

The opinion in support of the decision being entered today was not written for publication and is not binding precedent of the Board.

Paper No. 13

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte CHRISTOPHER E. TRESSLER
and
ANDREW W. STEINBACH

Appeal No. 2000-2205
Application No. 08/991,107

ON BRIEF

Before HAIRSTON, LALL, and DIXON, Administrative Patent Judges.
HAIRSTON, Administrative Patent Judge.

DECISION ON APPEAL

This is an appeal from the final rejection of claims 16 through 35.

The disclosed invention relates to a method and apparatus for generating power consumption state information that indicates an impending transition of a load from a low power consumption state to a high power consumption state. The state information is used to configure a power supply to provide a higher voltage at the load during the transition from the low power consumption state to the high power consumption state.

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Claim 16 is illustrative of the claimed invention, and it reads as follows:

16. A method of preventing computer malfunction during a change in power consumption states, comprising:

providing power at a first voltage level to a load, the load having a low power consumption state and a high power consumption state;

receiving power consumption state information; and

increasing the first voltage level to a second voltage level based on the power consumption state information indicating an impending transition from the low power consumption state to the high power consumption state.

The references relied on by the examiner are:

Mozdzen et al. (Mozdzen)	5,537,656	Jul. 16, 1996
Pitsch	5,852,377	Dec. 22, 1998
		(filed Nov. 14, 1996)

Claims 16 through 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mozdzen in view of Pitsch.

Reference is made to the briefs (paper numbers 9 and 11) and the answer (paper number 10) for the respective positions of the appellants and the examiner.

OPINION

All of the claims on appeal require the generation of power consumption state information that indicates an impending transition of a load from a low power consumption state to a high power consumption state.

Appellants argue (brief, page 4; reply brief, page 2) that the applied references neither teach nor would have suggested changing a supply voltage in response to an impending power consumption state change.

Mozdzen discloses a method and apparatus that permits a microprocessor to enter and exit a reduced power consumption state (column 1, lines 10 through 14). As the microprocessor emerges from the reduced power consumption state, the current level in the microprocessor suddenly rises because parts of the microprocessor are powered up, and the sudden rise in the current level causes voltage fluctuations in the microprocessor (column 1, lines 47 through 65). Mozdzen notes that "the voltage fluctuations dampen over time after the processor has completely exited the reduced power consumption state" (column 1, lines 65 through 67). In order to ensure that the voltage fluctuations have completely dampened, Mozdzen has chosen to "wait out" the voltage fluctuations for two clock cycles before permitting the

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microprocessor to execute critical functions (Abstract; column 2, lines 51 through 57; column 5, lines 61 through 64; column 7, lines 1 through 6; and column 8, lines 37 through 42). In Pitsch, all reset circuit action is produced "when" the operating voltage drops below a predetermined voltage (Abstract; column 1, lines 26 through 30; column 4, lines 35 through 40; and column 5, lines 14 through 17).

In summary, the applied references neither teach nor would have suggested changing a supply voltage in response to an "impending" power consumption state change. Thus, we agree with the appellants' argument (brief, page 5) that "both Mozdzen and Pitsch teach away from the instant invention, as both wait for the voltage fluctuation to occur before taking any action."

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DECISION

The decision of the examiner rejecting claims 16 through 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is reversed.

REVERSED

KENNETH W. HAIRSTON)	
Administrative Patent Judge)	
)	
)	
PARSHOTAM S. LALL)	BOARD OF PATENT
Administrative Patent Judge)	APPEALS AND
)	INTERFERENCES
)	
)	
JOSEPH L. DIXON)	
Administrative Patent Judge)	

KWH:hh

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