

From: D. C. Toedt
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Subject: Claims in multiple short, plain-English sentences for easier infringement- and validity analysis

Here's a minor change that might make patent-infringement and -validity analysis easier by making the claims more serviceable as infringement checklists.

The proposed change is to allow claims to comprise multiple sentences, written in simple declarative voice.

METHOD CLAIM EXAMPLE (adapted from an expired patent I wrote)

1. A computer device includes program instruction statements. When the program instruction statements are executed by a programmable machine, the machine performs the following steps:
 - (a) The machine intercepts an outgoing signal directed to a peripheral device; the outgoing signal includes zero or more display attributes.
 - (b) The machine checks a table to determine whether the peripheral device supports the display attributes.
 - (c) If the peripheral device does not support display attributes, then:
 - (1) the machine constructs a new outgoing signal that does not include display attributes, and
 - (2) the machine directs the new outgoing signal to the peripherals device.

PRODUCT CLAIM EXAMPLE (adapted from [U.S. Patent No. 7,918,167](#), issued yesterday to Boeing -- see the original claim 1, which is really difficult to read):

1. A temporary barrier is intended for use with a structure; it includes a bag and a carrying implement.
 - (a) The bag is made of a fabric; it is puncture-resistant and is expandable with a fluid.
 - (b) The bag includes (1) an inflation valve for releasing a fluid into the interior of the bag to inflate the bag, and (2) a fluid source secured to the inflation valve.
 - (c) The bag also includes a deflation valve that enables fluid to be evacuated from the interior area of the bag.
 - (d) The bag's dimensions are selected to enable the bag to substantially occlude an opening in the structure.
 - (e) The carrying implement is for carrying the bag when the bag is in a folded, compact orientation.
 - (f) The carrying implement has an element that enables the carrying implement to be carried on a body portion of an individual.

(g) The carrying implement's dimensions are selected to hold and maintain the bag in the carrying implement in the folded, compact orientation so that the bag can be deployed from the carrying implement at a location where the bag needs to be implemented.

[etc., etc.]

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D. C. Toedt III [PTO # 31,144] | Attorney at law - intellectual property | Houston, Texas
dc@toedt.com | O: +1 (713) 364-6545 C: (713) 516-8968 | Last name pronounced "Tate"
LinkedIn: [dctoedt](#) | Blog: [OnTechnologyLaw.com](#) | Twitter: [DCT_OnTechLaw](#)