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EXAMINER
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NGUYEN, KIM T

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BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

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*Ex parte* SANDRA L. KOGAN, MARY E. RAVEN  
and ANUPHINH P. WANDERSKI  
Appeal 2012-006473  
Application 11/865,099  
Technology Center 2100

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Before STEPHEN C. SIU, BRADLEY W. BAUMEISTER, and  
ANDREW J. DILLON, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

DILLON, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

DECISION ON APPEAL

Appellants appeal under 35 U.S.C. § 134(a) from the Examiner's rejection of claims 1–11, 13–15, 18, and 19. Claims 12, 16, and 17 have been cancelled. We have jurisdiction under 35 U.S.C. § 6(b).

We reverse.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Appellants' invention is directed to “[a] method and system for searching contact lists quickly, that provides searching of a contact list by user defined group names, attributes, and/or system defined metadata regarding contacts, groups and/or attributes.” Abstract.

Claim 1, which is illustrative, is reproduced with key disputed limitations emphasized:

1. A method of providing quick searching of a contact list for an electronic communication system, comprising:

*displaying a contact list search user interface display object to a user, said contact list search user interface display object including a plurality of independently selectable search options including a search contacts by attributes search option and a search groups by attributes search option;*

displaying, responsive to said user selecting said search contacts by attributes search option, a user interface object enabling said user to search attributes associated with contacts in said contacts list to generate a result set of contacts having attributes matching a search query; and

displaying, responsive to said user selecting said search groups by attributes search option, a user interface object enabling said user to search attributes associated with groups in said contacts list to generate a result set of groups having attributes matching a search query.

The Examiner relies on the following as evidence of unpatentability:

Ryabchun                      US 2008/0162701 A1                      July 3, 2008  
(Filed Dec. 27, 2006)

#### THE REJECTION

1. The Examiner rejected claims 1–11, 13–15, 18, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Ryabchun. Ans. 4–9.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Throughout this opinion, we refer to the Appeal Brief filed September 1, 2011; the Examiner's Answer mailed December 9, 2011; and, the Reply Brief filed February 9, 2012.

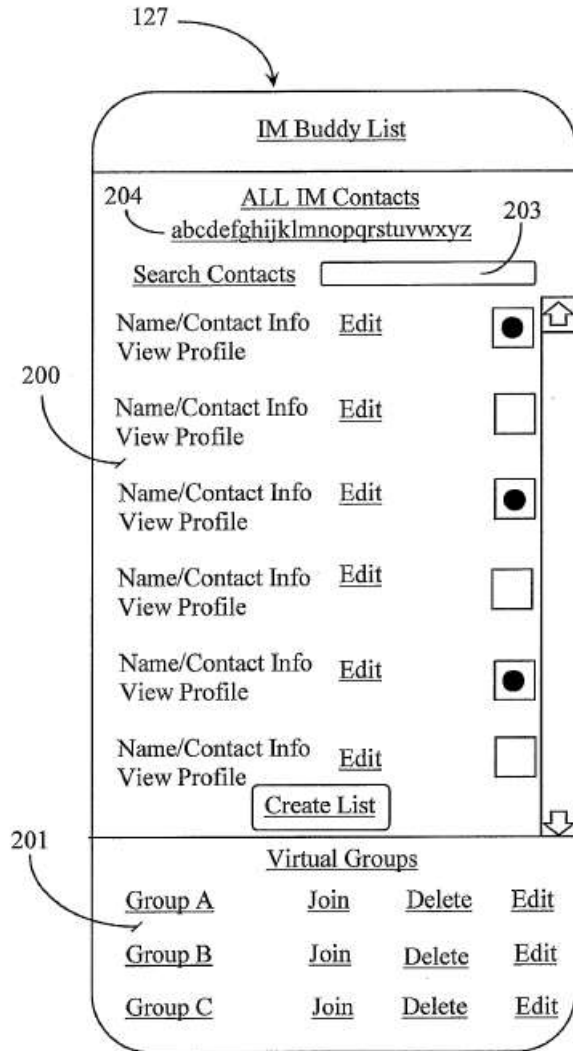
## ANALYSIS

We have reviewed the Examiner's rejections in light of Appellants' contentions in the Appeal Brief (App. Br. 8-12) and the Reply Brief (Reply Br. 4-6) that the Examiner has erred. We have also reviewed (1) the findings and reasons set forth by the Examiner in the action from which this appeal is taken (Final Rej. 2-9), and (2) the reasons set forth by the Examiner in the Examiner's Answer in response to Appellants' Appeal Brief (Ans. 4-9). We highlight and amplify certain teachings and suggestions of the references as follows.

Appellants argue that the Examiner erred in rejecting claims 1–11, 13–15, 18, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Ryabchun. Specifically, Appellants urge that Ryabchun fails to disclose or suggest “displaying a contact list search user interface display object to a user, said contact list search user interface display object including a plurality of independently selectable search options including a search contacts by attributes search option and a search groups by attributes search option” as set forth in independent claim 1, and as similarly recited in independent claims 14 and 15. App. Br. 10–11.

Appellants argue that Figure 2 of Ryabchun discloses a system that provides “a single ‘Search Contacts’ user interface object (203 in Fig. 2) that enables a user to assemble a group based on text matching of contact profile information to an entered term (see paragraph 0047).” *Id.* at 11. Consequently, Appellants urge that Ryabchun fails to disclose “the potential desirability of providing a user interface that allows independent selection of attribute searching for contacts and attribute searching for groups in a contact list.” *Id.*

The Examiner relies upon Figure 2 of Ryabchun, depicted below.



**Fig. 2**

Figure 2 of Ryabchun illustrates an example of an IM (Instant Messaging) screen. The Examiner finds that Figure 2 of Ryabchun, a plain view of an exemplary IM screen, discloses a method for quick searching of a contact list which includes a “pluality of indepently selectable search options” including searching contacts or groups by attributes. Ans. 4.

We note that Appellants’ Specification describes possible search options that may be utilized to define a group, such as, “group name, user

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names, screen names, e-mail addresses, etc. of contacts to be included in the group, and/or user defined attributes. . .” *See* Spec. 7:4–5.

Examining Figure 2 of Ryabchun, we find a search interface 203, into which a user may enter textual terms to search within user profiles; a screen 200 that lists contacts which may be searched and selected from; as well as a second window 201 from which a user may search and select from a list of groups. We note that Appellants’ Specification differentiates between contact or group names and attributes. *Supra*. Consequently, we agree with Appellants that Figure 2 of Ryabchun does not include “a plurality of independently selectable search options including a search contacts by attributes search option and a search groups by attributes search option” as we find no mechanism by which an independently selectable mechanism may be utilized to search groups by attribute, as claimed.

We therefore find that the Examiner erred in rejecting independent claims 1, 14, and 15 as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) by Ryabchun. We also find the Examiner erred in rejecting dependent claims 2–11, 13, 18, and 19 which were not separately argued by Appellants.

#### ORDER

The Examiner’s decision rejecting claims 1–11, 13–15, 18, and 19 is reversed.

REVERSED

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