

## EPO rejects Samsung's patent appeal for web browsing history technology

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Samsung Electronics' appeal of the European Patent Office's rejection of its patent application for a web browsing history technology was dismissed by the EPO Boards of Appeal yesterday. The Board found Samsung's technology claimed features which were obvious over prior art.

Samsung Electronics lost its appeal of the refusal of its patent application for web page access when the Boards of Appeal of the European Patent Office, or EPO, ruled yesterday that the claimed invention lacked an inventive step.

The rejection marks a setback for the South Korean tech giant's efforts to secure an EU patent for its technology that helps users access web pages by organizing their browsing histories according to topics of interest.

According to the board, Samsung's patent application lacked an inventive step over a prior art reference disclosing "Memex" – a browser assistant containing key features claimed by Samsung, including a topic extractor and a mapper configured to map extracted topics onto a topic organization system.

In finding real-time creation of a summary graph non-inventive, the board said that "changing a functionality to be performed in real time is an obvious design option" and that "[t]he mere automation of a known manual process by means of a computer program is notoriously known and thus obvious."

The board also concluded that the amendments Samsung made to the claims during the appeal process, which added a session manager and a semantic relations analyzer, were not inventive as the prior art disclosed those features.

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**Areas of Interest:** Intellectual Property

**Industries:** Media & Telecommunications

**Geographies:** Europe, European Union Member States

**Topics:**

Patents