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GOOGLE INC.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

ORACLE AMERICA, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

GOOGLE INC.,

Defendant.

Case No. 3:10-cv-03561-WHA
**GOOGLE'S MOTION IN LIMINE NO. 4
TO EXCLUDE PORTIONS OF
GOLDBERG REPORT DISCUSSING
COMMERCIAL SUCCESS**

Judge: Hon. William Alsup
Date Comp. Filed: October 27, 2010
Trial Date: October 31, 2011

1 **MOTION AND RELIEF REQUESTED**

2 Under Federal Rules of Evidence 401, 402, and 403, defendant Google, Inc. (“Google”)
3 hereby moves the Court for an order excluding *in limine* evidence attributing any “commercial
4 success” of *Java* to the asserted patents because Oracle cannot as a legal matter satisfy its burden
5 of proving the requisite nexus. Such evidence includes paragraphs 423-427, 435-443, and 482-
6 485 of the Goldberg Report¹. In any event, the Court should exclude *in limine* evidence
7 attributing *Android’s* (or even *Java’s*) commercial success to the asserted patents ,unless and
8 until Google opens the door to such evidence by presenting an obviousness defense, and Oracle
9 demonstrates the requisite nexus. In addition to the Java-related paragraphs already listed, this
10 includes paragraphs 428-431, 444-447, 461-466, and 469-473 of the Goldberg Report.

11 **DISCUSSION**

12 “Commercial success” is just one of a long list of potentially relevant “secondary
13 considerations” that the patentee may invoke to rebut the defendant’s proof of obviousness. As
14 this Court observed in its *Therasense* decision, “[t]he Federal Circuit has held that ‘secondary
15 considerations, when present, must be considered in determining obviousness.’” *Therasense,*
16 *Inc. v. Becton, Dickinson & Co.*, 565 F. Supp. 2d 1088, 1123 (N.D. Cal. 2008) (Alsup, J.), *aff’d*,
17 593 F.3d 1289 (Fed. Cir. 2010) *reh’g en banc granted, opinion vacated*, 374 F. App’x. 35 (Fed.
18 Cir. 2010) (en banc), *panel opinion reinstated in relevant part and district court aff’d in relevant*
19 *part*, 2011 WL 2028255 (Fed. Cir. May 25, 2011) (en banc) (citation omitted). The list of
20 potentially probative secondary considerations has expanded over time to include “commercial
21 success,” “long-felt but unsolved needs,” “failure of others,” and seven other factors that this
22 Court has discerned in the Federal Circuit’s precedents. *See id.* at 1123. Despite their disparate
23 natures, all of these factors—including “commercial success”—have one thing in common:
24 Evidence regarding them “only has probative value where there is ‘a nexus between the merits of
25 the claimed invention and the secondary consideration.’” *Id.* at 1124 (citation omitted). “The

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27 ¹ “Goldberg Report” refers to the “Expert Report of Dr. Benjamin F. Goldberg Regarding
28 Validity of Patents-In-Suit” dated August 25, 2011, relevant excerpts of which are attached as
Ex. 33 to the Declaration of Daniel Purcell in Support of Google Inc.’s Motions *in Limine*
 (“Purcell Decl.”) filed herewith.

1 burden of proof as to this connection or nexus resides with the patentee.” *Id.* (citation omitted).

2 **1. Oracle cannot attribute *Java*’s commercial success to the ‘520, ‘720, and ‘520**
3 **patents specifically. nor to the asserted patents generally.**

4 Oracle only cites the purported commercial success of Java to demonstrate non-
5 obviousness of four of the seven asserted patents: the ‘104 patent, the ‘205 patent, the ‘447
6 patent, and the ‘476 patent. *See generally* Goldberg Report §§ XVI.A.2, B.2, and F.2 (Purcell
7 Decl. Ex. 33). With respect to the remaining patents—the ‘520 patent, the ‘702 patent, and the
8 ‘720 patent—Oracle only relies on the commercial success of *Android* to demonstrate non-
9 obviousness. *See generally id* at §§ XVI.C.2, D.2, and E.2. The Court should therefore at
10 minimum exclude under Rule 402 any evidence that *Java*’s success is attributable to the practice
11 of the ‘520, ‘702, and ‘720 patents.

12 Furthermore, because Oracle does not contend Java practices all of the asserted patents,
13 any suggestion that the success of “Java” generally is attributable to the asserted patents would
14 be misleading. Oracle cannot logically claim that Java’s success is attributable to the asserted
15 patents when it only contends that about half of those patents are even practiced by Java. As
16 such, the Court should exclude any such illogical and false generalizations under Rule 403.

17 **2. Oracle cannot attribute *Java*’s commercial success to the ‘104, ‘205, ‘447,**
18 **and ‘476 patents because it cannot establish the necessary nexus.**

19 Even as to the ‘104, ‘205, ‘447, and ‘476 patents, which Oracle has attempted to relate to
20 the success of Java, the Court should exclude such evidence because there is no analysis as to
21 whether Java actually practices those patents. Instead of analyzing the issue, Oracle’s experts
22 simply “assume” that this is the case. For example, Dr. Benjamin Goldberg, contends that “I
23 understand that Sun Microsystems and Oracle have implemented the claimed invention of the
24 ’104 patent in their Java virtual machines.” *See* Purcell Decl. Ex. 33 (Goldberg Report) ¶ 423.
25 He makes the same claim with respect to the ‘447 and ‘476 patents. *See id.* ¶ 482. Dr. Goldberg
26 does not cite to anything in the record to support these assertions, and certainly engages in no
27 analysis of the issue himself (nor does Dr. Mitchell, Oracle’s expert on the issue of
28 infringement).

1 With respect to the ‘205 patent, Dr. Goldberg claims that “I understand that Java engineer
2 Dr. Peter Kessler has confirmed that the HotSpot virtual machine employs the
3 `_fast_invokevfinal()` nonstandard bytecode to implement the asserted claims of the ‘205 patent.”
4 *Id.* ¶ 436. Again, there is no basis for this assertion. Dr. Goldberg has not analyzed whether
5 Java practices the claims. Nor did Dr. Kessler, upon whom Dr. Goldberg relies. To the contrary,
6 Dr. Kessler repeatedly testified that he could not interpret and apply the asserted claims of the
7 ‘205 patent. *See* Purcell Decl. Ex. 34 (Kessler Depo.) at 52:13-19; 59:13-22. He similarly
8 testified with respect to the ‘104 patent, and Oracle’s counsel repeatedly objected to the line of
9 questioning as calling for expert testimony, implying that Dr. Kessler was not in a position to
10 evaluate whether Java indeed practices the asserted claims. *See id.* at 187:20 – 188:23.

11 In light of Oracle’s failures to even analyze whether Java practices the ‘104, ‘205, ‘447,
12 and ‘476 patents, any evidence suggesting Java does so should be excluded under Rules 402 and
13 403. Indeed, without such an analysis, there can be no showing of a “nexus between the merits
14 of the claimed invention and the secondary consideration.” *Therasense*, 565 F. Supp. 2d at 1123.

15 **3. Whether or not Android’s (or even Java’s) commercial success is**
16 **attributable to the asserted patents is not relevant unless Google presents an**
obviousness defense, and should be excluded until that point.

17 The paragraphs of the Goldberg Report addressed by this motion purport to demonstrate
18 that the inventions claimed in each of Oracle’s asserted patents have contributed to the
19 commercial success of Java, Android, or both. Such evidence is irrelevant—and thus
20 inadmissible under Rule 402—unless and until Google presents an obviousness defense to the
21 specific patent(s) that Dr. Goldberg is discussing. With 42 claims across 7 patents still at issue, it
22 is impossible to tell whether obviousness will even be an issue at trial. In fact, Oracle may moot
23 this issue altogether if it finally narrows the scope of the case to triable claims, rather than an
24 unrealistic laundry list of issues.

25 In any event, evidence of the impact of the asserted patents on the commercial success of
26 Android or of Java has no relevance —and is therefore inadmissible under Rule 402—unless and
27 until (1) Google presents an obviousness defense as to a specific patent, *and* (2) Oracle meets its
28 burden of demonstrating a “nexus” between the merits of the invention claimed in that patent and

1 the commercial success of Android (in the case of the '205, '702, '520, and '720 patents) or the
2 commercial success of Java (in the case of the '104, '205, '447 and '476 patents).

3 Prior to that juncture, evidence regarding “commercial success” also should be
4 inadmissible under Rule 403’s probative-value-versus-prejudice balancing test—even assuming
5 *arguendo* that such evidence possesses some marginal relevance to the liability case. “Where the
6 evidence is of very slight (if any) probative value, it’s an abuse of discretion to admit it if there’s
7 even a *modest likelihood* of unfair prejudice or a *small risk* of misleading the jury.” *United*
8 *States v. Gonzalez-Flores*, 418 F.3d 1093, 1098 (9th Cir. 2005) (emphases added) (citation
9 omitted) (applying Rule 403). Or, to put it another way: “[E]vidence presenting even a ‘modest
10 likelihood of unfair prejudice’ is ‘high enough to outweigh the . . . probative value’ of marginally
11 relevant evidence.” *United States v. Espinoza-Baza*, 647 F.3d 1182 (9th Cir. 2011) (citation
12 omitted) (applying Rule 403). “Commercial success” evidence poses at least a “modest
13 likelihood” of unfair prejudice and a more than a “small risk” of misleading the jury because it
14 tends to create an inflated sense of the patent’s importance to the rapid development of the
15 mobile-device market and, by implication, to the success of Android. Unfair prejudice and the
16 risk of misleading are even greater with respect to Dr. Goldberg’s assertions that the '104, '205,
17 '447, and '476 patents contributed to “Java’s commercial success” (Purcell Decl. Ex. 33
18 (Goldberg Report), ¶¶ 427, 443, 485), because Java actually has achieved little or no success in
19 the field of mobile devices.

20 CONCLUSION

21 The Court should, pursuant to Rules 402 and 403, exclude *in limine* any evidence
22 attributing the commercial success of *Java* to the asserted patents because (a) Oracle does not
23 even rely on all of them to demonstrate success; and (b) as to those it does rely on, Oracle cannot
24 demonstrate the requisite nexus. At a minimum, the Court should exclude under Rules 402 and
25 403 any evidence attributing the commercial success of either Java or Android to the asserted
26 patents unless and until such time as Google opens the door via an obviousness defense and
27 Oracle demonstrates the requisite nexus.

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Dated: September 24, 2011

Respectfully submitted,
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