

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND**

GLOBAL INTERACTIVE MEDIA, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

AT&T SERVICES, INC.
and AT&T COMMUNICATIONS, LLC,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 20-cv-3125

COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT

Plaintiff Global Interactive Media, Inc. (“GIM”) brings this patent-infringement action against Defendants AT&T Services, Inc. and AT&T Communications, LLC (collectively “AT&T” or “Defendants”), and alleges as follows:

Parties

1. GIM is a Belizian corporation having its principal place of business at 84 Albert Street, Belize City, Belize.

2. Upon information and belief, Defendant AT&T Services, Inc. is a Delaware corporation with a place of business at 175 E. Houston Street, San Antonio, Texas 78205 and with a registered agent for service of process at The Corporation Trust, Inc. 2405 York Road, Suite 201 Lutherville Timonium, Maryland 21093-22646.

3. Upon information and belief, Defendant AT&T Communications, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company with a principal place of business at 208 South Akard Street, Dallas, Texas 75202 and with a registered agent for service of process at The Corporation Trust Company, 1209 Orange St., Wilmington, Delaware 19801.

4. At all times relevant to the instant lawsuit, Defendants owned and/or operated an online television programming guide branded as the AT&T U-verse Channel Guide (“U-verse Guide”) accessible at <http://U-verse.com/guide>. Defendants directed the U-verse Guide at multiple cities in the United States, including in this judicial district.

Jurisdiction and Venue

5. This action arises under the patent laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. §§ 101 *et seq.*

6. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).

7. This Court may exercise personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant conducts continuous and systematic business in Maryland. For example, Defendant sells services to Defendant’s customers in this District. Defendant maintains a regular and established place of business in this District. These patent infringement claims arise directly from Defendants’ continuous and systematic activity in this District. Thus, this Court’s exercise of jurisdiction over Defendants would be consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

8. Defendants are subject to this Court’s general and specific personal jurisdiction because they have sufficient minimum contacts within the State of Maryland and this District, pursuant to due process and/or the Maryland Long Arm Statute, because Defendants purposefully availed themselves of the privileges of conducting business in the State of Maryland and in this District, because they regularly conduct and solicit business within the State of Maryland and within this District, and because GIM’s causes of action arise directly from Defendants’ business contacts and other activities in the State of Maryland and this District.

9. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1400(b).

The Asserted Patents

10. GIM asserts U.S. Patent Nos. 7,574,721 (the “’721 Patent”), 8,032,907 (the “’907 Patent”), and 6,314,577 (the “’577 Patent”) (collectively, the “Asserted Patents”) in this action. The Asserted Patents each claim methods and/or systems of tracking broadcasts and providing program information on demand to customers who may wish to make purchasing decisions based on the program information. The inventions claimed in the Asserted Patents represent uses of technology that were neither well-understood nor routine or conventional as of the time of the inventions. Prior to the inventions claimed in the Asserted Patents, for example, consumers listening to a radio broadcast may have heard a song they liked and wished to purchase, but unless the station identified the song, the listeners had no ready way to obtain information about the song such as the title or artist. With the inventions claimed by the Asserted Patents, listeners not only are able to obtain that information, they are also able to purchase songs directly, an option that was not available to them until after the inventions of the Asserted Patents. The technology claimed in the Asserted Patents has become widespread to the point of ubiquity.

11. Defendants directly and/or indirectly make, use, distribute, market, sell and/or offer to sell throughout the United States, including in this judicial district, products and/or services that infringe one or more claims of the Asserted Patents as described below. Defendants have infringed, literally or through the doctrine of equivalents, directly, jointly, or indirectly, contributorily and/or through the inducement of others, one or more claims of each of the Asserted Patents, by the above referenced acts.

Count 1 – Infringement of U.S. Patent No. 7,574,721

12. GIM owns the ’721 Patent (attached as Exhibit A).

13. Defendants infringed at least claim 1 of the '721 patent by identifying television broadcast providers based in response to a user's submission of a geographic identifier such as a zip code as follows:

a. Claim 1 recites "A method for identifying at least one broadcast provider through a combination of a geographic identification code and a broadcast identifier." (Ex. A at col. 17, ll. 44-46). During the relevant time period, Defendants' U-verse Guide identified local broadcast providers by zip code (a "geographic identification code") and station call letters (a "broadcast identifier").

b. Claim 1 recites "digitally storing, in a database, one or more geographic identification codes that are each associated with at least one area or location in which a broadcast is receivable from at least one broadcast provider" (Ex. A at col. 17, ll. 47-50). During the relevant time period, Defendants U-verse Guide stored multiple zip codes that were each associated with the cities serviced by the website.

c. Claim 1 further recites "digitally storing, in the database, one or more broadcast identifiers that are each associated with at least one broadcast provider" (Ex. A at col. 17, ll. 51-53). During the relevant time period, Defendants' U-verse Guide stored multiple station call letters that were each associated with a broadcast provider.

d. Claim 1 further recites "receiving at least one user related geographic identification code" (Ex. A at col. 17, ll. 54-55). During the relevant time period, Defendants' U-verse Guide received zip codes inputted by users.

e. Claim 1 further recites "receiving at least one user related broadcast identifier, wherein the received at least one user related broadcast identifier is not required to by itself identify a broadcast provider" (Ex. A at col. 17, ll. 56-59). During the relevant time period,

Defendants' U-verse Guide received a user related broadcast identifier when the user selects a category or "genre" of a television program for which she wished to identify a broadcast provider, such as "Kids," "Movies," "News," or "Sports."

f. Claim 1 involves "determining, by a processor, a subset of data from the database using the received at least one user related geographic identification code, the subset of data comprising at least one of the stored one or more broadcast identifiers that are associated with at least one of the stored one or more geographic identification codes that corresponds to the received at least one user related geographic identification code[.]" (Ex. A at col. 17, ll. 60-67). Defendants' U-verse Guide determined by processor, using the user's ZIP code, a subset of data comprising stored broadcast identifiers (*e.g.*, Fox) associated with broadcast television programs broadcast by the broadcasters within the user's service area.

Count 2 – Infringement of U.S. Patent No. 8,032,907

14. GIM owns United States Patent 8,032,907 (the "'907 patent") (attached as Exhibit A).

15. Defendants infringed at least one of the 90 methods and systems claimed in the '907 patent by providing the U-verse Guide.

16. For example, and for illustration of one of the 90 claims of the '907 patent that GIM alleges that the U-verse Guide infringed, the guide infringed claim 18 of the '907 patent as follows:

a. Claim 18 claims a "method for providing recipients of a broadcast with automated information about program material, the method comprising: broadcasting program material in at least one broadcast[.]" (Ex. B at col. 19, ll. 13-16). At all times relevant to the instant lawsuit, the U-verse Guide provided information about program material that is broadcast by Defendants in Maryland, <http://U-verse.com/guide>.

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