

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

VERIFY SMART CORP.,

Plaintiff,

v.

TWITTER, INC.,

Defendant.

Case No.

COMPLAINT FOR PATENT
INFRINGEMENT

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff Verify Smart Corp. (“Verify”) demands a jury trial and complains against Defendant Twitter, Inc. (“Twitter”), and states as follows:

THE PARTIES

1. Verify is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Nevada, conducting business in this judicial district.

2. On information and belief, Twitter is a California corporation with its headquarters located at 1355 Market Street Suite 900, San Francisco, California 94103, and conducts business in this judicial district.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. This action arises under the patent laws of the United States of America, Title 35 of the United States Code. This Court has jurisdiction of this action under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).

4. Verify is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Twitter is doing business and committing acts of infringement of the patent identified below in this judicial district, and is subject to personal jurisdiction in this judicial district.

5. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 and 1400(b).

THE PATENT

6. On October 9, 2012, U.S. Patent No. 8,285,648 (“the ‘648 patent”) was duly and legally issued to Dan Scammell (“Scammell”) for an invention entitled “System and Method for Verifying A User's Identity In Electronic Transactions”. On May 23, 2011, Scammell assigned all right, title and interest in and to the ‘648 patent to Colleen Scammell (“C. Scammell”). On July 8, 2015, C. Scammell assigned all right, title and interest in and to the ‘648 patent to Assured Mobile Technologies LLC (“Assured”). Thereafter, on July 8, 2015, Assured assigned all right, title and interest in and to the ‘648 patent to Verify. A copy of the ‘648 patent is attached to this Complaint as Exhibit 1.

7. The ‘648 patent is directed to novel systems and methods of verifying the identity of consumers initiating electronic transactions to provide enhanced security for such transactions. Verify is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Twitter makes, uses, tests, markets and sells or otherwise provides a system and method enabling its users to authenticate their identity when initiating an electronic transaction, using a one-time pass-code sent to the user’s mobile phone (hereinafter “Login Verification Feature”).

8. Claim 2 of the ‘648 Patent claims a system for verifying the identity of a user seeking to initiate an electronic transaction by sending an identity verification request from a verifier to a user communications device, having the user enter a response to the request into the user communications device and transmit the response to the verifier, comparing the response to the request, and if they match allowing the electronic transaction to proceed.

9. Claim 3 of the ‘648 Patent is directed to the same system as Claim 2 with the

added feature that the user communications device is a personal communications device such as a mobile phone.

10. Claim 5 of the '648 Patent claims a method for verifying the identity of a user seeking to initiate an electronic transaction by sending an identity verification request to a user communications device having a user access number stored in a database accessible to the verifier, having the user enter into the user communications device a response to the request and transmit the response to the verifier, comparing the response to the request, and if they match allowing the electronic transaction to proceed.

11. Claim 6 of the '648 Patent is directed to the same method as Claim 5 with the added requirement that the comparison is performed by the verifier.

12. Claim 7 of the '648 Patent is directed to the same method as Claim 5 with the added requirement that software be downloaded to the user communications device.

13. Claim 9 of the '648 Patent is directed to the same method as Claim 7 with the added requirement that the downloaded software is used to transmit the response to the identity verification request.

14. Claim 10 of the '648 Patent is directed to the same method as Claim 7 with the added requirement that the downloaded software is used to receive the identity verification request, format the request for display on the user communications device, and display the request on the user communications device.

15. Claim 19 of the '648 Patent is directed to the same method as Claim 5 with the added requirement of that a device identifier for the user communications device is stored in a database accessible to the verifier, the device identifier is retrieved from the database, a communications link is opened with the user communications device, and the device identifier

retrieved from the database is compared with the device identifier obtained from the user communications device when the communications link is opened wherein if the device identifiers match the electronic transaction is allowed to proceed.

16. Verify's predecessors-in-interest sought to commercialize the invention claimed by the '648 Patent and obtained favorable feedback about the invention from various potential clients. In spite of the favorable reviews, Verify was unable to obtain sufficient investment capital to commercialize the invention.

17. Verify's investigation led it to conclude that numerous market participants are now offering or using verifications systems and methods that perform the functions claimed by the '648 Patent. The presence of these more established market participants offering or using infringing products and services prevented Verify from successfully entering the market.

TWITTER'S INFRINGING SYSTEM AND METHOD

18. Twitter is an online social networking service that enables users to send and read short 140-character messages called "tweets". *See* Twitter, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twitter> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016).

19. Twitter advises its users that its Login Verification Feature "helps you keep your account more secure. Instead of relying on just a password, login verification introduces a second check to make sure that you and only you can access your Twitter account." *See* Using Login Verification, <https://support.twitter.com/articles/20170388> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016).

20. Twitter also advises its users that "when you log in to your account on twitter.com, Twitter for iOS, Twitter for Android, or mobile.twitter.com, a six-digit login code will be sent via text message to your phone. Enter the code when prompted to access your account." *See* Using Login Verification, <https://support.twitter.com/articles/20170388> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016).

21. Twitter further advises its users that “The added layer of security [provided by the Login Verification Feature] requires you to enter your password, and then a subsequent six-digit access anytime you try to log into Twitter. The short code is sent via text message to your cell phone, which means that any would-be hackers would need to not only crack your password, but to also have physical possession of your cell phone”, and that “when you log in to your account on twitter.com, Twitter for iOS, Twitter for Android, or mobile.twitter.com, a six-digit login code will be sent via text message to your phone. Enter the code when prompted to access your account.” *See* How To Enable Twitter’s Two-Factor Authentication, <http://www.cnet.com/how-to/how-to-enable-twitters-two-factor-authentication/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016).

22. Twitter provides instructions directly to its users to enable and use the Login Verification Feature. *See* How To Enable Twitter’s Two-Factor Authentication, <http://www.cnet.com/how-to/how-to-enable-twitters-two-factor-authentication/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016).

23. These instructions teach and suggest to use the Login Verification Feature in a way that infringes at least Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 19 of the ‘648 patent.

24. Twitter’s Login Verification Feature uses two factor authentication to verify the identity of its users in the manner set forth in the ‘648 Patent. Twitter’s Login Verification Feature performs the system and methods claimed by the ‘648 Patent.

COUNT I
DIRECT INFRINGEMENT

25. Verify repeats and incorporates herein the entirety of the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 24 above.

26. As a result of making, using, testing, marketing, and selling its service with the Login Verification Feature, Twitter has directly infringed Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 19 of the

'648 Patent literally and/or under the doctrine of equivalents. As set forth *supra*, the Login Verification Feature is specifically designed to perform each and every step set forth in Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 19 of the '648 Patent and each use of the system or method will result in infringement of at least one claim of the '648 Patent.

27. Twitter has willfully infringed Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 19 of the '648 Patent by directly infringing the patent with knowledge of the patent and in spite of an objectively high likelihood that its actions constituted infringement of the '648 Patent.

28. Verify has suffered damages as a result of Twitter's direct infringement of the '648 Patent.

COUNT II
INDIRECT INFRINGEMENT

29. Verify repeats and incorporates herein the entirety of the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 28 above.

30. Twitter's Login Verification Feature is particularly adapted for use in a manner that infringes Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 19 of the '648 Patent. Specifically, as alleged *supra*, Twitter's service is designed to allow users to verify their identity when initiating an electronic transaction by entering as part of the log on process a code received as an SMS message on their mobile phone.

31. Twitter has been aware of the '648 Patent since at least the filing date of this Complaint, and upon information and belief was aware, or should have been aware, before such date that the use of its Login Verification Feature constitutes direct infringement of the '648 Patent.

32. In spite of its knowledge of the '648 Patent, Twitter has continued to offer its Login Verification Feature to its users and has continued to instruct them on how to use this feature in a manner that infringes Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 19 of the '648 Patent.

33. Upon information and belief, at least one of Twitter's customers has used the Login Verification Feature in a manner that infringes the '648 Patent since Twitter became aware of the '648 Patent.

34. Twitter indirectly infringes Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 19 of the '648 Patent by inducing others to use its Login Verification Feature in a manner that directly infringes the asserted claims. Twitter provides its Login Verification Feature to the public and instructs them on how to use it, including by instructing the use of each of the features claimed by the '648 Patent. Twitter has induced these infringing uses with full knowledge of the '648 Patent and with full knowledge that the use of its Login Verification Feature as directed constitutes infringement of the '648 Patent.

35. Twitter indirectly infringes Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 19 of the '648 Patent by contributorily infringing the patent through the sale of its service with the Login Verification Feature. Users that purchase the service with the Login Verification Feature directly infringe the '648 Patent through the use of the feature. Twitter sells and offers for sale its service with the Login Verification Feature whose use performs the patented system and method. The Login Verification Feature is not a staple article of commerce and is not capable of substantial non-infringing uses. Twitter has sold its service with full knowledge of the '648 Patent and with full knowledge that the use of its Login Verification Feature constitutes infringement of the '648 Patent.

36. Verify has suffered damages as a result of Twitter's indirect infringement of the '648 Patent.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Verify prays for judgment against Defendant Twitter on all the counts and for the following relief:

- A. Declaration that Verify is the owner of the right to sue and to recover for infringement of the '648 Patent being asserted in this action;
- B. Declaration that Twitter has directly infringed, actively induced the infringement of, and/or contributorily infringed the '648 Patent;
- C. Declaration that Twitter and its customers are jointly or severally responsible for the damages from infringement of the '648 Patent through the use of the Login Verification Feature;
- D. Declaration that Twitter is responsible jointly or severally with its customers for the damages caused by the infringement of the '648 Patent through the use of the Login Verification Feature by Twitter's customers;
- E. An accounting for damages under 35 U.S.C. § 284 for infringement of the '648 Patent by Twitter, and the award of damages so ascertained to Verify together with interest as provided by law;
- F. Award of Verify's costs and expenses;
- G. Award of Verify's attorney fees; and
- H. Such other and further relief as this Court may deem proper, just and equitable.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff Verify demands a trial by jury of all issues properly triable by jury in this action.

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Dated: March 15, 2016