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THE HONORABLE RICARDO S. MARTINEZ

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

CEN COM, INC., a Washington Corporation
doing business as American Digital
Monitoring,

Plaintiff,

v.

NUMEREX CORP., a Pennsylvania
Corporation; NextAlarm, LLC, a Georgia
Limited Liability Company; and DOES 1-10,

Defendants.

Case No.: 2:17-cv-00560-RSM

**AGREEMENT REGARDING
DISCOVERY OF
ELECTRONICALLY STORED
INFORMATION AND ORDER**

The parties hereby stipulate to the following provisions regarding the discovery
of electronically stored information (“ESI”) in this matter:

A. General Principles

1. An attorney’s zealous representation of a client is not compromised by conducting
discovery in a cooperative manner. The failure of counsel or the parties to litigation to cooperate
in facilitating and reasonably limiting discovery requests and responses raises litigation costs and
contributes to the risk of sanctions.

2. The proportionality standard set forth in Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(1) must be
applied in each case when formulating a discovery plan. To further the application of the
proportionality standard in discovery, requests for production of ESI and related responses should

1 be reasonably targeted, clear, and as specific as possible.

2 **B. ESI Disclosures**

3 Within 30 days after the Rule 26(f) conference, or at a later time if agreed to by the
4 parties, each party shall disclose:

5 1. Custodians. The five custodians most likely to have discoverable ESI in their
6 possession, custody or control. The custodians shall be identified by name, title, connection to the
7 instant litigation, and the type of the information under his/her control.

8 2. Non-custodial Data Sources. A list of non-custodial data sources (e.g. shared
9 drives, servers, etc.), if any, likely to contain discoverable ESI.

10 3. Third-Party Data Sources. A list of third-party data sources, if any, likely to contain
11 discoverable ESI (e.g. third-party email and/or mobile device providers, “cloud” storage, etc.)
12 and, for each such source, the extent to which a party is (or is not) able to preserve information
13 stored in the third-party data source.

14 4. Inaccessible Data. A list of data sources, if any, likely to contain discoverable ESI
15 (by type, date, custodian, electronic system or other criteria sufficient to specifically identify
16 the data source) that a party asserts is not reasonably accessible under Fed. R. Civ. P.
17 26(b)(2)(B).

18 **C. Preservation of ESI**

19 The parties acknowledge that they have a common law obligation to take reasonable and
20 proportional steps to preserve discoverable information in the party’s possession, custody or
21 control. With respect to preservation of ESI, the parties agree as follows:

22 1. Absent a showing of good cause by the requesting party, the parties shall not be
23 required to modify the procedures used by them in the ordinary course of business to back-up
24 and archive data; provided, however, that the parties shall preserve all discoverable ESI in their
25 possession, custody or control.

26 2. All parties shall supplement their disclosures in accordance with Rule 26(e) with
27 discoverable ESI responsive to a particular discovery request or mandatory disclosure where that

1 data is created after a disclosure or response is made (unless excluded under (C)(3) or (D)(1)-
2 (2) below).

3 3. Absent a showing of good cause by the requesting party, the following categories of
4 ESI need not be preserved:

- 5 a. Deleted, slack, fragmented, or other data only accessible by forensics.
- 6 b. Random access memory (RAM), temporary files, or other ephemeral data
7 that are difficult to preserve without disabling the operating system.
- 8 c. On-line access data such as temporary internet files, history, cache, cookies, and
9 the like.
- 10 d. Data in metadata fields that are frequently updated automatically, such as last-
11 opened dates (see also Section (E)(5)).
- 12 e. Back-up data that are substantially duplicative of data that are more accessible
13 elsewhere.
- 14 f. Server, system or network logs.
- 15 g. Data remaining from systems no longer in use that is unintelligible on the systems
16 in use.
- 17 h. Electronic data (e.g. email, calendars, contact data, and notes) sent to or from
18 mobile devices (e.g., iPhone, iPad, Android, and Blackberry devices), provided
19 that a copy of all such electronic data is routinely saved elsewhere (such as on a
20 server, laptop, desktop computer, or “cloud” storage).

17 **D. Privilege**

18 1. With respect to privileged or work-product information generated after the filing of the
19 complaint, parties are not required to include any such information in privilege logs.

20 2. Activities undertaken in compliance with the duty to preserve information are protected
21 from disclosure and discovery under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(3)(A) and (B).

22 3. Information produced in discovery that is protected as privileged or work product shall
23 be immediately returned to the producing party, and its production shall not constitute a waiver
24 of such protection, if: (i) such information appears on its face to have been inadvertently produced
25 or (ii) the producing party provides notice within 15 days of discovery by the producing party of
26 the inadvertent production.

1 **E. ESI Discovery Procedures**

2 1. On-site inspection of electronic media. Such an inspection shall not be permitted
3 absent a demonstration by the requesting party of specific need and good cause or by agreement
4 of the parties.

5 2. Search methodology. The parties shall timely attempt to reach agreement on
6 appropriate search terms, or an appropriate computer- or technology-aided methodology, before
7 any such effort is undertaken. The parties shall continue to cooperate in revising the
8 appropriateness of the search terms or computer- or technology-aided methodology.

9 In the absence of agreement on appropriate search terms, or an appropriate computer- or
10 technology-aided methodology, the following procedures shall apply:

11 a. A producing party shall disclose the search terms or queries, if any, and
12 methodology that it proposes to use to locate ESI likely to contain discoverable information. The
13 parties shall meet and confer to attempt to reach an agreement on the producing party's search
14 terms and/or other methodology.

15 b. If search terms or queries are used to locate ESI likely to contain
16 discoverable information, a requesting party is entitled to no more than 5 additional terms or
17 queries to be used in connection with further electronic searches absent a showing of good cause
18 or agreement of the parties. The 5 additional terms or queries, if any, must be provided by the
19 requesting party within 14 days of receipt of the producing party's production.

20 c. Focused terms and queries should be employed; broad terms or queries,
21 such as product and company names, generally should be avoided. Absent a showing of good
22 cause, each search term or query returning more than 250 megabytes of data are presumed to be
23 overbroad, excluding Microsoft PowerPoint files, image and audio files, and similarly large file
24 types.

25 d. The producing party shall search both non-custodial data sources and ESI
26 maintained by the custodians identified above.

1 3. Format. The parties agree that ESI will be produced to the requesting party with
2 searchable text, in a format to be decided between the parties. Acceptable formats include, but are
3 not limited to, native files, multi-page TIFFs (with a companion OCR or extracted text file),
4 single-page TIFFs (only with load files for e-discovery software that includes metadata fields
5 identifying natural document breaks and also includes companion OCR and/or extracted text
6 files), and searchable PDF. Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, files that are not easily
7 converted to image format, such as spreadsheet, database and drawing files, should be produced
8 in native format.

9 4. De-duplication. The parties may de-duplicate their ESI production across custodial
10 and non-custodial data sources after disclosure to the requesting party.

11 5. Metadata fields. If the requesting party seeks metadata, the parties agree that only
12 the following metadata fields need be produced: document type; custodian and duplicate
13 custodians; author/from; recipient/to, cc and bcc; title/subject; file name and size; original file
14 path; date and time created, sent, modified and/or received; and hash value.

15 Dated this 22nd Day of June 2017.

16
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ORDER

Based on the foregoing, IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: June 26, 2017



RICARDO S. MARTINEZ
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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