

Dropbox, Inc. : Portfolio Report

Introduction

Dropbox, Inc. is an American company that offers cloud storage, file synchronization, personal cloud, and client software. It was founded in 2007 by Drew Houston and Arash Ferdowsi and is headquartered in San Francisco, California.^[1]

The company's cloud storage service, Dropbox, enables users to share and store files including photos, documents, and videos. To use Dropbox, a user needs to create an account on dropbox.com and allow the service to create folders on all connected devices such as PCs, laptops or other mobile devices. Files stored on the service can then be synchronized with any of the user's connected devices. Files can also easily be shared with other users, by providing them with a link to the Dropbox folder. Users can choose to create a shared folder in their personal Dropbox account.^[1]

The Dropbox application is available for Microsoft Windows, Apple macOS, and Linux operating systems. Its mobile version is available for iOS, Android, and Windows Phone smartphones and tablets. The business model of Dropbox is such that users can create an account with a set storage size for free. For more capacity and additional features, they are required to opt for paid subscriptions. There are 3 types of subscriptions – Dropbox Basic, Dropbox Plus, and Dropbox Business.^[1]

As of March 2016, Dropbox has 500 million users across 180 countries. In 2017, the company generated a revenue of US \$1.11 billion. Dropbox recently filed for an initial public offering of up to \$500 million with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.^[2] This report takes a closer look at Dropbox's patent assets that are currently in force. It includes a portfolio taxonomy and provides insights into various aspects of the overall portfolio.

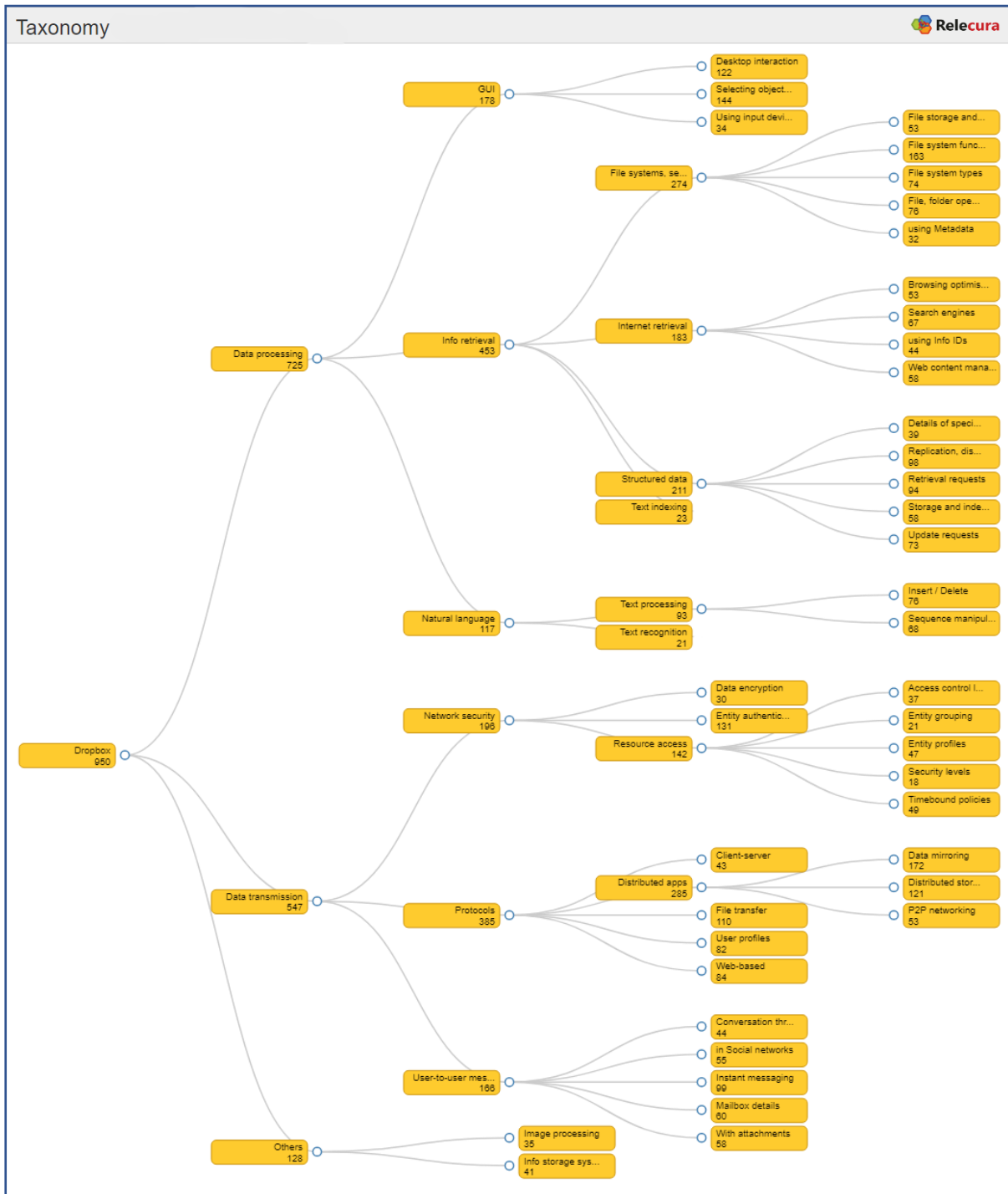
Contents

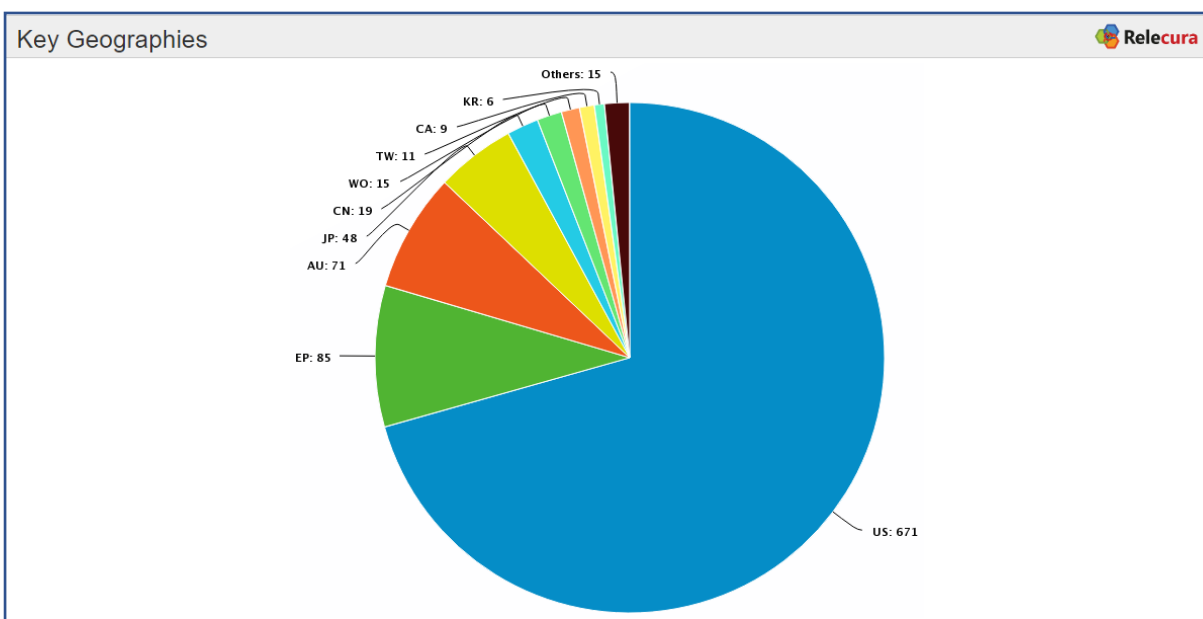
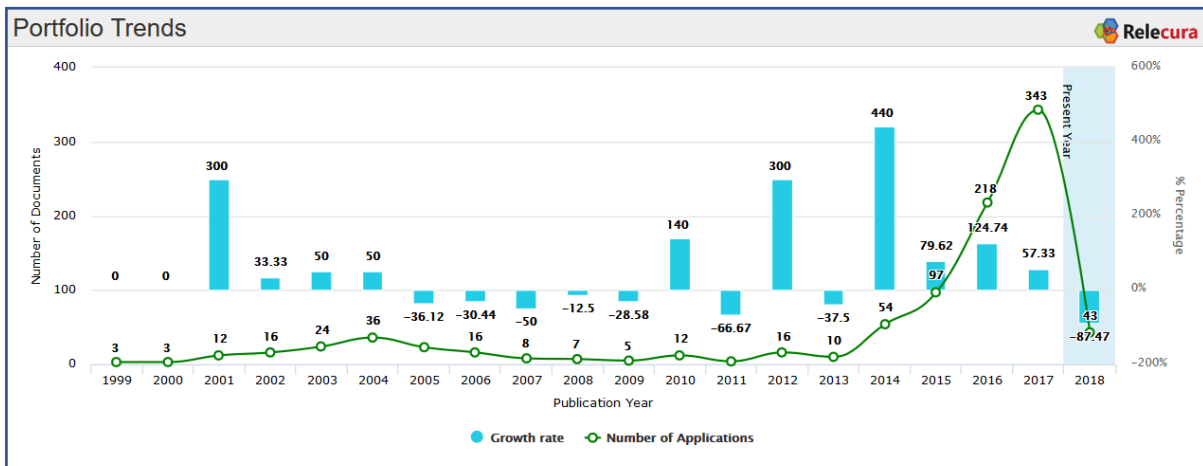
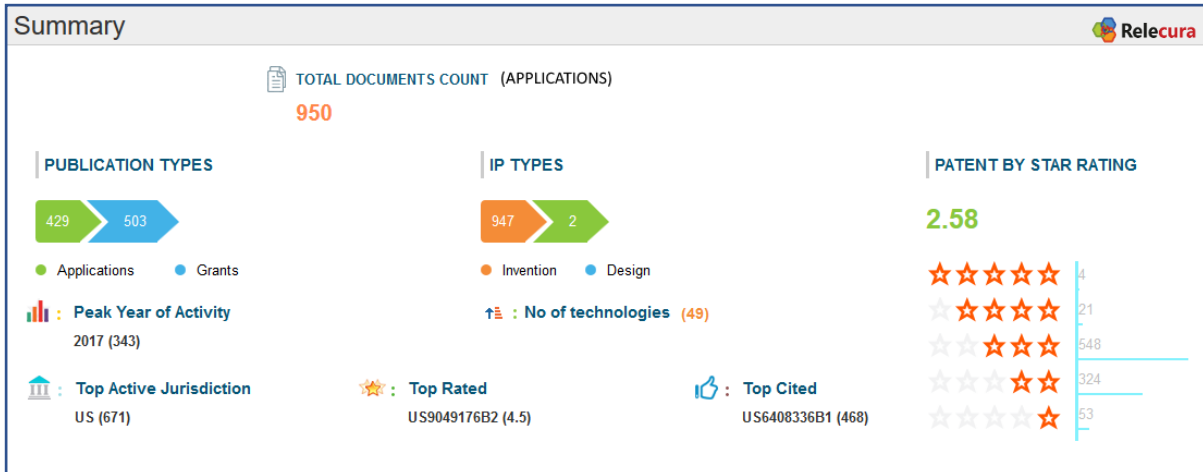
- Taxonomy
- Summary
- Portfolio trends
- Key geographies
- Key technologies
- Evolution of key technologies
- Analysis of key technologies
- Patent quality
- Key patents
- Top forward citing (FC) assignees
- Technology focus of FC assignees
- Key acquisitions
- Topic Map - Concepts

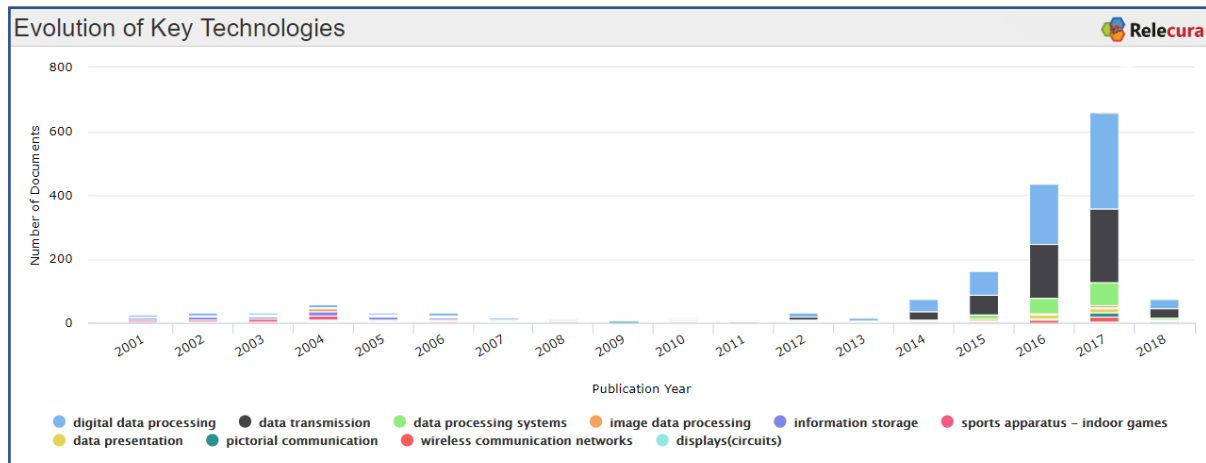
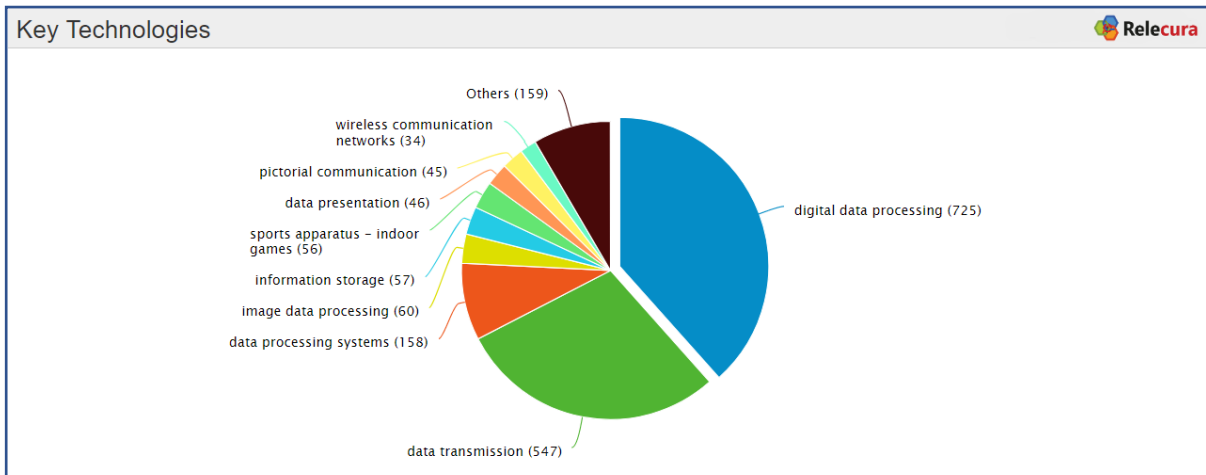
Sources

[1. Dropbox \(Wikipedia\)](#)

[2. Dropbox files for IPO up to \\$500 million \(Reuters\)](#)

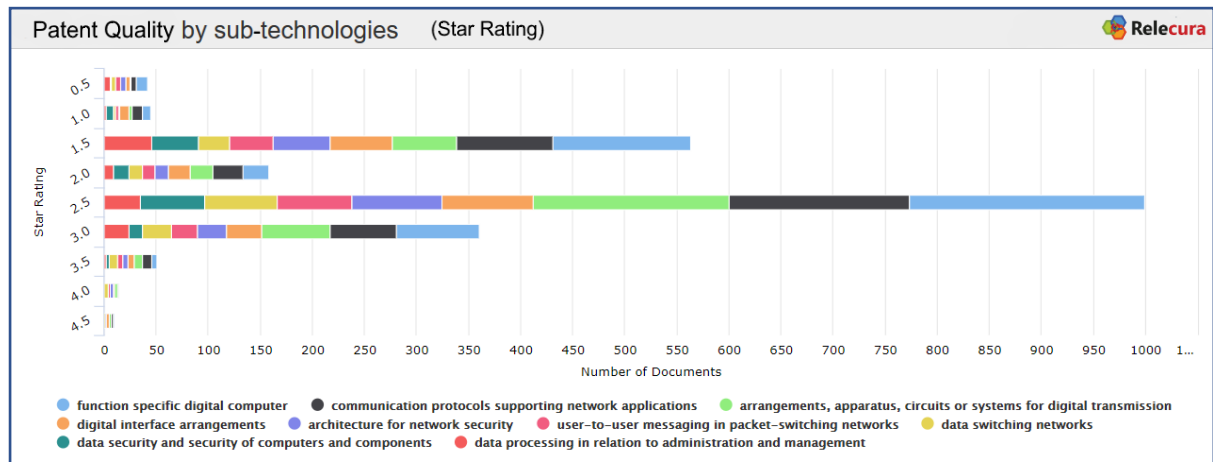






Analysis of Key Technologies

Technologies	Applications	Grants	Sub Technologies	Geographies
digital data processing	345	372	function specific digital computer (487) , communication protocols supporting network applications (332) , arrangements, apparatus, circuits or systems for digital transmission (280) , digital interface arrangements (226) , architecture for network security (158)	US (508) , AU (64) , EP (64) , JP (34) , WO (14)
data transmission	300	245	communication protocols supporting network applications (385) , arrangements, apparatus, circuits or systems for digital transmission (354) , function specific digital computer (288) , architecture for network security (196) , user-to-user messaging in packet-switching networks (166)	US (378) , AU (56) , EP (47) , JP (27) , CN (12)
data processing systems	89	67	data processing in relation to administration and management (124) , communication protocols supporting network applications (99) , function specific digital computer (92) , user-to-user messaging in packet-switching networks (80) , data switching networks (70)	US (97) , AU (24) , EP (19) , JP (10) , CN (3)
image data processing	11	46	generating 2d images (32) , rendering 3d images (29) , image enhancement or restoration (16) , animation (15) , circuits for display devices (15)	US (44) , EP (5) , JP (3) , TW (2) , AR (1)
information storage	8	43	constructional parts, details or accessories for recording/reproducing apparatus (19) , optical record carriers (19) , signal processing and circuits for record carriers (16) , aspects of video games (14) , loading/unloading/guiding single disk cartridges or naked disks in/from disk drives, (14)	US (27) , EP (9) , JP (9) , DE (2) , MY (2)

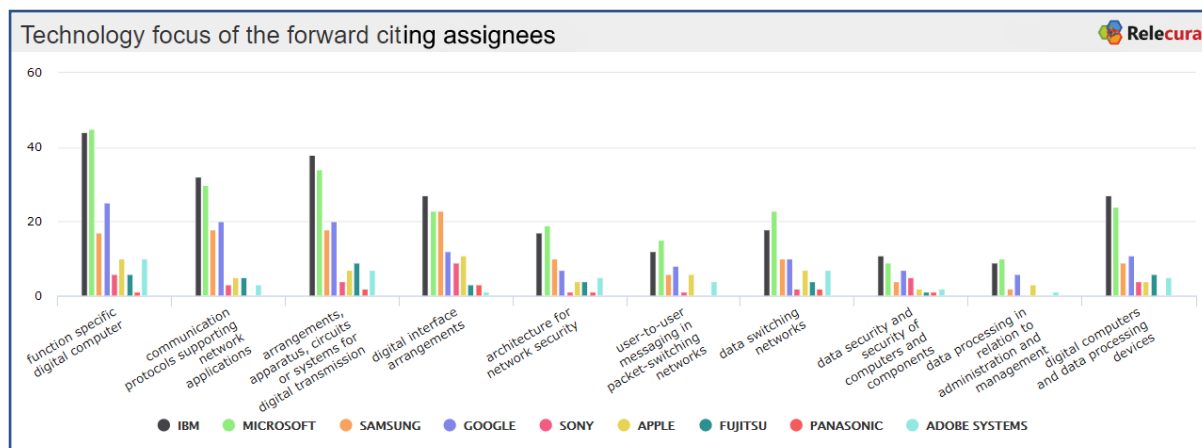


Key Patents in portfolio

Publication No.	Title	Inventor	Filing Date	Star Rating	#Fwd Citations
US9794735B2	Context determination for mobile devices when accessing remote resources	Amit Mohan Joshi, Nils Bungler, Sanjeev Radhakrishnan	2012-02-15	4.5	73
US9049176B2	File sharing via link generation	Arash Ferdowsi, Drew Houston, Jonathan Ying, Jeffrey Bartelma	2011-08-25	4.5	88
US20130138810A1	Systems and Methods for Workspace Interaction with Cloud-Based Applications	Shuki Binyamin, Jay Zaveri, Meir Morgenstern, Milind Gadekar	2012-09-07	4.5	78
US20130246932A1	Systems and Methods for Graphical User Interface Interaction with Cloud-Based Applications	Jay Zaveri, Doron Yaacoby, Alyssa Woodman, Jerome Domurat	2013-04-25	4.5	83
US9027097B2	Client application assisted automatic user log in	Andrew Bortz, Ambrus Csaszar, David Euresti, Dwayne Litzenberger	2013-02-06	4.0	83

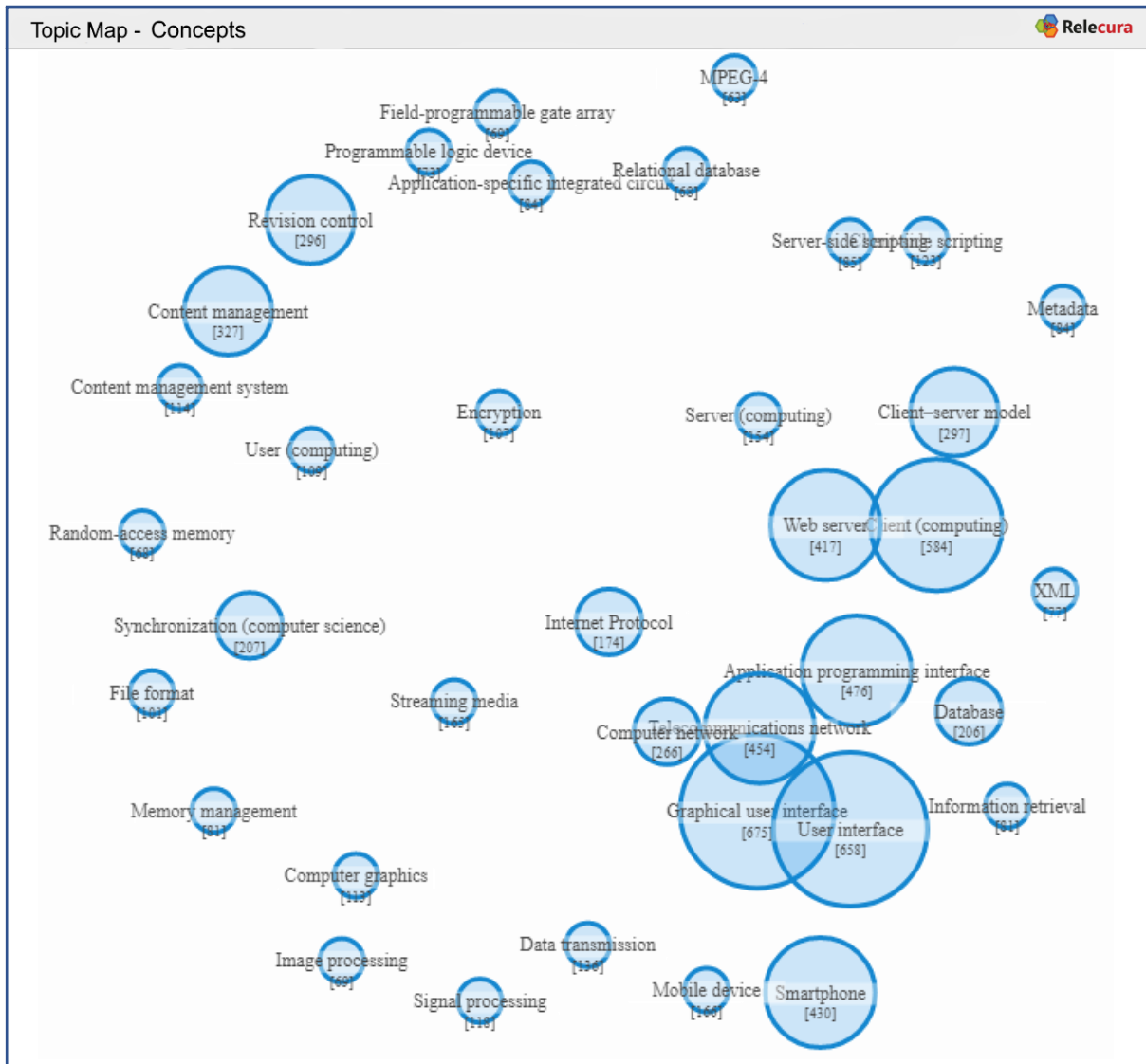
Top Forward Citing Assignees

Assignee	Number of documents
IBM	98
MICROSOFT	93
SAMSUNG	73
GOOGLE	52
SONY	44
APPLE	26
FUJITSU	21
PANASONIC	21
ADOBE SYSTEMS	20



Key acquisitions

Acquired from	Number of applications	Technologies
SONY	85	sports apparatus - indoor games (30), digital data processing (29), information storage (25), image data processing (24), pictorial communication (13)
IBM	35	digital data processing (31), data transmission (14), data presentation (6), data processing systems (6), greentech - others (4)
SUGARSYNC INC	15	data transmission (17), digital data processing (17)
APPTOU TECHNOLOGIES LTD (CLOUDON INC)	6	digital data processing (6), data transmission (5), image data processing (4)
ENDORSE CORP	4	data processing systems (4)



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