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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

**VIRTUAL CREATIVE ARTISTS, LLC,**  
  
Plaintiff,  
  
v.  
  
**REDFIN CORPORATION,**  
  
Defendant.

Case No. 2:25-cv-142  
  
COMPLAINT FOR PATENT  
INFRINGEMENT  
  
DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff Virtual Creative Artists, LLC files this Original Complaint for Patent Infringement against Redfin Corporation, and would respectfully show the Court as follows:

**I. NATURE OF THE LAWSUIT**

1. This is an action for patent infringement under the Patent Laws of the United States, Title 35 United States Code (“U.S.C.”) resulting from Redfin Corporation infringing, in an illegal and unauthorized manner and without authorization and/or consent from Virtual Creative Artists, LLC, United States Patent No. 9,501,480 and 9,477,665 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §271, and to recover damages, attorney’s fees, and costs.

**II. THE PARTIES**

2. Plaintiff Virtual Creative Artists, LLC. (“VCA” or “Plaintiff”) is a Delaware limited liability company, having business address at 338 Gracious Way, Henderson, NV 89011.

3. On information and belief, Defendant Redfin Corporation (“Redfin” or “Defendant”) is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Delaware with a place

1 of business at 1099 Steward St, Ste 600, Seattle, WA 98101. Defendant has a registered agent  
2 at Legal Inc Corporate Services Inc., 14205 SE 36th St, Ste 100, Bellevue, WA 98006.

3 **III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

4  
5 4. This action arises under the patent laws of the United States, Title 35 of the  
6 United States Code. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction of such action under 28 U.S.C.  
7 §§ 1331 and 1338(a).

8 5. On information and belief, Defendant is subject to this Court's specific and  
9 general personal jurisdiction, pursuant to due process and the Washington Long-Arm Statute,  
10 due at least to its business in this forum, including at least a portion of the infringements  
11 alleged herein. Furthermore, Defendant is subject to this Court's specific and general personal  
12 jurisdiction because Defendant's headquarters are in Washington.

13  
14 6. Without limitation, on information and belief, within this State and this District,  
15 Defendant has used, sold, and/or offered for sale the patented inventions thereby committing,  
16 and continuing to commit, acts of patent infringement alleged herein. In addition, on  
17 information and belief, Defendant has derived revenues from its infringing acts occurring  
18 within Washington and the Western District of Washington. Further, on information and  
19 belief, Defendant is subject to the Court's general jurisdiction, including from regularly doing  
20 or soliciting business, engaging in other persistent courses of conduct, and deriving substantial  
21 revenue from goods and services provided to persons or entities in Washington and the Western  
22 District of Washington. Further, on information and belief, Defendant is subject to the Court's  
23 personal jurisdiction at least due to its sale of products and/or services within Washington and  
24 the Western District of Washington. Defendant has committed such purposeful acts and/or  
25 transactions in Washington and the Western District of Washington such that it reasonably  
26 should know and expect that it could be haled into this Court as a consequence of such activity.  
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1 7. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. § 1400(b). On information and  
2 belief, Defendant’s headquarters are in Washington and the Western District of Washington.  
3 On information and belief, from and within this District Defendant has committed at least a  
4 portion of the infringements at issue in this case and has a business location within this District.  
5

6 8. For these reasons, personal jurisdiction exists, and venue is proper in this Court  
7 under 28 U.S.C. § 1400(b).

8 **IV. COUNT I**  
9 **(PATENT INFRINGEMENT OF UNITED STATES PATENT NO. 9,501,480)**

10 9. Plaintiff incorporates the above paragraphs herein by reference.

11 10. On November 22, 2016, United States Patent No. 9,501,480 (“the ‘480 Patent”)  
12 was duly and legally issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The ‘480 Patent  
13 is titled “Revenue-Generating Electronic Multi-Media Exchange and Process of Operating  
14 Same.” A true and correct copy of the ‘480 Patent is attached hereto as Exhibit A and  
15 incorporated herein by reference.

16 11. VCA is the assignee of all right, title, and interest in the ‘480 Patent, including  
17 all rights to enforce and prosecute actions for infringement and to collect damages for all  
18 relevant times against infringers of the ‘480 Patent. Accordingly, VCA possesses the exclusive  
19 right and standing to prosecute the present action for infringement of the ‘480 Patent by  
20 Defendant.  
21

22 12. The invention relates to the field of creating and distributing media content, in  
23 particular, creating media content based upon submissions received on an electronic media  
24 exchange. At the time of the original invention in 1998, there was an Internet-centric problem  
25 that required a technical solution—how to develop a computer system that would allow remote  
26 contributors of electronic content to share and collaborate their content to develop new media  
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1 content. The claimed invention, which predates modern crowdsourcing solutions, offers a  
2 unique, unconventional, and specially configured combination of “subsystems” in which to  
3 address the Internet-centric problem.

4  
5 13. As set forth in the claims, the claimed invention has a collection of unconventional  
6 and particularly configured subsystems, including:

- 7 • “an electronic media submissions server subsystem,”
- 8 • “an electronic multimedia creator server subsystem,”
- 9 • “an electronic release subsystem,”
- 10 • “an electronic voting subsystem,” and
- 11 • their corresponding specialized databases.

12 14. Each of these subsystems are configured in a very specific (and not generic),  
13 unconventional and non-routine manner to offer the novel and non-obvious claimed invention.  
14 For example, claim 1 requires an “electronic media submissions database,” which is a  
15 subsystem that receives media submissions from Internet users. This is not a generic database  
16 but rather a scalable database that must be able to receive, store, and manage multiple petabytes  
17 of multimedia data received from users all over the world. This is one of the many specialized  
18 databased required in the claim. In fact, the specification discloses the use of a sophisticated  
19 database management system known in the art at the time that was capable of handling data at  
20 this level, Oracle7. This type of database management system cannot operate on a generic  
21 computing system but rather requires specialized hardware and software.

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23  
24 15. As another example, the claim requires a specifically configured “electronic  
25 media submission server subsystem.” This subsystem is defined as specifically having:

- 26 • “one or more data processing apparatus,”
- 27 • “an electronic media submission database stored on a non-transitory  
28 medium,” and

- “a submissions electronic interface.”

The “submissions electronic interface” is further specifically “configured” [1] “to receive electronic media submissions from a plurality of submitters over a public network, and [2] store the electronic media submissions in the electronic media submission database.” Further, “the electronic media submissions database” in this subsystem is further required to “store[] [1] data identifying the submitter and [2] data indicating content for each electronic media submission.” Collectively, the level of detail included in this very particular, well-defined, and unconventional subsystem makes clear that the claims include substantially more than the alleged abstract idea or merely performing an alleged abstract idea on a computer.

16. Similarly, the claim also requires a separate specifically configured “an electronic multimedia creator server subsystem.” The claim specifically defines how this second subsystem interacts with other components including being “operatively coupled to the electronic media submissions server subsystem.” The claim also specifically defines this subsystem as “having”:

- “one or more data processing apparatus” and
- “an electronic creator multimedia database stored on a non-transitory medium.”

17. This subsystem is also specifically “configured [1] to select and [2] retrieve a plurality of electronic media submissions from the electronic media submissions database using an electronic content filter located on the electronic multimedia creator server.” The “filter” also includes a very specific algorithm of “being based at least in part on at least one of the one or more user attributes to develop multimedia content to be electronically available for viewing on user devices.” Even more detail is provided by requiring “the identification of the submitter [be] maintained with each selected and retrieved submission within the multimedia content.”

1 Here again, collectively, the level of detail included in this very particular and well-defined and  
2 unconventional subsystem makes clear that the claims include substantially more than an  
3 alleged abstract idea or merely performing an alleged abstract idea on a computer.

4  
5 18. The claim also includes “an electronic release subsystem,” which is well defined  
6 and not conventional or routine. The claim defines how this subsystem is “operatively coupled  
7 to the electronic multimedia creator server subsystem.” The claim also defines the components  
8 of this subsystem as having “one or more data processing apparatus” and being particularly  
9 “configured to make the multimedia content electronically available for viewing on one of  
10 more user devices.” These details, collectively, also make this very particular and well-defined  
11 and unconventional subsystem substantially more than an abstract idea or performing an  
12 abstract idea on a computer.

13  
14 19. The claim also requires “an electronic voting subsystem,” which is well-defined,  
15 specific, and unconventional. This claimed subsystem has “one or more data processing  
16 apparatus” and is specifically “configured to enable a user to electronic vote for or  
17 electronically rate an electronically available multimedia content or an electronic media  
18 submission within a respective electronically available multimedia content.”

19  
20 20. Claim 1 is a specific and discrete implementation. For example, the claim  
21 requires an “electronic content filter” located at the server, remote from end users, and  
22 customizable based on user attributes. As another example, the “electronic voting subsystem”  
23 at the time of the invention was novel and inventive and added sufficient inventive  
24 contributions to avoid a risk of preempting creating and distributing media content. It is  
25 possible to create and distribute media content without ever having to include a “voting”  
26 subsystem on what components should be included in such media content. The detailed  
27 configuration “to enable a user to vote for or electronically rate an electronically available  
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1 multimedia content or an electronic media submission within a respective electronically  
2 available multimedia content” has the level of particularity that avoids any risk of preemption.

3  
4 21. Furthermore, the very particular and specifically configured “electronic media  
5 creator subsystem” not only provides a detailed and unique physical structure and  
6 interrelationship with other claimed components, but also includes a very specific configuration  
7 that is not conventional or routine. The claims make clear the interrelationship of the  
8 “electronic multimedia creator server subsystem” with respect to “the electronic media  
9 submission server subsystem” which must be “operatively coupled” thereto. The claims also  
10 provide detail on how the “electronic media creator subsystem” is “configured” “to select and  
11 retrieve a plurality of electronic media submissions from the electronic media submission  
12 database using an electronic filter.” They also provide detail on how the “electronic filter” is  
13 “based at least in part on at least one of the one or more user attributes” and specifies that “the  
14 identification of the submitter is maintained with each selected and retrieved submission within  
15 the multimedia content.”  
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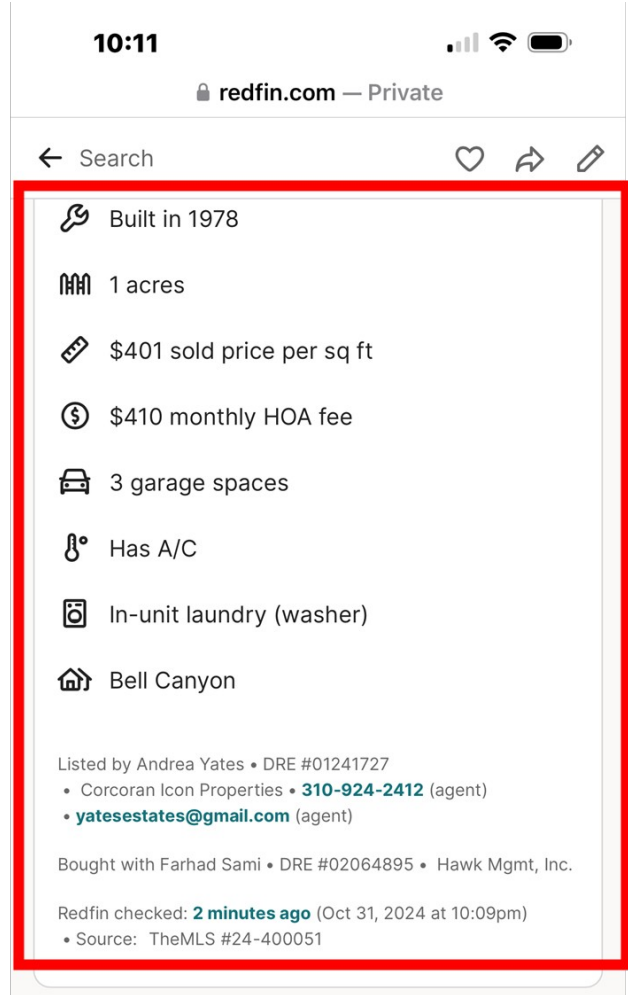
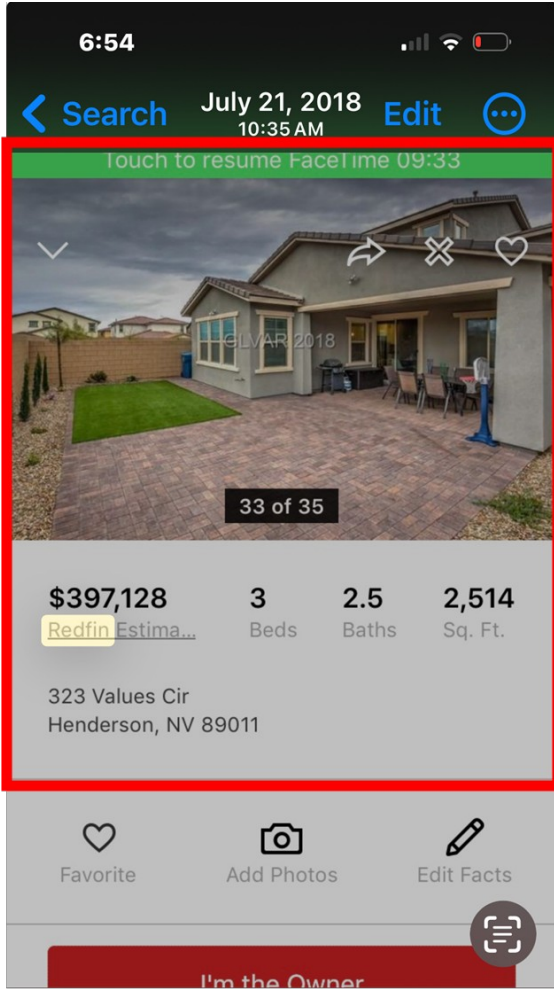
17  
18 22. These arguments overcame a patent eligibility rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101 of  
19 the claim at issue during the prosecution of the ‘480 patent.

20 23. **Direct Infringement.** Upon information and belief, Defendant has been directly  
21 infringing claims 1 and 16 of the ‘480 Patent in Washington, and elsewhere in the United  
22 States, by employing a computer-based system using <https://www.redfin.com/> (“Accused  
23 Instrumentality”) (e.g., <https://www.redfin.com/>).

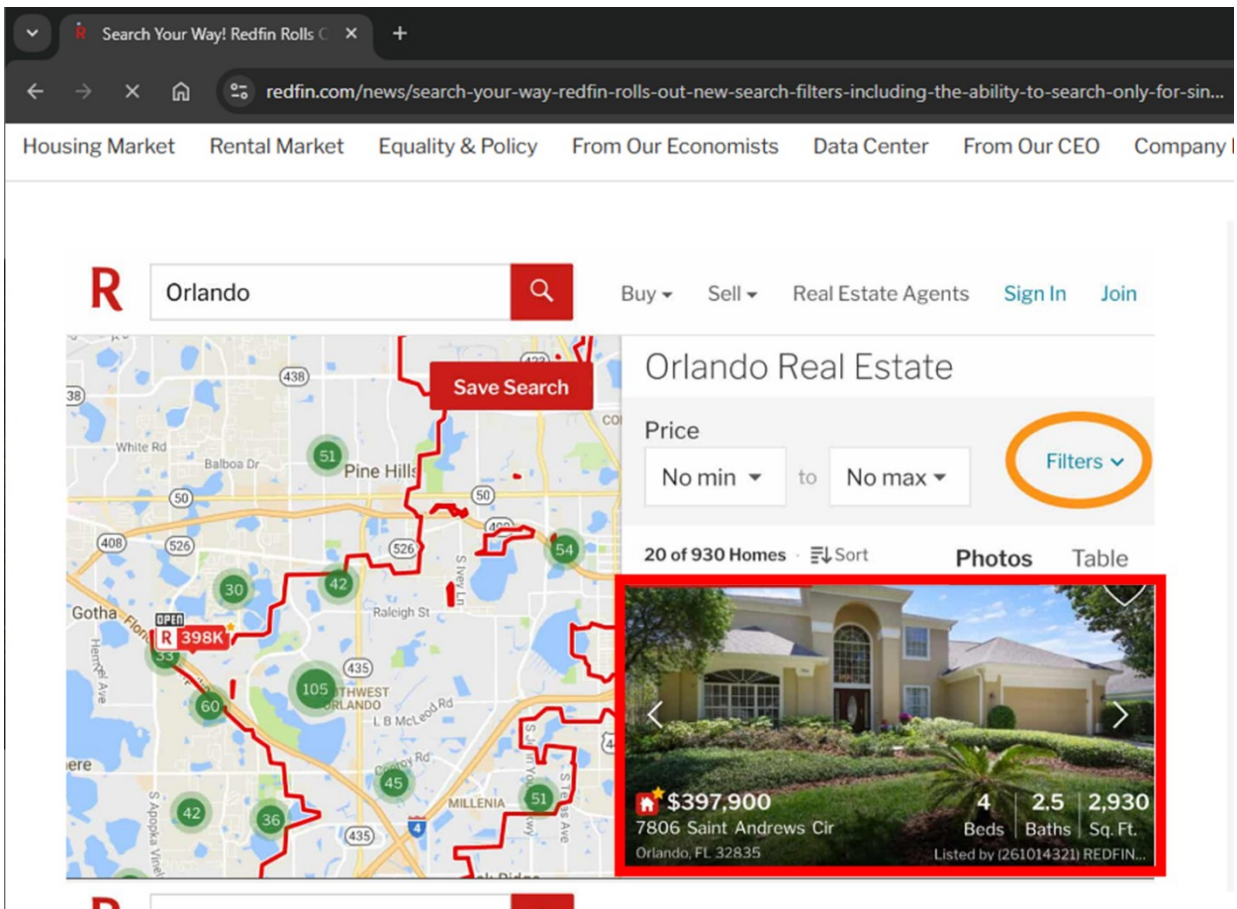
24 24. Redfin uses a computer-based system for its Accused Instrumentality, to enable  
25 user-submitters to post electronic submissions in the form of real estate listings. The real estate  
26 listings contain multimedia content including textual content and image content as well as  
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1 hyperlinks to other pages internal or external to Redfin.com. The real estate listings and  
2 associated multimedia content may be shown to other users based on, *inter alia*, user attributes.  
3 The Accused Instrumentality employs an electronic release subsystem operatively coupled to  
4 the electronic multimedia creator server subsystem, necessarily having one or more data  
5 processing apparatus in order to serve real estate listings with associated textual content and  
6 image content to users, configured to make the multimedia content electronically available for  
7 viewing on one or more user devices. For example, as shown below, multimedia content  
8 associated with the real estate listing is provided on various user devices (*e.g.*, computers or  
9 other devices with a web browser or app) in response to a user logging in to the Accused  
10 Instrumentality. Redfin uses function-specific subsystems, for example as discussed below.  
11 Redfin, during the relevant time period, took advantage of multiple cloud server providers for  
12 the Accused Instrumentality, as discussed above, as well as scalability within its cloud server  
13 providers, employing separate server subsystems for all its meaningfully different functions.  
14 Redfin uses, and has used during the relevant time period, numerous different networks and  
15 providers for, *inter alia*, content management systems, web servers, web hosting, data centers,  
16 proxy certificates, SSL certificates, traffic analysis, advertising, and tagging, thereby using  
17 separate server subsystems for all its meaningfully different functions, such as those indicated  
18 below.  
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(E.g., <https://www.redfin.com/news/search-your-way-redfin-rolls-out-new-search-filters-including-the-ability-to-search-only-for-single-story-homes/>).



(E.g., <https://www.redfin.com/news/search-your-way-redfin-rolls-out-new-search-filters-including-the-ability-to-search-only-for-single-story-homes/>).

lookup another site:  [Site Info](#)  
 Get our [site info tools](#) or use our [site info API](#).

### Site Info - Redfin.com

Overview of web technologies used by Redfin.com.

#### Website Background

Description on Homepage	Redfin   Real Estate & Homes for Sale, Rentals, Mortgages & Agents Search national real estate and rental listings. Find the latest apartments for rent and homes for sale near you. Tour homes and make offers with the help of local Redfin real estate agents.
Popularity rank	Top 1k among all websites

#### Content Management Systems

WordPress used on inner pages	WordPress is an open source blog publishing and content management system, based on PHP and MySQL.
Elementor used on inner pages	Elementor is a WordPress-based website builder.
Zendesk used on a subdomain	Zendesk provides hosted customer service software.

#### Server-side Programming Languages

PHP used on inner pages	PHP is a scripting language for creating websites.
Ruby used on a subdomain	Ruby is a general-purpose object-oriented language originally developed by Yukihiro "Matz" Matsumoto in Japan.

#### Client-side Programming Language

JavaScript	JavaScript is a lightweight, object-oriented, cross-platform scripting language, often used within web pages.
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#### JavaScript Library

jQuery 3.7.1 0% of sites use a newer version used on inner pages	jQuery is a JavaScript library that simplifies HTML document traversing, event handling, animating and Ajax interaction. Originally developed by John Resig.
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#### Web Servers

Envoy used on inner pages	Envoy Proxy is a proxy server designed for large service-oriented architectures.
Nginx used on inner pages	Nginx (pronounced as "engine X") is a lightweight open source web server developed by Igor Sysoev.
Cloudflare Server used on a subdomain	Cloudflare Server is a web server developed by Cloudflare.

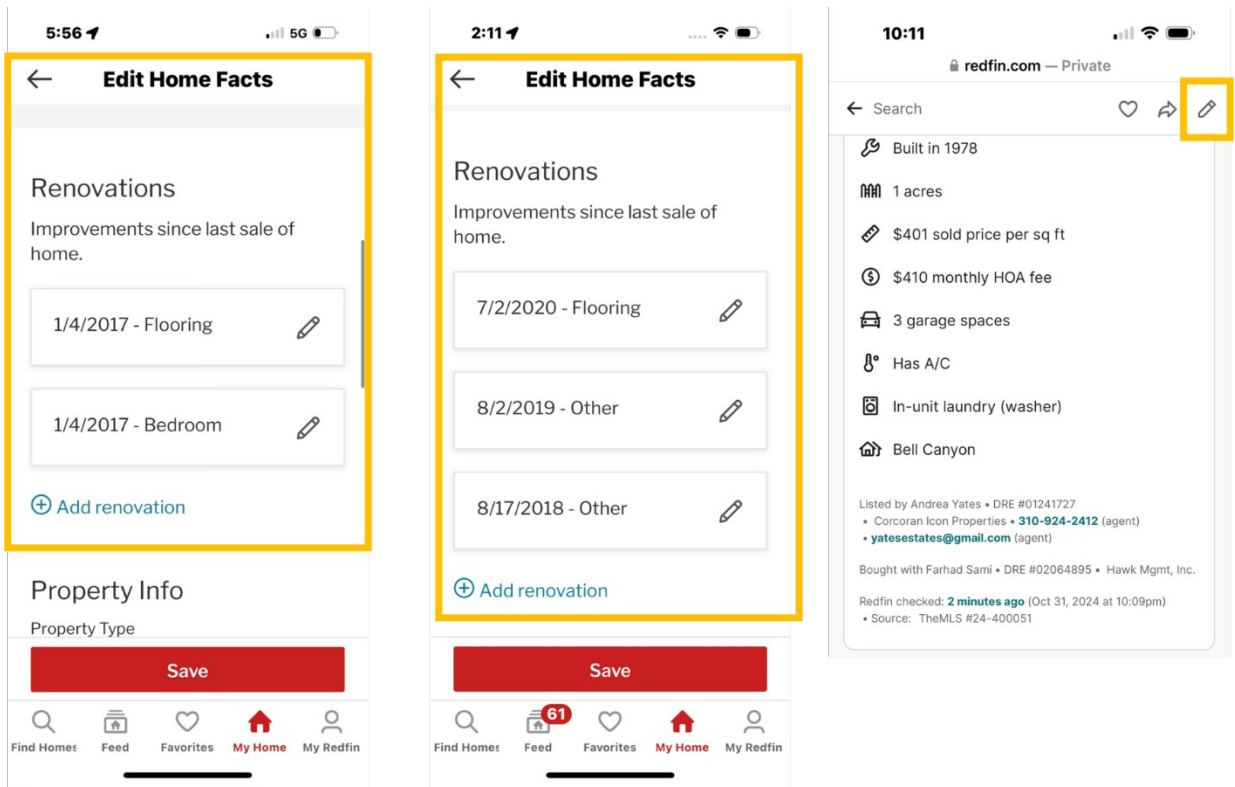
#### Operating System

Linux used on inner pages	Linux is a Unix-like open source operating system originally developed by Linus Torvalds.
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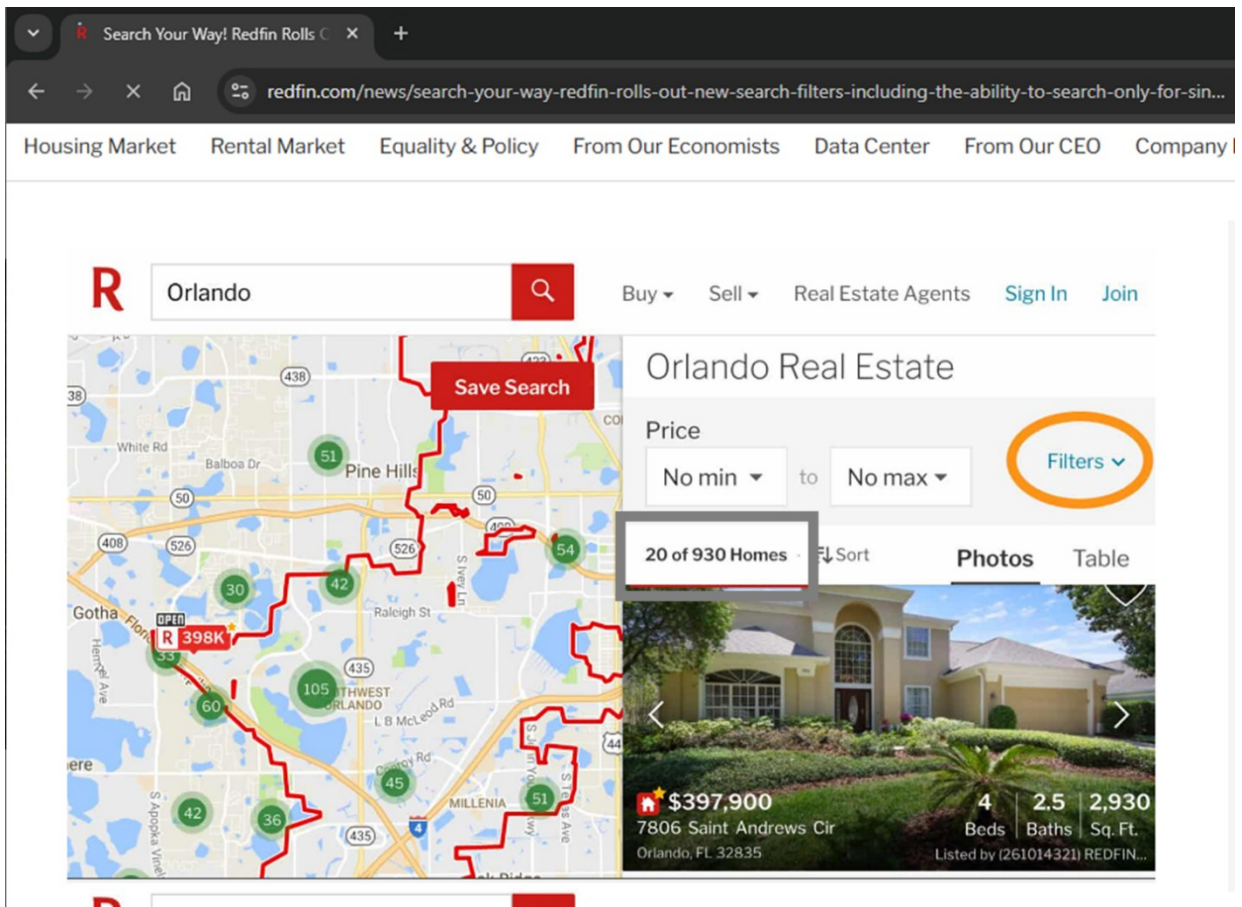
(E.g., <https://w3techs.com/sites/info/Redfin.com>).

1           25. The Accused Instrumentality includes an electronic media submissions server  
2 subsystem, having one or more data processing apparatus and an electronic media submissions  
3 database stored on a non-transitory medium in order to process and store received submissions  
4 from a plurality of user-submitters, for example content pertaining to their respective electronic  
5 media submission (*e.g.*, real estate listing) on the Accused Instrumentality, as well as  
6 multimedia content (*e.g.*, photo and/or textual content) to be displayed on a main page or within  
7 a real estate listing, as discussed and shown for example in connection with the above  
8 discussion. Individual users may create a profile and submit content pertaining to their user  
9 profile and/or Real estate listing. On information and belief, the submissions are provided to the  
10 Accused Instrumentality via a submissions electronic interface, *e.g.*, a web-based content  
11 portal, accessible for example by logging in and selecting an option to upload such content or  
12 import content, configured to receive such electronic media, from a plurality of submitters  
13 (*e.g.*, real estate agents or homeowners who claim their home) over a public network (*e.g.*, the  
14 Internet) and stored, via an uploading process, in said electronic media Listings database for  
15 use in distribution to other users of the Accused Instrumentality.  
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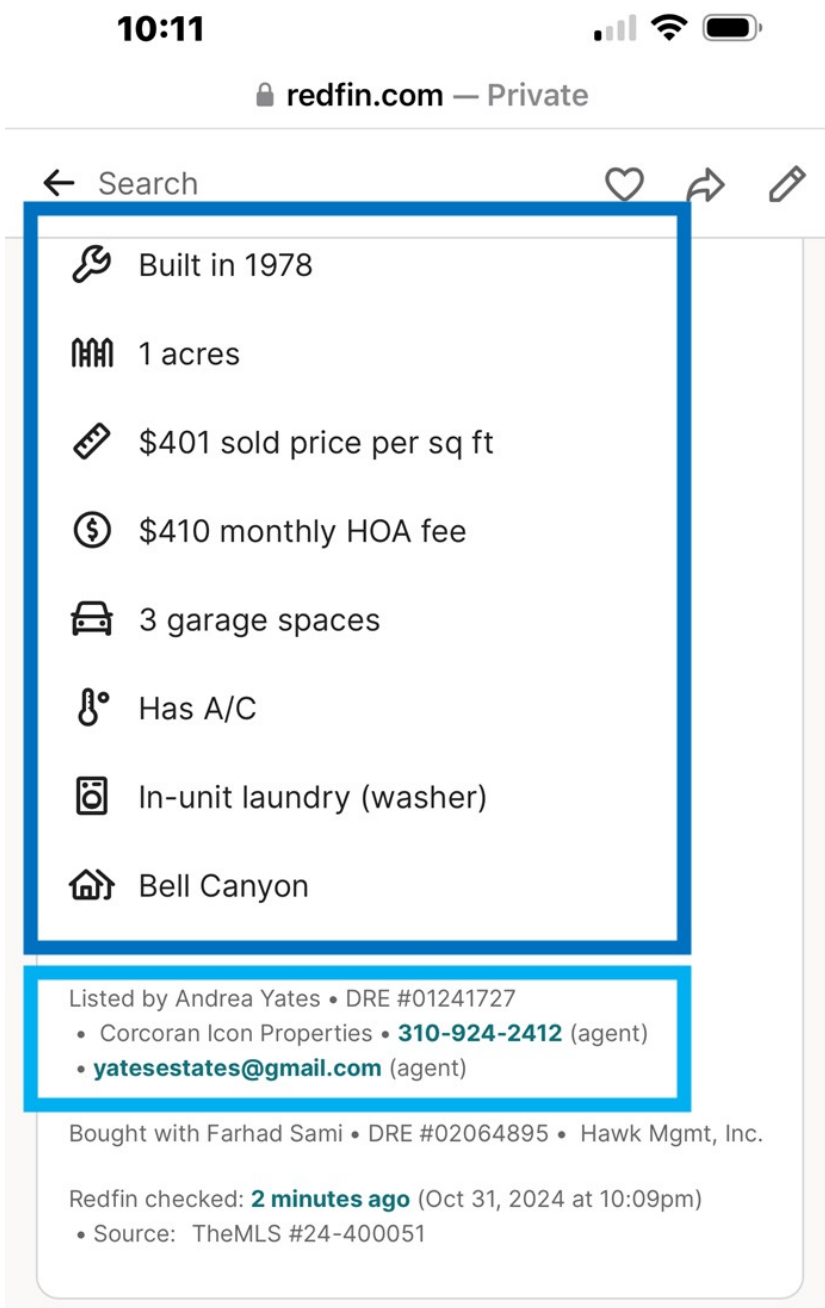
(E.g., <https://www.redfin.com/news/search-your-way-redfin-rolls-out-new-search-filters-including-the-ability-to-search-only-for-single-story-homes/>).



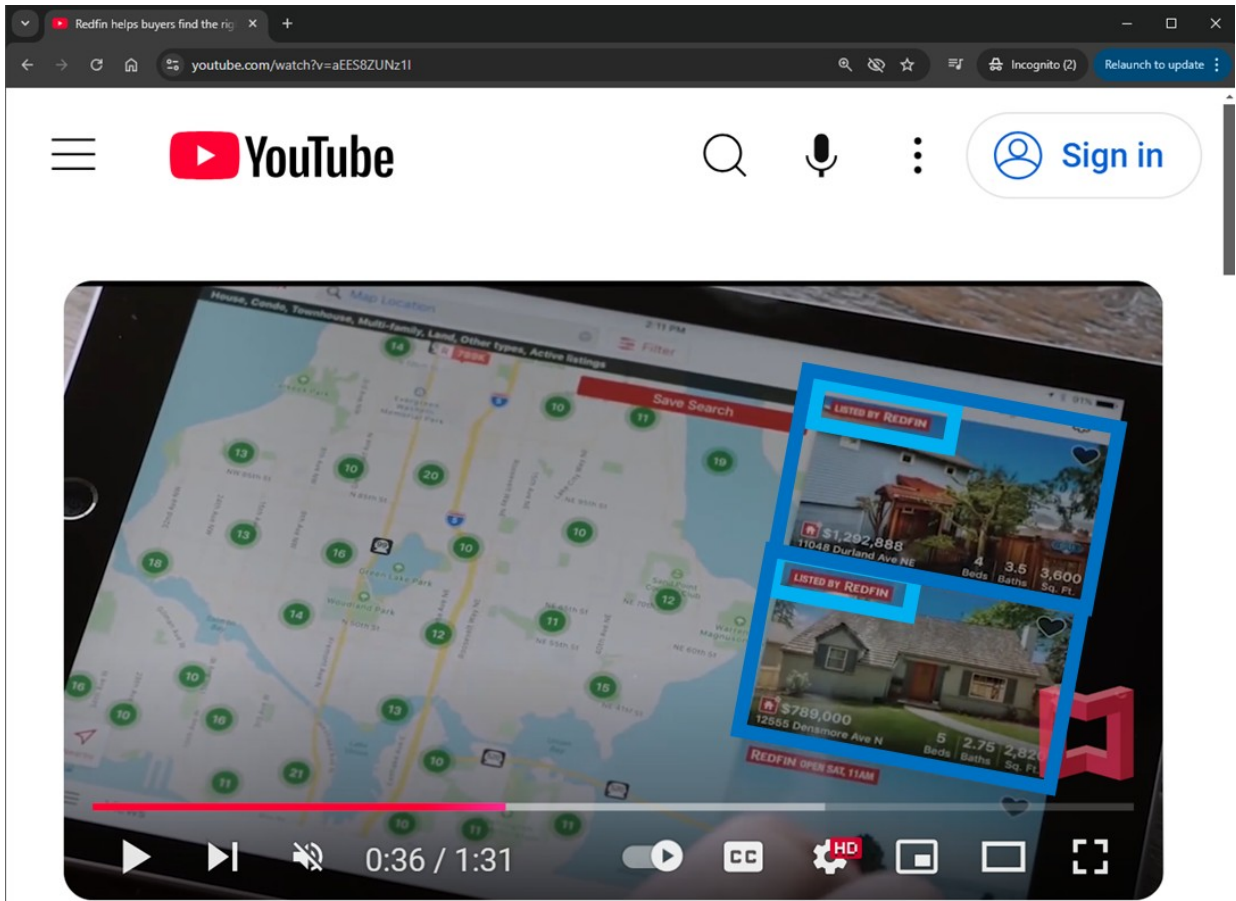
(E.g., <https://www.redfin.com/news/search-your-way-redfin-rolls-out-new-search-filters-including-the-ability-to-search-only-for-single-story-homes/>).

26. The electronic media submissions database of the Accused Instrumentality used by Redfin which stores the submissions further stores data identifying the submitter and data indicating content for each electronic media submission (e.g., a real estate listing). As shown below, data identifying the user-submitter includes, e.g., a name. Data indicating content for each electronic media submission includes photo and/or textual content pertaining to the real estate listing.

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(E.g., <https://www.redfin.com/CA/Bell-Canyon/1-Horseshoe-Rd-91307/home/4700185>).



## Redfin helps buyers find the right home faster with Matterport



**Matt...**  
31.8K...

Subscribe

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Share



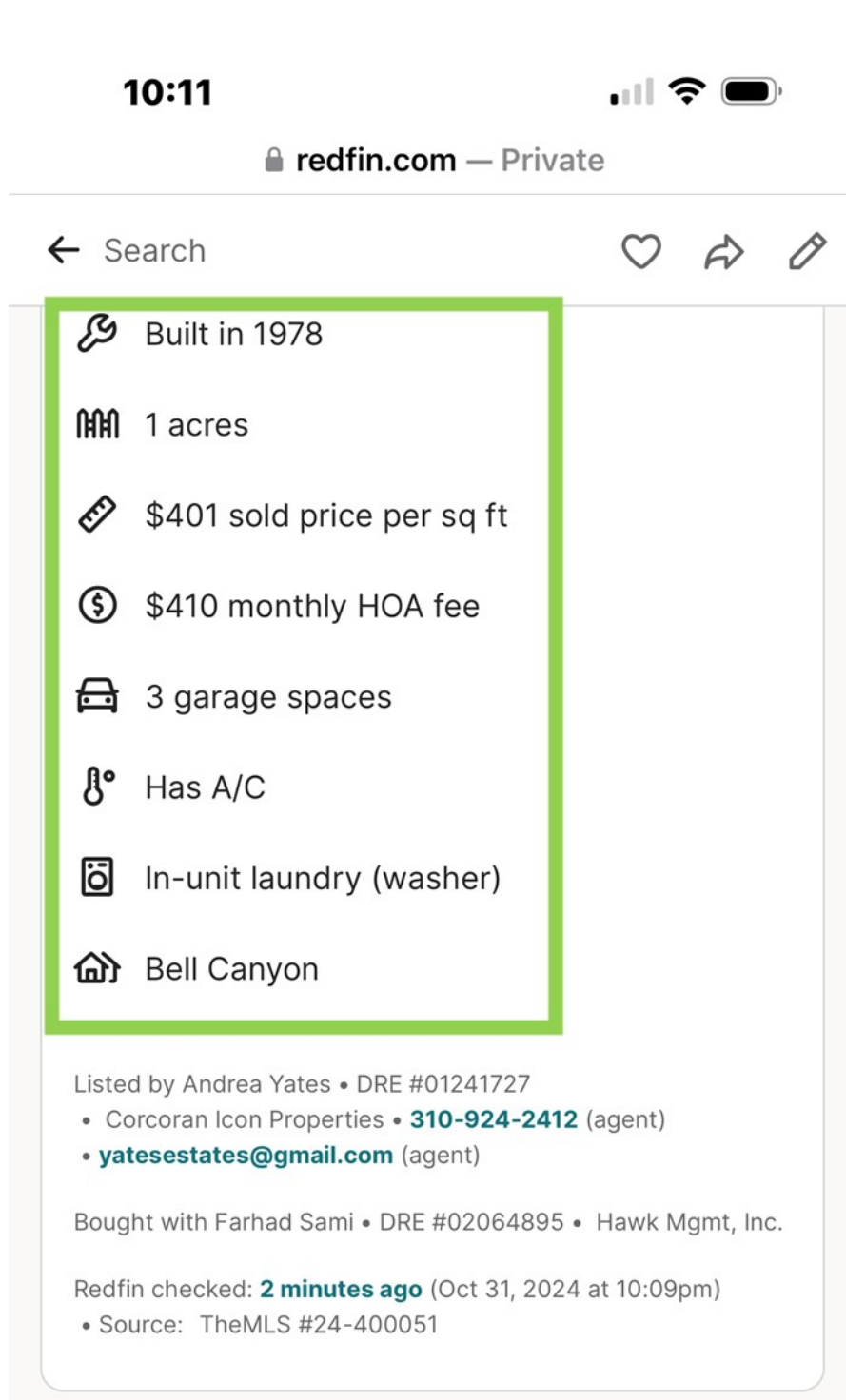
1,022 views Jul 21, 2021

(E.g., <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEES8ZUNz1I>).

27. Individual user-submitters can sign up and maintain a number of real estate listings, which are stored on a user database. Such user database is stored in memory available through the Accused Instrumentality, for example as discussed above. User attributes selected by users pertaining to the real estate listings, contained on the user database, may include *e.g.*,

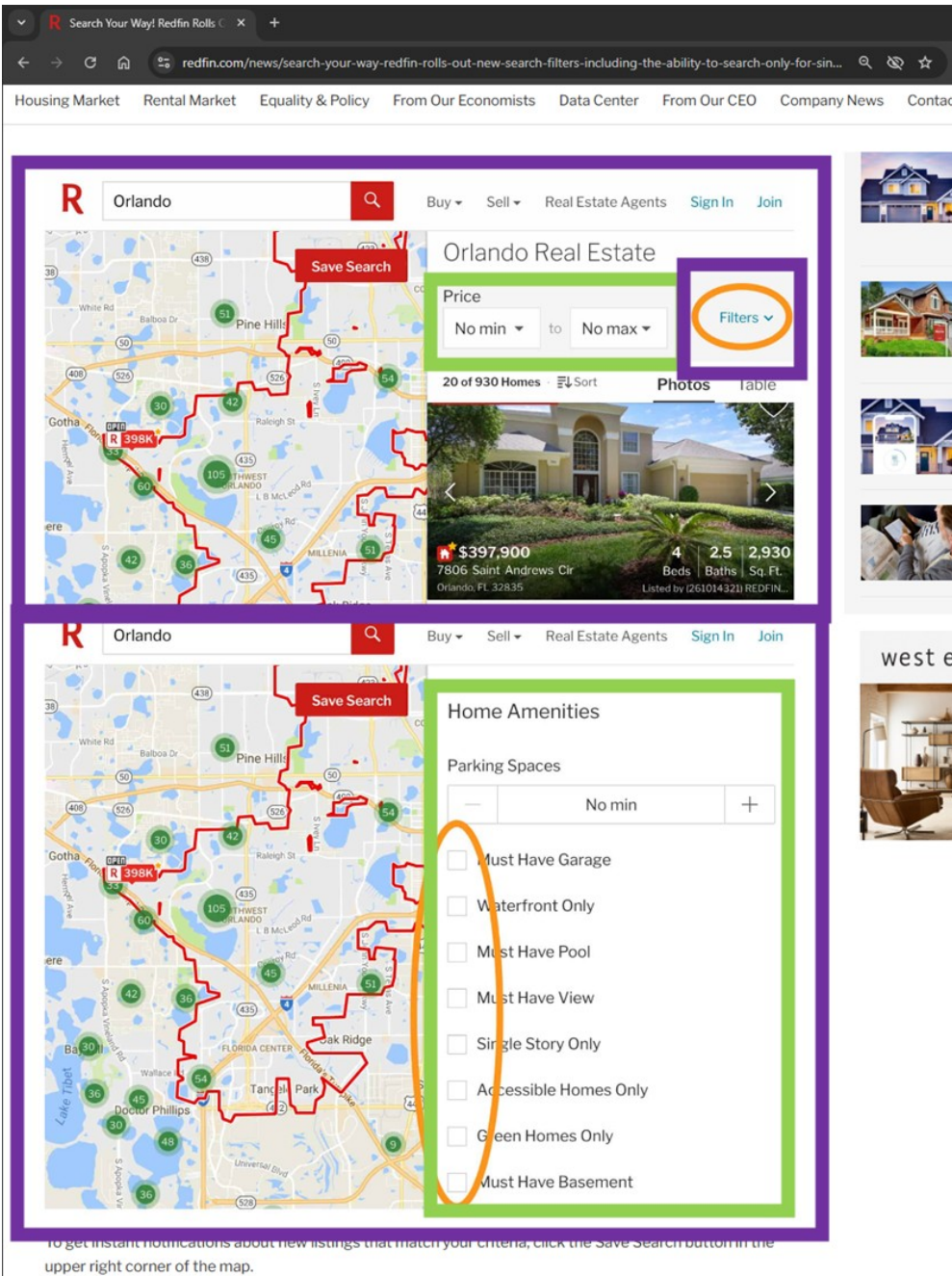


1 year built, acreage, price per square foot, garage spaces, and features such as A/C units and in-  
2 unit laundry and the like, as shown for example in the example below.



26 (E.g., <https://www.redfin.com/CA/Bell-Canyon/1-Horseshoe-Rd-91307/home/4700185>).

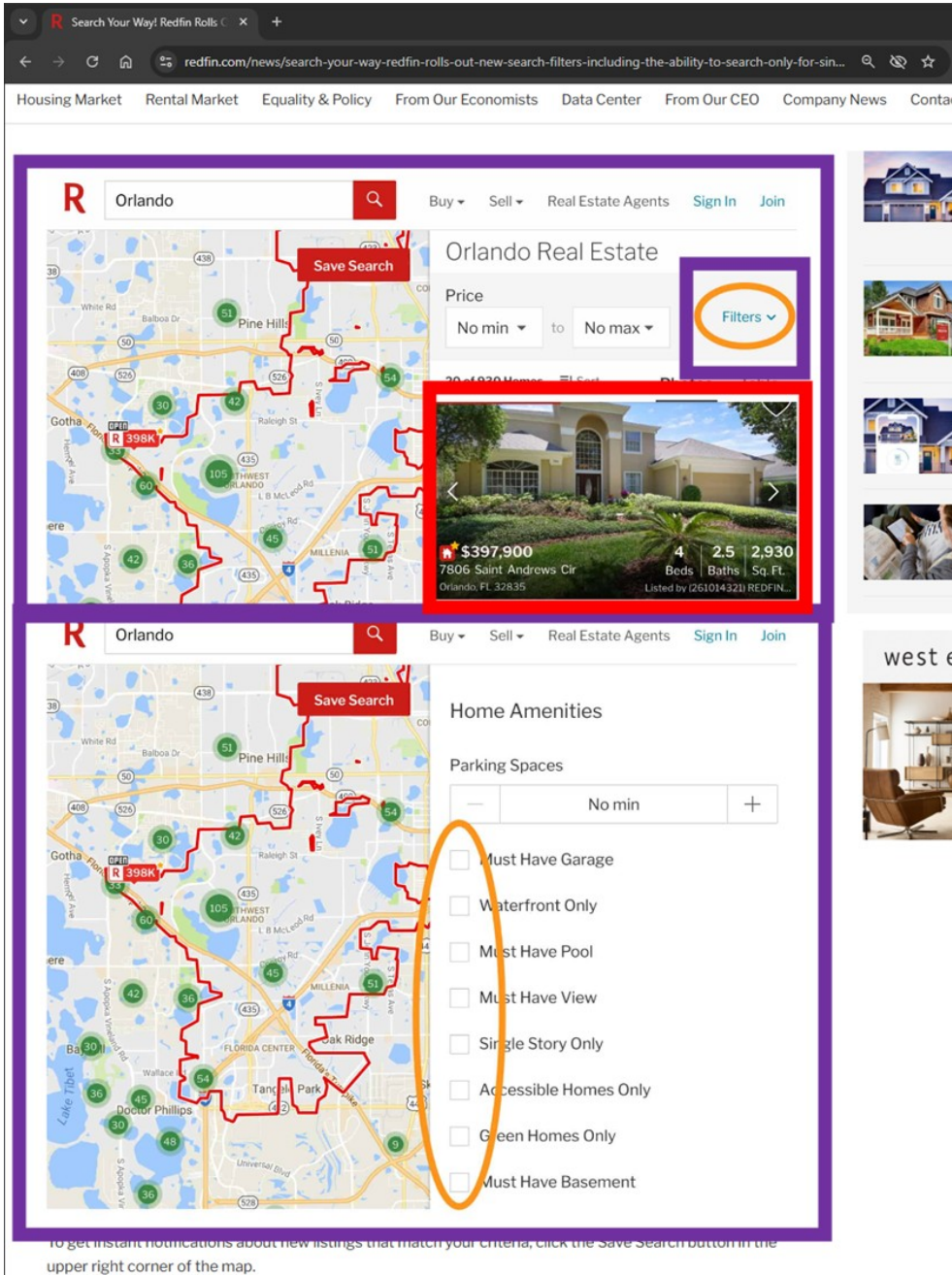
1           28.     The Accused Instrumentality employs an electronic multimedia creator server  
2 subsystem operatively coupled to the electronic media submissions server subsystem,  
3 necessarily having one or more data processing apparatus in order to manage content, and an  
4 electronic creator multimedia database stored on a non-transitory medium, configured to select  
5 and retrieve a plurality of electronic media submissions (*e.g.*, real estate listings with associated  
6 photo content and textual content) from the electronic media submissions database using an  
7 electronic content filter located on the electronic multimedia creator server. As can be seen  
8 below, such electronic content filter as is used by Redfin is based at least in part on at least one  
9 of the one or more user attributes selected by the user (*e.g.*, listing price, amenities, garage  
10 space and the like), which in turn affect which electronic media submissions, and associated  
11 media, appear to the user, as shown and discussed for example below.  
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(E.g., <https://www.redfin.com/news/search-your-way-redfin-rolls-out-new-search-filters-including-the-ability-to-search-only-for-single-story-homes/>).

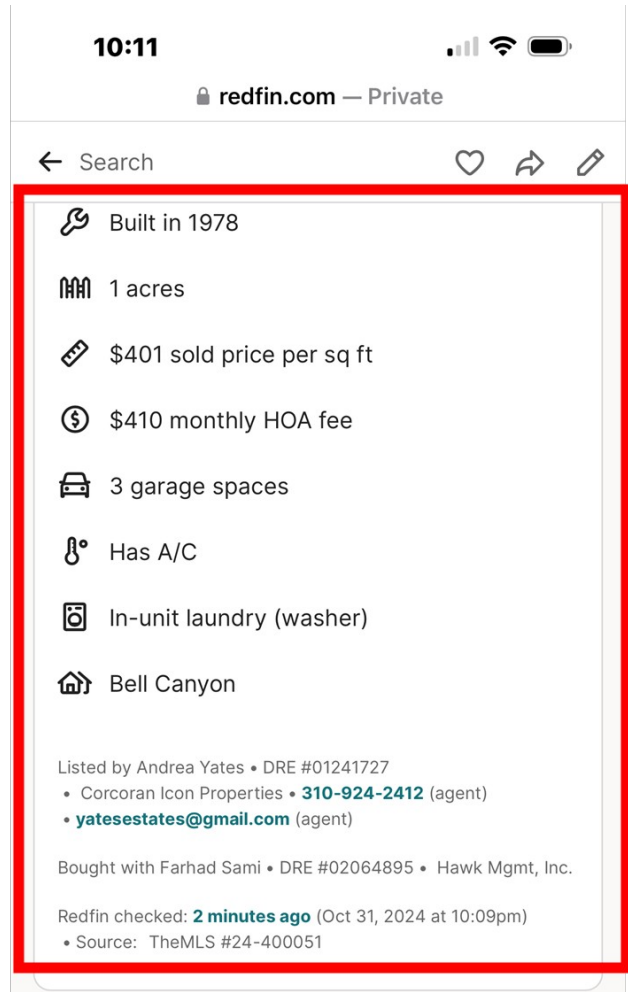
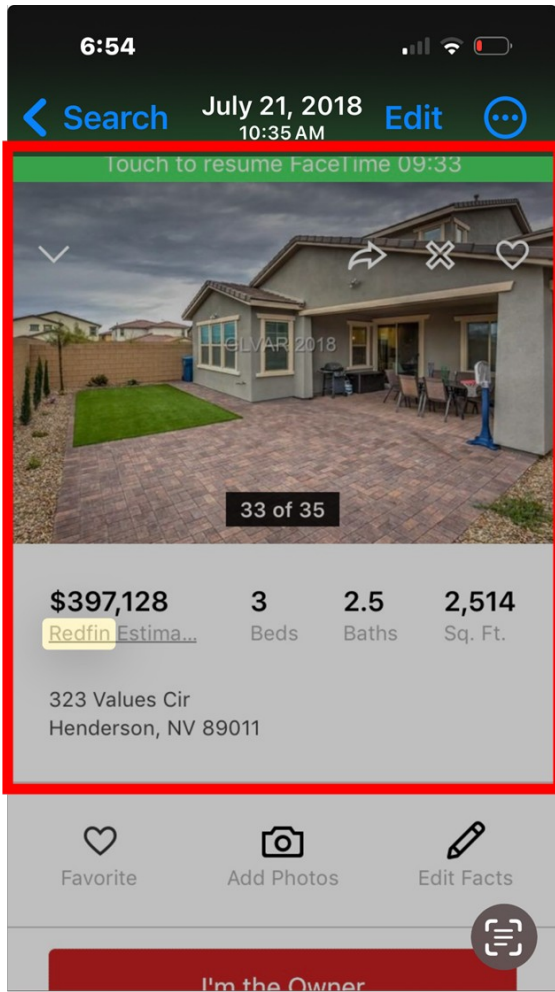
29. Such electronic content filter is used by the Accused Instrumentality to develop multimedia content (e.g., real estate listings and/or various content as discussed above) associated with the user-submitter to be electronically available for viewing on user devices

(e.g., devices such as computers and smart phones incorporating browsers or apps) wherein the identification of the submitter (e.g., a name) is maintained with each selected and retrieved submission within the multimedia content, for example as shown below.

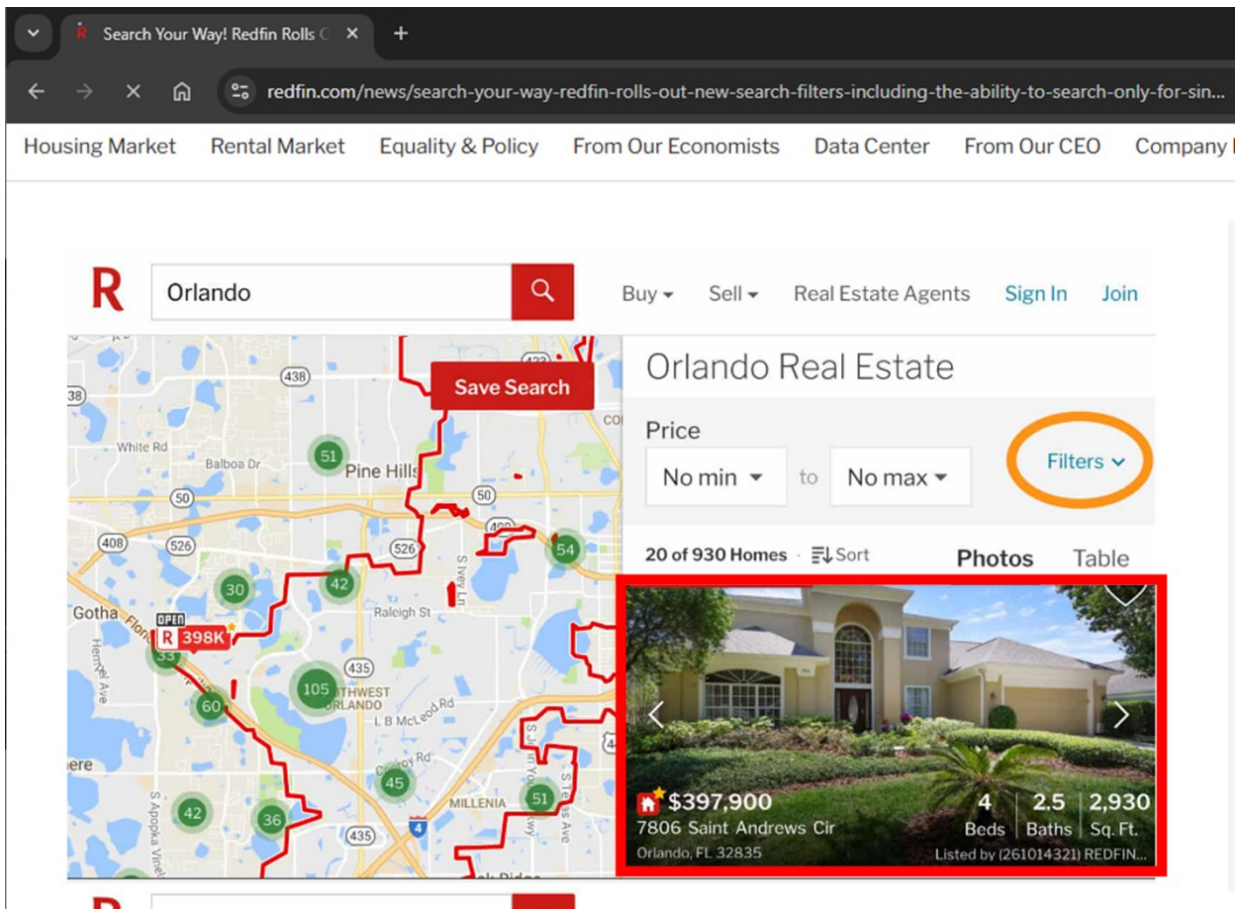


(E.g., <https://www.redfin.com/news/search-your-way-redfin-rolls-out-new-search-filters-including-the-ability-to-search-only-for-single-story-homes/>).

30. The Accused Instrumentality employs an electronic release subsystem operatively coupled to the electronic multimedia creator server subsystem, necessarily having one or more data processing apparatus in order to serve real estate listings with associated photo and textual content to users, configured to make the multimedia content electronically available for viewing on one or more user devices. Redfin uses function-specific subsystems, for example as discussed below.

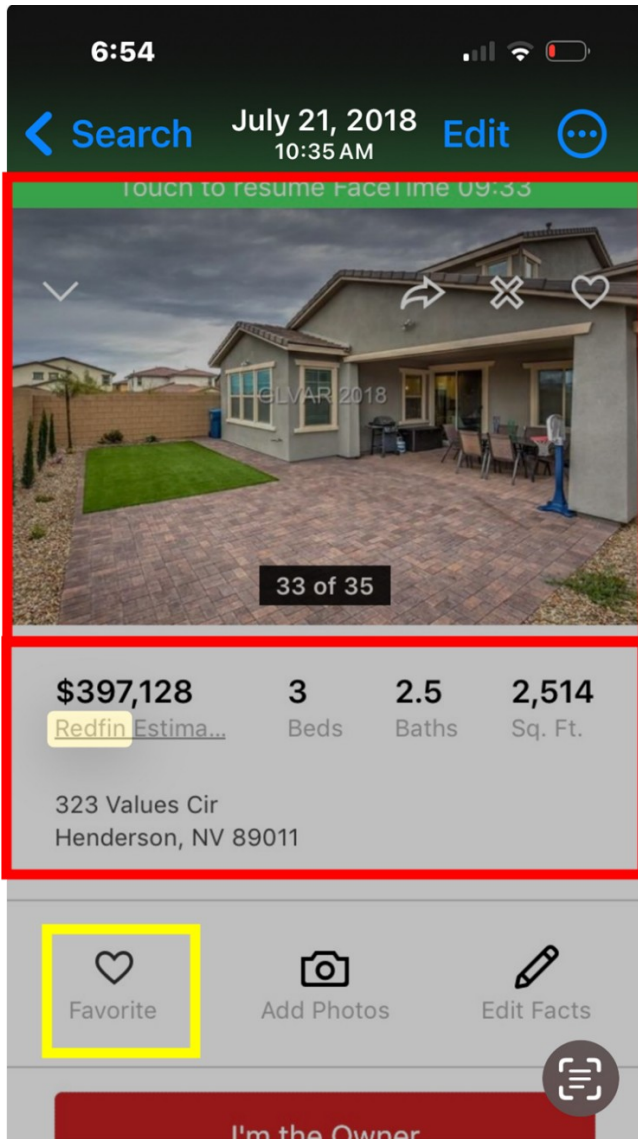


(E.g., <https://www.redfin.com/NV/Henderson/323-Values-Cir-89011/home/109634229> (L); <https://www.redfin.com/CA/Bell-Canyon/1-Horseshoe-Rd-91307/home/4700185> (R)).



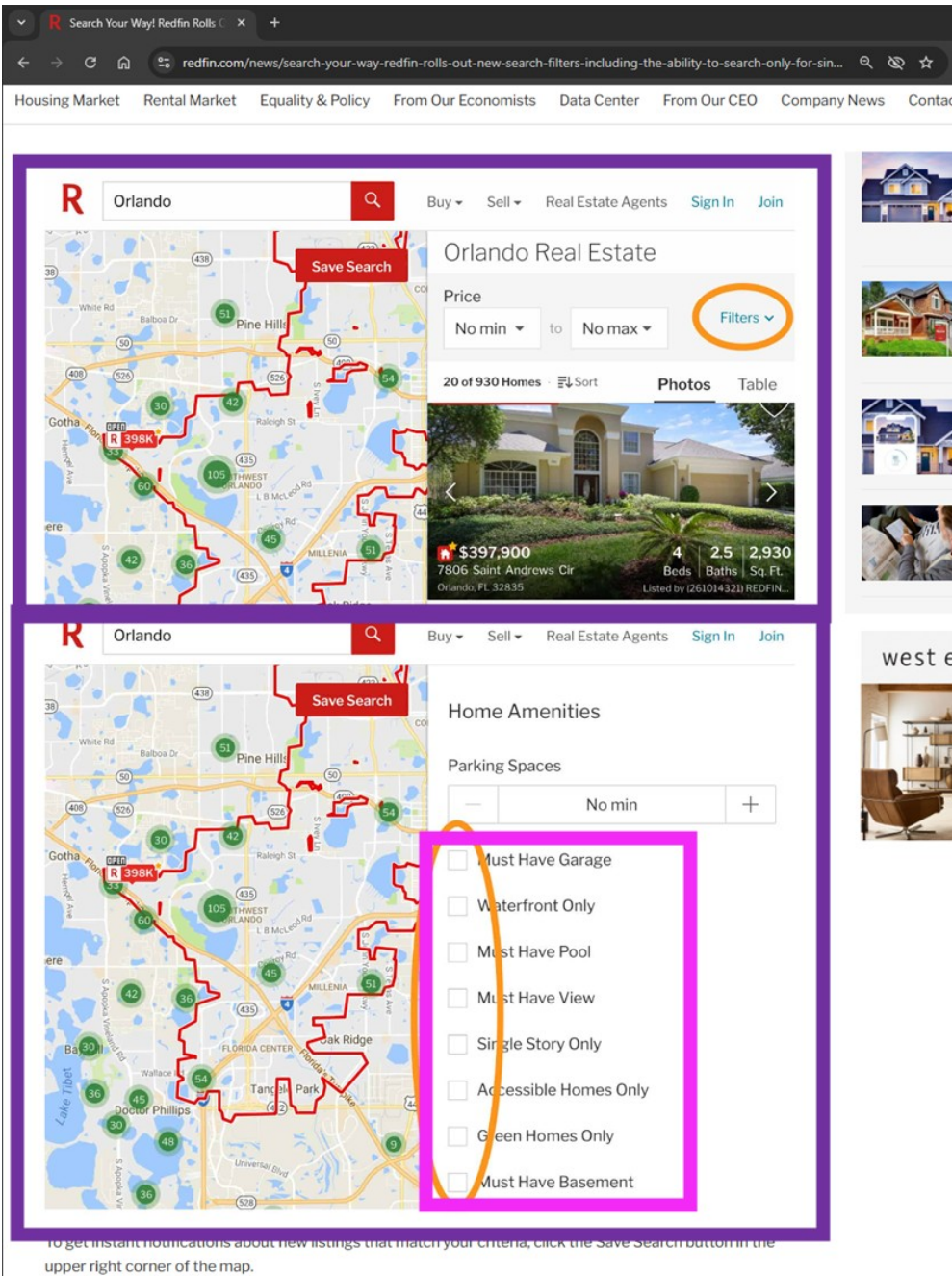
(E.g., <https://www.redfin.com/news/search-your-way-redfin-rolls-out-new-search-filters-including-the-ability-to-search-only-for-single-story-homes/>).

31. The Accused Instrumentality employs an electronic voting subsystem, necessarily having one or more data processing apparatus in order to track voting or electronic rating, configured to enable a user to electronically vote for or rate an electronically available multimedia content (e.g., a real estate listing), e.g., by the user's choices with respect to a selection of a Heart/Favorite button. Redfin uses function-specific subsystems, for example as discussed below.



(E.g., <https://www.redfin.com/NV/Henderson/323-Values-Cir-89011/home/109634229>).

32. As can be shown below, the user selection of a predetermined criteria necessarily narrows the media submissions by the submissions that either match or do not match the criteria selected by the user.



(E.g., <https://www.redfin.com/news/search-your-way-redfin-rolls-out-new-search-filters-including-the-ability-to-search-only-for-single-story-homes/>).

33. Plaintiff has been damaged as a result of Defendant’s infringing conduct. Defendant is thus liable to Plaintiff for damages in an amount that adequately compensates Plaintiff for such Defendant’s infringement of the ‘480 Patent, *i.e.*, in an amount that by law



1 cannot be less than would constitute a reasonable royalty for the use of the patented technology,  
2 together with interest and costs as fixed by this Court under 35 U.S.C. § 284.

3 34. On information and belief, to the extent marking is required, VCA has complied  
4 with all marking requirements.  
5

6 **V. COUNT II**  
7 **(PATENT INFRINGEMENT OF UNITED STATES PATENT NO. 9,477,665)**

8 35. Plaintiff incorporates the above paragraphs herein by reference.

9 36. On October 25, 2016, United States Patent No. 9,477,665 (“the ‘665 Patent”)  
10 was duly and legally issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The ‘665 Patent  
11 is titled “Revenue-Generating Electronic Multi-Media Exchange and Process of Operating  
12 Same.” A true and correct copy of the ‘665 Patent is attached hereto as Exhibit B and  
13 incorporated herein by reference.

14 37. VCA is the assignee of all right, title, and interest in the ‘665 Patent, including  
15 all rights to enforce and prosecute actions for infringement and to collect damages for all  
16 relevant times against infringers of the ‘665 Patent. Accordingly, VCA possesses the exclusive  
17 right and standing to prosecute the present action for infringement of the ‘665 Patent by  
18 Defendant.  
19

20 38. The application leading to the ‘665 patent was filed November 16, 2012, which  
21 was a continuation of application no. 11/978,781, which issued as United States Patent No.  
22 8,340,994, which was a continuation of application no. 09/565,438 which issued as United  
23 States Patent No. 7,308,413. (Ex. B at cover). The ‘665 patent was first assigned to Virtual  
24 Creative Artists, LLC. (*Id.*).  
25

26 39. The ‘665 Patent shares the identical specification as the ‘480 patent and  
27 therefore VCA incorporates the background and discussion of the invention in Paragraphs 11-  
28

1 18. Furthermore claim 1 involves a system for generating multimedia content. The claim  
2 requires, among other things, electronically generating a multimedia file from the retrieved  
3 electronic media Submissions in accordance with a selected digital format, wherein the  
4 identification of the submitter is maintained with each retrieved submission within the  
5 multimedia file. The claim requires electronically transmitting the multimedia file to a plurality  
6 of publicly accessible webservers to be electronically available for viewing on one or more user  
7 devices over a public network via a web-browser and. This allows electronically transmit data  
8 indicating votes or rating of multimedia content in a much quicker and easier fashion based on  
9 specific user criteria. There is nothing abstract about this very particular, unconventional, and  
10 non-routine system for the generation of multimedia content as specifically claimed and there is  
11 no risk of preempting creating and distribution contention generally, or even within the context  
12 of the Internet.  
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15 40. The invention is a highly technical electronic process that cannot be achieved  
16 with the human mind and is instead rooted in computer technology, including the steps of:

- 17 • “electronically retrieving a plurality of electronic media submissions,”
- 18 • “electronically generating a multimedia file from the retrieved electronic  
19 media submissions in accordance with a selected digital format,”
- 20 • “electronically transmitting the multimedia file to a plurality of publicly  
21 accessible webservers to be electronically available for viewing on one or  
22 more user devices over a public network via a web-browser,” and
- 23 • “providing a web-based graphical user interface that enables a user to  
24 electronically transmit data indicating a vote or rating for an electronically  
25 available multimedia content or an electronic media Submission within a  
26 respective electronically available multimedia content.”

27 41. Each of these subsystems are configured in a very specific (and not generi0,  
28 unconventional and non-routine manner to offer the novel and non-obvious approach claimed  
invention. For example, claim 1 requires an “electronic media submissions database,” which is

1 a subsystem that receives media submissions from Internet users. This is not a generic database  
2 but rather a scalable database that must be able to receive, store, and manage multiple petabytes  
3 of multimedia data received from users all over the world. This is one of the many specialized  
4 databased required in the claim. In fact, the specification discloses the use of a sophisticated  
5 database management system known in the art at the time that was capable of handling data at  
6 this level, Oracle7. This type of database management system cannot operate on a generic  
7 computing system but rather requires specialized hardware and software.

9 42. The claim also provides details to explain how each step operates. For example,  
10 the claim requires “electronically retrieving a plurality of electronic media submissions from an  
11 electronic media submissions database using an electronic content filter located on one or more  
12 data processing apparatus.” Further, “the electronic media submissions database” in this step is  
13 further required to “store[] [1] data identifying the submitter and [2] data indicating content for  
14 each electronic media submission.” The step further requires and “electronic content filter.”  
15 The “filter” also includes a very specific algorithm of “being based at least in part on at least  
16 one of the one or more user attributes.”

18 43. The claims also require an “electronically generating a multimedia file from the  
19 retrieved electronic media submissions in accordance with a selected digital format.”  
20 Manipulation of multimedia data in accordance with a selected digital format is far from  
21 generic and was not routine or conventional at the time of the invention. Further, this step  
22 requires that the “electronic media submissions database” “stores data identifying the  
23 submitter” and the “the identification of the submitter is maintained with each retrieved  
24 submission within the multimedia file.”

26 44. The claims also require “providing a web-based graphical user interface that  
27 enables a user to electronically transmit data indicating a vote or rating for an electronically  
28

1 available multimedia content or an electronic media Submission within a respective  
2 electronically available multimedia content,” which is a well-defined, specific, and  
3 unconventional feature. By including this additional voting/rating feature, the claims avoid any  
4 risk of preempting the creation and distribution of content.  
5

6 45. The also has inventive concepts. For example, the claim requires that he  
7 filtering tool be at a specific location, remote from the end-users, with customizable filtering  
8 features specific to each end user. The "electronic content filter" is located at the server,  
9 remote from the end user, and customizable based on user attributes. The “electron voting”  
10 step at the time of the invention was also novel, inventive, and added sufficient inventive  
11 contributions to avoid a risk of preempting the creation and distribution of media content. It is  
12 clearly possible to create and distribute media content without every having to include a  
13 “voting” subsystem on what components should be included in such media content.  
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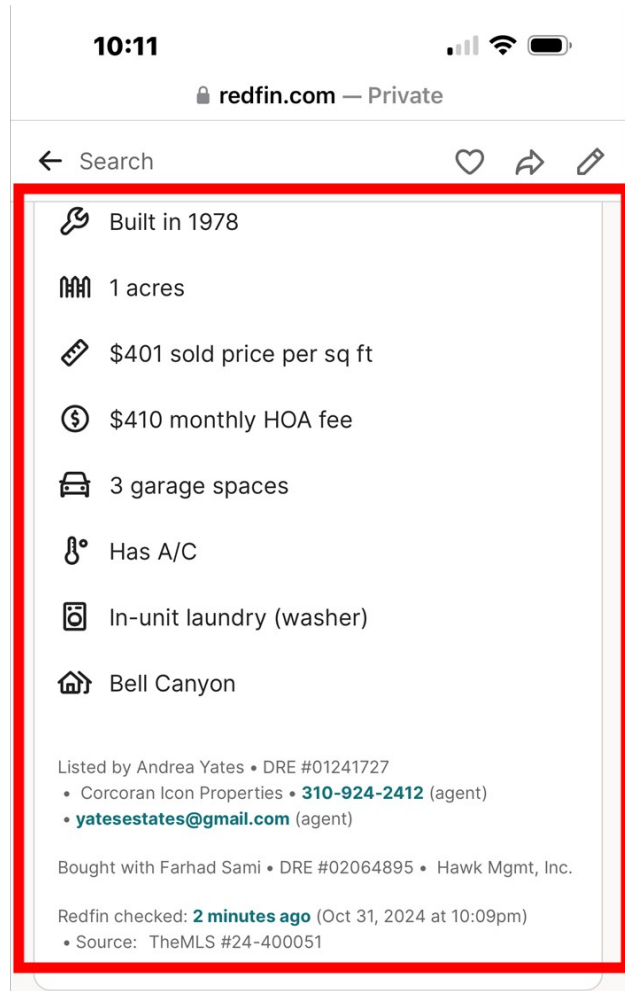
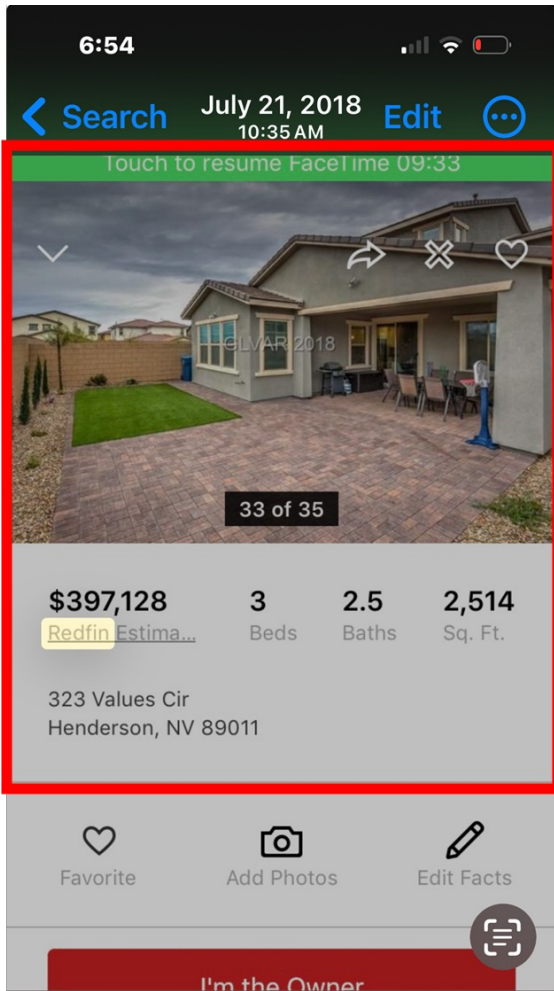
15 46. These arguments overcame a patent eligibility rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101 of  
16 the claim at issue during the prosecution of the ‘665 patent.

17 47. **Direct Infringement.** Upon information and belief, Defendant has been directly  
18 infringing claims 1 and 3 of the ‘665 Patent in Washington, and elsewhere in the United States,  
19 by employing a computer-based system using <https://www.redfin.com/> (“Accused  
20 Instrumentality”) (e.g., <https://www.redfin.com/>).

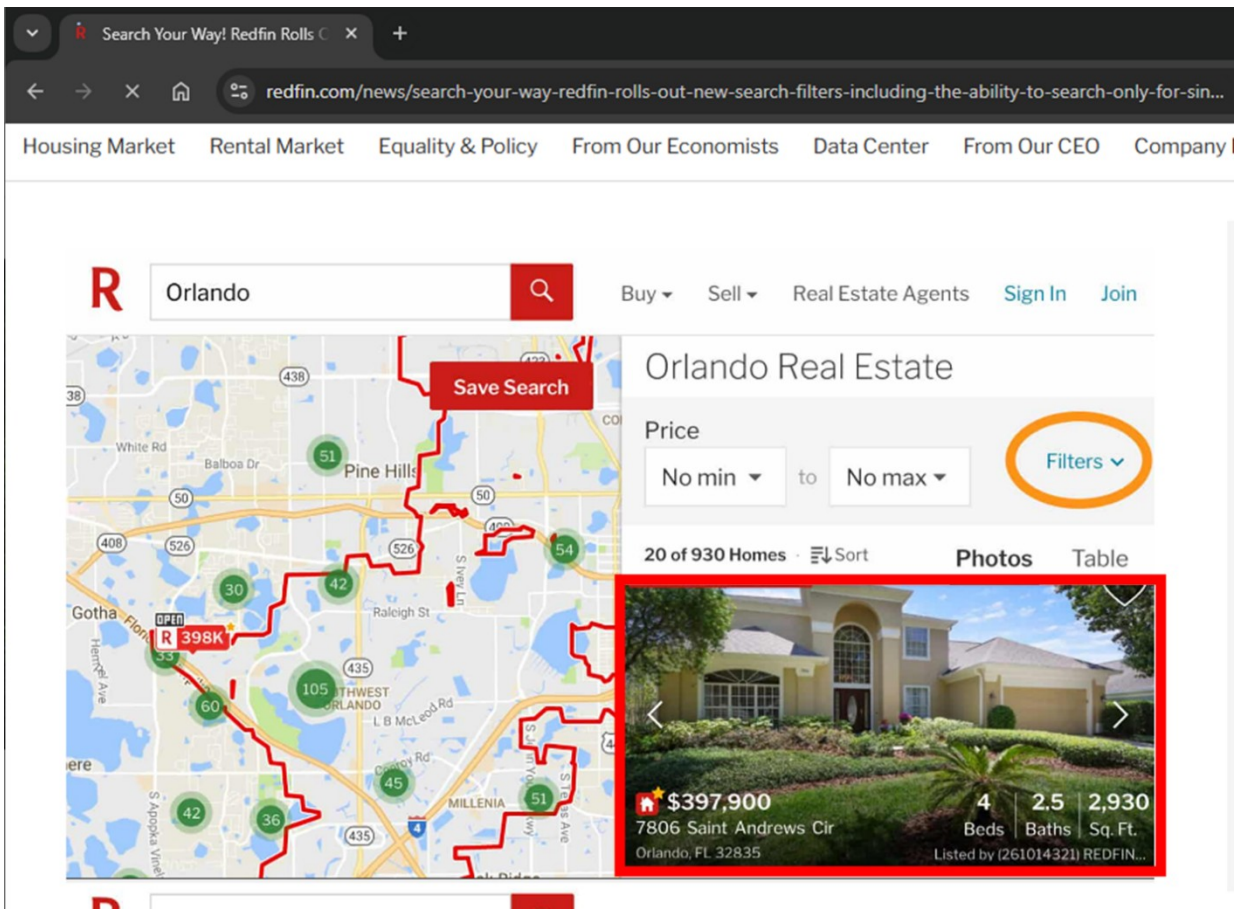
21  
22 48. Redfin uses a computer-based system for its Accused Instrumentality, to enable  
23 user-submitters to post electronic submissions in the form of real estate listings. The real estate  
24 listings contain multimedia content including textual content and image content as well as  
25 hyperlinks to other pages internal or external to Redfin.com. The real estate listings and  
26 associated multimedia content may be shown to other users based on, *inter alia*, user attributes.  
27 The Accused Instrumentality employs an electronic release subsystem operatively coupled to  
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1 the electronic multimedia creator server subsystem, necessarily having one or more data  
2 processing apparatus in order to serve real estate listings with associated textual content and  
3 image content to users, configured to make the multimedia content electronically available for  
4 viewing on one or more user devices. For example, as shown below, multimedia content  
5 associated with the real estate listing is provided on various user devices (*e.g.*, computers or  
6 other devices with a web browser or app) in response to a user logging in to the Accused  
7 Instrumentality. Redfin, during the relevant time period, took advantage of multiple cloud  
8 server providers for the Accused Instrumentality, as discussed above, as well as scalability  
9 within its cloud server providers, employing separate server subsystems for all its meaningfully  
10 different functions. Redfin uses, and has used during the relevant time period, numerous  
11 different networks and providers for, *inter alia*, content management systems, web servers, web  
12 hosting, data centers, proxy certificates, SSL certificates, traffic analysis, advertising, and  
13 tagging, thereby using separate server subsystems for all its meaningfully different functions,  
14 such as those indicated below.  
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(E.g., <https://www.redfin.com/NV/Henderson/323-Values-Cir-89011/home/109634229> (L);  
<https://www.redfin.com/CA/Bell-Canyon/1-Horseshoe-Rd-91307/home/4700185> (R)).



(E.g., <https://www.redfin.com/news/search-your-way-redfin-rolls-out-new-search-filters-including-the-ability-to-search-only-for-single-story-homes/>).

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying [w3techs.com/sites/info/Redfin.com](https://w3techs.com/sites/info/Redfin.com). The page content includes:

- Header:** W<sup>3</sup>Techs logo, navigation menu (Home, Technologies, Reports, API, Sites, Quality, Users, Blog, Forum, FAQ, Search), and featured products like Themeisle and DesignBombs.
- Site Info - Redfin.com:**
  - Overview:** Overview of web technologies used by Redfin.com.
  - Website Background:**

Description on Homepage	Redfin   Real Estate & Homes for Sale, Rentals, Mortgages & Agents Search national real estate and rental listings. Find the latest apartments for rent and homes for sale near you. Tour homes and make offers with the help of local Redfin real estate agents.
Popularity rank	Top 1k among all websites
  - Content Management Systems:**
    - WordPress:** used on inner pages. WordPress is an open source blog publishing and content management system, based on PHP and MySQL.
    - Elementor:** used on inner pages. Elementor is a WordPress-based website builder.
    - Zendesk:** used on a subdomain. Zendesk provides hosted customer service software.
  - Server-side Programming Languages:**
    - PHP:** used on inner pages. PHP is a scripting language for creating websites.
    - Ruby:** used on a subdomain. Ruby is a general-purpose object-oriented language originally developed by Yukihiro "Matz" Matsumoto in Japan.
  - Client-side Programming Language:**
    - JavaScript:** JavaScript is a lightweight, object-oriented, cross-platform scripting language, often used within web pages.
  - JavaScript Library:**
    - jQuery 3.7.1:** 0% of sites use a newer version, used on inner pages. jQuery is a JavaScript library that simplifies HTML document traversing, event handling, animating and Ajax interaction. Originally developed by John Resig.
  - Web Servers:**
    - Envoy:** Envoy Proxy is a proxy server designed for large service-oriented architectures.
    - Nginx:** used on inner pages. Nginx (pronounced as "engine X") is a lightweight open source web server developed by Igor Sysoev.
    - Cloudflare Server:** used on a subdomain. Cloudflare Server is a web server developed by Cloudflare.
  - Operating System:**
    - Linux:** used on inner pages. Linux is a Unix-like open source operating system originally developed by Linus Torvalds.

(E.g., <https://w3techs.com/sites/info/Redfin.com>).



1           49. The Accused Instrumentality electronically retrieves a plurality of electronic  
2 media submissions from an electronic media submissions database on a non-transitory medium,  
3 for example multimedia content pertaining to posting a real estate listing on the Accused  
4 Instrumentality. Individual user-submitters can sign up and maintain a number of real estate  
5 listings, which are stored on a user database. Such user database is stored in memory available  
6 through the Accused Instrumentality, for example as discussed above. User attributes selected  
7 by users pertaining to the real estate listings, contained on the user database, may include *e.g.*,  
8 year built, acreage, price per square foot, garage spaces, and features such as A/C units and in-  
9 unit laundry and the like, as shown for example in the example below. The Accused  
10 Instrumentality employs an electronic multimedia creator server subsystem operatively coupled  
11 to the electronic media submissions server subsystem, necessarily having one or more data  
12 processing apparatus in order to manage content, and an electronic creator multimedia database  
13 stored on a non-transitory medium, configured to select and retrieve a plurality of electronic  
14 media submissions (*e.g.*, real estate listings with associated photo content and textual content)  
15 from the electronic media submissions database using an electronic content filter located on the  
16 electronic multimedia creator server. As can be seen below, such electronic content filter as is  
17 used by Redfin is based at least in part on at least one of the one or more user attributes selected  
18 by the user (*e.g.*, listing price, amenities, garage space and the like), which in turn affect which  
19 electronic media submissions, and associated media, appear to the user, as shown and discussed  
20 for example below. Redfin uses function-specific subsystems, for example as discussed below.  
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redfin.com — Private

← Search



Built in 1978

1 acres

\$401 sold price per sq ft

\$410 monthly HOA fee

3 garage spaces

Has A/C

In-unit laundry (washer)

Bell Canyon

Listed by Andrea Yates • DRE #01241727

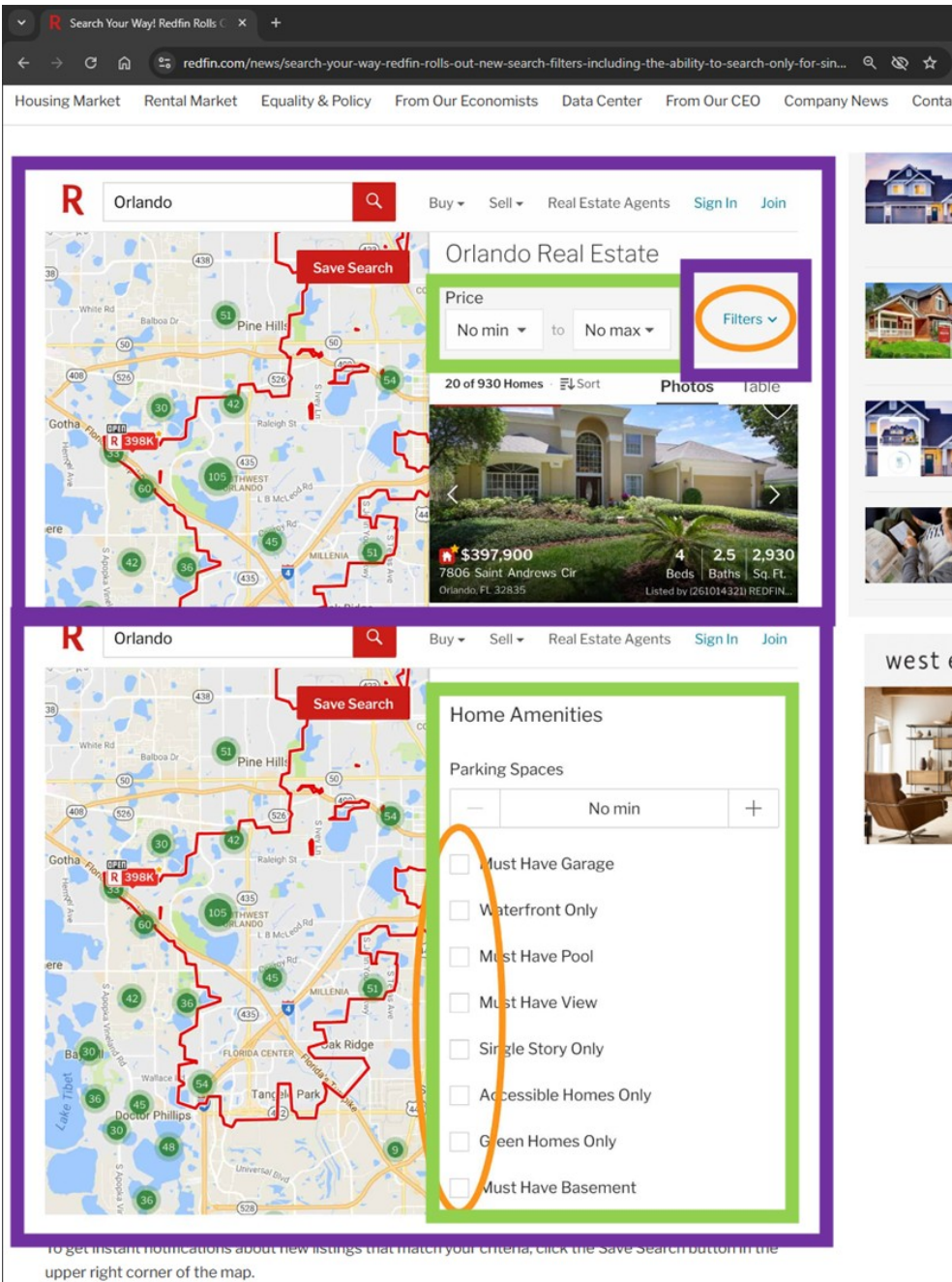
- Corcoran Icon Properties • **310-924-2412** (agent)
- **yatesestates@gmail.com** (agent)

Bought with Farhad Sami • DRE #02064895 • Hawk Mgmt, Inc.

Redfin checked: **2 minutes ago** (Oct 31, 2024 at 10:09pm)

- Source: TheMLS #24-400051

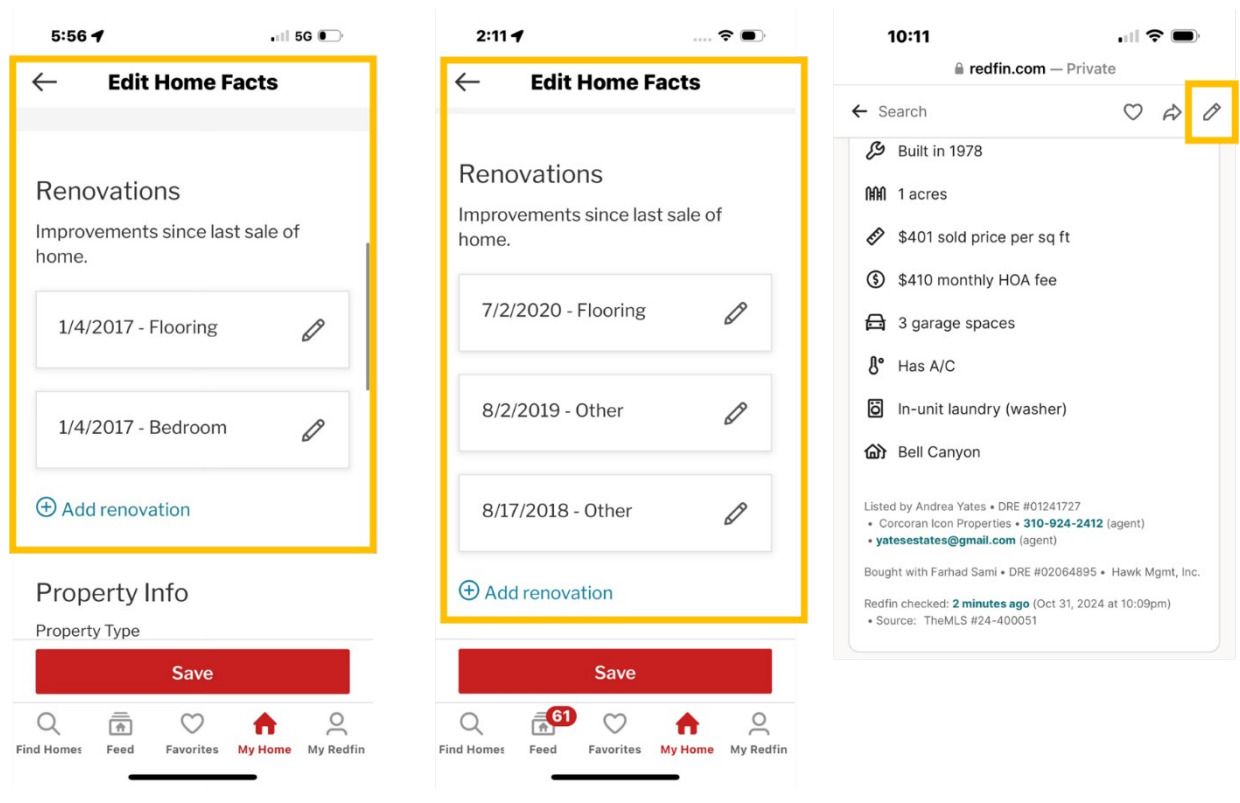
(E.g., <https://www.redfin.com/CA/Bell-Canyon/1-Horseshoe-Rd-91307/home/4700185>).



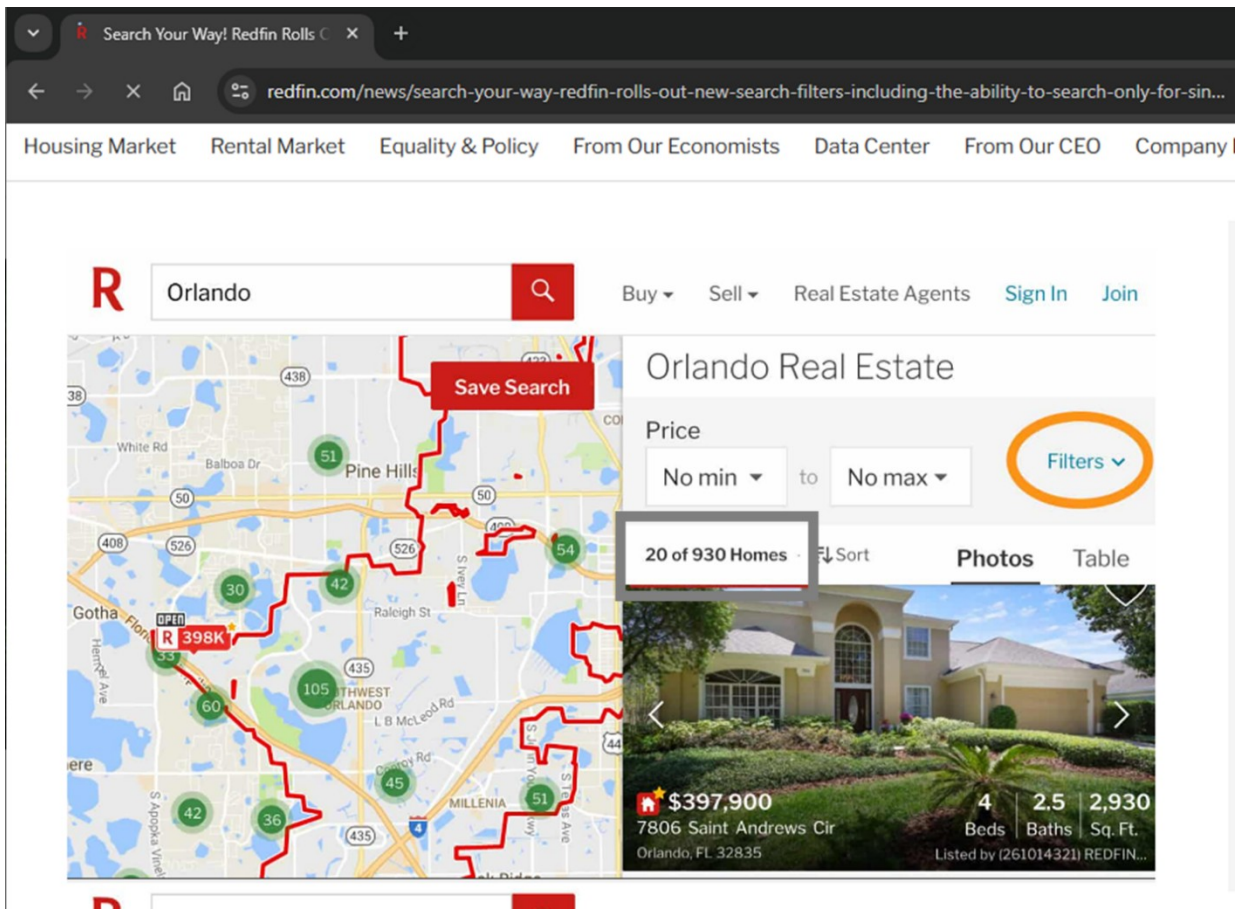
(E.g., <https://www.redfin.com/news/search-your-way-redfin-rolls-out-new-search-filters-including-the-ability-to-search-only-for-single-story-homes/>).

50. The Accused Instrumentality includes an electronic media submissions server subsystem, having one or more data processing apparatus and an electronic media submissions database stored on a non-transitory medium in order to process and store received submissions

1 from a plurality of user-submitters, for example content pertaining to their respective electronic  
 2 media submission (e.g., real estate listing) on the Accused Instrumentality, as well as  
 3 multimedia content (e.g., photo and/or textual content) to be displayed on a main page or within  
 4 a real estate listing, as discussed and shown for example in connection with the above  
 5 discussion. Individual users may create a profile and submit content pertaining to their user  
 6 profile and/or Real estate listing. On information and belief, the submissions are provided to the  
 7 Accused Instrumentality via a submissions electronic interface, e.g., a web-based content  
 8 portal, accessible for example by logging in and selecting an option to upload such content or  
 9 import content, configured to receive such electronic media, from a plurality of submitters  
 10 (e.g., real estate agents or homeowners who claim their home) over a public network (e.g., the  
 11 Internet) and stored, via an uploading process, in said electronic media Listings database for  
 12 use in distribution to other users of the Accused Instrumentality.  
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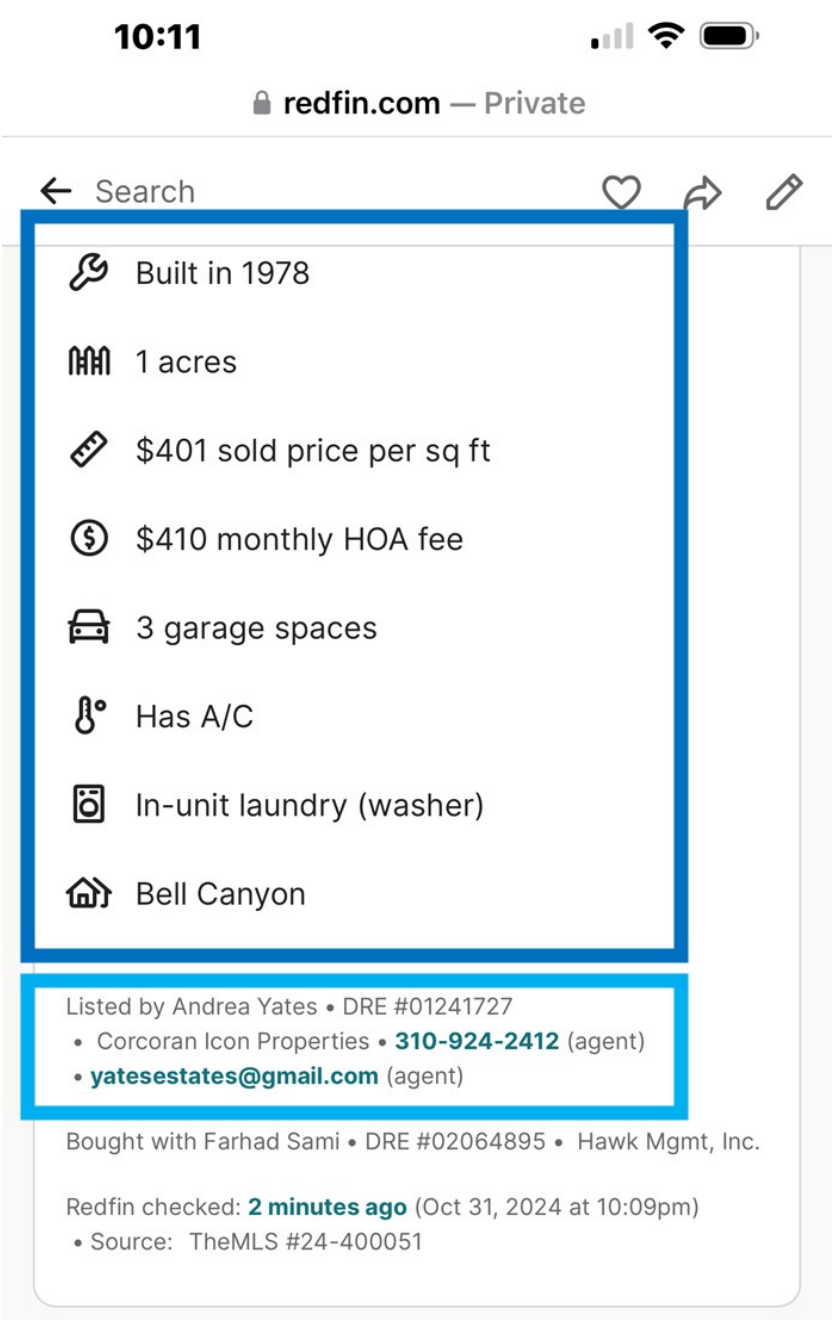
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28 (E.g., <https://www.redfin.com/CA/Bell-Canyon/1-Horseshoe-Rd-91307/home/4700185>).



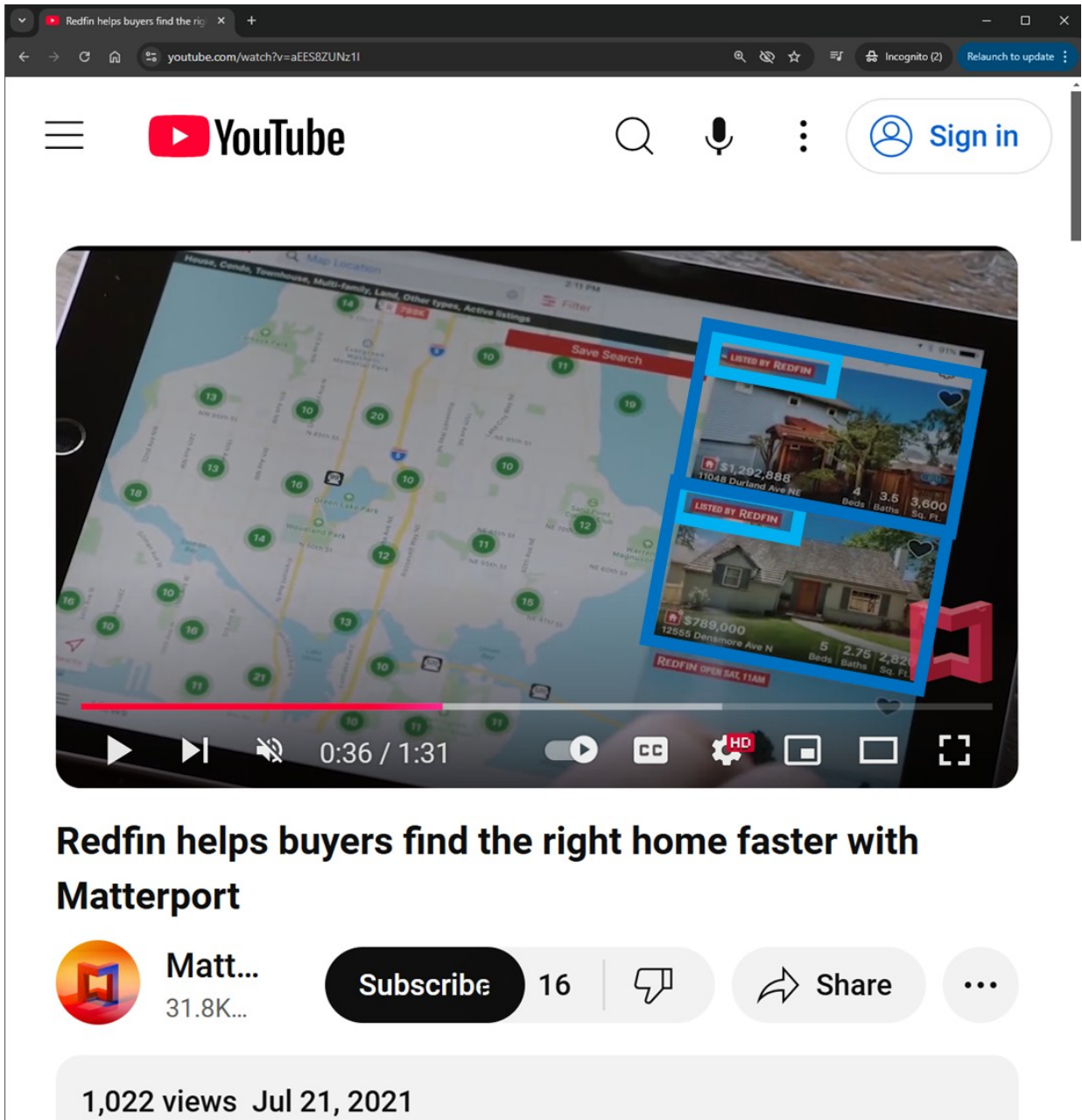
(E.g., <https://www.redfin.com/news/search-your-way-redfin-rolls-out-new-search-filters-including-the-ability-to-search-only-for-single-story-homes/>).

51. The electronic media submissions database of the Accused Instrumentality used by Redfin which stores the submissions further stores data identifying the submitter and data indicating content for each electronic media submission (e.g., a real estate listing). As shown below, data identifying the user-submitter includes e.g., a name. Data indicating content for each electronic media submission includes photo and/or textual content pertaining to the real estate listing.

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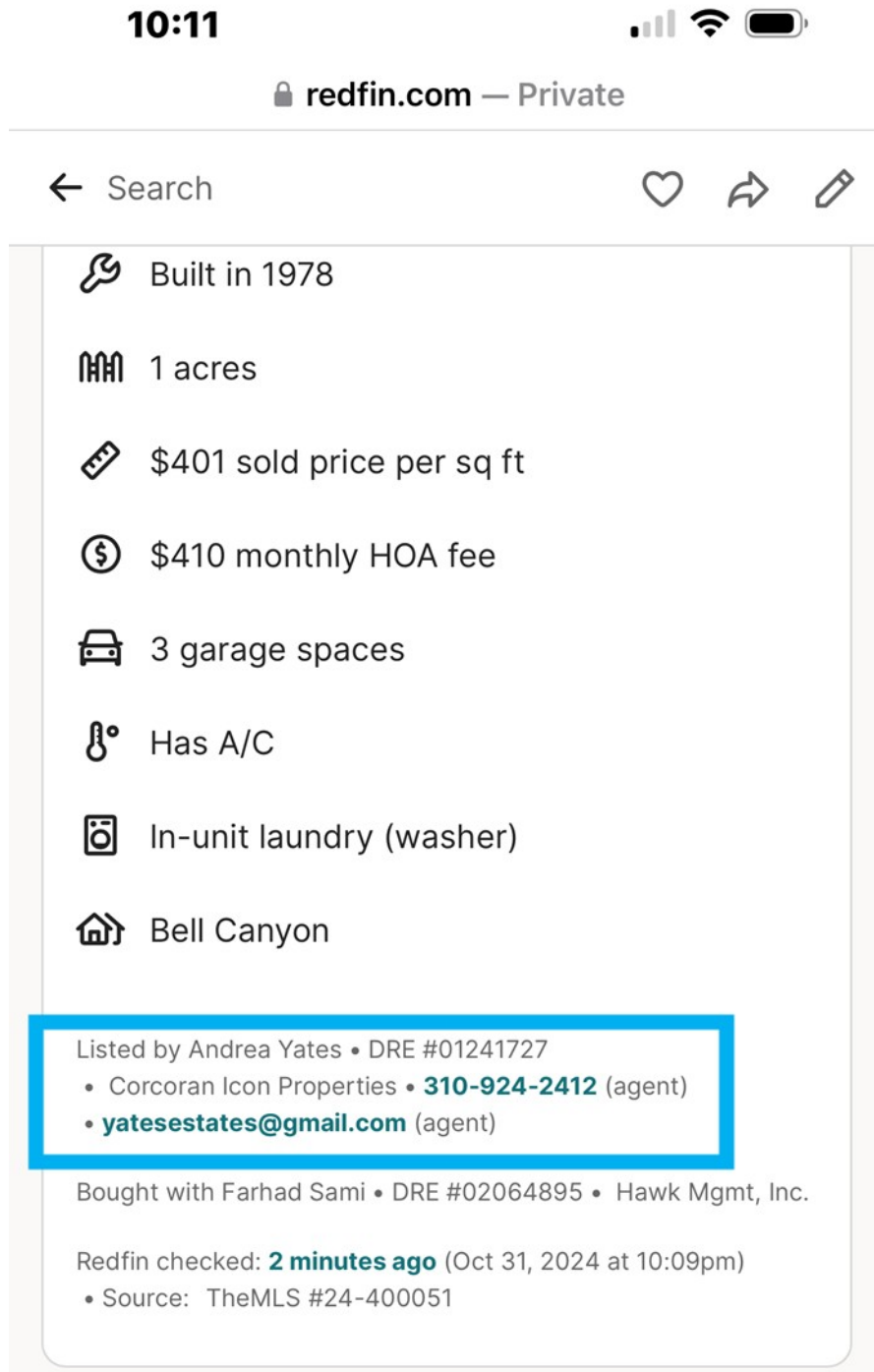
(E.g., <https://www.redfin.com/CA/Bell-Canyon/1-Horseshoe-Rd-91307/home/4700185>).



(E.g., <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEES8ZUNz11>).

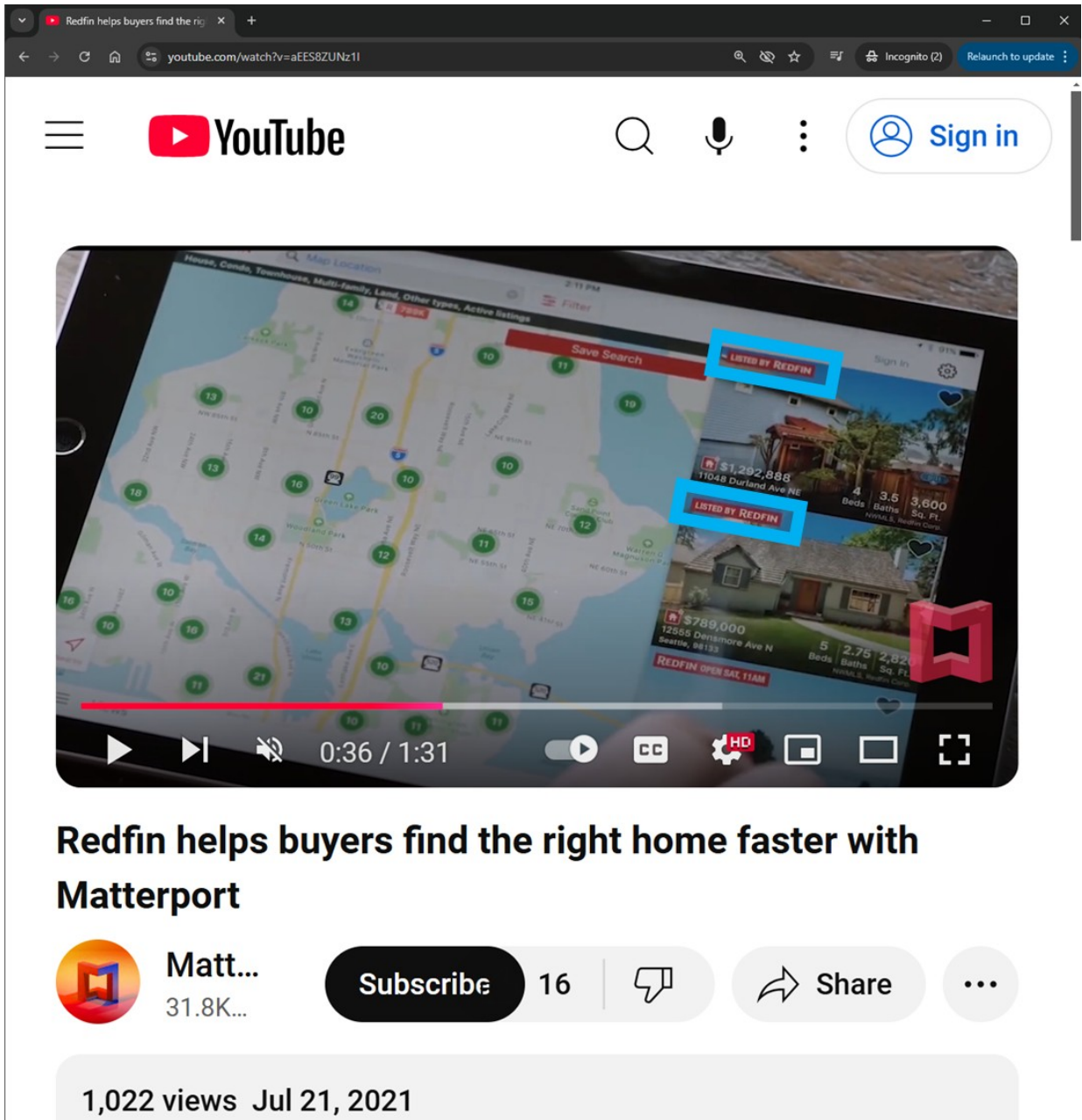
52. The Accused Instrumentality electronically generates multimedia files from the retrieved electronic media submissions, in accordance with a selected digital format (e.g., a digital format compatible with a selected digital format compatible with the particular device such as a computer or smart phone incorporating one or more browsers or apps), and the identification of the submitter is maintained with each retrieved submission within the

1 multimedia file. As shown below, data identifying the user-submitter includes *e.g.*, a name  
2 identifying the user.



26 (*E.g.*, <https://www.redfin.com/CA/Bell-Canyon/1-Horseshoe-Rd-91307/home/4700185>).

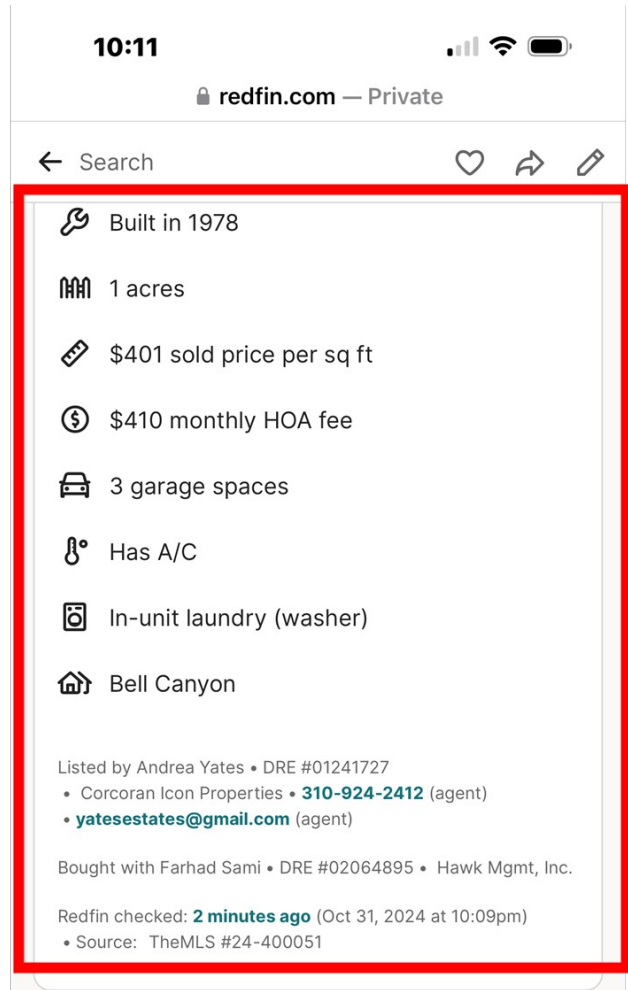
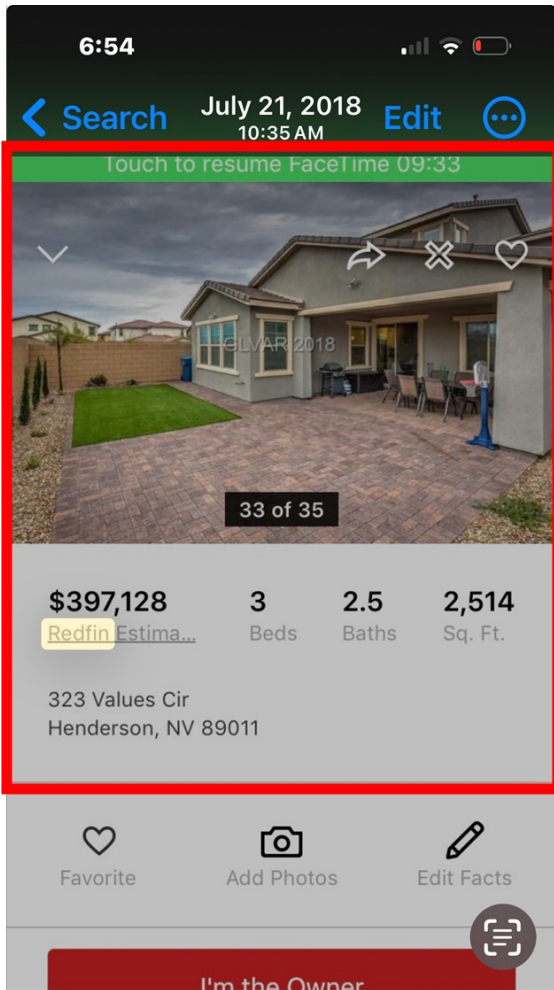




(E.g., <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEES8ZUNz11>).

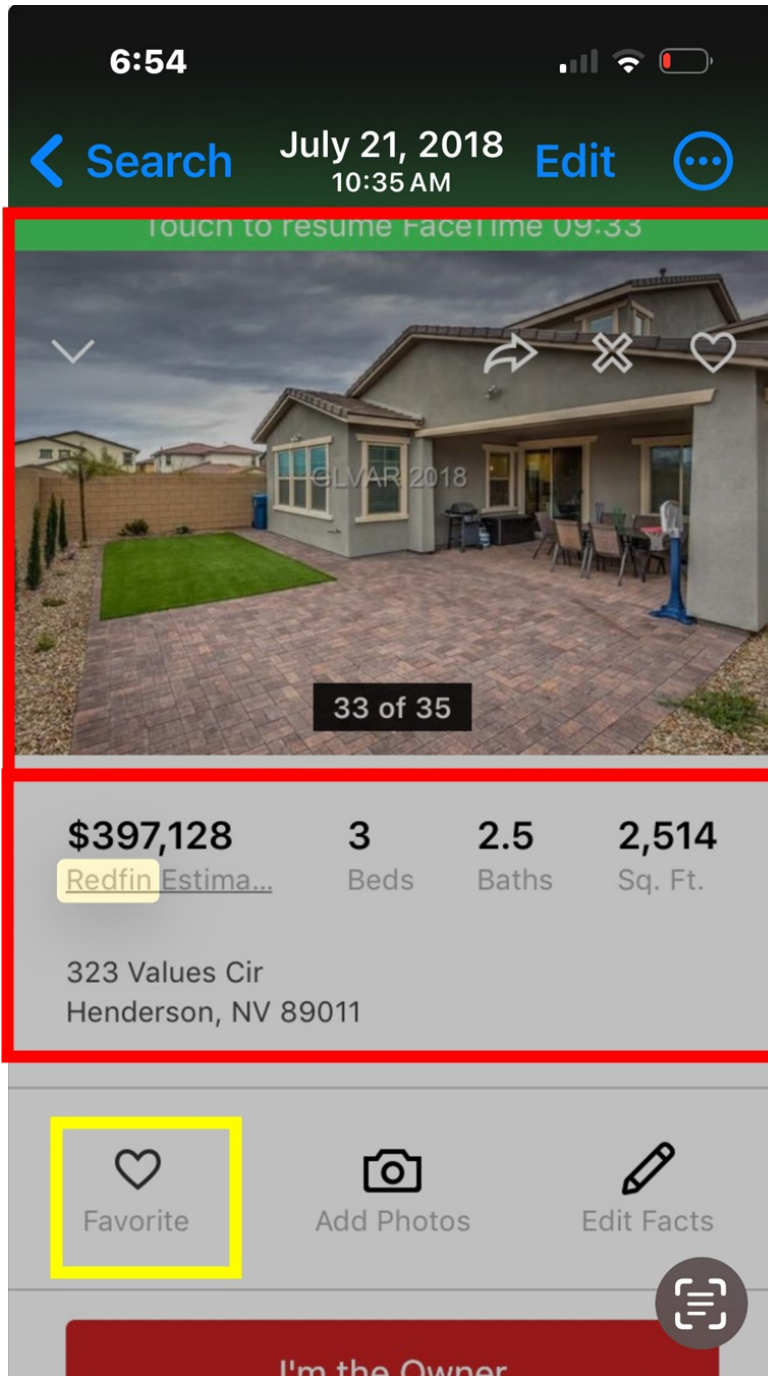
53. The Accused Instrumentality employs an electronic release subsystem operatively coupled to the electronic multimedia creator server subsystem, necessarily having one or more data processing apparatus in order to serve real estate listings with associated photo, and textual content to users, configured to make the multimedia content electronically

1 available for viewing on one or more user devices. Redfin uses function-specific subsystems,  
 2 for example as discussed below.



(E.g., <https://www.redfin.com/NV/Henderson/323-Values-Cir-89011/home/109634229> (L);  
<https://www.redfin.com/CA/Bell-Canyon/1-Horseshoe-Rd-91307/home/4700185> (R)).

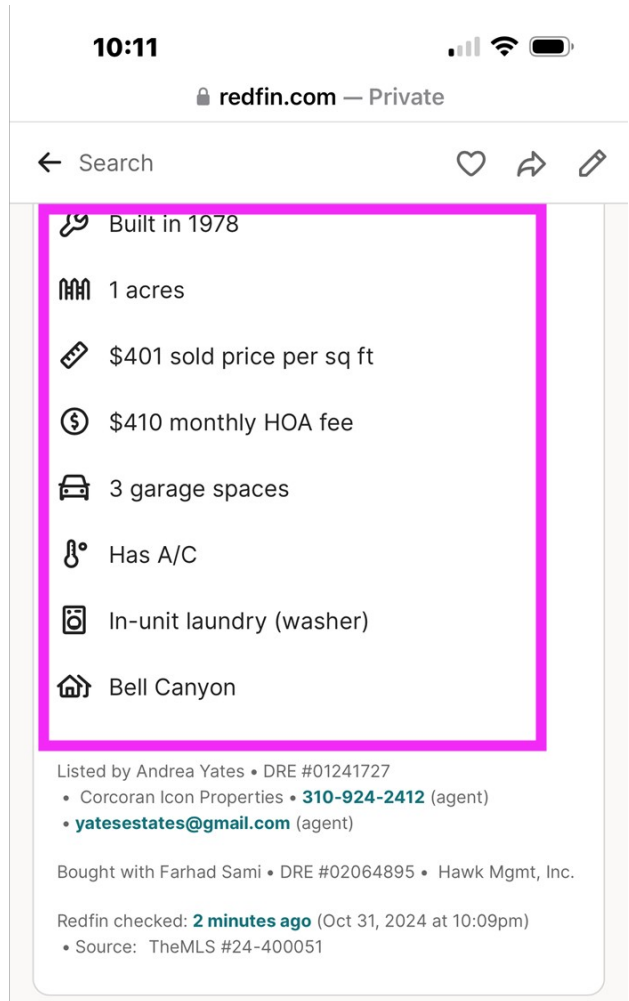
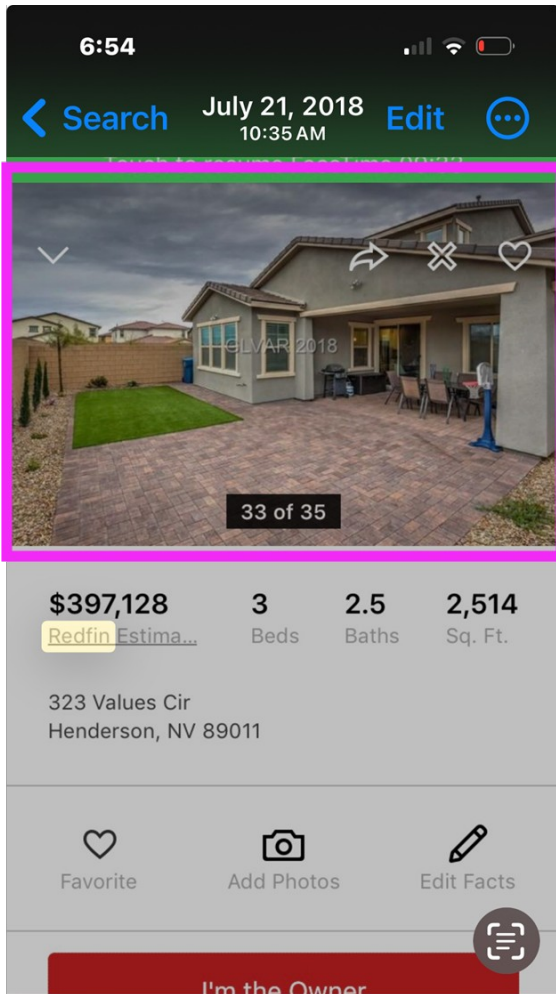
54. The Accused Instrumentality employs an electronic voting subsystem, necessarily having one or more data processing apparatus in order to track voting or electronic rating, configured to enable a user to electronically vote for or rate an electronically available multimedia content (e.g., a real estate listing), e.g., by the user's choices with respect to a selection of a Heart/Favorite button. Redfin uses function-specific subsystems, for example as discussed below.



(E.g. <https://www.redfin.com/NV/Henderson/323-Values-Cir-89011/home/109634229>).

55. The Accused Instrumentality enables the electronic media submission to include both image and text associated with the submission. As can be shown below, the images pertain

1 to photographs of the real estate listing and text may include an address or a description  
 2 associated with the real estate listing as inputted by the user-submitter.



19 (E.g., <https://www.redfin.com/NV/Henderson/323-Values-Cir-89011/home/109634229> (L);  
 20 <https://www.redfin.com/CA/Bell-Canyon/1-Horseshoe-Rd-91307/home/4700185> (R)).

21  
 22 56. Plaintiff has been damaged as a result of Defendant’s infringing conduct.  
 23 Defendant is thus liable to Plaintiff for damages in an amount that adequately compensates  
 24 Plaintiff for such Defendant’s infringement of the ‘665 Patent, *i.e.*, in an amount that by law  
 25 cannot be less than would constitute a reasonable royalty for the use of the patented technology,  
 26 together with interest and costs as fixed by this Court under 35 U.S.C. § 284.  
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1 57. On information and belief, to the extent marking is required, VCA has complied  
2 with all marking requirements.

3 **VI. JURY DEMAND**

4 Plaintiff, under Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, requests a trial by jury  
5 of any issues so triable by right.

6 **VII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

7 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court find in its favor and against  
8 Defendant, and that the Court grant Plaintiff the following relief:

- 9
- 10 a. Judgment that one or more claims of United States Patent No. 9,501,480 have  
11 been infringed, either literally and/or under the doctrine of equivalents, by  
12 Defendant;
- 13 b. Judgment that one or more claims of United States Patent No. 9,477,665 have  
14 been infringed, either literally and/or under the doctrine of equivalents, by  
15 Defendant;
- 16 c. Judgment that Defendant account for and pay to Plaintiff all damages to and  
17 costs incurred by Plaintiff because of Defendant's infringing activities and other  
18 conduct complained of herein, and an accounting of all infringements and  
19 damages not presented at trial;
- 20 d. That Plaintiff be granted pre-judgment and post-judgment interest on the  
21 damages caused by Defendant's infringing activities and other conduct  
22 complained of herein; and
- 23 e. That Plaintiff be granted such other and further relief as the Court may deem just  
24 and proper under the circumstances.

25 January 22, 2025

Respectfully Submitted,

26 By /s/Philip P. Mann  
27 Philip P. Mann, WSBA No: 28860  
28 MANN LAW GROUP PLLC  
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Bainbridge Island, Wa 98110  
(206) 436-0900

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Attorneys for Plaintiff  
Virtual Creative Artists, LLC

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that counsel of record who are deemed to have consented to electronic service are being served on January 22, 2025, with a copy of this document via the Court's CM/ECF system pursuant to Local Rule LCR 5(b).

/s/Philip P. Mann  
Philip P. Mann