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HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
3404 E. Harmony Road
Mail Stop 35
FORT COLLINS, CO 80528

| EXAMINER | |
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| AMAYA, CARLOS DAVID | |
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

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JERRY.SHORMA@HP.COM
ipa.mail@hp.com
brandon.serwan@hp.com

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BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

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*Ex parte* SHAUN L. HARRIS and CHRISTIAN L. BELADY

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Appeal 2010-000990
Application 11/444,931
Technology Center 2800

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Before SCOTT R. BOALICK, MARC S. HOFF, and
ELENI MANTIS MERCADER, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

MANTIS MERCADER, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

DECISION ON APPEAL

## STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Appellants appeal under 35 U.S.C. § 134(a) from a final rejection of claims 1-18. We have jurisdiction under 35 U.S.C. § 6(b).

We reverse.

## THE INVENTION

Appellants' claimed invention is directed to a system 100, 199 comprising a plurality of power supplies 114a-114f coupled to a power grid via multiple connections 117a-117f. Spec. 4:2-4; Figs. 1a, 2. As a result of a failure of one of the plurality of power supplies, a distribution control assembly (DCA) re-allocates power previously allocated to the failed power supply to remaining power supplies. Spec. 7:11-20; Fig. 2. If the plurality of connections are coupled to a single power grid, the connector couples the backup connection to a backup power supply. Spec. 7:3-20; Fig. 2.

Independent claim 8, reproduced below, is illustrative of the subject matter on appeal.

8. A power chassis, comprising:

a plurality of connections, each connection coupling a different power supply to a power grid; and

a backup connection coupling one of said plurality of connections to a connector;

wherein, if at least some of the plurality of connections are coupled to different power grids, then, as a result, the backup connection does not carry a substantial electrical current;

wherein, if the plurality of connections are coupled to a single power grid, the connector couples the backup connection to a backup power supply.

## REFERENCES and REJECTION

The Examiner rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) under Slade (U.S. Pat. No. 5,861,684) in view of Allison (U.S. Pat. No. 7,036,035 B2).

## ISSUE

The issue is whether the Examiner erred in finding that the combination of Slade and Allison teaches the limitation of "the connector couples the backup connection to a backup power supply" as recited in claims 1 and 8.

## ANALYSIS

Appellants argue that Slade does not teach the limitation of "the connector couples the backup connection to a backup power supply" as recited in claim 8 (App. Br. 14-15). We agree with Appellants that in Slade (Fig. 2) the power received via plug 9 is split at the AC PDU 7 and current flows through connection 31 and through connection 26 (App. Br. 15). There is no teaching in Slade of a "backup power supply," but rather, the power is split between connection 31 which supplies bulk power supplies A and B, and connection 26 which supplies the bulk power supplies C and D (*see* Fig. 2 and col. 3, ll. 41-45).

Allison does not cure the above cited deficiency of Slade. Allison teaches four power supplies 202 that provide power to portions 204-208. If the Master Power Management Service Structure (PMSS) 222 detects that one of the power supplies 202 has failed, then the PMSS permits portions of 204-208 to continue to receive power supply from an alternative source of

power. *See* App. Br. 12; Fig. 2; col. 3, ll. 60-67. Thus, contrary to the claimed invention, in Allison the power is provided *by* the power supplies, rather than *to* the power supplies. Accordingly, there is no teaching in Allison of a "backup power supply."

Thus, because neither Slade nor Allison teaches the disputed limitation, we reverse the Examiner's rejection of claim 8. We also reverse the rejections of claims 1-7 and 9-18, for the same reasons.

## CONCLUSION

The Examiner erred in finding that the combination of Slade and Allison teaches the limitation of "the connector couples the backup connection to a backup power supply" as recited in claims 1 and 8.

## DECISION

The Examiner's decision rejecting claims 1-18 is reversed.

REVERSED

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