



May 3, 2006

Via Facsimile 571-273-7735

Mail Stop Comments - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22315-1450

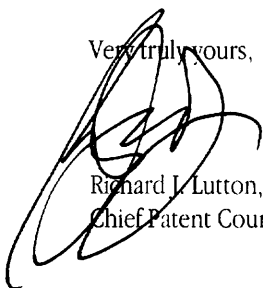
Dear Commissioner Doll:

I write on behalf of Apple Computer, Inc. to express Apple's support for the Patent Office's proposed rules regarding patent prosecution practice.¹ Apple has distinguished itself throughout the world with a long string of innovative products and services -- from the original Macintosh, to the iMac line of computers, the iPod line of media players, and the iTunes Music Store. Apple invests heavily to bring these products to the public, and depends on patents to protect them from copyists. Apple is thus very interested in having the Office issue high quality patents on high quality inventions on a timely basis. Apple also believes that such patent policy is beneficial to the public as a whole.

The Office has made a convincing point that its fast-growing docket threatens to prevent it from focusing proper attention on true innovations, and from having the time to sort such innovations from applications that do not deserve a patent. The proposed rules are aimed at reducing ancillary loads on the examination process so that examiners can focus on important core issues, and Apple believes they are a reasonable means to that end. Although they will place some additional burdens on applicants, they are flexible in allowing applicants to obtain continuations if they can show why they could not have presented claims earlier. And they do not eliminate continuation practice, which does have numerous appropriate purposes. In addition, the rules are aimed at providing applicants with the benefit of faster and better examination than they otherwise would have.

In this case, the Office is in a good position to determine how to balance the prosecution process so as to ensure timely and high-quality examination of patent applications. We commend the Office for taking on this difficult task.

Very truly yours,



Richard J. Lutton, Jr.
Chief Patent Counsel

¹ "Comments on Proposed Changes to Practice for Continuing Applications, Requests for Continued Examination Practice, and Applications Containing Patentably Indistinct Claims, Notice of proposed rulemaking" published at 71 Fed. Reg. 48 (Jan. 3, 2006).

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APPLE COMPUTER, INC.

Apple Law Department

Apple Patent Administration

DATE:	05/03/06	Total Pages:	2
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To: Commissioner Doll
 Commissioner for Patents

Fax: 571-273-7735

Please see attached letter.

Regards,
 Richard J. Lutton, Jr.
 Chief Patent Counsel
 Apple Computer, Inc.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE

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APPLE COMPUTER, INC.
Apple Law Department
🍏 Patent Administration

DATE: 05/03/06 **Total Pages:** 2
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To: Commissioner Doll
Commissioner for Patents
Fax: 571-273-7735

Please see attached letter.

Regards,
Richard J. Lutton, Jr.
Chief Patent Counsel
Apple Computer, Inc.

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