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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 31 January 2022. In response we provide the following comments.

Article 76(1) EPC

It is submitted that claim 1 as is currently presented is supported by the parent application as filed.

Previous discussion of this issue surrounded the embodiment described in paragraphs [0091]-[0093]. However, it is herein submitted that upon further review, claim 1 is indeed supported by paragraph [0099] of the application.

The steps of claim 1, along with the corresponding passages providing support, are set out below:

"detecting occurrence of an event at the device when the device is in a locked state, the event associated with an application on the device"

Page 30, lines 4-5 – *"while locked, the device may continue to receive events, such as incoming calls, messages, voicemail notifications, and so forth"*

"in response to detecting occurrence of the event, displaying on the touch-sensitive display a user interface that includes information about the event and a graphical, interactive user-interface object for accessing functionality associated with the event"

Page 30, lines 6-7 – *"The device may display multiple unlock images on the touch screen, each unlock image corresponding to an active application or incoming event"*

"detecting a gesture on the graphical, interactive user-interface object of the user interface on the touch-sensitive display that satisfies a predefined condition; and in response to detecting the gesture that satisfies the predefined condition, transitioning the device from the locked state to an unlocked state and displaying an application interface for the application associated with the event"

Page 30, lines 7-9 – *"Performing the unlock action using one of the multiple unlock images unlocks the device and displays the application and/or event corresponding to the unlock image"*

Regarding the lack of multiple unlock images in claim 1, the following is noted. Paragraph [0099], page 30, line 3 discusses how *"the device may have one or more active applications running when the device becomes locked"*. Page 30, lines 6-7 in the same paragraph goes on to state that *"[t]he device may display multiple unlock images on the touch screen, each unlock image corresponding to an active application or incoming event"*.

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Hence, it is foreseeable that only one active application is running (the description above states "one or more", so one is an option). As also stated above, each unlock image corresponds to an active application or incoming event, so if there is only one active application, and the device receives an event associated with that application, there will only be one unlock image.

Indeed, based on the current claim language, in response to a (single) event, a (single) unlock image will be displayed. Multiple unlock images will not be displayed in response to a single event.

Therefore the claim as it stands, without multiple unlock images, is supported.

Paragraph [0102] further supports this conclusion, stating at page 31, lines 18-19 - "if multiple unlock images are displayed", suggesting it is foreseeable that multiple unlock images will not be displayed. Presumably instead, only a single unlock image would be displayed.

The Examiner also raises in their report a point regarding paragraph [0099]. In section 2.4.3, he states that the last step of claim 1 is not derivable and should be amended to state that both an application and event are displayed. This is based on paragraph [0099], which states "[p]erforming the unlock action using one of the multiple unlock images unlocks the device and displays the application and/or event corresponding to the unlock image".

However, this passage clearly contains the wording "and/or", meaning that several possible options are disclosed - display of the application and the event; display of just the application; or display of just the event. Therefore, the paragraph certainly supports displaying just the application and not the event.

For the avoidance of doubt, paragraph [0099] also states "*the device is unlocked and a corresponding application or event is displayed on the touch screen to the user*". A similar phrase is used in paragraph [0102] - "[t]he user-interface active state includes the running application or incoming event corresponding to the particular unlock image ..."

Hence claim 1 in its entirety is supported.

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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