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European Patent Application No. 18195408.2
UNLOCKING A DEVICE BY PERFORMING GESTURES ON AN UNLOCK IMAGE
Apple Inc.

We refer to the communication pursuant to Article 94(3) EPC dated 21 December 2020. In response we enclose a revised set of 15 claims to replace the claims currently on file for this application. For the convenience of the Examining Division the replacement claims are provided in clean and marked-up versions.

Claim Amendments and Basis

Claim 1 is amended to reword the portion relating to satisfaction of a predefined condition, and to replace "first user interface state" with "locked state" and "second user interface state" with "unlocked state".

These changes are clear from the wording of paragraphs [0091]-[0093], as well as Figures 7A-7D.

New dependent claim 12 finds support in paragraphs [0091]-[0093], as well as Figures 7A-7D.

New dependent claim 13 finds support in paragraphs [0020], [0042], [0060], [0092] and [0101]-[0102], as well as Figures 7A-7D (e.g. 708) and 11E-11F (e.g. 1108).

Added Matter

To overcome the objections raised in sections 2.5 and 2.7 of the report, claim 1 is amended to change "first user-interface state" to "locked state" and "second user-interface state" to "unlocked state".

In section 2.6 the Examiner asks that 1 the step of displaying a visual cue to assist the user in unlocking the device is added into claim. However, it is submitted that this visual cue is an optional feature, based on the wording of paragraph [0054] – in particular the description that the visual cue exists only "In some embodiments".

In section 2.8, the Examiner states that no basis can be found for the feature of claim 1 of: "displaying an application interface (708) for the application associated with the event". However, it is submitted that adequate basis can be found in the following passages of the description:

par [0092] - "However, the user cannot interact with the virtual buttons 708 until the device is unlocked and the virtual buttons have reached their final optical intensity";

and par [0093] - "the user completes the unlock action ... At this point the user may interact with the virtual buttons 708 and accept or decline the incoming call".

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These passages clearly show that after the device is unlocked, an application interface is displayed and may be interacted with.

Clarity

To overcome the objection raised in section 3.2 of the report, claim 1 is amended to change "first user-interface state" to "locked state" and "second user-interface state" to "unlocked state".

Novelty and Inventive Step

We consider that the claims are now in a position where a meaningful assessment of novelty and inventiveness may be undertaken.

Concluding Remarks

In view of the foregoing we submit that all of the outstanding objections have been addressed, and we therefore consider that this application should now be in order for acceptance. We look forward to receiving confirmation of that in due course. Nevertheless, if any minor deficiencies remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative by telephone with a view to resolving these as efficiently as possible.

As a precaution against summary refusal, we hereby request oral proceedings in the event that the Examining Division is minded to refuse this application.

For the avoidance of any doubt, no subject matter deleted from the content of the application as filed is to be considered abandoned; for example, for the purpose of reintroducing into this application at a later date, or being included in one or more divisional applications.

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