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8  
 9 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
 10 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

11  
 12 LINKEDIN CORPORATION,  
 13 Plaintiff,  
 14 vs.  
 15 ROBOCOG INC. D/B/A/ HIRINGSOLVED,  
 AND SHON BURTON,  
 16 Defendants.  
 17

Case No. C14-00068 (WHA)

**FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR:  
 (1) VIOLATION OF THE COMPUTER  
 FRAUD AND ABUSE ACT, 18 U.S.C.  
 §§ 1030 ET SEQ.;  
 (2) VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA  
 PENAL CODE § 502;  
 (3) VIOLATION OF THE DIGITAL  
 MILLENNIUM COPYRIGHT ACT, 17  
 U.S.C. §§ 1201 ET SEQ.;  
 (4) BREACH OF CONTRACT;  
 (5) TRESPASS; AND  
 (6) MISAPPROPRIATION**

1 Plaintiff LinkedIn Corporation (“LinkedIn” or “Plaintiff”), by and through its attorneys,  
2 brings this Complaint against Defendants Robocog Inc. d/b/a HiringSolved (hereinafter,  
3 “HiringSolved”) and Shon Burton (collectively, “Defendants”) for injunctive relief and damages.  
4 LinkedIn alleges as follows:

5 1. LinkedIn is the world’s largest professional network with more than 277 million  
6 members in over 200 countries and territories around the globe. LinkedIn’s mission is to connect  
7 the world’s professionals to make them more productive and successful. Through its proprietary  
8 platform, LinkedIn allows its members to create, manage and share their professional histories and  
9 interests online. In addition, LinkedIn provides valuable services to corporate recruiters and  
10 headhunters with its Recruiter product, which allows them to identify among LinkedIn’s members  
11 top candidates for open positions. At the heart of LinkedIn’s platform are its members, who create  
12 profiles that serve as their professional online identities and are accessible by any other member.

13 2. Since May 2013, Defendants have employed various automated software programs  
14 (often referred to as “bots”) to register thousands of fake LinkedIn member accounts and have  
15 extracted and copied data from many member profile pages. Defendants engaged in this practice,  
16 known as data “scraping,” in an effort to unlawfully bolster HiringSolved, a fledgling recruiting  
17 business founded and operated by Shon Burton.

18 3. HiringSolved’s business model, by its own admission, is premised on “crawl[ing]  
19 the web” – automatically and systematically browsing the Internet – to obtain and copy  
20 information concerning prospective job candidates.<sup>1</sup> As a result of crawling and scraping, the  
21 HiringSolved website includes individuals’ profiles that Defendants have indiscriminately copied  
22 directly from LinkedIn’s own website. These profiles frequently contain explicit references to  
23 LinkedIn member pages, which HiringSolved has not even attempted to hide or otherwise remove.

24 4. Defendants copied LinkedIn profiles and posted them to HiringSolved without  
25 permission from either LinkedIn or its members. Unlike on LinkedIn – where members have  
26 complete control over their profiles and data – HiringSolved prevents individuals from editing or

27 <sup>1</sup> See, e.g., <https://hiringsolved.com/blog/like-daft-punk-weve-been-up-many-long-nights-to-get-lucky/> (last accessed March 26, 2014).  
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1 deleting the information that constitutes their HiringSolved profiles.

2           5. Defendants' conduct is explicitly barred by LinkedIn's User Agreement, which  
3 prohibits access to LinkedIn "through scraping, spidering, crawling or other technology or  
4 software used to access data without the express written consent of LinkedIn or its Members."  
5 Defendants knowingly and intentionally breached this and other access and use restrictions in  
6 LinkedIn's User Agreement – which they agreed to abide by in registering their accounts – and  
7 circumvented various technical protection barriers employed by LinkedIn. In so doing, they have  
8 violated an array of federal and state laws, including the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, 18  
9 U.S.C. § 1030, et seq. (the "CFAA"), California Penal Code § 502 et seq., and the Digital  
10 Millennium Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 1201 et seq. (the "DMCA"), and have engaged in  
11 unlawful acts of breach of contract, trespass, and misappropriation.

12           6. Defendants' unlawful conduct threatens the LinkedIn platform in several ways. It  
13 undermines the integrity and effectiveness of LinkedIn's professional network by polluting it with  
14 thousands of fake member profiles. The world's professionals utilize LinkedIn with the  
15 expectation that its contents are accurate and its user profiles legitimate. Moreover, by pilfering  
16 data from the LinkedIn site, Defendants threaten to degrade the value of LinkedIn's Recruiter  
17 product, in which LinkedIn has invested substantially over the years. LinkedIn also has suffered  
18 additional harms as a result of Defendants' activities, including, but not limited to, increased strain  
19 on and disruption of its network servers and the expenditure of time and resources to investigate  
20 and respond to this misconduct.

21           7. LinkedIn's core guiding value is Members First. Because LinkedIn's members  
22 entrust LinkedIn with their professional histories and interests on LinkedIn's site, LinkedIn is  
23 committed to earning and keeping its members' trust in everything LinkedIn does, including  
24 protecting its members from attempts by third parties to scrape their data.

25           8. LinkedIn responded swiftly to Defendants' activities, including promptly disabling  
26 the fake member profiles and implementing additional technical protection barriers. In addition to  
27 these measures, and to ensure that future incidents do not occur, LinkedIn brings this action to  
28 obtain injunctive relief halting Defendants' unlawful conduct. Defendants' activities, if not

1 enjoined, threaten ongoing and irreparable harm to LinkedIn, including to its reputation and  
2 substantial consumer goodwill. LinkedIn further is entitled to its actual damages, statutory  
3 damages, and/or exemplary damages as a result of Defendants' misconduct.

4 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

5 9. This Court has federal question jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C.  
6 §§ 1331 and 1338 because this action alleges violations of federal statutes, including the CFAA,  
7 18 U.S.C. § 1030, et seq., and the DMCA, 17 U.S.C. §§ 1201, et seq. The Court has supplemental  
8 jurisdiction over the state law causes of action pleaded herein pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

9 10. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391, because a substantial part  
10 of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this District.

11 11. During all relevant times, Defendants have repeatedly, knowingly, and  
12 intentionally accessed LinkedIn's servers located in this judicial district without LinkedIn's  
13 authorization, and have contracted for such access, becoming registered LinkedIn members  
14 subject to LinkedIn's User Agreement. While accessing LinkedIn's servers, Defendants made  
15 systematic and continuous contacts with this judicial district, and targeted their wrongful acts at  
16 LinkedIn, which is headquartered in this judicial district.

17 12. Defendant Burton resides in this judicial district, and as part of his daily functions  
18 as Founder and CEO of Defendant HiringSolved, operates and controls Defendant HiringSolved  
19 from this judicial district.

20 13. Defendants engaged in their unlawful activities using a well-known cloud  
21 computing platform. At the time of the scraping alleged herein, Defendants' account on this  
22 platform was billed to Defendant Burton's address in this judicial district.

23 14. This is an intellectual property action to be assigned on a district-wide basis under  
24 Civil Local Rule 3-2(c).

25 **THE PARTIES**

26 15. LinkedIn is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Mountain  
27 View, California.

28 16. Defendant HiringSolved is a California corporation. HiringSolved has offices in

1 Chandler, Arizona and, on information and belief, also is operated from Defendant Burton's  
2 personal residence in San Francisco, California.

3 17. Defendant Burton is an individual and the founder and CEO of Defendant  
4 HiringSolved. Prior to founding HiringSolved, Burton was the founder and CEO of Wildcog, a  
5 now defunct recruiting company. On information and belief, Burton presently is a resident of San  
6 Francisco, California as well as Chandler, Arizona.

7 **FACTS**

8 **The LinkedIn Professional Network**

9 18. LinkedIn is the world's largest professional network, with over 277 million  
10 members worldwide and over 84 million members in the United States. LinkedIn's mission is to  
11 connect the world's professionals to make them more productive and successful.

12 19. Through its proprietary platform, LinkedIn members are able to create, manage and  
13 share their professional identity online, build and engage with their professional network, access  
14 shared knowledge and insights, and find business opportunities, enabling them to be more  
15 productive and successful. LinkedIn's broader vision is to create economic opportunity for every  
16 member of the global workforce.

17 20. At the heart of LinkedIn's platform are its members, who create individual profiles  
18 that serve as their professional profiles and are accessible by any other member, as well as (unless  
19 a member chooses otherwise) anyone with an Internet connection. LinkedIn counts executives  
20 from all 2013 Fortune 500 companies as members.

21 21. LinkedIn's core guiding value is Members First. Because LinkedIn's members  
22 entrust LinkedIn with their professional histories and interests on LinkedIn's site, LinkedIn is  
23 committed to earning and keeping its members' trust in everything LinkedIn does, including  
24 protecting its members from attempts by third parties to scrape their data.

25 22. The LinkedIn website is an original copyrighted work. Among the significant  
26 original elements of the LinkedIn website are the distinctive page layout, design, graphical  
27 elements, and organization of member profile pages and the LinkedIn homepage and news feed.  
28 LinkedIn's U.S. copyright registrations for the LinkedIn website include Reg. Nos.

1 TX0007355749, TX0007030652, and TX0007455291.

2 23. LinkedIn has invested and plans to continue to invest substantial time, labor, skill,  
3 and financial resources into the development and maintenance of the LinkedIn site.

4 **LinkedIn's User Agreement**

5 24. LinkedIn is available at no cost to anyone who wants to join and who agrees to the  
6 terms of LinkedIn's User Agreement and Privacy Policy. A prospective member registers for an  
7 account by providing a first name, last name, email address, and password, and agreeing to  
8 LinkedIn's User Agreement and Privacy Policy.

9 25. As described further below, Defendants registered thousands of fake member  
10 accounts as part of their data scraping activities. For each of those accounts, Defendants agreed to  
11 be bound by LinkedIn's User Agreement.

12 26. LinkedIn's User Agreement explains that members are granted a limited and  
13 revocable license to access and use LinkedIn in accordance with the terms of the User Agreement.

14 27. LinkedIn's User Agreement specifically conditions members' right to access  
15 LinkedIn on their agreeing not to do so through the use of data scraping technologies and related  
16 conduct. The agreement states: "we grant you a limited, revocable, nonexclusive, nonassignable,  
17 nonsublicenseable license and right to access the Services, through a generally available web  
18 browser, mobile device or LinkedIn authorized application (*but not through scraping, spidering,*  
19 *crawling or other technology or software used to access data without the express written consent*  
20 *of LinkedIn or its Members*), to view information and use the Services that we provide on  
21 LinkedIn webpages and in accordance with this Agreement." (Emphasis added.)

22 28. LinkedIn's "Do's and Don'ts" section of its User Agreement reiterates that  
23 members may not "undertake ... [to] [u]se manual or automated software, devices, scripts robots,  
24 other means or processes to access, 'scrape,' 'crawl' or 'spider' any web pages or other services  
25 contained in the site." The User Agreement further states that members "will only maintain one  
26 LinkedIn account at any given time," "will use [their] real name and only provide accurate  
27 information to LinkedIn," and "will not violate any rights of LinkedIn." As described further  
28 below, Defendants' conduct is in flagrant violation of each of these provisions.

### **LinkedIn's Recruiter Service**

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2 29. LinkedIn Recruiter is a premium LinkedIn product that allows corporate recruiters  
3 and headhunters to locate and recruit top candidates. Unlike LinkedIn's free, basic accounts for its  
4 members, LinkedIn Recruiter requires users to pay a monthly fee for their premium access.

5 30. LinkedIn Recruiter is one of LinkedIn's fastest growing services. More than  
6 16,000 clients and companies pay to use LinkedIn Recruiter. LinkedIn Recruiter users include  
7 human resources departments at some of the most successful companies in the country among  
8 thousands of other large, medium and small business and recruiting firms. Ninety of the Fortune  
9 100 companies use LinkedIn Recruiter or another of LinkedIn's premium talent solutions  
10 products.

11 31. Corporate recruiters and headhunters purchase LinkedIn Recruiter memberships in  
12 order to search for prospective candidates among LinkedIn's hundreds of millions of member  
13 profiles. By using LinkedIn Recruiter's robust and exclusive search tools, recruiters can search  
14 the entire LinkedIn network for top candidates' names and profiles. Recruiters may locate and  
15 contact members, including passive candidates who may not be looking for a job, by accessing  
16 LinkedIn's professional network through LinkedIn Recruiter.

### **LinkedIn's Technological Safeguards and Security Measures To Protect LinkedIn Against Unauthorized Access**

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19 32. LinkedIn fastidiously works to protect the integrity and security of its network and  
20 systems. Among other things, it employs an array of technological safeguards and barriers  
21 designed to prevent data scrapers and other wrongdoers from gaining unauthorized access to  
22 LinkedIn's site.

23 33. One such safeguard is LinkedIn's FUSE program. FUSE imposes a limit on the  
24 activity that an individual LinkedIn user may initiate on the site. This limit is intended to prevent  
25 would-be data scrapers utilizing automated technologies from quickly accessing a substantial  
26 volume of member profiles.

27 34. Similarly, LinkedIn's Sentinel program monitors and blocks suspicious activity  
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1 associated with particular Internet Protocol (“IP”) addresses.<sup>2</sup>

2           35.     LinkedIn also anticipated that data scrapers might attempt to create a multitude of  
3 fake member accounts. Accordingly, as a secondary layer of protection, LinkedIn implemented its  
4 UCV system to thwart this misconduct. The UCV system uses a number of parameters to  
5 determine if a new account signup is suspicious. If a suspicious signup is identified, the UCV  
6 system imposes barriers intended to separate legitimate prospective members from automated data  
7 scraping programs and bots. Specifically, the UCV system introduces a CAPTCHA<sup>3</sup> field that  
8 requires prospective members to re-type a word or text that appears in obscured, colored type.  
9 These obscured words or text are legible to a real person – and familiar to those purchasing  
10 concert tickets, for instance, as a common step in an online registration process – but difficult for  
11 an automated program or bot to recognize. By using CAPTCHAs, the UCV system prevents data  
12 scrapers from automatically registering many new and illegitimate member accounts.

13           36.     LinkedIn also employs technical protocols designed to prevent unauthorized  
14 automated bots and web crawlers from accessing otherwise publicly available parts of the LinkedIn  
15 site. Known as a robots.txt file, this safeguard provides a set of instructions to any automated  
16 technologies visiting the LinkedIn site. While LinkedIn’s robots.txt file does permit some  
17 web crawlers (e.g., search engines such as Google or Bing) to view the entire site, it prohibits and  
18 is intended to prevent automated programs like those used by data scrapers.

19   **Defendants’ Unlawful Business Model**

20           37.     HiringSolved is an online recruiting company. It describes itself as “a growing  
21 database of millions of candidates with revolutionary search tools to let you find talent fast.”<sup>4</sup>

22           38.     HiringSolved openly touts that its business model is founded upon scraping data  
23 from the Internet, including from the LinkedIn site. HiringSolved, by its own admission,

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26 <sup>2</sup> An IP address in this context is a numerical label assigned to each access point to the Internet.

27 <sup>3</sup> CAPTCHA is an acronym for “Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart.”

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<sup>4</sup> See <https://hiringsolved.com/> (emphasis added) (last accessed March 26, 2014).



1 “crawl[s] the web” to obtain and copy information concerning prospective job candidates.<sup>5</sup> As  
2 one of HiringSolved’s own marketing presentations explains, “Simply put, we’re a distributed web  
3 crawler that searches the web and combines information about people. Unlike job boards, which  
4 require the job-seeker to actively write and post their resume, HiringSolved searches constantly  
5 and assembles information like social profiles, contact information, published works and much  
6 more into a live social resume which is updated automatically as a person’s social footprint  
7 changes.”<sup>6</sup>

8         39. Elsewhere on its website, HiringSolved brags that HiringSolved “gift wraps”  
9 information from LinkedIn’s site for HiringSolved’s own uses. HiringSolved’s blog states,  
10 “Instead of needing to use extremely complex search strings (or even simple searches) on Google,  
11 Bing, Yahoo, Monster, CareerBuilder, **LinkedIn**, etc. HiringSolved analyzes the big data for you  
12 and gift wraps it in a neatly formatted profile...”<sup>7</sup> (Emphasis added).

13         40. HiringSolved further acknowledges that it is scraping LinkedIn’s data by featuring  
14 LinkedIn’s distinctive “in” logo on HiringSolved’s marketing materials. HiringSolved’s graphics,  
15 including the one shown below, illustrate, and appear to trumpet, that HiringSolved is scraping  
16 data from LinkedIn’s website for HiringSolved’s own purposes.

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25 <sup>5</sup> See, e.g., <https://hiringsolved.com/blog/like-daft-punk-weve-been-up-many-long-nights-to-get-lucky/> (last accessed March 26, 2014).

26 <sup>6</sup> See <http://www.slideshare.net/HSsocial/hs-presentation-5> (last accessed March 26, 2014).

27 <sup>7</sup> See <https://hiringsolved.com/blog/big-datas-big-implications-on-talent-sourcing/> (last accessed  
28 March 26, 2014).

HiringSolved Informational Graphic:<sup>8</sup>



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41. “[A]ggregat[ing] profiles” from LinkedIn, in this context, is synonymous with copying and extracting data from LinkedIn member profiles.

42. As a result of HiringSolved’s brazen conduct, certain candidates’ profiles on HiringSolved’s website even include explicit references to their LinkedIn profiles. Defendants have copied these profiles from LinkedIn’s website and posted them to HiringSolved.

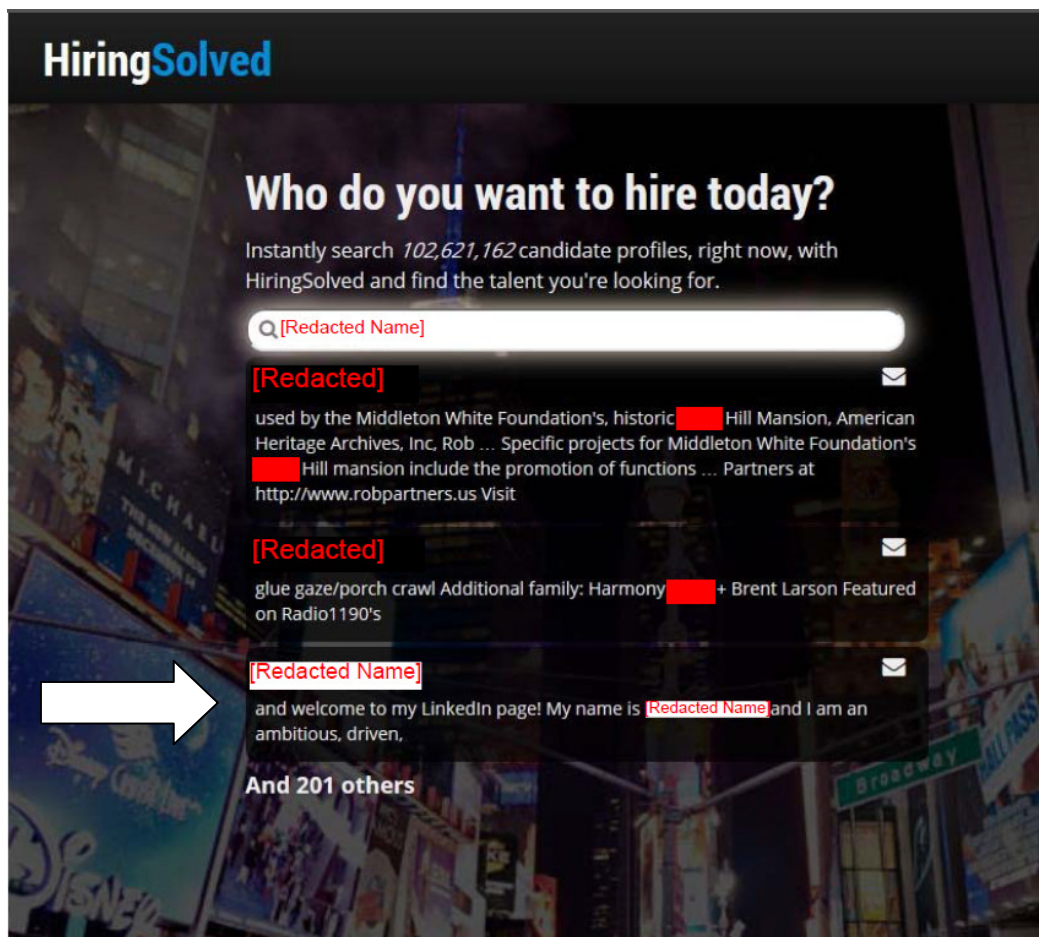
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<sup>8</sup> See <https://hiringsolved.com/blog/so-hiringsolved-what-is-it-you-guys-do/> (last accessed March 26, 2014).

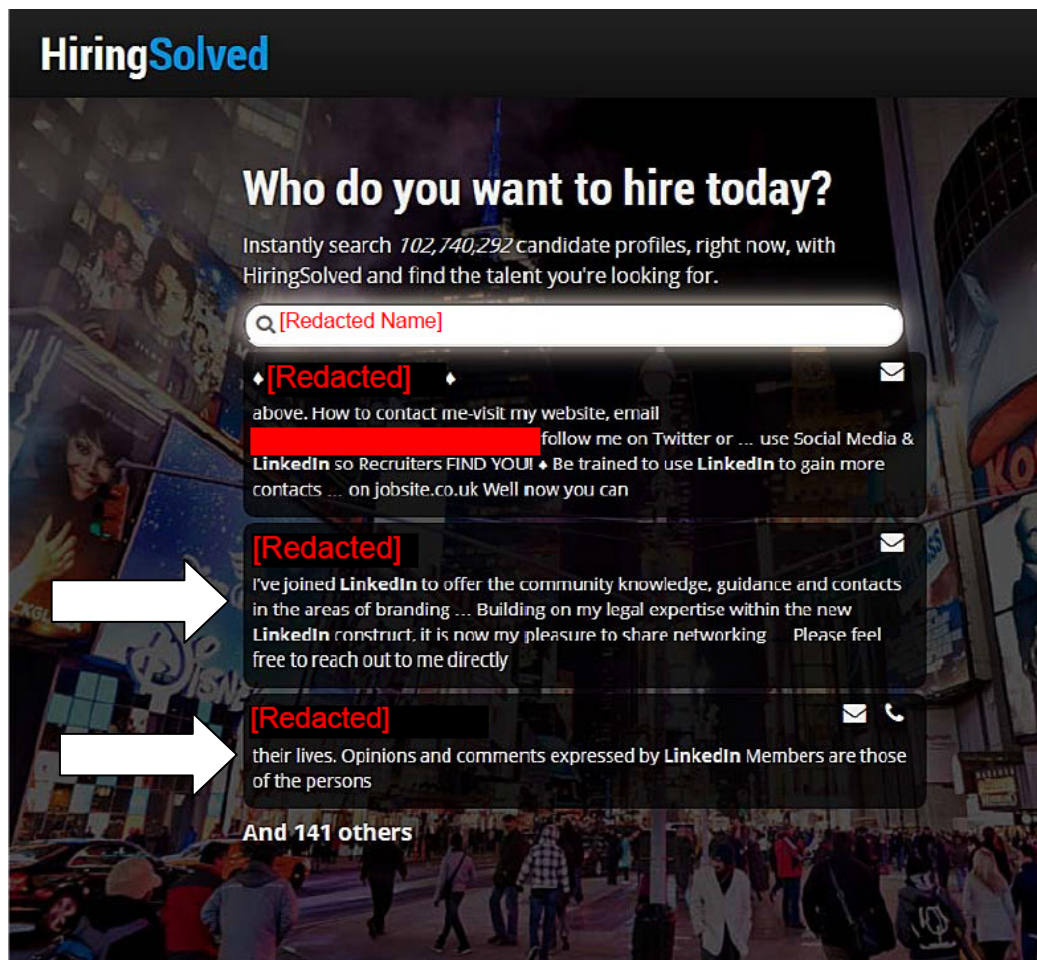
1 43. Neither LinkedIn nor its members granted Defendants permission to copy profiles  
2 from LinkedIn. Moreover, HiringSolved prohibits individuals from controlling their information  
3 after it appears on HiringSolved's site. An individual whose profile was copied onto HiringSolved  
4 has no means to delete, or even edit, his or her HiringSolved profile. These restrictions are  
5 contrary to LinkedIn's own values and practices whereby LinkedIn members have complete  
6 control over the information that constitutes their LinkedIn profiles and how that information  
7 appears.

8 44. A search on HiringSolved's website for LinkedIn members shows copied profiles  
9 that reference LinkedIn member pages, as shown by the redacted examples below:

10 Example 1:



1 Example 2:



19 45. HiringSolved sells access to this copied data to its subscribers, at rates ranging  
20 from \$199 to \$799 a month.

21 **Defendants' Data Scraping Activities**

22 46. Beginning in May 2013, Defendants knowingly and intentionally circumvented  
23 FUSE, Sentinel, the UCV system, the robots.txt protocol and/or other LinkedIn security measures  
24 in order to engage in their data scraping activities.

25 47. In May and June 2013, Defendants created thousands of member accounts (with  
26 fake names and contact information) to access and scrape data from many LinkedIn member  
27 profiles.

28 48. In order to create each and every one of these fake member accounts, Defendants



1 had to agree to abide by the access and use restrictions in LinkedIn’s User Agreement, which,  
2 *inter alia*, prohibit “scraping, spidering, crawling or other technology or software used to access  
3 data without the express written consent of LinkedIn or its Members,” and require that members  
4 “will only maintain one LinkedIn account at any given time” and “will use [their] real name and  
5 only provide accurate information to LinkedIn.” Defendants knowingly violated each of these  
6 access and use restrictions in engaging in their unlawful conduct.

7 49. In May and June 2013, Defendants circumvented FUSE – which limits the volume  
8 of activity for each individual account – by creating thousands of different new member accounts  
9 through the use of various automated technologies. Registering so many unique new accounts  
10 allowed Defendants to view hundreds of thousands of member profiles per day.

11 50. At the same time, Defendants also circumvented the UCV system by using  
12 automated technologies to register thousands of fake member accounts without triggering the  
13 UCV system’s imposition of CAPTCHAs. Defendants also circumvented and bypassed  
14 LinkedIn’s robots.txt file, which specifically bans and is intended to prevent the use of  
15 unauthorized automated data scraping programs and bots.

16 51. LinkedIn initially identified Defendants’ misconduct when it observed that  
17 thousands of fake member accounts had collectively viewed many member profiles in a short  
18 period of time. LinkedIn determined that the user accounts were fake after close inspection of  
19 account details revealed clear patterns of automation. LinkedIn observed that the automated bots  
20 that were running these fake accounts would use each account to view a small number of profiles,  
21 thereby bypassing and circumventing FUSE’s page view restrictions, and then would move on to  
22 the next registered account to view additional profiles.

23 52. LinkedIn conducted an extensive investigation of the Defendants’ misconduct. In  
24 the course of its investigation, it compiled spreadsheets tracking the IP addresses used by  
25 Defendants. LinkedIn also identified and cataloged Defendants’ fake member profiles, the  
26 number of legitimate profiles viewed by each fake member, and the dates and times of  
27 Defendants’ activity on the LinkedIn website. LinkedIn disabled the fake member profiles and  
28 implemented additional technological safeguards to protect against unauthorized access to the

1 LinkedIn site.

2 53. As a result of this investigation, LinkedIn determined that Defendants accessed  
3 LinkedIn using a well-known cloud computing platform that allows users like Defendants to rent  
4 virtual computers on which to run their own computer programs and applications. This platform  
5 provides resizable computing capacity, which allows users to quickly scale capacity, both up and  
6 down. Users of this platform may temporarily run hundreds or thousands of virtual computing  
7 machines. Defendants used this cloud computing platform to create virtual machines to run  
8 automated bots to scrape data from LinkedIn's website.

9 54. As a result of Defendants' use of this cloud computing platform to scrape data from  
10 LinkedIn's website, LinkedIn was able to identify Defendants.

11 **HiringSolved Founder and CEO Shon Burton's Active Participation in and**  
12 **Control of Defendants' Unlawful Activities**

13 55. Defendant Burton is HiringSolved's Founder and CEO. Burton has been and is the  
14 primary actor in the activities of HiringSolved that give rise to LinkedIn's claims; he directs,  
15 controls, ratifies, and participates in HiringSolved's unlawful activities.

16 56. The account for the well-known cloud computing platform Defendants used to  
17 engage in their unlawful activities was billed to Burton's address in this judicial district. As  
18 Burton has stated on the HiringSolved official blog, as a "Big Data startup, we have had to get  
19 pretty creative in our approach to our crawler infrastructure."<sup>9</sup> Burton similarly has described  
20 HiringSolved's business model to the press as a "tech and value secret sauce" that depends upon  
21 crawling the web to copy data from other websites.<sup>10</sup>

22 57. Burton has been personally involved in and personally responsible for  
23 (a) HiringSolved's scraping of LinkedIn member data from the LinkedIn site; (b) the development  
24 of HiringSolved's business model and technological systems employed by HiringSolved in the

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26 <sup>9</sup> See <https://hiringsolved.com/blog/goodbye-big-data-mdadm-no-recognizeable-superblock/> (last  
accessed March 26, 2014).

27 <sup>10</sup> See <http://aztechbeat.com/2013/11/startup-hiringsolved-raises-1m-expansion/> (last accessed  
28 March 26, 2014).

1 scraping of data from the LinkedIn site; (c) the solicitation of financial support for the  
2 HiringSolved service; and (d) the widespread promotion of HiringSolved's service through  
3 statements to the press and others. Burton has personally supervised, and has a direct and personal  
4 financial interest in, HiringSolved's unlawful activities.

5 **Defendants Have Caused and Threaten**  
6 **Ongoing and Irreparable Injury to LinkedIn**

7 58. By engaging in the data scraping incidents described above, Defendants have  
8 caused, and if not halted will continue to cause, ongoing and irreparable harm to LinkedIn, in a  
9 variety of ways.

10 59. LinkedIn will suffer ongoing and irreparable harm to the value of its consumer  
11 goodwill and trust, which LinkedIn has worked hard for years to earn and maintain, if Defendants'  
12 conduct continues.

13 60. The thousands of fake member profiles created by Defendants disrupt and degrade  
14 LinkedIn's site and services by reducing the accuracy and integrity of the information the site  
15 contains. LinkedIn's members expect the site to contain accurate and legitimate professional  
16 profiles – not useless fictions crafted by data scrapers.

17 61. The presence of fake member profiles also impairs legitimate members' ability to  
18 identify valid professional contacts. In particular, because LinkedIn enables its members to view  
19 which users have viewed their profiles, legitimate LinkedIn users whose profiles have been  
20 viewed by Defendants using a fake account may be confused or misled when they see that an  
21 unknown, fake member has viewed their profiles. Indeed, LinkedIn observed some of its valid  
22 members attempting to connect with these fake member profiles after noticing that the fake  
23 accounts had viewed their profiles.

24 62. This type of pollution to the LinkedIn network, if not halted, threatens ongoing and  
25 irreparable harm to the integrity of the LinkedIn platform and LinkedIn's reputation.

26 63. Further, by pilfering member data from the LinkedIn site, Defendants' misconduct  
27 threatens to degrade the value of LinkedIn's Recruiter product, which LinkedIn has invested  
28 substantially in over the years. On information and belief, Defendants, who have invested none of

1 their own time and resources into developing and building the LinkedIn platform, have engaged in  
2 their scraping activities in an attempt to establish a competing recruiting website and usurp  
3 LinkedIn's Recruiter product.

4 64. Defendants' misconduct also has imposed significant strains on LinkedIn's servers,  
5 including through the use of automated technologies to view many member profiles. Defendants'  
6 illegitimate profile views impaired LinkedIn's ability to dedicate its servers to supporting the  
7 activities of legitimate LinkedIn members.

8 65. LinkedIn has suffered harm to its computer systems, and has expended significant  
9 human, financial, and technological resources, including hundreds of hours of employee time,  
10 investigating and responding to Defendants' unlawful activities, at a cost to LinkedIn of more than  
11 \$5,000.

12 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

13 **Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, 18 U.S.C. §1030 et seq.**

14 66. LinkedIn realleges and incorporates by reference all of the preceding paragraphs.

15 67. LinkedIn's computers and servers are involved in interstate and foreign commerce  
16 and communication, and are protected computers under 18 U.S.C. §1030(e)(2).

17 68. On information and belief, Defendants knowingly and intentionally accessed  
18 LinkedIn's computers and servers without authorization or in excess of the authorization permitted  
19 under LinkedIn's User Agreement and in circumvention of various technical barriers – including  
20 FUSE, Sentinel, the UCV system, the robots.txt protocol, and/or additional safeguards – LinkedIn  
21 has employed to protect LinkedIn's computers and servers from unauthorized access.

22 69. On information and belief, after gaining unauthorized access to LinkedIn's  
23 computers and servers, Defendants obtained and used valuable information from LinkedIn's  
24 protected computers and servers in transactions involving interstate or foreign communications in  
25 violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1030(a)(2). This information includes, among other things, the contents  
26 of many LinkedIn member profiles, and this use, on information and belief, includes, among other  
27 things, distributing that content to others.

28 70. Defendants knowingly, willfully, and with an intent to defraud, accessed



1 LinkedIn's computers and servers without authorization or in excess of authorization and obtained  
2 valuable information from LinkedIn's computers and servers that, on information and belief,  
3 Defendants used to obtain something of value in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1030(a)(4).

4 71. LinkedIn has suffered damage and loss by reason of these violations, including,  
5 without limitation, harm to LinkedIn's computer systems, expenses associated with being forced  
6 to investigate and respond to the unauthorized access and abuse of its computers and servers, and  
7 other losses and damage in an amount to be proven at trial, in excess of \$5,000 aggregated over a  
8 one year period.

9 72. In addition, LinkedIn has suffered and will continue to suffer irreparable harm, and  
10 its remedy at law is not itself adequate to compensate it for injuries inflicted by Defendants.  
11 Accordingly, LinkedIn is entitled to injunctive relief.

12 **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

13 **California Comprehensive Computer Access and Fraud Act, Cal. Penal Code §502 et seq.**

14 73. LinkedIn realleges and incorporates by reference all of the preceding paragraphs.

15 74. Defendants wrongfully obtained and used valuable information from LinkedIn's  
16 site, as alleged above.

17 75. Defendants knowingly, fraudulently, and without permission accessed or caused to  
18 be accessed LinkedIn's computers, computer systems, and/or computer network in violation of  
19 Cal. Penal Code § 502(c)(7).

20 76. Defendants knowingly, fraudulently, and without permission took, copied and  
21 made use of data, and files from LinkedIn's computers, computer systems, and/or computer  
22 networks, including to wrongfully control such data, in violation of Cal. Penal Code § 502(c)(1) &  
23 (2).

24 77. Defendants knowingly, fraudulently, and without permission disrupted or caused  
25 the disruption of LinkedIn's computer services to authorized users of LinkedIn's computers,  
26 computer systems, and/or computer networks in violation of Cal. Penal Code § 502(c)(5).

27 78. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, Defendants have  
28 caused damage to LinkedIn in an amount to be proven at trial. LinkedIn is also entitled to recover

1 its reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to California Penal Code §502(e).

2 79. LinkedIn believes that Defendants' acts were willful and malicious in that  
3 Defendants' acts described above were done with the deliberate intent to improve Defendants'  
4 business at LinkedIn's expense. LinkedIn is therefore entitled to punitive damages.

5 80. In addition, LinkedIn has suffered and will continue to suffer irreparable harm, and  
6 its remedy at law is not itself adequate to compensate it for injuries inflicted by Defendants.  
7 Accordingly, LinkedIn is entitled to injunctive relief.

8 **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

9 **Violations of The Digital Millennium Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 1201 et seq.**

10 81. LinkedIn realleges and incorporates by reference all of the preceding paragraphs.

11 82. LinkedIn employs various layers of technological protections – including FUSE,  
12 Sentinel, the UCV system, the robots.txt protocol, and additional safeguards – to protect  
13 LinkedIn's computers and servers from unauthorized access. These technological protection  
14 measures effectively control access to the copyrighted materials on LinkedIn's servers, including  
15 the LinkedIn website, member profile pages, and the LinkedIn homepage and news feed, and  
16 protect LinkedIn's exclusive rights in these copyrighted materials.

17 83. Despite LinkedIn's best efforts to protect the LinkedIn site from Defendants'  
18 unauthorized access, Defendants circumvented LinkedIn's technological safeguards – including  
19 FUSE, Sentinel, the UCV system, the robots.txt protocol, and/or additional safeguards – and  
20 gained unauthorized access to LinkedIn's copyrighted materials, including without limitation the  
21 copyrighted LinkedIn website, in violation of 17 U.S.C. § 1201(a).

22 84. As a result of Defendants' wrongful acts, LinkedIn has suffered, is continuing to  
23 suffer, and will continue to suffer damages to be proven at trial. LinkedIn is further entitled to all  
24 profits attributable to Defendants' wrongful acts to be proven at trial. Alternatively, upon its  
25 election at any time before final judgment is entered, LinkedIn is entitled to recover statutory  
26 damages from Defendants pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 1203 for each act of circumvention committed  
27 by Defendants.

28 85. Defendants' circumventions also have caused LinkedIn irreparable harm. Unless

1 restrained and enjoined, Defendants will continue to commit such acts. LinkedIn's remedies at  
2 law are not adequate to compensate it for these inflicted and threatened injuries, and thus LinkedIn  
3 is entitled to injunctive relief as provided by 17 U.S.C. § 1203.

4 **FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

5 **Breach of Contract**

6 86. LinkedIn realleges and incorporates by reference all of the preceding paragraphs.

7 87. Use of the LinkedIn website and use of LinkedIn services are governed by and  
8 subject to the User Agreement.

9 88. LinkedIn members are presented with the User Agreement and must affirmatively  
10 accept the User Agreement to register for a LinkedIn account.

11 89. At all relevant times, LinkedIn also prominently displayed a link to the User  
12 Agreement on LinkedIn's homepage.

13 90. Defendants accessed the LinkedIn website and affirmatively accepted and agreed to  
14 the User Agreement to, among other things, create the fake member profiles that enabled  
15 Defendants to access LinkedIn user profiles and scrape data from LinkedIn's website.

16 91. The User Agreement is enforceable and binding on Defendants.

17 92. Defendants repeatedly accessed the LinkedIn website with knowledge of the User  
18 Agreement and all of its prohibitions. Despite their knowledge of the User Agreement and its  
19 prohibitions, Defendants accessed and continue to access the LinkedIn website to, among other  
20 things, scrape, crawl, or use other automated technology or software to gain access to the LinkedIn  
21 website without the consent of LinkedIn. Moreover, Defendants maintained more than one  
22 account (indeed, thousands of accounts) at any given time, and did not provide their real names or  
23 provide accurate information to LinkedIn.

24 93. Defendants' actions, as described above, have willfully, repeatedly, and  
25 systematically breached the User Agreement.

26 94. LinkedIn has performed all conditions, covenants, and promises required of it in  
27 accordance with the User Agreement.

28 95. Defendants' conduct has damaged LinkedIn, and caused and continues to cause

1 irreparable and incalculable harm and injury to LinkedIn.

2 96. LinkedIn is entitled to injunctive relief, compensatory damages, and/or other  
3 equitable relief.

4 **FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

5 **Trespass**

6 97. LinkedIn realleges and incorporates by reference all of the preceding paragraphs.

7 98. Defendants intentionally, and without authorization, accessed and interacted with  
8 LinkedIn, including without limitation, LinkedIn's website, computer systems and servers.

9 99. Defendants' access to LinkedIn and the information contained therein required  
10 Defendants to abide by the User Agreement. By violating the terms of the User Agreement, and  
11 LinkedIn's express efforts to combat their activities, Defendants unlawfully gained access to and  
12 interfered and intermeddled with LinkedIn, its website, computer systems, and its servers.

13 100. Defendants' unauthorized interference with and access to LinkedIn, its website,  
14 computer systems, and its servers, among other harms, reduces LinkedIn's capacity to service its  
15 users because it occupies and uses LinkedIn's resources.

16 101. Defendants' conduct constitutes trespass that has harmed and will continue to harm  
17 LinkedIn. As a result, LinkedIn has been and will continue to be damaged.

18 102. LinkedIn has suffered and will continue to suffer irreparable harm, and its remedy  
19 at law is not itself adequate to compensate it for injuries inflicted by Defendants. Accordingly,  
20 LinkedIn is entitled to injunctive relief.

21 **SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

22 **Misappropriation**

23 103. LinkedIn realleges and incorporates by reference all of the preceding paragraphs.

24 104. LinkedIn has invested substantial time, labor, skill, and financial resources into the  
25 creation and maintenance of LinkedIn, its computer systems and servers, including system and  
26 server capacity, as well as the content on the LinkedIn website, which is time sensitive.

27 105. Without authorization, Defendants wrongfully accessed LinkedIn's website,  
28 computer systems and servers, and obtained data from the LinkedIn site without having to make

1 the substantial investment in time, labor, skill, and financial resources made by LinkedIn.

2 106. On information and belief, Defendants compete with LinkedIn and have made data  
3 from the LinkedIn site available to their customers and other third parties. As such, Defendants'  
4 use of LinkedIn's computer systems and servers, including system and server capacity, as well as  
5 data from the LinkedIn site, constitutes free-riding on LinkedIn's substantial investment of time,  
6 effort, and expense.

7 107. As a result of this misappropriation, Defendants wrongfully compete, and/or enable  
8 others to compete, with LinkedIn, and LinkedIn has been forced to expend additional time and  
9 resources, including but not limited to, investigating and responding to Defendants' activities.

10 108. LinkedIn has been and will continue to be damaged as the result of Defendants'  
11 acts of misappropriation.

12 109. LinkedIn has suffered and will continue to suffer irreparable injury, and its remedy  
13 at law is not itself adequate to compensate it for injuries inflicted by Defendants.

14 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

15 WHEREFORE, LinkedIn prays that judgment be entered in its favor and against  
16 Defendants, as follows:

17 1. A preliminary and permanent injunction enjoining and restraining all  
18 Defendants, their employees, representatives, agents, and all persons or entities acting in concert  
19 with them during the pendency of this action and thereafter perpetually from accessing or using  
20 LinkedIn's website for any commercial purpose whatsoever.

21 2. An order requiring Defendants to destroy all documents, data, and other  
22 items, electronic or otherwise, in their possession, custody, or control, that were wrongfully copied  
23 from LinkedIn's website.

24 3. An award to LinkedIn of restitution and damages, including, but not limited  
25 to, compensatory, statutory, treble damages, and punitive damages, as permitted by law;

26 4. An award to LinkedIn of its costs of suit, including, but not limited to,  
27 reasonable attorney's fees, as permitted by law; and

28 5. Such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

1  
2       LinkedIn hereby demands a jury trial of all issues in the above-captioned action that are  
3 triable to a jury.  
4

5 DATED: March 27, 2014

MUNGER, TOLLES & OLSON LLP

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8       By:           /s/ Jonathan H. Blavin            
          JONATHAN H. BLAVIN

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10                               Attorneys for LinkedIn Corporation  
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