

United States District Court  
For the Northern District of California

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN JOSE DIVISION

APPLE, INC., a California corporation,	)	Case No.: 11-CV-01846-LHK
	)	
Plaintiff and Counterdefendant,	)	
v.	)	ORDER CONSTRUING DISPUTED
	)	CLAIM TERMS OF U.S. PATENT NOS.
SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO., LTD., A	)	7,469,381 and 7,864,163
Korean corporation; SAMSUNG	)	
ELECTRONICS AMERICA, INC., a New York	)	
corporation; SAMSUNG	)	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AMERICA, LLC,	)	
a Delaware limited liability company,	)	
	)	
Defendants and Counterclaimants.	)	

In anticipation of the upcoming July 30, 2012 trial date, Samsung has requested an additional claim construction of two<sup>1</sup> disputed terms in U.S. Patent No. 7,469,381 (“381 Patent”) and U.S. Patent No. 7,864,163 (“163 Patent”). The Court held a hearing, as well as a pretrial conference, on July 18, 2012. The Court has reviewed the claims, specifications, and other relevant evidence, and has considered the briefing and arguments of the parties. The Court now construes the terms at issue.

**A. Legal Standard**

Claim construction is a question of law to be determined by the court. *Markman v. Westview Instruments, Inc.*, 52 F.3d 967, 979 (Fed. Cir. 1995) (en banc), *aff’d* 517 U.S. 370 (1996). In construing disputed terms, the court looks first to the claims themselves, for “[i]t is a ‘bedrock principle’ of patent law that ‘the claims of a patent define the invention to which the patentee is entitled the right to exclude.’” *Phillips v. AWH Corp.*, 415 F.3d 1303, 1312 (Fed. Cir. 2005) (en banc) (internal quotation marks omitted) (quoting *Innova/Pure Water, Inc. v. Safari Water*

<sup>1</sup> At the June 29, 2012 hearing, Samsung indicated that it also needed the term “invoke” to be construed. However, the Court construed this term in the Order Denying Samsung’s Motion for Summary Judgment on June 30, 2012.

1 *Filtration Sys., Inc.*, 381 F.3d 1111, 1115 (Fed. Cir. 2004)). Generally, the words of a claim should  
2 be given their “ordinary and customary meaning,” which is “the meaning that the term[s] would  
3 have to a person of ordinary skill in the art in question at the time of the invention.” *Id.* at 1312-13.  
4 In some instances, the ordinary meaning to a person of skill in the art is clear, and claim  
5 construction may involve “little more than the application of the widely accepted meaning of  
6 commonly understood words.” *Id.* at 1314.

7 In many cases, however, the meaning of a term to a person skilled in the art will not be  
8 readily apparent, and the court must look to other sources to determine the term’s meaning. *Id.*  
9 Under these circumstances, the court should consider the context in which the term is used in an  
10 asserted claim or in related claims, bearing in mind that “the person of ordinary skill in the art is  
11 deemed to read the claim term not only in the context of the particular claim in which the disputed  
12 term appears, but in the context of the entire patent, including the specification.” *Id.* at 1313.  
13 Indeed, the specification is “always highly relevant” and “[u]sually [] dispositive; it is the single  
14 best guide to the meaning of a disputed term.” *Id.* at 1315 (quoting *Vitronics Corp. v.*  
15 *Conceptronic, Inc.*, 90 F.3d 1576, 1582 (Fed. Cir. 1996)).

16 The court may also consider the patent’s prosecution history, which consists of the  
17 complete record of proceedings before the United States Patent and Trademark Office (“U.S. PTO”  
18 or “PTO”) and includes the cited prior art references. The court may consider prosecution history  
19 where it is in evidence, for the prosecution history “can often inform the meaning of the claim  
20 language by demonstrating how the inventor understood the invention and whether the inventor  
21 limited the invention in the course of prosecution, making the claim scope narrower than it  
22 otherwise would be.” *Id.* at 1317 (internal citations omitted).

23 Finally, the court is also authorized to consider extrinsic evidence in construing claims,  
24 such as “expert and inventor testimony, dictionaries, and learned treatises.” *Markman*, 52 F.3d at  
25 980 (internal citations omitted). Although the court may consider evidence extrinsic to the patent  
26 and prosecution history, such evidence is considered “less significant than the intrinsic record” and  
27 “less reliable than the patent and its prosecution history in determining how to read claim terms.”  
28 *Id.* at 1317-18 (internal quotation marks and citation omitted). Thus, while extrinsic evidence may

1 be useful in claim construction, ultimately “it is unlikely to result in a reliable interpretation of  
2 patent claim scope unless considered in the context of the intrinsic evidence.” *Id.* at 1319.

3 **B. Discussion**

4 **1. “electronic document”**

5 This is the third time that this Court has been asked to construe a term from the ’381  
6 Patent.<sup>2</sup> In the preliminary injunction, the Court construed the terms “display” and “first direction”  
7 from independent claim 1. *See* December 2, 2011 Order at 51-55. In the April 4, 2012 Claim  
8 Construction Order, this Court construed the term “edge of [an or the] electronic document” to  
9 have its plain and ordinary meaning. In other words, the term “edge of [an or the] electronic  
10 document” could mean both an internal and external edge. Order Construing Disputed Claim  
11 Terms at 23, ECF No. 849. Samsung now requests that the Court construe the term “electronic  
12 document.”

Apple’s Proposed Construction	Samsung’s Proposed Construction
No construction necessary; OR “a document stored in a digital format; for example, an ‘electronic document’ could be a web page, a digital image, a word processing, spreadsheet or presentation document, or a list of items in a digital format”	“content having a defined set of boundaries that can be visually represented on a screen”

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18 Apple has narrowed its trial claims and currently only asserts that the accused devices  
19 infringe claim 19 of the ’381 Patent. Claim 19 of the ’381 patent recites:

20 19. A device, comprising:  
21 a touch screen display;  
22 one or more processors;  
23 memory; and  
24 one or more programs, wherein the one or more programs are stored in the memory  
25 and configured to be executed by the one or more processors, the programs  
26 including:  
27 instructions for displaying a first portion of an **electronic document**;  
28 instructions for detecting a movement of an object on or near the touch  
screen display;

<sup>2</sup> The application for the ’381 Patent was filed on December 14, 2007, and the patent issued on December 23, 2008.

1 instructions for translating the **electronic document** displayed on the touch  
2 screen display in a first direction to display a second portion of the  
3 **electronic document**, wherein the second portion is different from the first  
4 portion, in response to detecting the movement;

5 instructions for displaying an area beyond an edge of the **electronic**  
6 **document** and displaying a third portion of the **electronic document**,  
7 wherein the third portion is smaller than the first portion, in response to the  
8 edge of the **electronic document** being reached while translating the  
9 **electronic document** in the first direction while the object is still detected  
10 on or near the touch screen display; and

11 instructions for translating the **electronic document** in a second direction  
12 until the area beyond the edge of the **electronic document** is no longer  
13 displayed to display a fourth portion of the **electronic document**, wherein  
14 the fourth portion is different from the first portion, in response to detecting  
15 that the object is no longer on or near the touch screen display.

16 '381 Patent 36:58-37:22 (emphasis added).

17 As an initial matter, the Court notes that the parties are able to agree, that whether  
18 something is an “electronic document” is context specific. Despite this initial agreement, however,  
19 the parties take two approaches to the claim construction. First, Samsung asserts a construction for  
20 the term “electronic document” by extrapolating from the examples of “electronic documents”  
21 provided in the claim terms and the specification. Apple argues that no construction is necessary,  
22 or alternatively, the Court should adopt a construction that defines an “electronic document” as a  
23 document “stored in a digital format.” See Apple’s Opening Claim Construction Br. (“Apple’s  
24 Opening”) at 4. With the parties’ disagreements in mind, the Court turns now to the evidence  
25 presented.

#### 26 a. Intrinsic Evidence

27 The claim terms and the specification provide only examples of what constitutes an  
28 “electronic document” without providing a clear definition of the term. For example, dependent  
claims 6 through 8, which depend from independent claim 1, explain that an electronic document  
may be a webpage; a digital image; or a word processing, spreadsheet, email or presentation  
document.” ’381 Patent 36:6-10. An “an electronic document” can also include a list of items.  
’381 Patent 36:11-12.

1 The specification adds little to the definition of “electronic document,” and mirrors the  
2 examples given in the dependent claims. For example, the specification states: “In some  
3 embodiments, the electronic document is a web page, as illustrated in FIGS. 8A-8D. In some  
4 embodiments, the electronic document is a digital image. In some embodiments, the electronic  
5 document is a word processing, spreadsheet, email, presentation document.” ’381 Patent 27:7-12;  
6 *see also* ’381 Patent 30:21-26.

7 While the examples provided by the claims and the specification may fit within Samsung’s  
8 proposed construction of the term “electronic document,” Samsung’s construction is ultimately not  
9 useful to the jury. As explained in the Court’s April 2012 Claim Construction Order, Samsung’s  
10 proposed use of the term “boundary” does not clarify the term. Moreover, Samsung’s proposal that  
11 the electronic document “*can be* visually represented on a screen” will not guide the jury in  
12 determining whether something is an electronic document. Because this construction encompasses  
13 content that may or may not be visible on the screen, Samsung’s proposal will add little to the  
14 jury’s understanding of the term.

#### 15 **b. Extrinsic Evidence**

16 In contrast, in support of its claim construction Apple points to several extrinsic sources –  
17 specifically, dictionary definitions – to support its argument that an “electronic document” is “a  
18 document stored in a digital format.” For example, Apple cites to dictionary definitions that  
19 establish that an electronic document is (1) “in word processing, a text that can be *named and*  
20 *stored* as a separate entity;” (2) “a named, structural unit of text that can be *stored, retrieved, and*  
21 *exchanged among systems* and users as a separate unit;” (3) “*a document that is stored* on a  
22 computer, instead of printed on paper; or (4) “[*a*] *file created by a computer application, especially*  
23 *that of a word processor.*” *See* Ahn Decl. Exs. 2-4.

24 As a legal matter, extrinsic evidence is often less useful to claim construction than intrinsic  
25 evidence. *Phillips*, 415 F.3d at 1317. However, in light of the lack of intrinsic evidence in the  
26 record to guide the claim construction, the Court finds the extrinsic evidence provided by Apple to  
27 be a useful tool in understanding the term “electronic document.” From the extrinsic evidence, the  
28 Court determines that an “electronic document” is a document stored in a digital format.



1 The disputed term “structured electronic document” appears in Apple’s ’163 Patent. The  
 2 ’163 Patent, entitled “Portable Electronic Device, Method, and Graphical User Interface For  
 3 Displaying Structured Electronic Documents,” discloses a method for displaying a structured  
 4 electronic document on a touch screen display, detecting a gesture at a location on the display of  
 5 the document, and enlarging and centering the selected portion of the structured electronic  
 6 document. See ’163 Patent, Abstract. The application for the ’163 Patent was filed on September  
 7 4, 2007, and the patent issued on January 4, 2011.

Apple’s Proposed Construction	Samsung’s Proposed Construction
No construction necessary; OR “an ‘electronic document,’ as previously defined, that is formatted to differentiate particular blocks or boxes of content in the document from one another,” with the clarification that “a ‘structured electronic document’ could be, for example, a web page, an HTML or XML document, or a document in which the blocks or boxes of content are defined by a style sheet language.”	“an electronic document that includes at least one visual structural element”

16 Apple asserts that Samsung’s accused devices infringe independent claim 50 of the ’163  
 17 Patent. Independent claim 50 recites:

18 50. A portable electronic device, comprising:  
 19 a touch screen display;  
 20 one or more processors;  
 21 memory; and

22 one or more programs, wherein the one or more programs are stored in the memory and  
 23 configured to be executed by the one or more processors, the one or more programs  
 24 including:

25 instructions for displaying at least a portion of a **structured electronic document** on  
 26 the touch screen display, wherein the **structured electronic document** comprises a  
 27 plurality of boxes of content;

28 instructions for detecting a first gesture at a location on the displayed portion of the  
**structured electronic document**;

instructions for determining a first box in the plurality of boxes at the location of the  
 first gesture;

instructions for enlarging and translating the **structured electronic document** so that  
 the first box is substantially centered on the touch screen display;

1 instruction for, while the first box is enlarged, a second gesture is detected on a second  
2 box other than the first box; and

3 instructions for, in response to detecting the second gesture, **the structured electronic**  
4 **document** is translated so that the second box is substantially centered on the touch  
5 screen display.

6 '163 Patent at 29:14-40 (emphasis added).

7 The parties agree that the term “electronic document” has the same meaning in both the  
8 '381 Patent and the '163 Patent. This is unsurprising as one of the inventors of the '163 Patent,  
9 Bas Ording, is the sole inventor of the '381 Patent. Moreover, the '381 Patent was filed in  
10 December 2007, while the '163 Patent was filed in September 2007. The central issue, then, is  
11 what additional limitation is added by the term “structured.”

12 The intrinsic evidence provides guidance for the term “structured electronic document.”  
13 The language in claim 50 explains that “wherein the structured electronic document comprises a  
14 plurality of boxes of content.” '163 Patent 29:24-25. Thus, a structured electronic document must  
15 include two or more boxes of content. *See ResQNet.com, Inc. v. Lansa, Inc.*, 346 F.3d 1374, 1382  
16 (Fed. Cir. 2003); *CIAS Inc. v. Alliance Gaming Corp.*, 504 F.3d 1356, 1360 (Fed. Cir. 2007). Both  
17 the claim language and the specification provide examples of “structured electronic documents.”  
18 For example, a structured electronic document may be a web page, or an HTML or XML  
19 document. *See* '163 Patent 26:23-25; 16:25-29.

20 While the examples provided by the claims and the specification may fit within Samsung's  
21 proposed construction of the term “structured electronic document,” the Court finds Samsung's  
22 construction ultimately unhelpful for the jury to understand the term. Samsung's construction  
23 includes the disputed claim term itself (“structural”) and does not clarify its meaning. Moreover,  
24 the claim language itself, which provides “wherein the structured electronic document comprises a  
25 plurality of boxes of content” provides more guidance than Samsung's construction.

26 This begs the question as to whether a construction of this term is even necessary. The  
27 purpose of claim construction is to “determin[e] the meaning and scope of the patent claims  
28 asserted to be infringed.” *Markman*, 52 F.3d at 976. “When the parties raise an actual dispute  
regarding the proper scope of these claims, the court, not the jury, must resolve that dispute.” *O2*



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*Micro Intern. Ltd. v. Beyond Innovation Tech. Co., Ltd.*, 521 F.3d 1351, 1360 (Fed. Cir. 2008) (citing *Markman*, 52 F.3d at 979 (holding that claim construction is a matter of law)). However, while claim construction involves determining the scope of the claim terms as a matter of law, it is not the task of the court to determine whether prior art discloses the claim limitations. Cf. *PPG Indus. v. Guardian Indus. Corp.*, 156 F.3d 1351, 1355 (Fed. Cir. 1998) (A court may not, “under the rubric of claim construction, [] give a claim whatever additional precision or specificity is necessary to facilitate a comparison between the claim and the [anticipatory reference]. . . . the task of determining whether the [reference discloses the claim limitation] is for the finder of fact.”).

In this case there is no actual dispute between the parties regarding the scope of the claim term. Rather, the dispute between the parties is whether the prior art reference LaunchTile discloses a “structured electronic document” and thus anticipates the ’163 Patent. As the Court explained in the order denying Samsung’s motion for summary judgment: “[a]lthough Samsung attempts to frame the issue as one of claim construction, the issue appears to be a factual dispute regarding what exactly the ‘zoomspace’ is.” Order Denying Motion for Summary Judgment at 27, ECF No. 1158. The claim language itself provides more guidance on the subject than Samsung’s proposed construction or Apple’s alternative proposed construction. Accordingly, no construction is necessary for the term “structured electronic document.”

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Dated: July 20, 2012

  
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LUCY H. KOH  
United States District Judge