IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

VIRTUAL CREATIVE ARTISTS, LLC,

Plaintiff,

C.A. No. 1:25-cv-00197

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

COSTAR REALTY INFORMATION, INC.,

v.

PATENT CASE

Defendant.

ORIGINAL COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT

Plaintiff Virtual Creative Artists, LLC files this Original Complaint for Patent Infringement against CoStar Realty Information, Inc. and would respectfully show the Court as follows:

I. <u>THE PARTIES</u>

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

2. On information and belief, Defendant CoStar Realty Information, Inc. ("CoStar" or "Defendant") is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Delaware. Defendant has its principal place of business at 501 S 5th Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Defendant has a registered agent Corporation Service Company, at 100 Shockoe Slip Fl 2, Richmond, VA 23219.

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

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

4. On information and belief, Defendant is subject to this Court's specific and general personal jurisdiction, pursuant to due process and the Virginia Long-Arm Statute, due at least to

1

Case 1:25-cv-00197 Document 1 Filed 02/03/25 Page 2 of 63 PageID# 2

its business in this forum, including at least a portion of the infringements alleged herein at 501 S 5th Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

5. Without limitation, on information and belief, within this state, Defendant has used the patented inventions thereby committing, and continuing to commit, acts of patent infringement alleged herein. In addition, on information and belief, Defendant has derived revenues from its infringing acts occurring within Virginia. Further, on information and belief, Defendant is subject to the Court's general jurisdiction, including from regularly doing or soliciting business, engaging in other persistent courses of conduct, and deriving substantial revenue from goods and services provided to persons or entities in Virginia. Further, on information and belief, Defendant is subject to the Court's personal jurisdiction at least due to its sale of products and/or services within Virginia. Defendant has committed such purposeful acts and/or transactions in Virginia such that it reasonably should know and expect that it could be haled into this Court as a consequence of such activity.

6. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. § 1400(b). On information and belief, Defendant has businesses in this district at 501 S 5th Street, Richmond, VA 23219. On information and belief, from and within this District Defendant has committed at least a portion of the infringements at issue in this case.

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

III. <u>COUNT I</u> (PATENT INFRINGEMENT OF UNITED STATES PATENT NO. 9,501,480)

8. Plaintiff incorporates the above paragraphs herein by reference.

9. On November 22, 2016, United States Patent No. 9,501,480 ("the '480 Patent") was duly and legally issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The '480 Patent is

2

titled "Revenue-Generating Electronic Multi-Media Exchange and Process of Operating Same." A true and correct copy of the '480 Patent is attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

10. VCA is the assignee of all right, title, and interest in the '480 Patent, including all rights to enforce and prosecute actions for infringement and to collect damages for all relevant times against infringers of the '480 Patent. Accordingly, VCA possesses the exclusive right and standing to prosecute the present action for infringement of the '480 Patent by Defendant.

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

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

- "an electronic media submissions server subsystem,"
- "an electronic multimedia creator server subsystem,"
- "an electronic release subsystem,"
- "an electronic voting subsystem," and
- their corresponding specialized databases.

13. Each of these subsystems are configured in a very specific (and not generic), unconventional and non-routine manner to offer the novel and non-obvious claimed invention.

3

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

14. As another example, the claim requires a specifically configured "electronic media submission server subsystem." This subsystem is defined as specifically having:

- "one or more data processing apparatus,"
- "an electronic media submission database stored on a non-transitory 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.

15. 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."

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

17. The claim also includes "an electronic release subsystem," which is well defined and not conventional or routine. The claim defines how this subsystem is "operatively coupled to the electronic multimedia creator server subsystem." The claim also defines the components of this subsystem as having "one or more data processing apparatus" and being particularly "configured to make the multimedia content electronically available for viewing on one of more user devices." These details, collectively, also make this very particular and well-defined and unconventional subsystem substantially more than an abstract idea or performing an abstract idea on a computer. 18. The claim also requires "an electronic voting subsystem," which is well-defined, specific, and unconventional. This claimed subsystem has "one or more data processing apparatus" and is specifically "configured to enable a user to electronic vote for or electronically rate an electronically available multimedia content or an electronic media submission within a respective electronically available multimedia content."

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

20. Furthermore, the very particular and specifically configured "electronic media creator subsystem" not only provides a detailed and unique physical structure and interrelationship with other claimed components, but also includes a very specific configuration that is not conventional or routine. The claims make clear the interrelationship of the "electronic multimedia creator server subsystem" with respect to "the electronic media submission server subsystem" which must be "operatively coupled" thereto. The claims also provide detail on how the "electronic media creator subsystem" is "configured" "to select and retrieve a plurality of electronic media submission from the electronic media submission database using an electronic

filter." They also provide detail on how the "electronic filter" is "based at least in part on at least one of the one or more user attributes" and specifies that "the identification of the submitter is maintained with each selected and retrieved submission within the multimedia content."

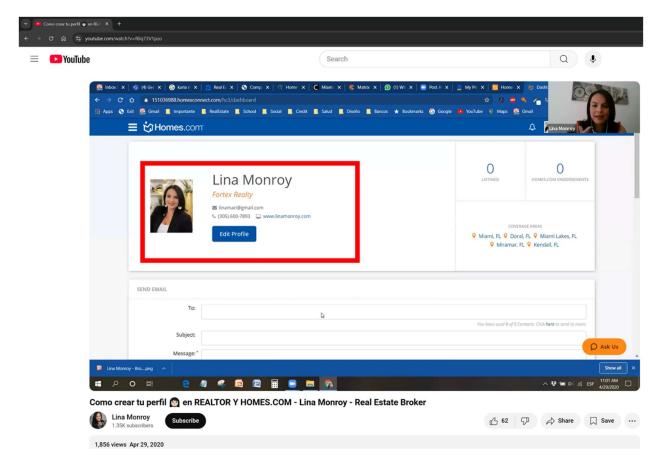
21. These arguments overcame a patent eligibility rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101 of the claim at issue during the prosecution of the '480 patent before the United States Patents and Trademark Office.

22. <u>Direct Infringement.</u> Upon information and belief, Defendant has been directly infringing claims 1, and 16 of the '480 Patent in Virginia, and elsewhere in the United States, by employing a computer-based system using <u>https://www.homes.com/</u> ("Accused Instrumentality") (*e.g.*, <u>https://www.homes.com/</u>).

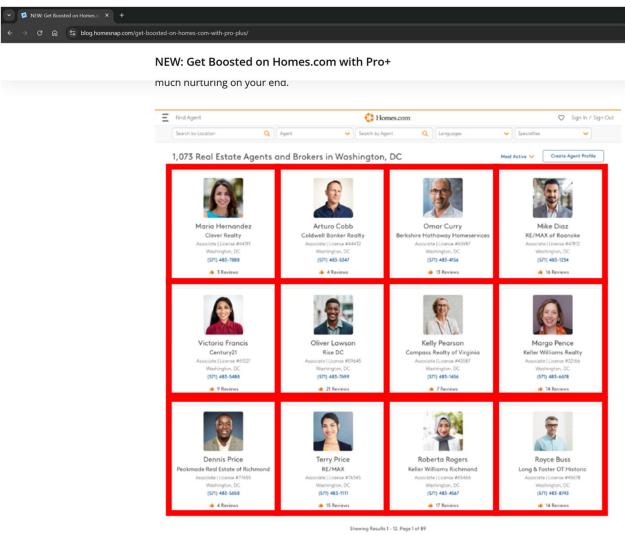
23. CoStar uses a computer-based system for its Accused Instrumentality, to enable user-submitters to post electronic submissions in the form of real estate listings. The real estate listings contain multimedia content including textual content and image content as well as hyperlinks to other pages internal or external to Homes.com. The real estate listings and associated multimedia content may be shown to other users based on, *inter alia*, user attributes. CoStar's System 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 textual content and image content to users, configured to make the multimedia content electronically available for viewing on one or more user devices. Users, such as real estate agents, may also create public profiles containing multimedia content, including textual and image content. For example, as shown below, multimedia content associated with real estate listings and user profiles is provided on various user devices (*e.g.*, computers or other devices with a web browser or app) in response to a user logging in to the Accused

Case 1:25-cv-00197 Document 1 Filed 02/03/25 Page 8 of 63 PageID# 8

Instrumentality CoStar uses function-specific subsystems, for example as discussed below. CoStar, during the relevant time period, took advantage of multiple cloud server providers for the Accused Instrumentality, as discussed above, as well as scalability within its cloud server providers, employing separate server subsystems for all its meaningfully different functions. CoStar uses, and has used during the relevant time period, numerous different networks and providers for, *inter alia*, content management systems, web servers, web hosting, data centers, proxy certificates, SSL certificates, traffic analysis, advertising, and tagging, thereby using separate server subsystems for all its meaningfully different functions, such as those indicated below.



(*E.g.*, <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6lq73V1pzo</u>).



1 2 3 4 5 Next

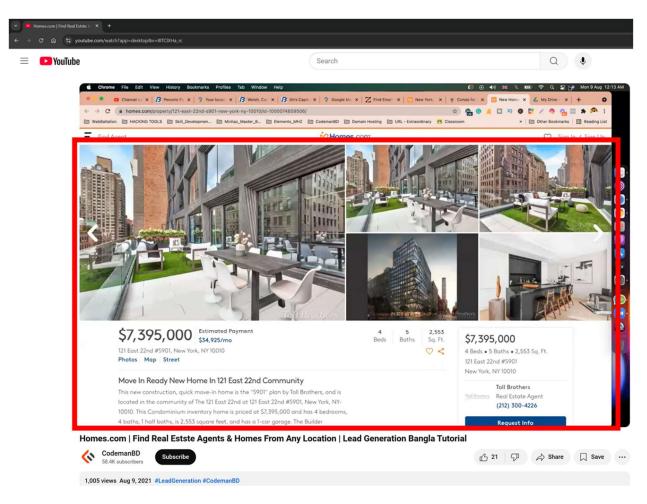
(E.g., https://blog.homesnap.com/get-boosted-on-homes-com-with-pro-plus/).

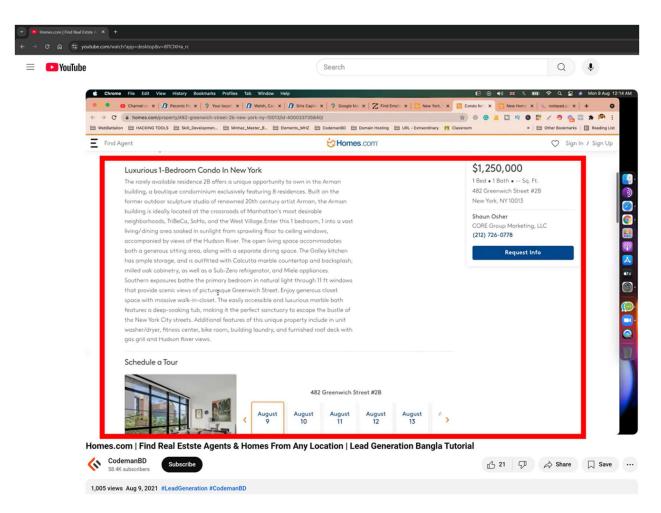
NEW: Get Boosted on Homes.com with Pro+

But getting boosted means you have an enriched profile that shows your five-star Google reviews, review rating, Google posts, agent stories, photos, and business hours and information.

Homes.com				
	Tricia Battle Tairfax Realty Georgetown teal Estate Agent Ucense #63580. Machington, DC 2020 763-1922 View My Listings		Contact Tricia Nama* 	
About Tricia		Verified on Google 🔗 🛛 👎	Phone*	
Let Trish Battle YOUR Rea	Estate Needs Today!		Message	
Locations Served: Washi	ington (DC), Rockville (MD), Olney	(MD), Potomoc (MD), Silver Spring (MD)		
Languages: English				
	n for providion quality customer service	te to all buyers, sellers, investors and estates	×	
from beginning to end. In	an ever-changing real estate market	it is especially important to have someone guide you through every step of the way.	Send Message	
	y up to date on the trends and chang	meeting your real estate needs. I, therefore, es happening right here in the D.C	G 🕲	
I work hard every day to s goals.	upport my clients and attorneys in or	der to meet and exceed their real estate		
Let Trish Bottle YOUR Reo	Estate Needs Today!			
Specializations:				
Communication Local Expertise	 Fixer-Uppers Home Buyers 	New Construction Property Monogement		
Professionalism	 Home Sellers 	 Property Monogement Senior Communities 		
1031 Tax Exchange	 Investments 	 Short Soles 		
Distressed Properties		 Time Share 		
Foreclosures First Time Homebuyers	 Military Military Families 	 Timeshares Veteran's Programs 		
Business Hours:				
Open 24 Hours				
1 Active Listi	ng			
1301 Delaware Ave SW	#N711 ♡			
\$136,000				
Studio = 1 Both = 600 S	q. Ft.			

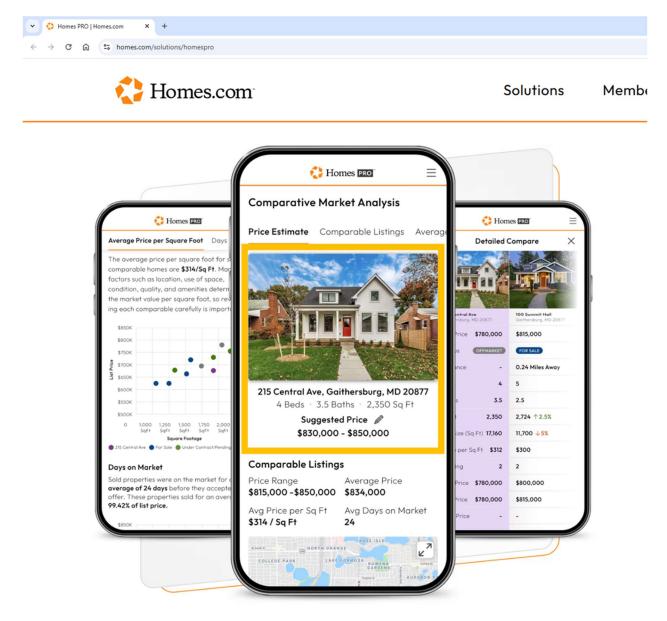
(*E.g.*, <u>https://blog.homesnap.com/get-boosted-on-homes-com-with-pro-plus/</u>).</u>





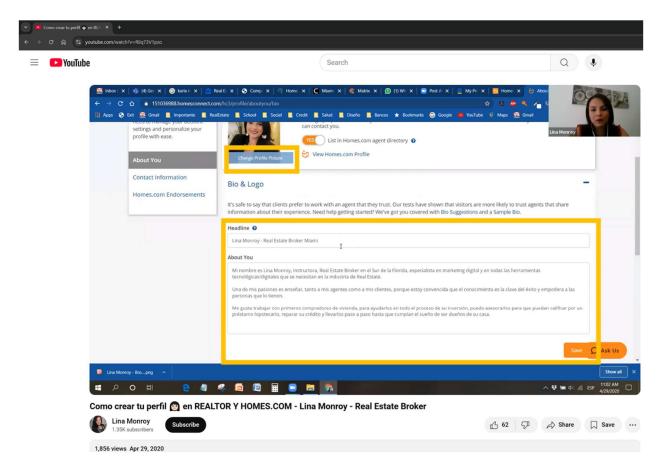
24. The Accused Instrumentality includes an electronic media submissions server subsystem, having one or more data processing apparatus and an electronic media submissions database stored on a non-transitory medium in order to process and store received submissions from a plurality of user-submitters, for example content pertaining to their respective electronic media submission (*e.g.*, real estate listing and/or user profile) on the Accused Instrumentality, as well as multimedia content (*e.g.*, photo and/or textual content) to be displayed on a main page, within a real estate listing, or on a user profile as discussed and shown for example in connection with the above discussion. Individual users may create a profile and submit content pertaining to their user profile and/or real estate listing. On information and belief, the submissions are provided

to the Accused Instrumentality via a submissions electronic interface, *e.g.*, a web-based content portal, accessible for example by logging in and selecting an option to upload such content or import content, configured to receive such electronic media, from a plurality of submitters (*e.g.*, real estate agents or homeowners) over a public network (*e.g.*, the Internet) and stored, via an uploading process, in said electronic media Listings database for use in distribution to other users of the Accused Instrumentality.

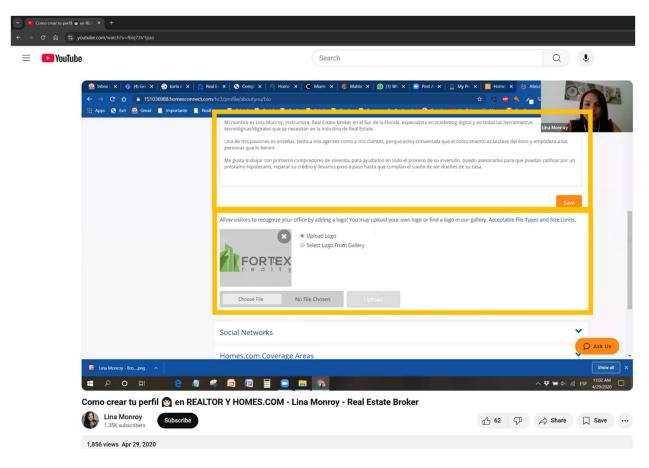


(*E.g.*, <u>https://www.homes.com/solutions/homespro</u>).

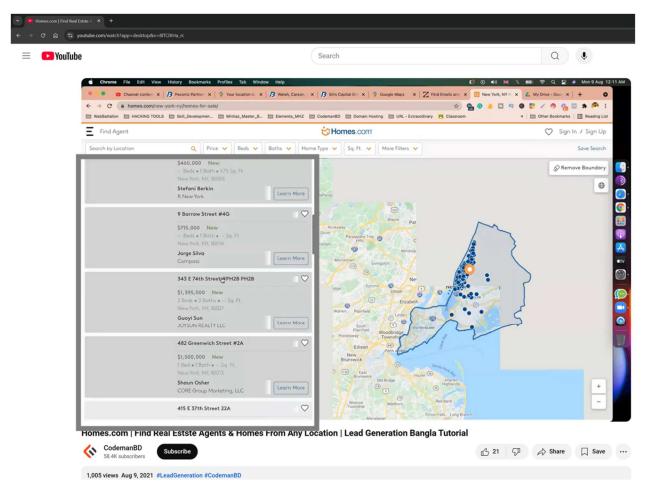
Case 1:25-cv-00197 Document 1 Filed 02/03/25 Page 14 of 63 PageID# 14



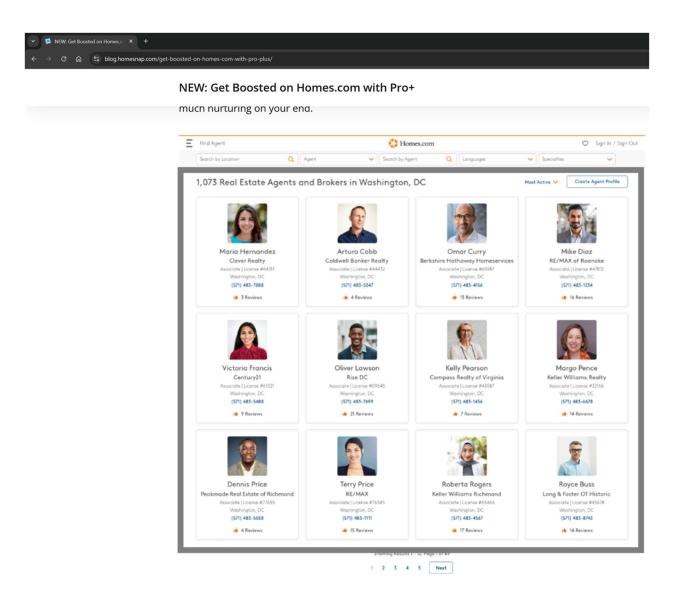
(*E.g.*, <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6lq73V1pzo</u>).



(*E.g.*, <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6lq73V1pzo</u>).

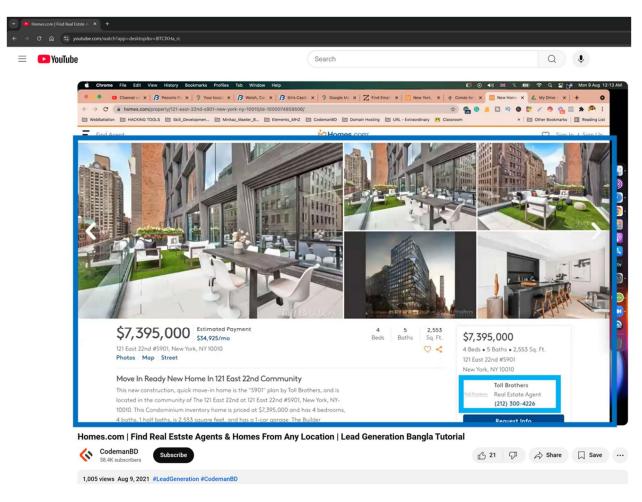


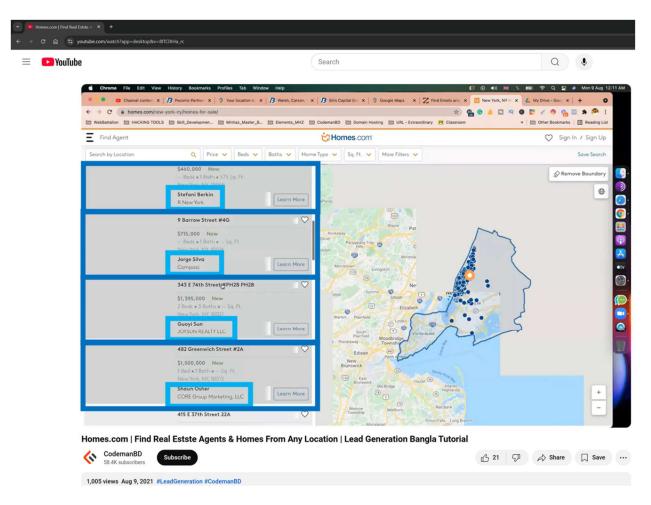




(*E.g.*, <u>https://blog.homesnap.com/get-boosted-on-homes-com-with-pro-plus/</u>).

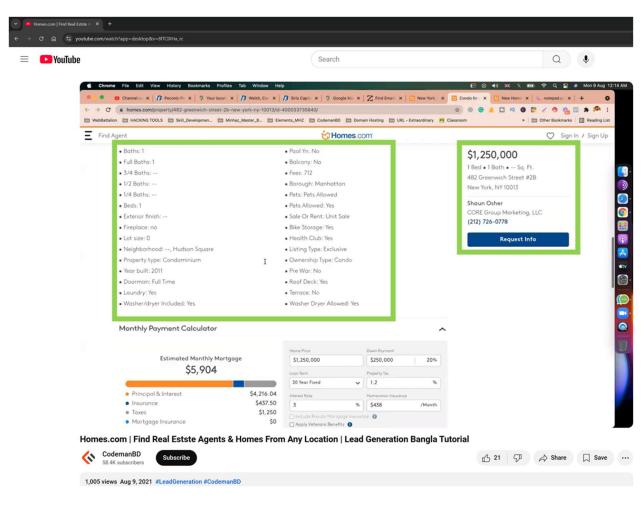
25. The electronic media submissions database of the Accused Instrumentality used by CoStar which stores the submissions further stores data identifying the submitter and data indicating content for each electronic media submission (*e.g.*, a real estate listing). As shown below, data identifying the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





26. 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.*, price, year build, bed and bath count, amenities, and the like, as shown in the example below. Users may also select user attributes pertaining to the real estate agent such as coverage area/region as shown below.

Case 1:25-cv-00197 Document 1 Filed 02/03/25 Page 20 of 63 PageID# 20

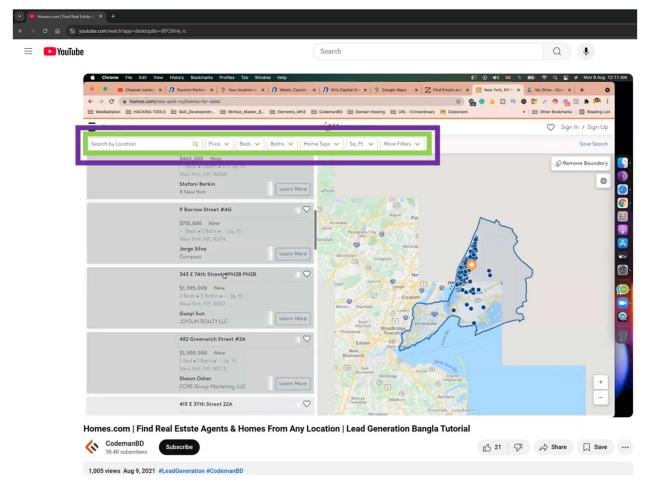


	Search	Q
← → C ☆ @ 151036988.home	n X 22 Real E X 30 Comp X 31 Home X C Miami X 58 Matrix X 10 (1) Wh X 32 Post A X 22 seconnect.com/h:3/profile/aboutyou/areas nee Realfistate School S Social Credit Salud Diseño Bancos X Bookmarks 33 Google Comp strange change change	* * * * *
Contact Information Homes.com Endorser	Bio & Logo Social Networks	~
	Homes.com Coverage Areas Coverage areas allow you to tell us the area(s) you work in so we can make sure that you are displayed may have up to 5 coverage areas. Mami, FL Oral, FL Mami Lakes, FL Miramar, FL Kendall, FL Image: Second Secon	I in the Homes.com directory for that location! You Tow have used 5 of 5 Coverage Areas
	Designations & Certifications	~
		D Ask
E Lina Monroy - Bro_prog A		D Aski Stor ∧ ♥ (m d) & 69 11937 42920

(*E.g.*, <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6lq73V1pzo</u>).

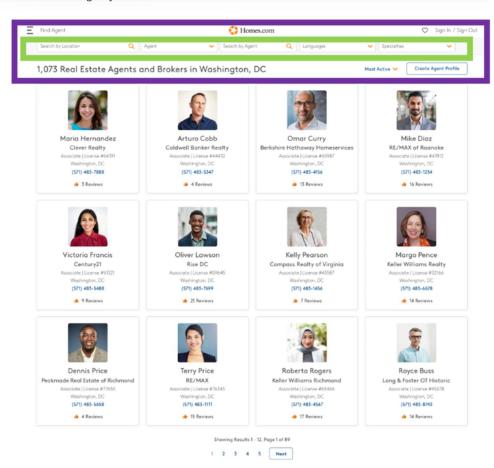
27. The Accused Instrumentality employs an electronic multimedia creator server subsystem operatively coupled to the electronic media submissions server subsystem, necessarily having one or more data processing apparatus in order to manage content, and an electronic creator multimedia database stored on a non-transitory medium, configured to select and retrieve a plurality of electronic media submissions (*e.g.*, real estate listings with associated photo content and textual content) from the electronic media submissions database using an electronic content filter located on the electronic multimedia creator server. As can be seen below, such electronic content filter as is used by CoStar is based at least in part on at least one of the one or more user attributes selected by the user (*e.g.*, price, year build, bed and bath count, amenities, and the like,

or coverage area/region), which in turn affect which electronic media submissions, and associated media, appear to the user, as shown and discussed for example below.



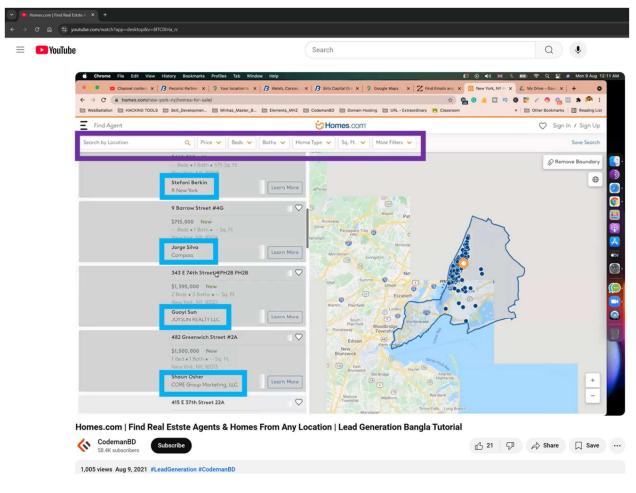
NEW: Get Boosted on Homes.com with Pro+

much nurturing on your end.



(*E.g.*, <u>https://blog.homesnap.com/get-boosted-on-homes-com-with-pro-plus/</u>).

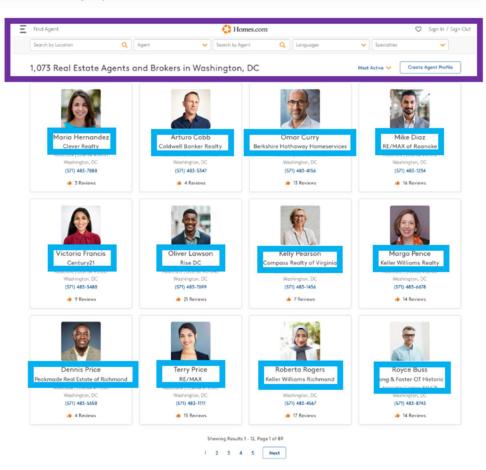
28. Such electronic content filter is used by the Accused Instrumentality to develop multimedia content (*e.g.*, real estate listings and/or various content as discussed above) associated with the user-submitter to be electronically available for viewing on user devices (*e.g.*, devices such as computers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





NEW: Get Boosted on Homes.com with Pro+

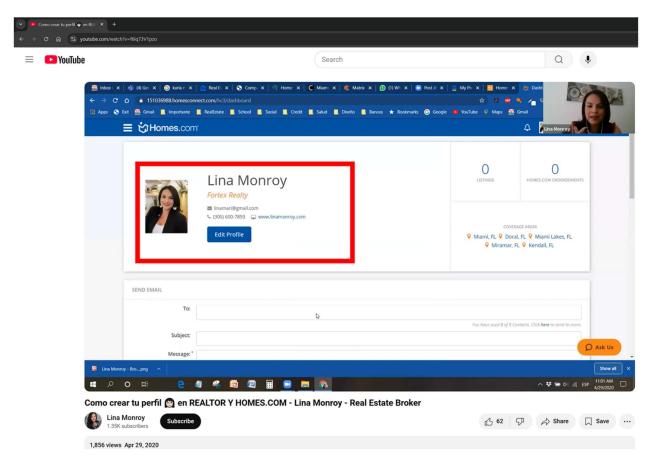
much nurturing on your end.



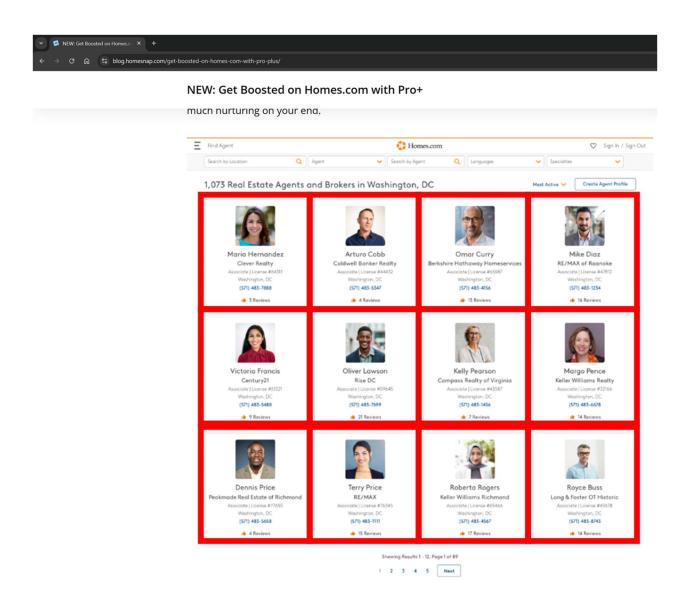
(*E.g.*, <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=8lTClXHa_rc</u>).

29. The Accused Instrumentality 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. CoStar uses function-specific subsystems, for example as discussed below.





(*E.g.*, <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6lq73V1pzo</u>).



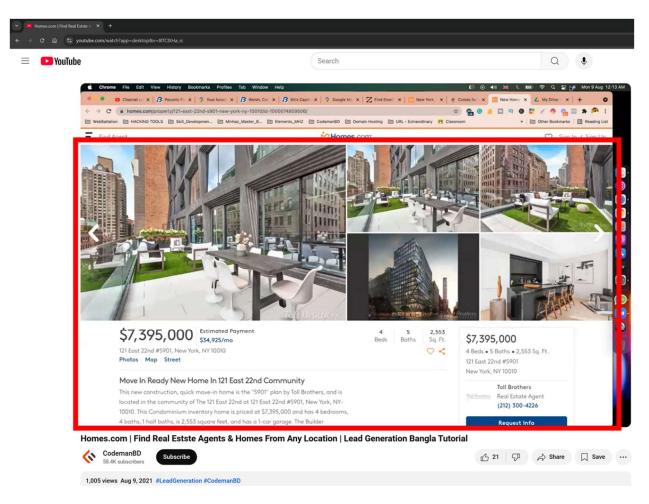
(*E.g.*, <u>https://blog.homesnap.com/get-boosted-on-homes-com-with-pro-plus/</u>).</u>

NEW: Get Boosted on Homes.com with Pro+

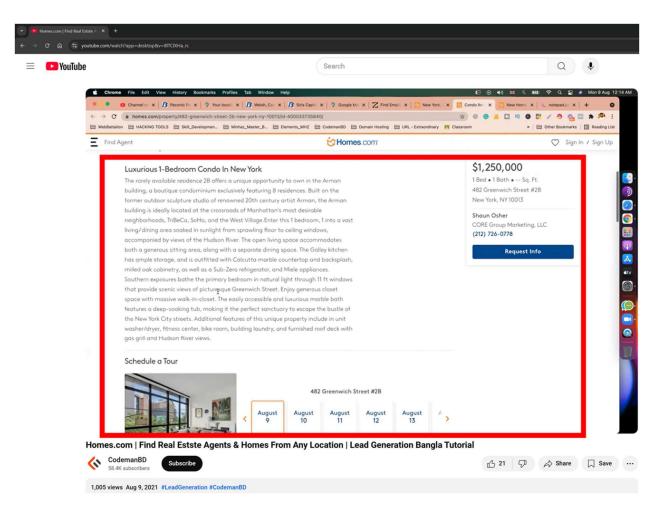
But getting boosted means you have an enriched profile that shows your five-star Google reviews, review rating, Google posts, agent stories, photos, and business hours and information.

C Homes.com				
<u>()</u>	Tricia Battle Fairfax Realty Georgetown Real Estate Agent Licence #035580, Washington, DC 5 20 Reviews (202) 763-1922 View My Listing:		Contact Tricia Name* 	
About Tricio	1	Verified on Google 🌒 🛛 👭 🔿 😽	Phone*	
Let Trish Bottle YOUR R	eol Estate Needs Today!		Message	
Locations Served: Was	hington (DC), Rockville (MD), Olney	(MD), Potomoc (MD), Silver Spring (MD)		
Languages: English				
	ing for providing quality customer serv	ice to all buyers, sellers, investors and estates		
from beginning to end.	In an ever-changing real estate marke	t, it is especially important to have someone guide you through every step of the way.	Send Message	
	tay up to date on the trends and chan	o meeting your real estate needs. I, therefore, ges happening right here in the D.C	G 🕲	
I work hard every day to goals.	support my clients and attorneys in a	rder to meet and exceed their real estate		
Let Trish Bottle YOUR R	and Research Lands Tandan I			
	tol Estate Meeds loady:			
Specializations:				
Local Expertise	 Fixer-Uppers Home Buyers 	New Construction Property Management		
Professionalism	 Home Sellers 	 Senior Communities 		
1031 Tax Exchange Distressed Properties		 Short Soles Time Shore 		
Foreclosures	 Eukury Homes Military 	Timeshores		
First Time Homebuye		 Veteran's Programs 		
Business Hours:				
Open 24 Hours				
1 Active List	w enorii ♡ ia fi			

(*E.g.*, <u>https://blog.homesnap.com/get-boosted-on-homes-com-with-pro-plus/</u>).</u>

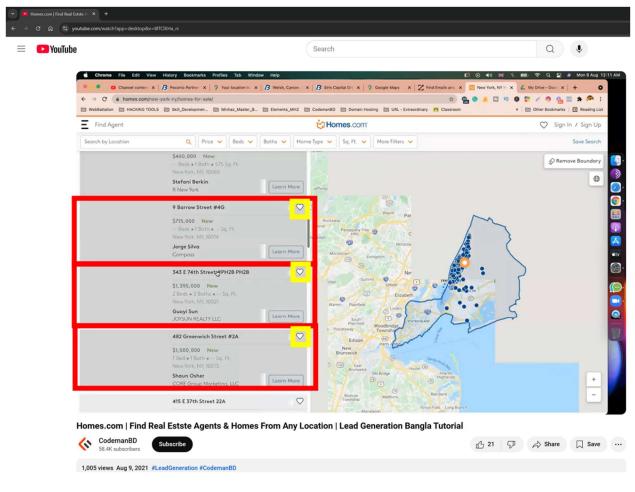


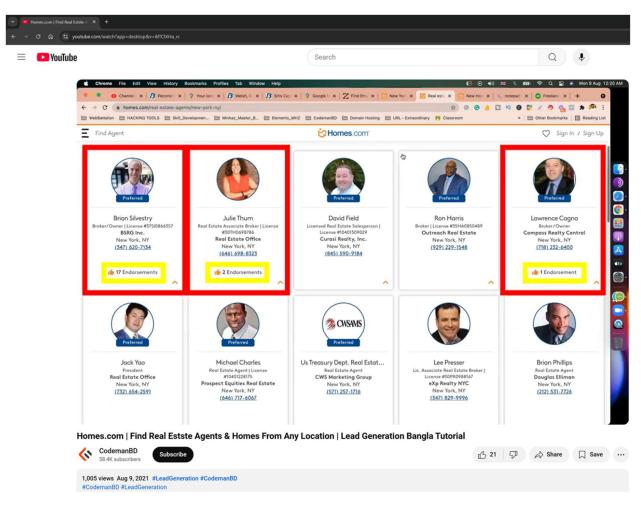
(E.g., https://blog.homesnap.com/get-boosted-on-homes-com-with-pro-plus/).

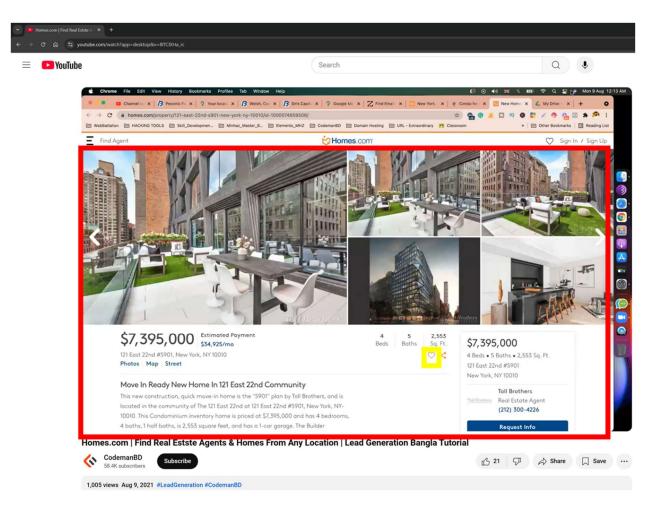


(*E.g.*, <u>https://blog.homesnap.com/get-boosted-on-homes-com-with-pro-plus/</u>).

30. 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. Users may also endorse or post a review for electronically available real estate agent profiles. CoStar uses function-specific subsystems, for example as discussed below.







NEW: Get Boosted on Homes.com with Pro+

But getting boosted means you have an enriched profile that snows your five-star Google reviews, review rating, Google posts, agent stories, photos, and business hours and information.

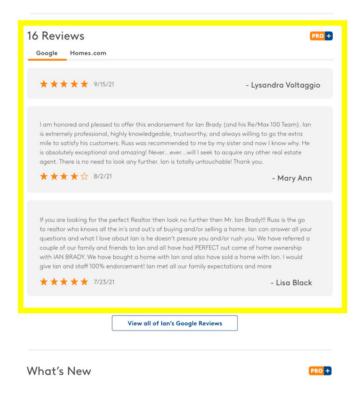
🛟 Homes.com				
Fai Reo	icia Battle fax Realty Georgetown Estate Agent Licence #633580, SP 29 Reviews 27 00-11/12 View My Listings	98377478 f ③ in	Contoct Tricio	
About Tricia	tote Needs Today!	Verified on Google 🤣 🗜 🗮	Phone*	
Languages: English Twe built a solid reputation fo from beginning to end. In an on your side who is passional I am committed to the highe	r providing quality customer service ever-changing real estate mariet, it e about what they do in order to gu st level of personal service and to m to dote on the trends and changes	(D), Potemos (MD), Silver Spring (MD) to all buyers, sellers, linestars and estates is especially important to have someone ide you through every step of the way, eeting your real estate needs. I, therefore, happening right here in the D.C	Send Message G Q Q	
I work hard every day to supgoals. Let Trish Battle YOUR Real Es		r to meet and exceed their real estate		
Specializations: Communication Local Expertise Professionalism 1031 Tax Exchange Distressed Properties Foreclosures First Time Homebuyers	Fiver-Uppers Home Buyers Home Sellers Investments Lusury Homes Military Military	New Construction Property Monogement Serior Communities Short Sales Time Khare Timeshares Veterion Paparons		
Business Hours: Open 24 Hours	- Millery romines	- Veteron's Programs		
ISOI Delowore Ave SW #	em 🗘			
\$136,000 Studio = 1 Both = 600 Sq. F Washington, DC 20024	t			

(*E.g.*, <u>https://blog.homesnap.com/get-boosted-on-homes-com-with-pro-plus/</u>).</u>



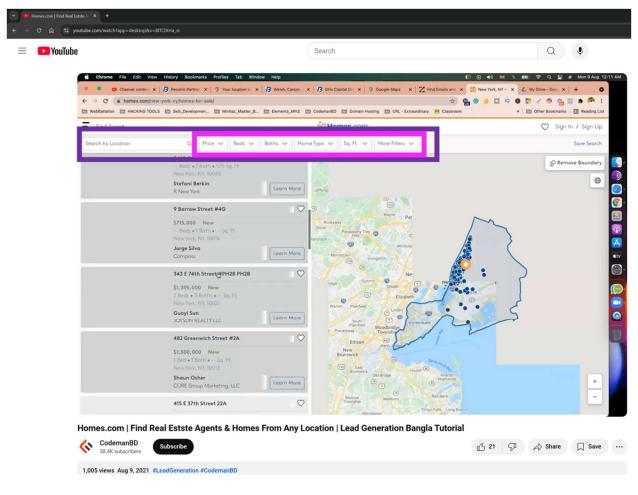
NEW: Get Boosted on Homes.com with Pro+

With a profile enriched by your Pro+ information, you're able to showcase your real estate chops to highintent, high-value buyers and sellers.



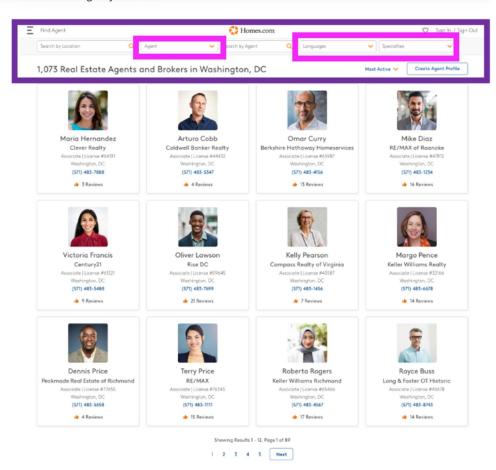
(*E.g.*, <u>https://blog.homesnap.com/get-boosted-on-homes-com-with-pro-plus/</u>).

31. The Accused Instrumentality enables the electronic content filter to include criteria identifying defined by Boolean logic. 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.



NEW: Get Boosted on Homes.com with Pro+

mucn nurturing on your end.



(*E.g.*, <u>https://blog.homesnap.com/get-boosted-on-homes-com-with-pro-plus/</u>).

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

33. To the extent marking is required, VCA has complied with all marking requirements.

IV. <u>COUNT II</u> (PATENT INFRINGEMENT OF UNITED STATES PATENT NO. 9,477,665)

34. Plaintiff incorporates the above paragraphs herein by reference.

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

36. VCA is the assignee of all right, title, and interest in the '665 Patent, including all rights to enforce and prosecute actions for infringement and to collect damages for all relevant times against infringers of the '665 Patent. Accordingly, VCA possesses the exclusive right and standing to prosecute the present action for infringement of the '665 Patent by Defendant.

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

38. The '665 Patent shares the identical specification as the '480 patent and therefore VCA incorporates the background and discussion of the invention in Paragraphs 11-18. Furthermore claim 1 involves a system for generating multimedia content. The claim requires, among other things, electronically generating a multimedia file from the retrieved electronic media Submissions in accordance with a selected digital format, wherein the identification of the submitter is maintained with each retrieved submission within the multimedia file. The claim requires electronically transmitting the multimedia file to a plurality of publicly accessible

38

webservers to be electronically available for viewing on one or more user devices over a public network via a web-browser and. This allows electronically transmit data indicating votes or rating of multimedia content in a much quicker and easier fashion based on specific user criteria. There is nothing abstract about this very particular, unconventional, and non-routine system for the generation of multimedia content as specifically claimed and there is no risk of preempting creating and distribution contention generally, or even within the context of the Internet.

39. The invention is a highly technical electronic process that cannot be achieved with the human mind and is instead rooted in computer technology, including the steps of:

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

40. Each of these subsystems are configured in a very specific (and not generic, 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 a subsystem that receives media submissions from Internet users. This is not a generic database but rather a scalable database that must be able to receive, store, and manage multiple petabytes of multimedia data received from users all over the world. This is one of the many specialized databased required in the claim. In fact, the specification discloses the use of a sophisticated database management system known in the art at the time that was capable of handling data at this

level, Oracle7. This type of database management system cannot operate on a generic computing system but rather requires specialized hardware and software.

41. The claim also provides details to explain how each step operates. For example, the claim requires "electronically retrieving a plurality of electronic media submissions from an electronic media submissions database using an electronic content filter located on one or more data processing apparatus." Further, "the electronic media submissions database" in this step is further required to "store[] [1] data identifying the submitter and [2] data indicating content for each electronic media submission." The step further requires and "electronic content filter." 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."

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

43. The claims also require "providing a web-based graphical user interface that enables a user to electronically transmit data indicating a vote or rating for an electronically available multimedia content or an electronic media Submission within a respective electronically available multimedia content," which is a well-defined, specific, and unconventional feature. By including this additional voting/rating feature, the claims avoid any risk of preempting the creation and distribution of content.

Case 1:25-cv-00197 Document 1 Filed 02/03/25 Page 41 of 63 PageID# 41

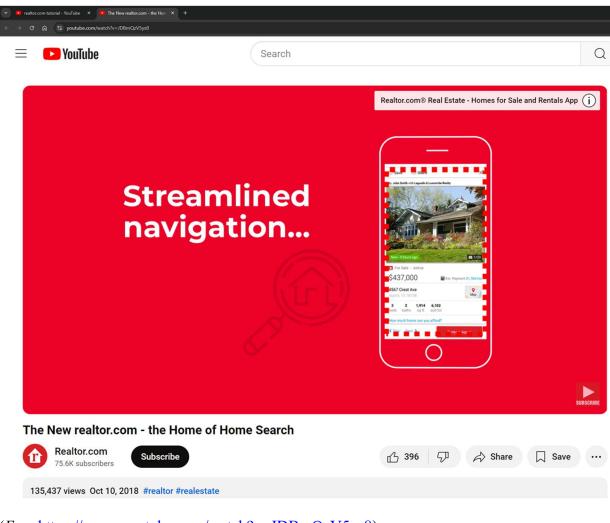
44. The claims also have inventive concepts. For example, the claim requires that he filtering tool be at a specific location, remote from the end-users, with customizable filtering features specific to each end user. The "electronic content filter" is located at the server, remote from the end user, and customizable based on user attributes. The "electron voting" step at the time of the invention was also novel, inventive, and added sufficient inventive contributions to avoid a risk of preempting the creation and distribution of media content. It is clearly possible to create and distribute media content without every having to include a "voting" subsystem on what components should be included in such media content.

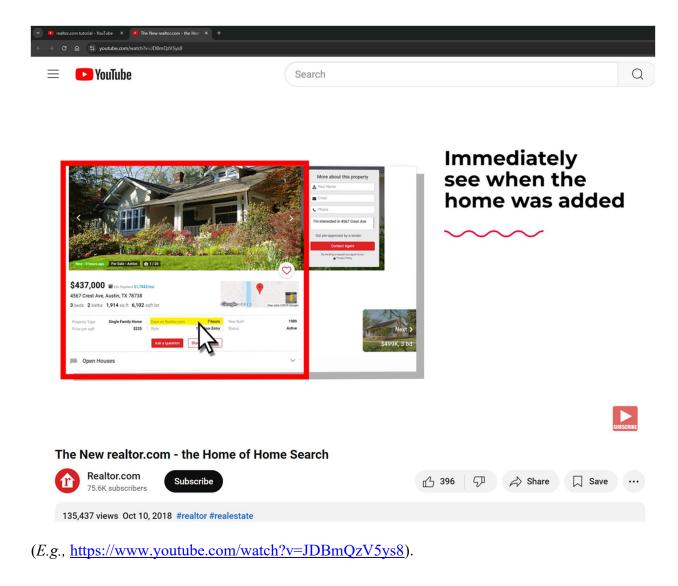
45. These arguments overcame a patent eligibility rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101 of the claim at issue during the prosecution of the '665 patent before the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

46. <u>Direct Infringement.</u> Upon information and belief, Defendant has been directly infringing claims 1, 3, and 16 of the '665 Patent in Virginia, and elsewhere in the United States, by employing a computer-based system using <u>https://www.homes.com/</u> ("Accused Instrumentality") (*e.g.*, <u>https://www.homes.com/</u>).

47. CoStar uses a computer-based system for its Accused Instrumentality, to enable user-submitters to create public profiles (such as an Agent profile associated with a real estate agent). Individual users may also post electronic submissions in the form of real estate listings. Each of the public profiles and the real estate listings contain multimedia content including textual content and image content as well as hyperlinks to other pages internal or external to Realtor.com. The real estate listings and associated multimedia content may be shown to other users based on, *inter alia*, user attributes. CoStar's System 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 textual content and image content to users, configured to make the multimedia content electronically available for viewing on one or more user devices. For example, as shown below, multimedia content associated with the real estate listing is provided on various user devices (*e.g.*, computers or other devices with a web browser or app) in response to a user logging in to the Accused Instrumentality. CoStar uses function-specific subsystems, for example as discussed below. CoStar, during the relevant time period, took advantage of multiple cloud server providers for the Accused Instrumentality, as discussed above, as well as scalability within its cloud server providers, employing separate server subsystems for all its meaningfully different functions. CoStar uses, and has used during the relevant time period, numerous different networks and providers for, *inter alia*, content management systems, web servers, web hosting, data centers, proxy certificates, SSL certificates, traffic analysis, advertising, and tagging, thereby using separate server subsystems for all its meaningfully different functions, such as those indicated below.

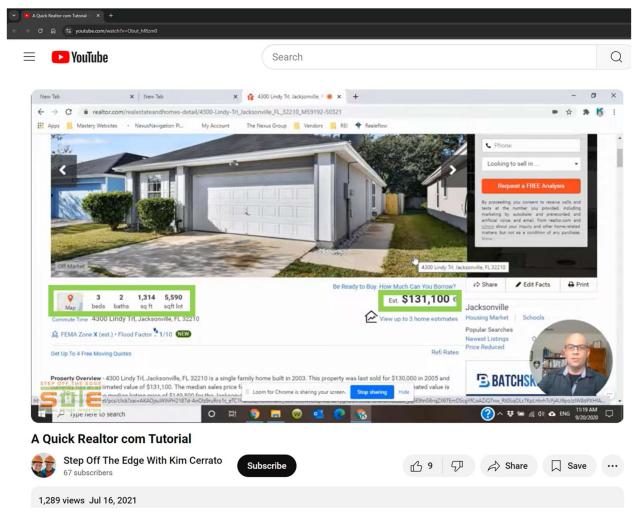




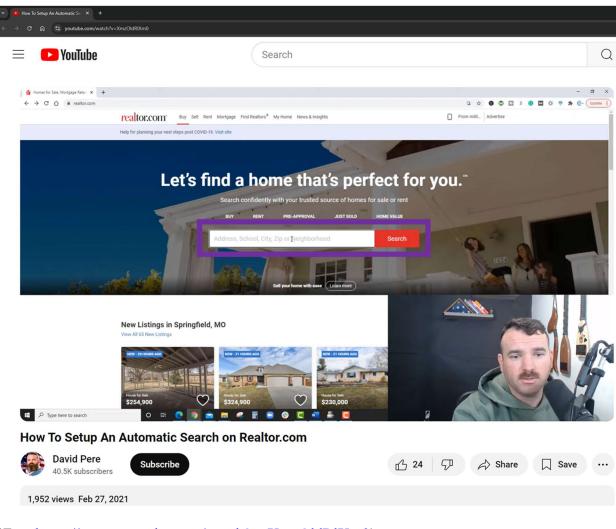
🕒 YouTube	Search		
ew Tab X New Tab	🗙 🏫 4300 Lindy Trl, Jackso	onville i 🔹 × 🕂	- 0
→ C â realtor.com/realestateandhom	es-detail/4300-Lindy-Trl_Jacksonville_FL_32210_M	159192-50321#photo9	⇒ ☆ ★
Apps 📙 Mastery Websites 🔹 NexusNavigation	Pl My Account The Nexus Group 📒 🕅	Vendors 🧾 REI 🕈 Realeflow	
Off Market		10/21	
		Be Ready to Buy. How Much Can You Borrow?	A Share I Edit Facts A Print
Q 3 2 1,314 5,5 Map beds baths sq ft sqft		Est. \$131,100 •	acksonville
Commute Time 4300 Lindy Trl, Jacksonville,	FL 32210	~	ousing Market Schools
€ FEMA Zone X (est.) • Flood Factor \$1/10	NEW		opular Searches
	NEW	N	opular Searches ewest Listings Open Houses rice Reduced
Get Up To 4 Free Moving Quotes Property Overview - 4300 Lindy Trl, Jacksonvi currently has an estimated value of \$131,100.	le, FL 32210 is a single family home built in 2003 The median sales price for the Jacksonville Heig	N	ewest Listings Open Houses
Get Up To 4 Free Moving Quotes Property Overview - 4300 Lindy Trl, Jacksonvi	le, FL 32210 is a single family home built in 2003 The median sales price for the Jacksonville Heig	Ni Pr Pr This property was last sold for \$130,000 in 2005 and	ewest Listings Open Houses rice Reduced
Get Up To 4 Free Moving Quotes Property Overview - 4300 Lindy Trl, Jacksonvi currently has an estimated value of \$131,100, 12.31% less than the median listing price of \$1 Read More > In the median list	Ie, FL 32210 is a single family home built in 2003 The median sales price for the Jacksonville Heig 49,500 for the Jacksonville Heights area. \$1.10K Since last sold	Ref Rates Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr State St	everst Listings Copen Houses DATCHSKIPTRACING DATA IS KING
Get Up To 4 Free Moving Quotes Property Overview - 4300 Lindy Trl, Jacksonvi currently has an estimated value of \$131,100, 12.31% less than the median listing price of \$7 Read More -> 12.31% Less expensive than nearby properties @ Own this home?	Ie, FL 32210 is a single family home built in 2003 The median sales price for the Jacksonville Heig 49,500 for the Jacksonville Heights area. \$1.10K Since last sold	Ref Rates Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr State St	everst Listings Copen Houses DATCHSKIPTRACING DATA IS KING
Cet Up To 4 Free Moving Quotes Property Overview - 4300 Lindy Trl, Jacksonvi currently has an estimated value of \$131,100, 12.31% less than the median listing price of \$ Read More ~ I2.31% Less expensive than nearby properties Image of the set of the se	Ie, FL 32210 is a single family home built in 2003 The median sales price for the Jacksonville Heights (49,500 for the Jacksonville Heights area. (49,500 for the Jacksonville Heights area. (49,500 for the Jacksonville Heights area. (49,500 for the Jacksonville Heights area.) (49,500 for the Jacksonville Heights area.) (49,500 for the Jacksonville Heights area.)	Ref Rates Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr	everst Listings rice Reduced DATA IS KING
Get Up To 4 Free Moving Quotes Property Overview - 4300 Lindy Trl, Jacksonvi currently has an estimated value of \$131,100, 12.31% less than the median listing price of \$7 Read More > 12.31% 12.31% Less expensive than nearby properties ① Own this home? Develop The EBOE uner dashboard to: Experied of the EBOE uner dashboard to:	Ie, FL 32210 is a single family home built in 2003 The median sales price for the Jacksonville Heights (49,500 for the Jacksonville Heights area. (49,500 for the Jacksonville Heights area.) (49,500 for the Jacksonville Heights area.)	Ref Rates Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr	Open Houses The Reduced
Get Up To 4 Free Moving Quotes Property Overview - 4300 Lindy Trl, Jacksonvi currently has an estimated value of \$131,100, 12.31% less than the median listing price of \$7 Read More > 12.31% Less expensive than nearby properties 2000 this home? EProPEP TME_EDOS_mer dashboard to: 2000 come for value and comps.	Ie, FL 32210 is a single family home built in 2003 The median sales price for the Jacksonville Heights (49,500 for the Jacksonville Heights area. (49,500 for the Jacksonville Heights area. (49,500 for the Jacksonville Heights area. (49,500 for the Jacksonville Heights area.) (49,500 for the Jacksonville Heights area.) (49,500 for the Jacksonville Heights area.)	Ref Rates Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr	
Get Up To 4 Free Moving Quotes Property Overview - 4300 Lindy Trl, Jacksonvi currently has an estimated value of \$131,100, 12.31% less than the median listing price of \$7 Read More > 12.31% 12.31% Less expensive than nearby properties ① Own this home? Develop The EBOE uner dashboard to: Experied of the EBOE uner dashboard to:	Ie, FL 32210 is a single family home built in 2003 The median sales price for the Jacksonville Heights area. 49,500 for the Jacksonville Heights area. \$1.10K Since last sold in 2005 @ Loom for Chrome is sh (2187d-AnOLtShuRro	Ref Rates Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr	Open Houses The Reduced
Cet Up To 4 Free Moving Quotes Property Overview - 4300 Lindy Tr(, Jacksonvi currently has an estimated value of \$131,100, 12.31% less than the median listing price of \$ Read More > 12.31% 12.31% Less expensive than nearby properties Cown this home? Down this home? The first Eboor uner dashboard to: Second Second Se	Ie, FL 32210 is a single family home built in 2003 The median sales price for the Jacksonville Heights area. (49,500 for the Jacksonville Heights area. (51,10K Since last sold in 2005 (6) (1) Loom for Chrome is sho (1) Loom for Chrome is	Ref Rates Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr Pr	Open Houses The Reduced

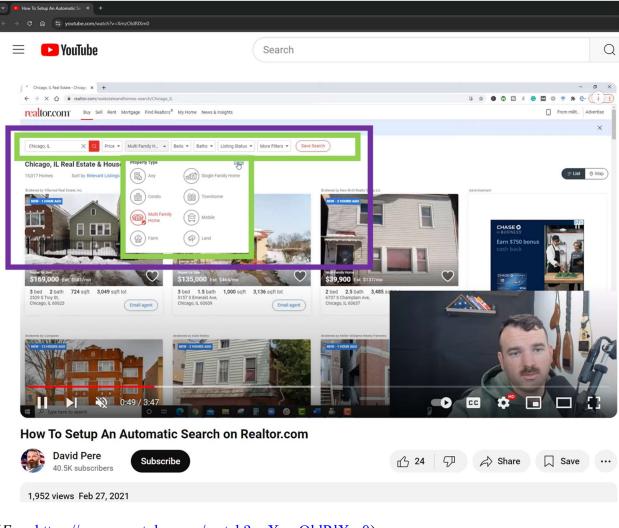
48. The Accused Instrumentality electronically retrieves a plurality of electronic media submissions from an electronic media submissions database on a non-transitory medium, for example multimedia content pertaining to posting a real estate listing on the Accused Instrumentality. Individual user-submitters 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.*, Listing price, number of beds and bathrooms, square feet, geographical location and the like, as shown for

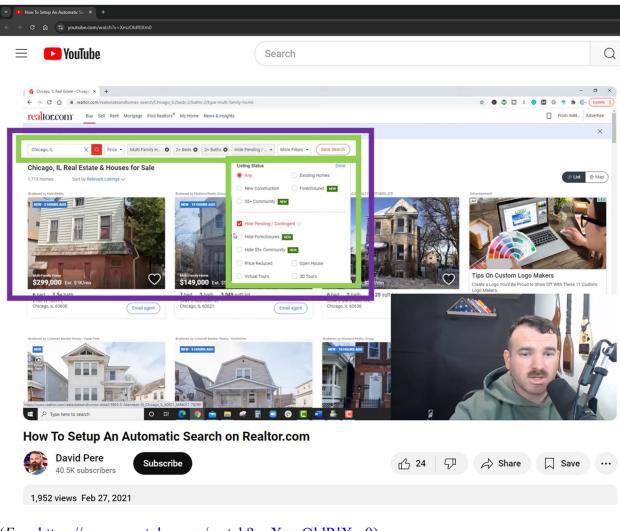
example in the examples below. The Accused Instrumentality's retrieval of electronic media with associated photo content and textual content associated with the real estate listing from the electronic media submissions database uses an electronic content filter located on the one or more data processing apparatus. As can be seen below, such electronic content filter as is used by CoStar is based at least in part on at least one of the one or more user attributes selected by the user (*e.g.,* Listing price, number of beds and bathrooms, square feet, geographical location, property type, listing status and the like), which in turn affect which electronic media submissions, and associated media, appear to the user, as shown and discussed for example below.



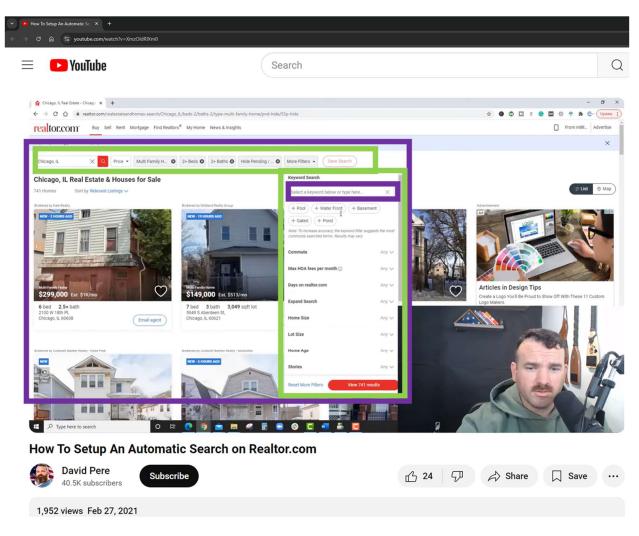
(*E.g.*, <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Obut_hf8zm0</u>).





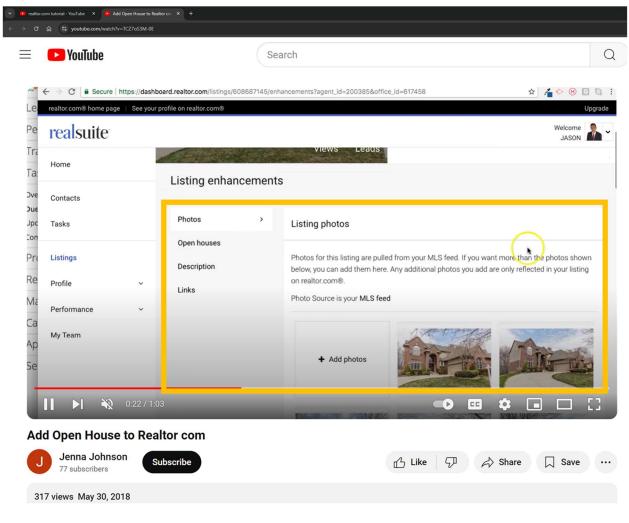




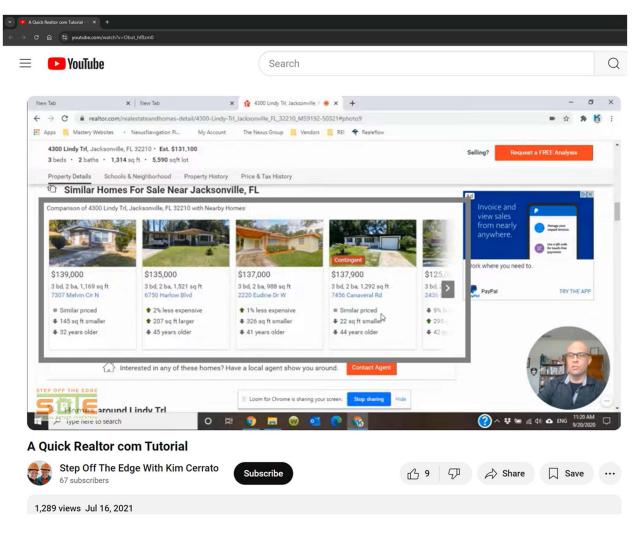


49. The Accused Instrumentality includes an electronic media submissions server subsystem, having one or more data processing apparatus and an electronic media submissions database stored on a non-transitory medium in order to process and store received submissions from a plurality of user-submitters, for example content pertaining to their respective electronic media submission (*e.g.*, real estate listing) on the Accused Instrumentality, as well as multimedia content (*e.g.*, photo and/or textual content) to be displayed on a main page or within a real estate listing, as discussed and shown for example in connection with the above discussion. Individual

users may create a profile and submit content pertaining to their user profile and/or Real estate listing. The submissions are provided to the Accused Instrumentality via a submissions electronic interface, *e.g.*, a web-based content portal such as CoStar's RealSuite dashboard for real estate agents, accessible for example by logging in and selecting an option to upload such content or import content, configured to receive such electronic media, from a plurality of submitters (*e.g.*, real estate agents) over a public network (*e.g.*, the Internet) and stored, via an uploading process, in said electronic media Listings database for use in distribution to other users of the Accused Instrumentality.

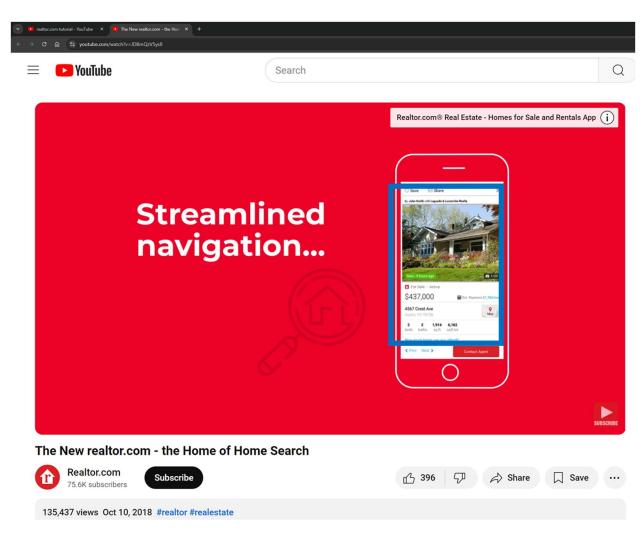


(*E.g.*, <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TCZ7oS3M-0E</u>).

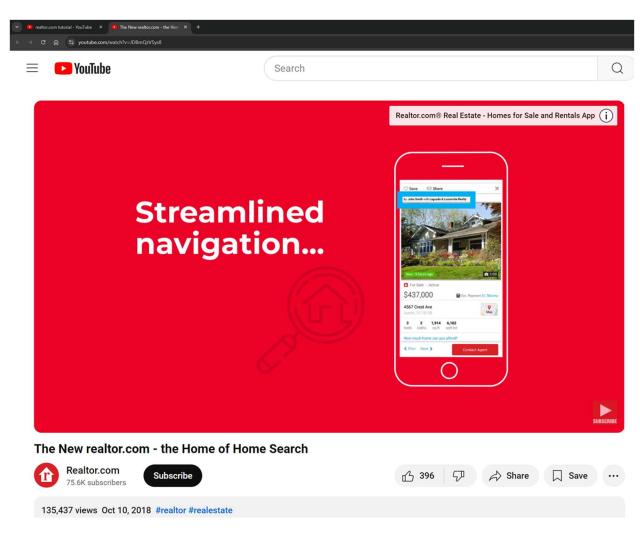


(*E.g.*, <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Obut_hf8zm0</u>).

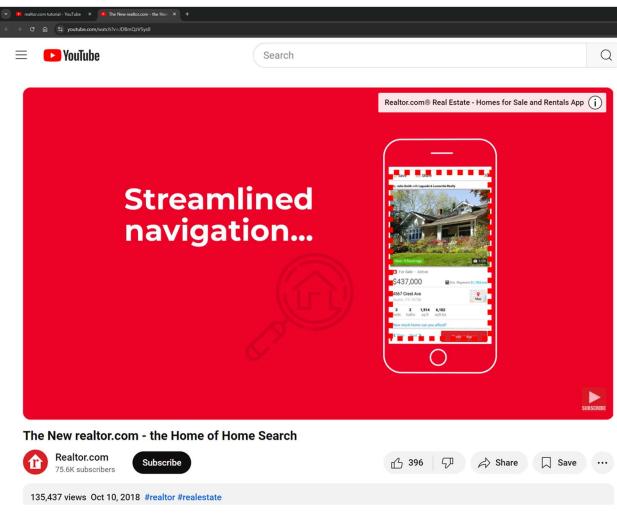
50. The electronic media submissions database of the Accused Instrumentality used by CoStar which stores the submissions further stores data identifying the submitter and data indicating content for each electronic media submission (*e.g.*, a real estate listing). As shown below, data identifying the 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.

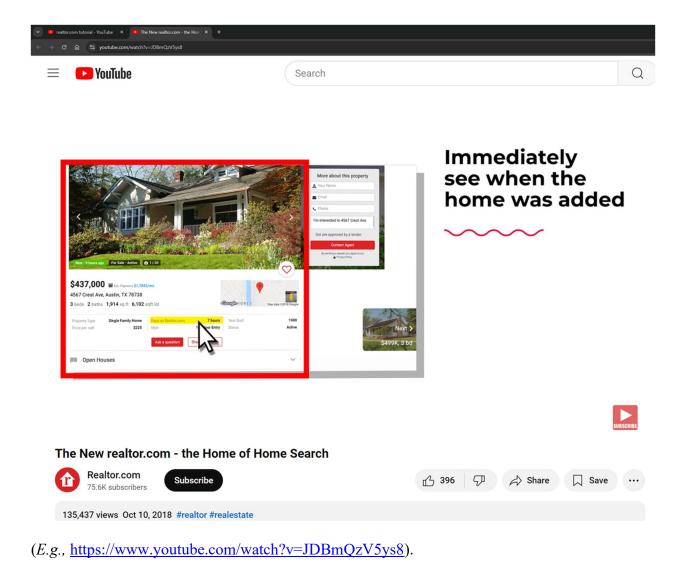


51. The Accused Instrumentality electronically generates multimedia files from the retrieved electronic media submissions, in accordance with a selected digital format (*e.g.*, a digital format compatible with a selected digital format compatible with the particular device such as a computer or smart phone incorporating one or more browsers or apps), and the identification of the submitter is maintained with each retrieved submission within the multimedia file. As shown below, data identifying the user-submitter includes, *e.g.*, a name identifying the user.



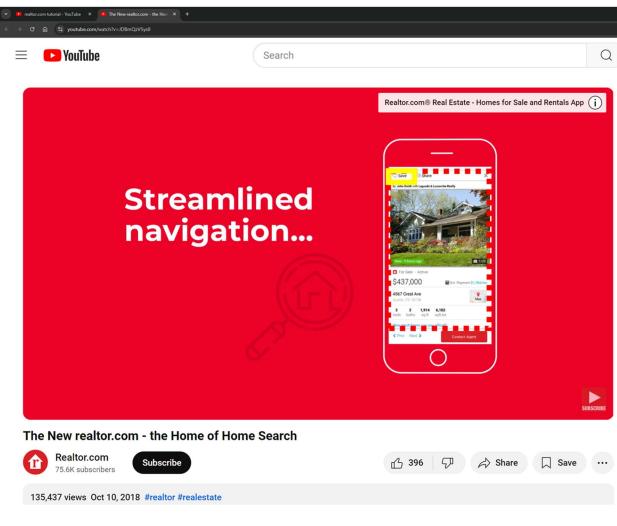
52. The Accused Instrumentality employs an electronic release subsystem operatively coupled to the electronic multimedia creator server subsystem, necessarily having one or more data processing apparatus to serve real estate listings with associated photo, and textual content to users, configured to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

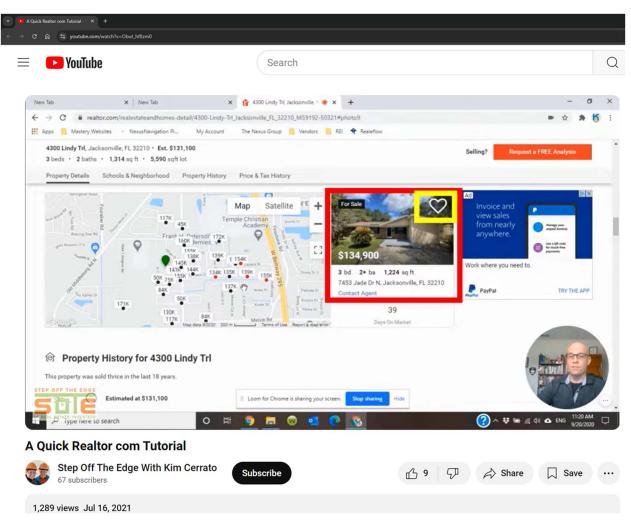




🕒 YouTube	Search		
w Tab X New Tab	🗙 🏫 4300 Lindy Trl, Jacks	onvile i 🖲 x 🕂	- 0
→ C â realtor.com/realestateandhome	es-detail/4300-Lindy-Trl_Jacksonville_FL_32210_J	459192-50321#photo9	⇒ ☆ ★
Apps 📙 Mastery Websites • NexusNavigation	Pi My Account The Nexus Group 🧾	Vendors 🧧 REI 🕈 Realeflow	
Off Market		0 10/21	
		Be Ready to Buy. How Much Can You Borrow?	Share / Edit Facts 🕀 Print
Q 3 2 1,314 5,59 Map beds baths sq ft sqft		Est. \$131,100 • Jac	ksonville
Commute Time 4300 Lindy Trl, Jacksonville, F	L 32210	^	sing Market Schools
Commute Time 4300 Lindy Trl, Jacksonville, F & FEMA Zone X (est.) • Flood Factor \$1/10		View up to 3 home estimates Hou Popu	
FEMA Zone X (est.) • Flood Factor • 1/10 Get Up To 4 Free Moving Quotes Property Overview - 4300 Lindy Trl, Jacksonvill	(NEW) ie, FL 32210 is a single family home built in 200 The median sales price for the Jacksonville Heij	View up to 3 home estimates Hou Pop New Refi Rates	sing Market Schools Jlar Searches est Listings Open Houses e Reduced
FEMA Zone X (est.) • Flood Factor • 1/10 Get Up To 4 Free Moving Quotes Property Overview - 4300 Lindy Trl, Jacksonvill currently has an estimated value of \$131,100. 12.31% less expensive than	(FL 32210 is a single family home built in 200 The median sales price for the Jacksonville Heig 49,500 for the Jacksonville Heights area.	View up to 3 home estimates Hou Pop New Refi Rates 3. This property was last sold for \$130,000 in 2005 and hts area is \$148,450. The \$131,100 estimated value is \$1,008	sing Market Schools Jar Searches est Listings Open Houses e Reduced
FEMA Zone X (est.) • Flood Factor • 1/10 Get Up To 4 Free Moving Quotes Property Overview - 4300 Lindy Trl, Jacksonvill currently has an estimated value of \$131,100. 12.31% less than the median listing price of \$1 Read More ~ 12.31%	(REW) Ie, FL 32210 is a single family home built in 200. The median sales price for the Jacksonville Heights area. \$1.10K	View up to 3 home estimates Hou Pop New Refi Rates 3. This property was last cold for \$130,000 in 2005 and phts area is \$148,450. The \$131,100 estimated value is \$1,008	sing Market Jar Searches ext Listings Reduced BATCHSKIPTRACING DATA IS KING
FEMA Zone X (est.) • Flood Factor • 1/10 1 Get Up To 4 Free Moving Quotes Property Overview - 4300 Lindy Trl, Jacksonvil currently has an estimated value of \$131,100.1 12.31% less than the median listing price of \$1 Read More ~ 12.31% Less expensive than nearby properties ④ Own this home? EPGPE THE EDDE mer dashboard to:	EFF. 32210 is a single family home built in 200 The median sales price for the Jacksonville Heights area. 49,500 for the Jacksonville Heights area. \$1.10K Since last sold in 2005 @	View up to 3 home estimates Hou Pop New Refi Rates 7 This property was last sold for \$130,000 in 2005 and hts area is \$148,450. The \$131,100 estimated value is \$1,008 Rental Estimate @	sing Market Jar Searches ext Listings Reduced BATCHSKIPTRACING DATA IS KING
FEMA Zone X (est.) • Flood Factor • 1/10 1 Get Up To 4 Free Moving Quotes Property Overview - 4300 Lindy Trl, Jacksonvil currently has an estimated value of \$131,100. 12.31% less than the median listing price of \$1 Read More > 12.31% Less expensive than nearby properties Own this home? }	e, FL 32210 is a single family home built in 200. The median sales price for the Jacksonville Heights area. 49,500 for the Jacksonville Heights area.	View up to 3 home estimates Hou Pop New Refi Rates 7 This property was last sold for \$130,000 in 2005 and hts area is \$148,450. The \$131,100 estimated value is \$1,008 Rental Estimate @	sing Market Jar Searches ext Listings Reduced BATCHSKIPTRACING DATA IS KING

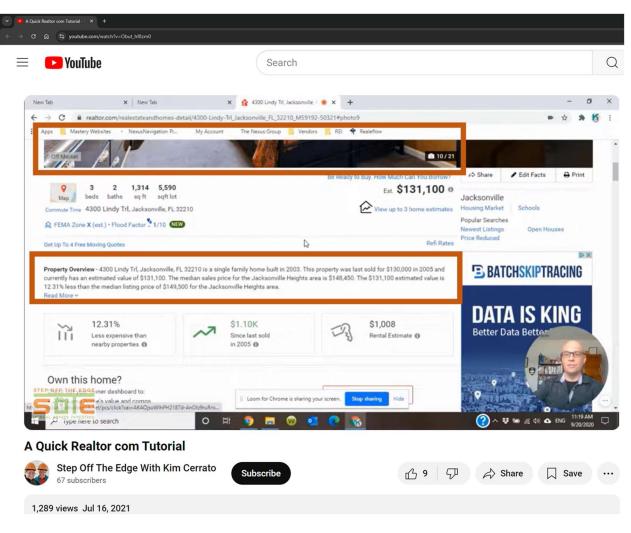
53. The Accused Instrumentality employs an electronic voting subsystem, necessarily having one or more data processing apparatus in order to track voting or electronic rating, configured to enable a user to electronically vote for or rate an electronically available multimedia content (*e.g.*, a real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





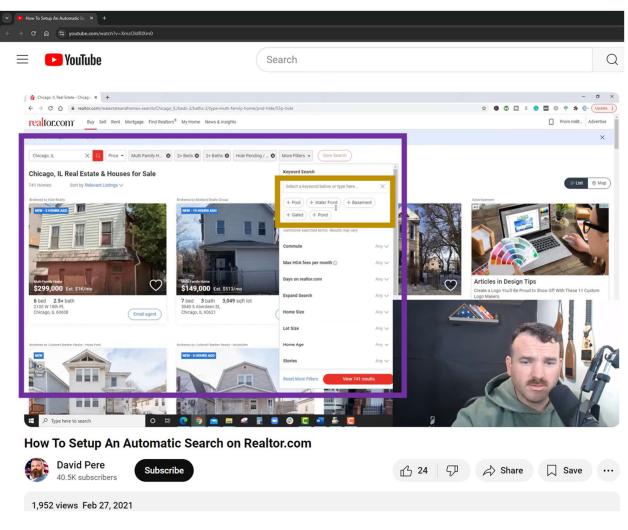
(*E.g.*, <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Obut_hf8zm0</u>).

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



(*E.g.*, <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Obut_hf8zm0</u>).

55. The Accused Instrumentality enables the electronic content filter to include criteria defined by keywords. As can be shown below, the user is able to conduct a text search outside of predetermined criteria. The text search represents user-inputted keywords which necessarily narrows the search to media submissions' text.



56. 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 '665 Patent, *i.e.*, in an amount that by law cannot be less than would constitute a reasonable royalty for the use of the patented technology, together with interest and costs as fixed by this Court under 35 U.S.C. § 284.

57. To the extent marking is required, VCA has complied with all marking requirements.

Case 1:25-cv-00197 Document 1 Filed 02/03/25 Page 62 of 63 PageID# 62

V. JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff, under Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, requests a trial by jury of

any issues so triable by right.

VI. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court find in its favor and against

Defendant, and that the Court grant Plaintiff the following relief:

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

February 3, 2025

/s/ Cecil E. Key Cecil E. Key KEY IP LAW GROUP, PLLC 1934 Old Gallows Road, Suite 350 Vienna, Virginia 22182 Email: cecil@keyiplaw.com Phone: 703-752-6276 Fax: 703-752-6201

Of Counsel:

/s/ David R. Bennett David R. Bennett (Pro Hac Vice Application to be Filed) Direction IP Law P.O. Box 14184 Chicago, IL 60614-0184 Phone: (312) 291-1667 Email: dbennett@directionip.com

> Attorneys for Plaintiff Virtual Creative Artists, LLC