

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
MARSHALL DIVISION**

POLARIS IP, LLC,

Plaintiff,

v.

GOOGLE INC. et al.,

Defendants.

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Civil Action No. 2:07-cv-371-TJW-CE

**DEFENDANT A9.COM, INC.’S
ANSWER AND COUNTERCLAIMS**

Defendant A9.com, Inc. (“A9.com” or “Defendant”), by and through its undersigned counsel, answers Polaris IP, LLC’s (“Polaris” or “Plaintiff”) Complaint for Patent Infringement (“Complaint”) and counterclaims against Plaintiff as follows:

I. ANSWER TO COMPLAINT

A. The Parties

1. A9.com lacks sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in Paragraph 1 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies them.

2. Paragraph 2 of the Complaint purports to be allegations regarding a party other than A9.com. To the extent any answer by A9.com is warranted, A9.com lacks sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in Paragraph 2 and, on that basis, denies them.

3. Paragraph 3 of the Complaint purports to be allegations regarding a party other than A9.com. To the extent any answer by A9.com is warranted, A9.com lacks sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in Paragraph 3 and, on that basis, denies them.

4. A9.com admits that Amazon.com, Inc. (“Amazon.com”) is a Delaware corporation with its corporate headquarters and principal place of business at 1200 12th Avenue South, Suite 1200, Seattle, Washington 98144. A9.com does not dispute service of the Complaint in this matter on Amazon.com via CT Corporation, 350 North St. Paul Street, Dallas, Texas 75201.

5. A9.com admits that it is a Delaware corporation with its corporate headquarters and principal place of business at 130 Lytton Avenue, Suite 300 Palo Alto, California 94301. A9.com does not dispute service of the Complaint in this matter via The Corporation Trust Company, Corporation Trust Center, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19801.

6. Paragraph 6 of the Complaint purports to be allegations regarding a party other than A9.com. To the extent any answer by A9.com is warranted, A9.com lacks sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in Paragraph 6 and, on that basis, denies them.

7. Paragraph 7 of the Complaint purports to be allegations regarding a party other than A9.com. To the extent any answer by A9.com is warranted, A9.com lacks sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in Paragraph 7 and, on that basis, denies them.

8. Paragraph 8 of the Complaint purports to be allegations regarding a party other than A9.com. To the extent any answer by A9.com is warranted, A9.com lacks sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in Paragraph 8 and, on that basis, denies them.

9. Paragraph 9 of the Complaint purports to be allegations regarding a party other than A9.com. To the extent any answer by A9.com is warranted, A9.com lacks sufficient

information to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in Paragraph 9 and, on that basis, denies them.

10. Paragraph 10 of the Complaint purports to be allegations regarding a party other than A9.com. To the extent any answer by A9.com is warranted, A9.com lacks sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in Paragraph 10 and, on that basis, denies them.

11. Paragraph 11 of the Complaint purports to be allegations regarding a party other than A9.com. To the extent any answer by A9.com is warranted, A9.com lacks sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in Paragraph 11 and, on that basis, denies them.

B. Jurisdiction and Venue

12. A9.com admits that the Complaint purports to arise under the patent laws of the United States and that this Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a) for cases arising under the patent laws of the United States.

13. A9.com denies this district is the proper venue in this matter. To the extent the remaining allegations in Paragraph 13 of the Complaint relate to A9.com, A9.com denies them. To the extent such remaining allegations relate to parties other than A9.com, A9.com lacks sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the remaining allegations in Paragraph 13, and therefore denies them.

14. A9.com does not challenge personal jurisdiction in this matter. A9.com lacks sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in Paragraph 14 pertaining to parties other than A9.com and, on that basis, denies them.

C. Allegation of Infringement of U.S. Patent no. 6,411,947

15. A9.com admits that Exhibit A to the Complaint, on its face, purports to be a copy of United States Patent No. 6,411,947 (“the ’947 Patent”) with a purported patent date of June 25, 2002, and bears the title “Automatic Message Interpretation and Routing System.” A9.com lacks sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the remaining allegations in Paragraph 15 of the Complaint and therefore denies them.

16. A9.com admits that Exhibit A to the Complaint, on its face, lists Amy Rice and Julie Hsu as inventors of the ’947 Patent and a document attached to the Complaint purporting to be a certificate of correction for the ’947 Patent lists Anthony Angotti, Rosanna Piccolo, and Fred Cohen as inventors of that patent. A9.com lacks sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the remaining allegations in Paragraph 15 of the Complaint and therefore denies them.

17. Paragraph 17 of the Complaint purports to make allegations concerning a party other than A9.com. To the extent any answer by A9.com is warranted, A9.com lacks sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in Paragraph 17 and, on that basis, denies them.

18. Paragraph 18 of the Complaint purports to make allegations concerning a party other than A9.com. To the extent any answer by A9.com is warranted, A9.com lacks sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in Paragraph 18 and, on that basis, denies them.

19. A9.com denies each and every allegation in Paragraph 19 of the Complaint.

20. A9.com denies each and every allegation in Paragraph 20 of the Complaint.

21. Paragraph 21 of the Complaint purports to make allegations concerning a party other than A9.com. To the extent that the allegations may relate to any activity of A9.com, or

any possible liability A9.com may have for the alleged infringement, A9.com denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 21 of the Complaint. A9.com lacks sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the remaining allegations in Paragraph 21 and, on that basis, denies them.

22. Paragraph 22 of the Complaint purports to make allegations concerning a party other than A9.com. To the extent that they may relate to any activity of A9.com, or any possible liability A9.com may have for the alleged infringement, A9.com denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 22 of the Complaint. A9.com lacks sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the remaining allegations in Paragraph 22 and, on that basis, denies them.

23. Paragraph 23 of the Complaint purports to make allegations concerning a party other than A9.com. To the extent any answer by A9.com is warranted, A9.com lacks sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in Paragraph 23 and, on that basis, denies them.

24. Paragraph 24 of the Complaint purports to make allegations concerning a party other than A9.com. To the extent any answer by A9.com is warranted, A9.com lacks sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in Paragraph 24 and, on that basis, denies them.

25. Paragraph 25 of the Complaint purports to make allegations concerning a party other than A9.com. To the extent any answer by A9.com is warranted, A9.com lacks sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in Paragraph 25 and, on that basis, denies them.

26. Paragraph 26 of the Complaint purports to make allegations concerning a party other than A9.com. To the extent any answer by A9.com is warranted, A9.com lacks sufficient

information to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in Paragraph 26 and, on that basis, denies them.

27. A9.com denies that it allegedly has induced or is actively inducing any infringement of the '947 Patent and it denies that it is allegedly liable for any contributory infringement of the '947 Patent. A9.com lacks sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in Paragraph 27 pertaining to parties other than A9.com and, on that basis, denies them.

28. A9.com denies Plaintiff is entitled to reserve the "right" it purports to reserve or that it is or ever will be entitled to adjudication of any issue of willful infringement by A9.com. A9.com lacks sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in Paragraph 28 pertaining to parties other than A9.com and, on that basis, denies them.

29. A9.com denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 29 of the Complaint.

30. As they may pertain to any damages allegedly suffered from any alleged infringement, or liability for alleged infringement, by A9.com, A9.com denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 30 of the Complaint. A9.com lacks sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the remaining allegations in Paragraph 30 pertaining to parties other than A9.com and, on that basis, denies them.

31. As they may pertain to any harm allegedly Plaintiff will suffer from any alleged infringement, or liability for alleged infringement, by A9.com, A9.com denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 31 of the Complaint. A9.com lacks sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the remaining allegations in Paragraph 31 pertaining to parties other than A9.com and, on that basis, denies them.

D. Plaintiff's Prayer for Relief

A9.com denies that plaintiff is entitled to the relief it prays for, or any relief at all, for the allegations contained in the Complaint.

To the extent that any allegations of the Complaint have not been previously specifically admitted or denied, A9.com denies them.

II. DEFENSES

Without admitting any allegations in the Complaint not otherwise admitted, A9.com avers and asserts the following defenses pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(c) and 35 U.S.C. § 282:

A. First Affirmative Defense (Failure to State A Claim)

32. Plaintiff's Complaint fails to state a claim against A9.com upon which relief can be granted.

B. Second Affirmative Defense (Non-infringement)

33. A9.com has not and does not infringe, and is not liable for any infringement of any valid and enforceable claim of the '947 Patent under any section of 35 U.S.C. § 271, or in any other way.

C. Third Affirmative Defense (Invalidity)

34. Each claim of the '947 Patent is invalid for failure to meet one or more of the conditions for patentability specified in Title 35 U.S.C. or the rules, regulations and law related thereto, including, without limitation in 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103, and 112.

D. Fourth Affirmative Defense (Claims Barred)

35. Polaris is barred from obtaining all, or part, of the relief it seeks under the doctrine of prosecution history estoppel.

E. Fifth Affirmative Defense (Unenforceability)

36. On information and belief, an application called EZ Reader that was based on Brightware, Inc.'s ART*Enterprise™ was developed and deployed for Chase Manhattan Bank in early 1996.

37. On information and belief, EZ Reader employed a combination of rule-based parsing and case-based reasoning to automatically respond to of electronic messages in a manner described and claimed in '947 Patent. The development and deployment of EZ Reader to Chase Manhattan Bank in early 1996 was information material to patentability of one or more claims of the '947 Patent.

38. On information and belief, one or more of the named inventors of the '947 Patent and/or other persons having a duty of candor to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) knew of EZ Reader's development and deployment at, or for, Chase Manhattan Bank, but with an intent to deceive the USPTO to ensure issuance of the '947 Patent, failed to disclose this material information while under a duty of candor and good faith including a duty to disclose to the USPTO all information that is material to patentability of the '947 Patent. By reason of this inequitable conduct, the '947 Patent is unenforceable.

F. Sixth Affirmative Defense (Costs Barred In Action For Infringement Of A Patent Containing An Invalid Claim)

39. Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 288, Polaris is barred from recovering any costs.

G. Seventh Affirmative Defense (Laches)

40. The doctrine of laches bars Polaris from obtaining all, or part, of the relief it seeks.

H. Eighth Affirmative Defense (Limitation on Damages)

41. Plaintiff's claim for damages is barred, in whole or in part, by 35 U.S.C. § 287.

I. Additional Affirmative Defenses Reserved

42. A9.com reserves any and all additional affirmative defenses available to it under Title 35 U.S.C., or the rules, regulations, and law related thereto, the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Rules of this Court, or otherwise in law or equity, now existing, or later arising, as may be discovered.

III. COUNTERCLAIMS

For its counterclaims against Polaris, A9.com alleges as follows:

A. Nature of Counterclaim

1. A9.com counterclaims against Polaris under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 13 for a declaration of non-infringement, invalidity, and unenforceability of U.S. Patent No. 6,411,947.

B. Parties

2. Based on the allegations in the Complaint, Polaris is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Texas, having its principal place of business at 207 C North Washington Avenue, Marshall, Texas 75670.

3. A9.com is a Delaware corporation, with its headquarters and principal place of business at 130 Lytton Avenue, Suite 300, Palo Alto, California 94301.

C. Jurisdiction

4. The counterclaims arise under the patent laws of the United States and the Declaratory Judgment Act. Jurisdiction in this Court is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1338(a), 2201, and 2202. This Court also has jurisdiction over the counterclaims pursuant to Rule 13 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

5. By virtue of initiating suit for patent infringement in this Court, Plaintiff has consented to personal jurisdiction.

6. By virtue of the allegations contained in Polaris's Original Complaint For Patent Infringement, filed August 27, 2007 in this Court, an actual controversy exists between Polaris and A9.com as to whether A9.com is liable for any infringement of a valid, enforceable claim of the '947 Patent.

D. Venue

7. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 and 1400.

E. Controversy

8. Based on the allegations in the Complaint, Polaris purports to be the owner of the '947 Patent.

9. Based on the allegations in the Complaint, Polaris claims A9.com is liable to it for infringement of the '947 Patent.

10. A9.com is not liable for any infringement of a valid, enforceable claim of the '947 Patent.

F. First Counterclaim (Declaration of Non-infringement of the '947 Patent)

11. A9.com re-alleges and incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 10 of the Counterclaims, above.

12. A9.com has not infringed, does not infringe, and is not liable for any infringement of any claim of the '947 Patent under 35 U.S.C. § 271.

13. A9.com seeks, and is entitled to, a declaration from this Court that it has not infringed, does not infringe, and is not liable for any infringement of any claim of the '947 Patent under 35 U.S.C. § 271, or in any other way.

G. Second Counterclaim (Declaration of Invalidity of the '947 Patent)

14. A9.com re-alleges and incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 13 of the Counterclaims, above.

15. Each claim of the '947 Patent is invalid for failure to meet one or more of the conditions for patentability specified in Title 35 U.S.C., or the rules, regulations, and law related thereto, including, without limitation, in 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103, and 112.

16. A9.com seeks, and is entitled to, a declaration from this Court that each claim of the '947 Patent is invalid.

H. Third Counterclaim (Declaration of Unenforceability of the '947 Patent)

17. A9.com re-alleges and incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 16 of the Counterclaims, above.

18. On information and belief, an application called EZ Reader that was based on Brightware, Inc.'s ART*Enterprise™ was developed and deployed for Chase Manhattan Bank in early 1996.

19. On information and belief, EZ Reader employed a combination of rule-based parsing and case-based reasoning to automatically respond to of electronic messages in a manner described and claimed in '947 Patent. The development and deployment of EZ Reader for Chase Manhattan Bank in early 1996 was information material to patentability of one or more claims of the '947 Patent.

20. On information and belief, one or more of the named inventors of the '947 Patent and/or other persons having a duty of candor to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) knew of EZ Reader's development and deployment at, or for, Chase Manhattan Bank, but with an intent to deceive the USPTO to ensure issuance of the '947 Patent, failed to disclose this material information while under a duty of candor and good faith including a duty to disclose to the USPTO all information that is material to patentability of the '947 Patent. By reason of this inequitable conduct, the '947 Patent is unenforceable.

21. A9.com seeks, and is entitled to, a declaration from this Court that each claim of

the '947 Patent is unenforceable.

**IV. PRAYER FOR RELIEF ON PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT
AND A9.COM'S COUNTERCLAIMS**

WHEREFORE, A9.com prays for the following relief:

- a. That Polaris take nothing by way of its Complaint;
- b. That the Complaint be dismissed with prejudice;
- c. That judgment be entered in favor of A9.com that it has not infringed, contributed to the infringement of, or induced others to infringe, or is not in any way liable for infringement, willfully or otherwise, of the '947 Patent;
- d. That judgment be entered in favor of A9.com that the '947 Patent is invalid;
- e. That judgment be entered in favor of A9.com that the '947 Patent is unenforceable;
- f. That a permanent injunction prohibiting Polaris, its officers, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with them, from alleging or charging that the '947 Patent has been infringed by A9.com, under any section of 35 U.S.C. § 271;
- g. That this Court find and declare that the claims of the '947 Patent are not infringed by A9.com and that A9.com is not liable as an infringer;
- h. That this Court find and declare that the claims of the '947 Patent are invalid and unenforceable;
- i. That A9.com be awarded attorneys' fees and costs as provided by law; and
- j. That the Court award A9.com such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

In accordance with Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Defendant A9.com, Inc. respectfully requests a jury trial on all issues so triable, including without limitation, Polaris' claims and A9.com, Inc.'s affirmative defenses and counterclaims.

Dated: October 18, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Blake C. Erskine

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that the foregoing document was filed electronically in compliance with Local Rule CV-5(a). As such, this motion was served on all counsel who have consented to electronic service, Local Rule CV-5(a)(3)(A), on this the 18th day of October, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Blake C. Erskine

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