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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN JOSE DIVISION

VIACOM INTERNATIONAL, INC., ET AL.,
Plaintiffs,
v.
YOUTUBE, INC., ET AL.,
Defendants.

Case No.: C-08-80211 MISC. JF (PVT)
**ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANT
YOUTUBE’S MOTION TO COMPEL**

INTRODUCTION

Defendants YouTube, Inc., YouTube LLC and Google, Inc. (collectively “YouTube” or “defendants”) move to compel third-party BayTSP, Inc. (“BayTSP”) to produce documents responsive to a subpoena *duces tecum* served on or about September 27, 2007. Third-party BayTSP opposes the motion. On December 9, 2008, the parties appeared for hearing. Plaintiffs Viacom International, Inc., Comedy Partners, Country Music Television, Inc., Paramount Pictures Corporation and Black Entertainment Television LLC, (collectively “Viacom” or

1 “plaintiffs”) appeared in part.¹ Having read the papers and considered the arguments of counsel,
2 defendants’ motion to compel is granted.²

3 **BACKGROUND**

4 Viacom and its numerous affiliates, including Comedy Partners, Country Music
5 Television, Inc., Paramount Pictures Corporation and Black Entertainment Television, create,
6 produce and distribute, *inter alia*, television programs, motion pictures and short form
7 audiovisual works across all media platforms for audiences worldwide. Plaintiffs have
8 undertaken certain and significant efforts to protect their original works, including availing
9 themselves of the protections provided by copyright laws. As a general matter, licensing,
10 distribution and public performance of plaintiffs’ original works has been limited to authorized
11 mediums, formats and venues.

12 Founded in 2005, YouTube is an online video hosting service that enables users to share
13 their personal and original video clips across the Internet through websites, mobile devices,
14 blogs and electronic mail.³ The service hosts hundreds of millions of video clips and its vast
15 range of content includes forums for political candidates, reportings from remote war zones like
16 Darfur, stand-up routines, drunken ramblings, backyard science projects to delivery room
17 footage. YouTube has a global audience of tens of millions of people and is the number one
18 video site on the Internet. Users upload new clips to YouTube’s video hosting website every
19 day.

20 In the underlying action pending in the Southern District of New York, Viacom has
21

22 ¹ Because plaintiffs have undertaken review of third-party BayTSP documents for
23 privilege and work-product doctrine, they appeared at the hearing for the limited purpose of
24 determining the timing of the proposed production. Transcript of Proceedings Before the
Honorable Patricia V. Trumbull, U.S. Magistrate Judge, December 9, 2008. (“Tr.”). Tr. 3:22-
25; 4:1.

25 Viacom expects that its own documents will be produced to YouTube in or around March
26 15, 2009. Tr. 31: 21-24.

27 ² The holding of this court is limited to the facts and the particular circumstances
underlying the present motion.

28 ³ YouTube is a wholly owned subsidiary of Google, Inc. (“Google”). In 2006, Google
acquired YouTube for \$1.65 billion.

1 alleged claims against YouTube for direct (public performance, public display, reproduction and
2 distribution), contributory and vicarious copyright infringement and has sought damages in
3 excess of \$1 billion.⁴ Copyrighted works at issue, include, but are not limited to, popular
4 television programs and motions pictures such as “SpongeBob, SquarePants,” “The Daily Show
5 with Jon Stewart,” “The Colbert Report,” “South Park,” “Ren & Stimpy,” “MTV Unplugged,”
6 “An Inconvenient Truth,” and “Mean Girls.” In sum, plaintiffs have alleged that YouTube has
7 “fuel[ed] an explosion of copyright infringement by exploiting the inexpensive duplication and
8 distribution made possible by digital technology.” First Amended Complaint filed on April 18,
9 2008, at ¶ 1. (“FAC”). YouTube profits from the massive Internet traffic generated by users
10 who have unlawfully uploaded plaintiffs’ original and copyrighted works. FAC at ¶ 5. And
11 YouTube obstructs plaintiffs’ efforts to locate such works. FAC at ¶¶ 7-8. As a result, plaintiffs
12 allege that certain of their writers, composers and performers are being denied just compensation
13 for their original works. FAC at ¶ 2.

14 In its defense, YouTube asserts that the Digital Millenium Copyright Act (“DMCA”)
15 immunizes intermediary service providers, such as itself, from copyright liability for material
16 uploaded by users so long as service providers timely respond to notifications from content
17 owners of alleged copyright infringement. YouTube notes that the Ninth Circuit has recently
18 held that, under the DMCA, the burden of policing copyright infringement rests squarely on
19 copyright owners. YouTube claims that it has taken a host of industry-leading steps to assist
20 copyright owners stop the unauthorized posting and viewing of copyrighted content. And
21 YouTube claims it has been “extremely responsive” to takedown notices from copyright holders.

22 BayTSP located in Los Gatos, CA describes itself as “a service company retained by
23 copyright owners to identify individuals who are making their copyrighted works available for
24 download on the Internet.” Sending infringement notices on behalf of clients and monitoring for
25 compliance are among the services offered by BayTSP. Prior to filing the lawsuit (and at least as

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27 ⁴ Viacom filed its action on March 13, 2007. A tag-along putative class action was filed
on May 4, 2007. The two actions have been consolidated for purposes of discovery.

28 YouTube represents that the discovery plan in the underlying litigation provides for
third-party discovery to proceed first. Tr. 4:17-18.

1 early as June 2006), Viacom and other copyright owners engaged third-party BayTSP to police,
2 document and notify YouTube when potentially infringing material was located on its website.
3 Indeed, an article located on BayTSP's website states that the Viacom lawsuit was predicated on
4 specific work done by BayTSP. Viacom hired BayTSP to use its "crawler software" "to scour
5 every corner of YouTube's site," and in turn, BayTSP identified more than 150,000 unauthorized
6 clips on the YouTube website. Viacom's General Counsel has stated that to do so, costs the
7 company "tens of thousands of dollars a month."

8 On September 27, 2007, YouTube served third-party BayTSP with a subpoena *duces*
9 *tecum* seeking the production of documents. ("subpoena"). BayTSP served objections to the
10 various document requests. Thereafter, the parties met and conferred in numerous efforts to
11 resolve their discovery dispute.⁵ To date, third-party BayTSP has not produced any responsive
12 documents.

13 On May 15, 2008, a second amended stipulated protective order was entered in the
14 underlying action. *See* YouTube's Reply In Support of Motion to Compel Production of
15 Documents, Exh. A. ("Stipulated Protective Order").

16 LEGAL STANDARDS

17 Rule 45 authorizes issuance of a subpoena to command a nonparty to produce designated
18 documents, electronically stored information, or tangible things in its possession, custody or
19 control. Fed. R. Civ. P. 45(a)(1)(A)(iii). "[T]he scope of discovery through subpoena is the
20 same as that applicable to Rule 34 and the other discovery rules." Advisory Committee Notes
21 (1970). Rule 34 states that "[a] party may serve on any other party a request within the scope of
22 Rule 26(b)." Fed. R. Civ. P. 34(a). Rule 26(b) states that "[p]arties may obtain discovery
23 regarding any nonprivileged matter that is relevant to any party's claim or defense." Fed. R. Civ.
24 P. 26(b). "Relevant information need not be admissible at the trial if the discovery appears
25 reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence." *Id.* Indeed, "[a] district
26 court whose only connection with a case is supervision of discovery ancillary to an action in

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28 ⁵ The parties state they have undertaken extensive efforts to meet and confer, including
twenty-four formal letters, numerous emails and at least six substantive teleconferences between
the parties' counsel.

1 another district should be especially hesitant to pass judgment on what constitutes relevant
2 evidence thereunder. Where relevance is in doubt . . . The court should be permissive.”
3 *Gonzales v. Google, Inc.*, 234 F.R.D. 674, 681 (N.D. Ca. 2006)(citing *Truswal Sys. Corp. v.*
4 *Hydro-Air Engineering, Inc.*, 813 F.2d 1207, 1211-1212 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Notwithstanding the
5 above, discovery is subject to certain limitations and is not without “ultimate and necessary
6 boundaries.” *Id.* at 680 (citing *Pacific Gas and Elec., Co. v. Lynch*, 2002 WL 32812098, at *1
7 (N.D. Cal. August 19, 2002).

8 Under Rule 26, a court must limit the frequency or extent of discovery if it determines
9 any of the following:

- 10 (i) the discovery sought is unreasonably cumulative or duplicative, or can be
11 obtained from some other source that is more convenient, less burdensome, or
12 less expensive;
- 12 (ii) the party seeking discovery has had ample opportunity to obtain the information
13 by discovery in the action; or
- 13 (iii) the burden or expense of the proposed discovery outweighs its likely benefit,
14 considering the needs of the case, the amount in controversy, the parties’
15 resources, the importance of the issues at stake in the action, and the importance
16 of the discovery in resolving the issues.

16 Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(2)(i), (ii) and (iii).

17 A nonparty commanded to produce documents and tangible things may serve objections
18 to any of the documents or materials sought. Fed. R. Civ. P. 45(c)(2)(B). “A party or attorney
19 responsible for issuing and serving a subpoena must take reasonable steps to avoid imposing
20 undue burden or expense on a [nonparty] subject to a subpoena.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 45(c)(1).
21 “Rule 26(c) and Rule 45(c)(3) give ample discretion to district courts to quash or modify
22 subpoenas causing ‘undue burden.’” *Exxon Shipping Co. v. U.S. Dept. of Interior, et al.*, 34 F.3d
23 774, , 779 (9th Cir. 1994).

24 A nonparty withholding subpoenaed information on the grounds of privilege or otherwise
25 subject to protection must serve a privilege log describing the nature of the documents withheld
26 so that the other parties may assess the privilege or protection claimed. Fed. R. Civ. P.
27 45(d)(2)(A)(ii).

1 **DISCUSSION**

2 **I. Document Requests**

3 The subpoena includes 13 specific document requests. YouTube describes the following
4 four general categories of documents:

- 5 (1) All documents and communications concerning YouTube, including those
6 reflecting use of YouTube by BayTSP and its clients, monitoring of YouTube by
7 BayTSP and its clients, and comparisons of the responsiveness of YouTube to
8 other online services (Document Request Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 13);
- 9 (2) All documents and communications regarding BayTSP's relationship with
10 Viacom, including documents regarding copyrights Viacom claims to own and
11 the litigations in New York (Document Request Nos. 6, 9);
- 12 (3) All documents and communications regarding the nature of BayTSP's monitoring
13 and identification processes, its training of monitors, and its effectiveness or lack
14 thereof with respect to identification of allegedly infringing materials online
15 (Document Request Nos. 2, 7, 10); and
- 16 (4) All documents sufficient to identify the entities that have retained BayTSP to
17 monitor the YouTube service, and documents sufficient to identify prior
18 litigations in which BayTSP has provided testimony (Document Request Nos. 11,
19 12).

20 With the exception of document request no. 4, BayTSP has objected to all of the
21 document requests set forth above. In response to document request no. 4, BayTSP stated that it
22 had no responsive documents.

23 **A. Relevance**

24 **1. Viacom-related Entities**

25 YouTube argues the above-specified document requests are relevant for a myriad of
26 reasons. First, documents that reflect monitoring by Bay TSP of the YouTube website may
27 refute plaintiffs' assertions that their burden for policing the website is too high. Contrary to the
28 obligations placed on content owners by the DMCA, plaintiffs argue that their burden is too
high. For its part, YouTube counters that the documents will likely show that content owners,
such as plaintiffs, can effectively police their content online. Second, the documents will likely
show that YouTube should not assume the burden to police its website and recognize
unauthorized content thereon. Indeed, YouTube expects that documents may show that plaintiffs
selectively notified YouTube about what content should be taken down while leaving still other

1 content on the website to reap certain promotional benefits. Third, documents may show that
2 BayTSP itself, acting on behalf of Viacom and charged with the specific task of identifying
3 plaintiffs' content, regularly made errors in sending DMCA notices to YouTube, demanded
4 removal of content plaintiffs did not own, content that was fair use and content that was
5 otherwise authorized for uploading onto the site. YouTube argues that such documents will
6 undercut plaintiffs' assertions that it should have had constructive knowledge of infringing
7 content and therefore, should be required to more proactively monitor its site for infringing
8 content. In other words, YouTube argues that it requires express guidance from copyright
9 owners to determine what content should remain on the website and what content should be
10 removed. Fourth, YouTube expects that other documents sought will refute plaintiffs' claims
11 that it hinders copyright owners' attempts to locate infringing content on its website. YouTube
12 states that the documents will likely show that its efforts to comply with the DMCA are
13 exemplary and that it goes far beyond what the law requires and what other online services have
14 done, to protect the rights of copyright owners. Finally, YouTube argues that, unlike other third
15 parties, BayTSP has volunteered to participate in the litigation by the very nature of the services
16 it has provided to plaintiffs. Viacom designated BayTSP to police its content online and has
17 identified the company in its initial disclosures as the witness solely knowledgeable about the
18 "identification of infringing content on YouTube." YouTube argues that BayTSP accepted a
19 role in the litigation and has even used the role to tout its services in various press releases. And
20 at least two depositions of Viacom witnesses have included extensive references to BayTSP, its
21 role in locating infringing content on the YouTube website and the takedown notices that were
22 sent on plaintiffs' behalf. Additionally, YouTube speculates that BayTSP has been, and will be,
23 compensated by Viacom for most, if not all, of its efforts to respond to the subpoena.

24 As a general matter, BayTSP has not disputed the relevance of the document requests as
25 they relate to plaintiffs and Viacom-related entities. Accordingly, the court finds that the
26 document requests as they relate to plaintiffs and Viacom-related entities are relevant.

27 **2. Non-Viacom Related Entities**

28 BayTSP, however, does dispute the relevance of the document requests as they relate to

1 non-Viacom related entities. At the hearing, BayTSP claimed that any relevance related to any
2 of the non-Viacom-related entities was remote at best. YouTube responded that the documents
3 pertaining to the non-Viacom related entities were relevant to show that other clients of the
4 company may have also instructed BayTSP that certain of their content remain on the YouTube
5 website. In this vein, YouTube contends that the documents underscore plaintiffs' claims that
6 YouTube is in the best position to discern what content should remain on the website and what
7 content should be removed.

8 YouTube's stated reasons for obtaining documents related to the non-Viacom related
9 entities appear reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. "Rule 26
10 does not require that the information sought necessarily be directed at the ultimate fact in issue,
11 only that the information sought be reasonably calculated to lead to admissible evidence in the
12 underlying litigation." *Gonzales v. Google, Inc.*, 234 F.R.D. at 683. Accordingly, the court
13 finds that the documents requests as they relate to non-Viacom related entities are relevant too.

14 **B. Undue Burden**

15 **1. Viacom-related Entities**

16 BayTSP complains that the scope of the documents sought by the subpoena is overly
17 broad and originally encompassed over four terabytes of data. Using common search terms to
18 electronically filter the collected data, yielded more than one million documents which were
19 identified as responsive to the various document requests. BayTSP claims that each of these
20 documents may average as many as 5 pages, meaning there would be a total of more than 5
21 million pages of documents. Undoubtedly, all of the documents require review and sorting,
22 *inter alia*, for responsiveness and privilege. Plaintiffs themselves have undertaken such a
23 review.

24 BayTSP further complains that it has already expended over 1900 hours in the last six
25 months searching and reviewing the documents. At present, the number of responsive
26 documents has been narrowed to 650,000 or half of the documents originally identified through
27 the electronic filter. In its papers, BayTSP states that it expects to have had commenced
28 production on a rolling basis by November 21, 2008 and by the date of the scheduled hearing,

1 expects that many of the responsive documents will have been produced.

2 YouTube speculates that BayTSP will be compensated by Viacom for all of its efforts to
3 comply with the subpoena. And therefore, BayTSP faces no economic burden in complying with
4 the subpoena. Indeed, at the hearing, YouTube sought to confirm its speculation, at numerous
5 turns, by pressing plaintiffs and BayTSP to confirm whether any such agreement existed.

6 At the hearing, Viacom stated that “it was not aware of any written undertaking [] to
7 indemnify BayTSP for the costs of complying with the subpoena [and was] fairly confident that
8 those understandings would not reach the scope of the kind of production that’s been sought
9 from BayTSP, which is far beyond anything for which Viacom had retained BayTSP to provide
10 services.” Tr. 45:14-21. BayTSP also acknowledged that “Viacom has been paying and
11 reimbursing BayTSP for its legal costs and so forth for responding.” Tr. 93:3-7.

12 Based on the above and at this juncture, BayTSP has not established undue burden for
13 production of documents regarding Viacom-related entities. BayTSP’s request that YouTube
14 bear the costs for complying with the subpoena is denied without prejudice to a further motion
15 for shifting costs. *See, e.g., OpenTV v. Liberate Techs.*, 219 F.R.D. 474, 479 (N.D. Cal.
16 2003)(cost of extraction of source code to be split equally); and *Semsroth v. City of Wichita*, 239
17 F.R.D. 630, 634-640 (D. Kan. 2006) (detailed analysis of cost-shifting).

18 **2. Non-Viacom related Entities**

19 BayTSP further argues that the scope of the requests unduly burdens its business and will
20 likely have a chilling effect on its other customers who have come to believe that their business
21 dealings with BayTSP would remain confidential. If the court were to compel production of
22 documents related to non-Viacom related entities, BayTSP would have to undertake the lengthy
23 and involved process of notifying its other clients (namely HBO, Universal and Fox and other
24 entities) about the potential disclosure of documents related to their businesses. Tr. 26: 3-12.
25 BayTSP argues that each of the non-Viacom related entities may be compelled on their own to
26 seek protective orders from this court. Tr. 27: 14-18.

27 YouTube counters that the stipulated protective order entered in the underlying litigation
28 adequately protects the interests of third parties such as the non-Viacom related entities. To

1 account for the notification process of non-Viacom related entities, YouTube will agree to a
2 staggered production date and suggests June 15, 2009.

3 Without prejudice to other parties who may independently move for a protective order
4 pursuant to Rule 26(c), the court finds that BayTSP has not established undue burden as it relates
5 to non-Viacom related entities. The court believes that the stipulated protective order, or
6 subsequent amendments agreed thereto, by and between the parties, including BayTSP, will
7 protect the interests of its other clients.

8 BayTSP has not specified the scope of non-Viacom related entities potentially affected
9 by such a production. Nonetheless, the court finds it appropriate for YouTube to reimburse
10 BayTSP for costs of the production of documents for non-Viacom related entities. To facilitate
11 production, the court suggests that the parties meet and confer on the scope of production,
12 including proposed search terms. *See* Tr. 63:1-19. And to that end, BayTSP shall provide
13 YouTube with a roster of its other clients no later than January 30, 2009. Having reviewed the
14 roster, YouTube shall notify BayTSP whether it seeks responsive documents related to any of
15 BayTSP's other clients no later than February 13, 2009.

16 **II. Format**

17 YouTube complains that BayTSP has made certain of its documents available on two
18 computer terminals during regular business hours. Therefore, YouTube is constrained to
19 conduct its review and print what it wants at the offices of BayTSP's counsel. YouTube takes no
20 comfort that BayTSP, and perhaps Viacom, will know what documents it has reviewed, what
21 documents it has focused on and what documents it has printed. Instead, YouTube requests that
22 it be allowed electronic access to the Kroll ontrack database on which the documents exist, be
23 provided with DVDs or other electronic medium of the entire responsive database so that it may
24 upload the database into its own database. This suggested format is consistent with an amended
25 ESI plan governing the underlying litigation. BayTSP states that conversion of the data files
26 onto DVDs or other electronic medium is costly. Indeed, BayTSP speculates the cost could
27 approximate six to ten cents per page to upload. Unless YouTube is willing to absorb this cost,
28 BayTSP cannot provide the documents in the requested format.

1 The court agrees that to require YouTube to view that vast amount of documents at the
2 offices of BayTSP's counsel with certain temporal cut-offs is unreasonable. *See, e.g.*, Rule 34(a)
3 requires production in a "reasonably usable form." Fed. R. Civ. P. 34(a). At the hearing, the
4 parties agreed to further meet and confer on the format of production, including discussing with
5 Kroll the actual cost of obtaining documents on the database and/or creating certain load files.
6 Tr. 52:1-15. In light of arguments at the hearing regarding the potential accessibility to
7 electronic documents viewed by YouTube, the court advises the parties to take appropriate
8 measures so that others, intentionally or inadvertently, not determine what documents were
9 viewed, what documents were focused on and what documents were printed. *See, e.g.*, Tr. 32:8-
10 25; 33: 1-25; 34:1-25; 35:14-25; 36: 3-18, 24-25; 37:1-15; 38: 1-6, 19-22. Accordingly, the
11 parties shall further meet and confer on the format of production. "[I]t is in the interests of each
12 of the parties to engage in this process cooperatively." *Mancia v. Mayflower Textile Servs. Co.,*
13 *et al.*, 253 F.R.D. 354, 365 (D. Md. 2008). In the event, the parties are unable to agree on the
14 format of production, YouTube may notice a motion on shortened time for a further ruling from
15 this court, on at least, this sole and discrete issue.

16 **III. Protective Order**

17 At the hearing, the parties agreed to further meet and confer on a stipulated protective
18 order to address BayTSP's concerns about its source code and non-Viacom related entities.⁶
19 Accordingly, the parties shall meet and confer to determine whether additional provisions are
20 necessary to further facilitate production. Unless the parties agree that a stipulated protective
21 order relating to BayTSP's other clients shall govern from this district, any further provisions
22 shall be approved by the court presiding in the underlying matter. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P.
23 26(c)(protective order may be sought in the court where the action is pending).

24 **CONCLUSION**

25 For the foregoing reasons, defendants' motion to compel is granted. Third-party BayTSP
26 shall produce responsive documents related to the Viacom-related entities no later than March 6,

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28 ⁶ To the extent the parties agree that production of BayTSP's source code can be limited to
documents showing how its technology searches the YouTube website, such a production would
be in compliance with this court's order.

1 2009 and shall produce responsive documents related to non-Viacom related entities no later
2 than July 15, 2009. In addition, BayTSP shall serve privilege logs that relate to each of the
3 productions on the respective dates set forth above. BayTSP shall also serve an affidavit which
4 sets forth the methodolog(ies) used to respond to the subpoena. The parties shall meet and
5 confer on the format of production and whether additional provisions to the stipulated protective
6 order may be needed.

7 IT IS SO ORDERED.

8 Dated: *January 14, 2009*

Patricia V. Trumbull

10 PATRICIA V. TRUMBULL
11 United States Magistrate Judge
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