:19-25 (claim 7).

The Petition argues that “Kraft-Altman renders obvious” this limitation, but fails to show that either reference teaches or suggests selecting a “subset of user devices,” much less doing so “based on respective distances” of the devices from an event. Pet. at 23-24; *see also id.* at 33 (relying on claim 1 arguments for claim 7).

Petitioner argues that Kraft can perform a search that is “constrained in some way by geographic location” and that Kraft’s Figure 2 shows an illustration where “candidate and voter participants in the mayoral election event all live in the same city.” Pet. at 23 (citing Ex. 1005 at 19:17-32, Figs. 2-3). Based on this, the Petition contends that a “participant (such as the event organizer) would have been motivated to create such a view of a first subset of user nodes “*based on respective distances*

of devices of the first subset of the plurality of user devices from the event” to identify potential participants close enough to the event to participate.” *Id.* (citing Ex. 1005 at 16:36-39, 11:5-8, 21:3-8) (italics in original). But as explained above, Kraft does not teach or suggest associating user devices with user nodes, much less a “projection” of a subset of user nodes associated with a subset of user devices. *See* §§IV.B-C *supra*. None of Petitioner’s cites to Kraft in this argument teach creating a view of user nodes based on location of user devices, much less based on respective distances of devices from an event. *See* Ex. 1005 at 16:36-39 (mentioning a search for entity models), 11:5-8 (discussing entity managers), 21:3-8 (user requesting to view “other **businesses** ... located in the same city.”). Nor does Petitioner explain why a “participant (such as the event organizer)” —not a POSITA— “would have been motivated to create” a view of nodes based on user device location when Kraft does not teach tracking these locations. Pet. at 23.

The Petition further acknowledges that while Kraft mentions “location” metadata, “Kraft’s location is static and does not explicitly disclose creating the projection based on current respective distances between the device (e.g., mobile device) and event at the time the projection is created.” Pet. at 24. Indeed, the only location-related metadata that Kraft stores about a “Person” is an address. *See, e.g.*, Ex. 1005 at 11:36-45; *see also* Pet. at 23 (citing same).

Thus, the Petition does not show that Kraft teaches or suggests selecting a “subset of user devices,” much less doing so “based on respective distances” of the devices from an event.

While Petitioner also discusses Altman, it does not contend that Altman teaches creating a projection comprising a “subset of user nodes.” Pet. at 24. Instead, Petitioner relies on Altman for its alleged “obtaining and storing the GPS location of a user device.” *Id.* But Petitioner does not explain why it would be obvious to add this to Kraft when Kraft does not track user devices, or associate user devices with user nodes. See §§IV.B-C *supra*.

Therefore, the Petition fails to show that its Ground 1 combination meets the claimed creating a “projection” comprising a “first subset of user nodes” “based on respective distances” of associated “user devices from the event.”

V. PETITION’S GROUND 2 BASED PRIMARILY ON WONG AND BURFEIND FAILS TO SHOW A REASONABLE LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS

A. The Petition Fails to Demonstrate That Wong Teaches An “Event Node” That Is Discoverable Through A “Data Feed.” (All Claims).

Each of the ’052 claims requires:

- Providing “to each user device of a plurality of user devices associated with the plurality of user nodes, a respective composite data feed ... based on the database” and

- An “event node [that] is discoverable by each user device ... by browsing the respective *composite data feed*.”

Ex. 1001 at 34:47-56 (claim 1); *id.* at 36:5-16 (claim 7).

The Petition does not contend that Wong—its primary reference in Ground 2—teaches the claimed “composite data feed.” Pet. at 49-50, 53-54; *id.* at 63-64 (relying on claim 1 arguments for matching elements in independent claim 7). Instead, Petitioner points to Burfeind’s “listing 2110 of events” in an event calendar for this limitation. *Id.* But the Petition does not prove that this listing of events is a “data feed” at all, much less the claimed “composite data feed.” Nor does the Petition demonstrate that it would have been obvious to add Burfeind’s listing of events to Wong.

For the claimed “respective composite data feeds,” Petitioner points to Burfeind’s disclosure of an “event calendar” with “a listing 2110 of events” as shown below.

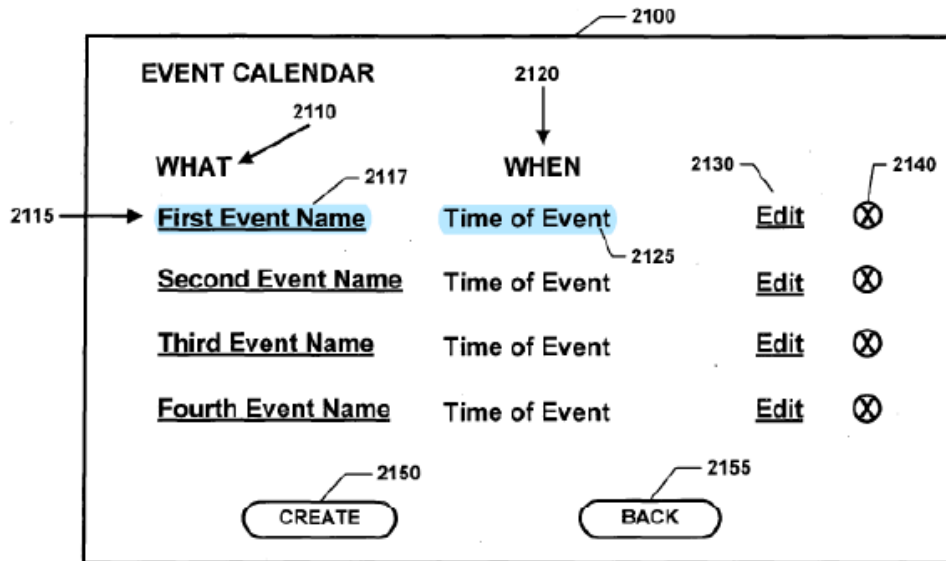


Figure 21

Pet. at 50 (reproducing Ex. 1008 Fig. 21 (highlights added in Petition)); *see also* Ex. 1008 ¶¶120-121 (describing a “calendar interface” that “includes a listing 2110 of events to which the individual is a party”). But despite bearing the burden to show how the claims are to be construed and how the construed claim is unpatentable, *see* 37 C.F.R. § 42.104(b)(3)-(4), the Petition does not explain why one of skill would have understood Burfeind’s listing of events in an event calendar to be a data feed, much less a “composite data feed,” as claimed. Indeed, the Petition only provides a single sentence of argument, contending that:

[t]hese event listings 2110 are *respective composite data feed[s]* because, consistent with the disclosure in the ’052 patent, they, upon request, provide the user with an updated listing of all events they are invited to.

Pet. at 50 (citing Ex. 1001 at 8:53-9:6, 12:55-67, 20:48-51) (second bracketed text in original). But the fact that Burfeind’s event calendar and event listings can be requested and provided—generally true of all electronically stored data—does not explain why it is a “composite data feed.”

As with the Petition’s flawed Ground 1 argument on this term, Dr. Jansen’s testimony is no help. Aside from repeating the Petition’s single-sentence argument, *compare* Pet. at 50 *with* Ex. 1003 ¶239, Dr. Jansen makes the same incorrect arguments from Ground 1, *compare* Pet. at 23 *with* Ex. 1003 ¶239. But contrary to Dr. Jansen’s testimony, the ’052 Patent **does** limit the type of data feed claimed—“a composite data feed.” Ex. 1003 ¶239; Ex. 1001 at 9:38-40 (mentioning “composite and derived output data feeds”). Nevertheless, whether or not “the form of a data feed” is limited says nothing about whether Burfeind’s listing of events is a data feed to begin with. *Id.* Dr. Jansen’s brief mention of an embodiment in the ’052 where event nodes may be discovered by “searching ... the network” similarly does not support Burfeind’s listing of events being a “data feed,” much less the claimed “composite data feed.” *Id.*

The Petition thus fails to demonstrate that Burfeind’s “listing 2110 of events” is a “composite data feed.” Accordingly, the Petition does not show that its Ground 2 teaches providing each “user device” with “a respective composite data

feed” or an “event node” that is “discoverable by each user device ... by browsing the respective composite data feed” as required by the claims.

B. The Petition Does Not Show That Wong Teaches “User Devices Associated With ... User Nodes.” (All Claims).

The claims require “a plurality of user nodes” and “user devices associated with the plurality of user nodes.” Ex. 1001 at 34:39-51 (claim 1); *id.* at 35:60-36:24 (claim 7). As explained above, this association between user nodes and user devices allows the claimed invention to determine which user nodes should receive information about the event—e.g., the user nodes whose *associated* user devices are close to the event. *See* §IV.B.

The Petition relies on Wong for this limitation, but just like Ground 1, the Petition fails to show that Wong’s alleged user devices are “associated with” user nodes. Pet. at 49-50; *id.* at 63-64 (relying on claim 1 arguments for matching elements in claim 7).

Petitioner contends that Wong’s “computer terminals 14” are the claimed “user devices,” and Wong’s nodes “30” are “user nodes.” Pet. at 49-50 (citing Ex. 1007 ¶¶17-18, FIG. 1). But the Petition does not point to any disclosure in Wong of its computer terminals 14 being “associated with” respective nodes 30. *Id.* Instead, the Petition simply contains a single conclusory statement that:

Wong's users 10 access and interact with Wong's social network using computer terminals 14 (*each user device of a plurality of user devices*) and are *associated with the plurality of user nodes* 30.

Pet. at 49-50. Petitioner cannot reasonably expect to meet its burden to show “with particularity” how its asserted art teaches or suggests the claimed limitations with this single conclusory statement. *Harmonic Inc. v. Avid Tech., Inc.*, 815 F.3d 1356, 1363 (Fed. Cir. 2016) (“In an IPR, the petitioner has the burden from the onset to show with particularity why the patent it challenges is unpatentable.”) (citing 35 U.S.C. § 312(a)(3)); 37 C.F.R. § 42.104(b)(4) (petition for IPR “must specify where each element of the claim is found in the prior art patents or printed publications relied upon.”). Neither of the sections of Wong cited by the Petition discuss any association between respective user nodes and user devices. *See* Ex. 1007 ¶17 (discussing “users 10 having computer terminals 14”), ¶18 (mentioning “a ‘node’ 30, [that] is created for the user”).

Dr. Jansen's declaration does not save the Petition as he simply repeats Petitioner's conclusory argument without pointing to any disclosure of devices associated with nodes in Wong. *Compare* Ex. 1003 ¶237 *with* Pet. at 49-50. In fact, the Board often rejects such conclusory expert testimony. *See, e.g., Xerox Corp. v. Bytemark, Inc.*, IPR2022-00624, Paper 9, 15 (PTAB Aug. 24, 2022) (precedential) (denying institution when expert's “cited declaration testimony is conclusory and

unsupported, adds little to the conclusory assertion for which it is offered to support, and is entitled to little weight.”); 37 C.F.R. § 42.65.

The Petition thus fails to demonstrate that Kraft teaches “a plurality of user devices *associated with* the plurality of user nodes.”

VI. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Patent Owner requests that the Director deny institution of the Petition.

Dated: February 25, 2026

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CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH TYPE-VOLUME LIMITS

This Patent Owner Preliminary Response (the “POPR”) consists of 5,967 words, excluding table of contents, table of authorities, certificate of service, this certificate, or table of exhibits. The POPR complies with the type-volume limitation of 14,000 words as mandated in 37 C.F.R. § 42.24. in preparing this certificate, counsel has relied on the word count of the word-processing system used to prepare the paper (Microsoft Word).

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that the following documents were served by electronic service on the date signed below:

**PATENT OWNER SITNET LLC'S PRELIMINARY RESPONSE
EXHIBITS 2011-2012**

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