

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

**GUADA TECHNOLOGIES LLC,**

Plaintiff,

v.

**SMULE, INC.,**

Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 2:16-cv-1158

**PATENT CASE**

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

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**ORIGINAL COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT**

Plaintiff Guada Technologies LLC files this Original Complaint for Patent Infringement against Smule, Inc., and would respectfully show the Court as follows:

**I. THE PARTIES**

1. Plaintiff Guada Technologies LLC (“Guada” or “Plaintiff”) is a Texas limited liability company with its principal place of business in the Eastern District of Texas at 2591 Dallas Parkway, Suite 300, Frisco, Texas 75034.

2. On information and belief, Defendant Smule, Inc. (“Defendant”), is a Delaware corporation with a place of business at 139 Townsend Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94107.

**II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

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

4. On information and belief, Defendant is subject to this Court’s specific and general personal jurisdiction, pursuant to due process and the Texas Long Arm Statute, due at

least to its substantial business in this forum, including at least a portion of the infringement alleged herein.

5. Without limitation, on information and belief, within this state, Defendant has used the patented inventions thereby committing, and continuing to commit, acts of patent infringement alleged herein. In addition, on information and belief, Defendant has derived substantial revenues from its infringing acts occurring within the State of Texas and this District. Further, on information and belief, Defendant is subject to the Court's general jurisdiction, including from regularly doing or soliciting business, engaging in other persistent courses of conduct, and deriving substantial revenue from goods and services provided to persons or entities in the State of Texas and in this District. Further, on information and belief, Defendant is subject to the Court's personal jurisdiction at least due to its sale of products and/or services within the State of Texas and within this District. Defendant has committed such purposeful acts and/or transactions in the State of Texas and in this District such that it reasonably should know and expect that it could be haled into this Court as a consequence of such activity.

6. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b), 1391(c) and 1400(b). On information and belief, Defendant has sufficient contacts with the State of Texas and this District such that this Court is a fair and reasonable venue for the litigation of this action. On information and belief, from and within this District Defendant has committed at least a portion of the infringements at issue in this case. In addition, on information and belief, Defendant has derived substantial revenues from its infringing acts and is subject to personal jurisdiction in this District for at least the reasons identified above, including due at least to its sale of products and/or services within the State of Texas and from this District.

7. For these reasons, personal jurisdiction exists and venue is proper in this Court under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and (c) and 28 U.S.C. § 1400(b).

**III. COUNT I**  
**(PATENT INFRINGEMENT OF UNITED STATES PATENT NO. 7,231,379)**

8. Plaintiff incorporates the above paragraphs herein by reference.

9. On June 12, 2007, United States Patent No. 7,231,379 (“the ‘379 Patent”) was duly and legally issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The ‘379 Patent is titled “Navigation in a Hierarchical Structured Transaction Processing System.” The application leading to the ‘379 Patent were filed on November 19, 2002. A true and correct copy of the ‘379 Patent is attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

10. Plaintiff is the assignee of all right, title and interest in the ‘379 patent, including all rights to enforce and prosecute actions for infringement and to collect damages for all relevant times against infringers of the ‘379 patent. Accordingly, Plaintiff possesses the exclusive right and standing to prosecute the present action for infringement of the ‘379 Patent by Defendant.

11. The ‘379 patent is directed to addresses a problem of navigating network vertices in a programmed computer that has a hierarchically configured decisional network that must be navigated as part of the processing, and that is constructed to accept inputs or data. (Ex. A at col. 2:25-30). The object of navigating the system is to get the user from one vertex (usually starting with the first vertex) of the system to the goal vertices as quickly and efficiently as possible. (*Id.* at col. 2:9-12). Prior art systems required users to navigate the vertices in set pathways that made it difficult for a user to reach goal vertices. (*Id.* at col. 2:10-18). The inventors of the ‘379 patent therefore developed a method in which a user can navigate a hierarchically configured decisional network in a way that allows the user to skip from one vertex to another vertex that

may be many rows down the hierarchically configured decisional network and/or where the vertices may not be connected together adjacently. (*Id.* at col. 3:29-34). This can be accomplished in one embodiment by associating each vertex with one or more verbal descriptions (or prompts), and matching words in users' requests and responses with those verbal descriptions to enable the selection of vertices that may not be directly connected to the user's current location in the hierarchically configured decisional network. (*Id.* at col. 3:35-43).

12. The '379 patent has been cited as prior art during the prosecution history of United States patents assigned to IBM, Fujitsu Limited, and Harris Corporation.

13. **Direct Infringement.** Upon information and belief, Defendant has been and now is directly infringing at least claim 1 of the '379 patent in the State of Texas, in this District, and elsewhere in the United States, by actions comprising making, using, and/or performing a method for navigating multiple navigable nodes interconnected in a hierarchical arrangement using the website at [www.smule.com](http://www.smule.com) and associated subsites, web pages and functionality within that website (the "Accused Instrumentality"). The Accused Instrumentality utilizes a method performed in a system having multiple navigable nodes. For example, the Accused Instrumentality has different product categories (nodes) for selection by a user (*e.g.*, Smule Playlists, Music Genres, Best of Smule Apps) interconnected in a hierarchical arrangement (*e.g.*, from the listen page node, users can go to nodes such as "Smule Playlists", "Music Genres" and "Best of Smule Apps"; and then within a node, such as Music Genres, the Accused Instrumentality contains nodes of particular Music Genres, which in turn contain particular song nodes). The Accused Instrumentality provides at a first node an input mechanism for receiving an input from a user of the system (*e.g.*, the Accused Instrumentality utilizes a search box on the listen page node for accepting an input from a user), and the input from the user contains at least

one word identifiable with at least one keyword from among multiple keywords (*e.g.*, the input from the user contains one or more words identifiable with at least one keyword, which is used by the Accused Instrumentality to identify particular songs from Smule Playlists and Music Genres). The Accused Instrumentality identifies at least one node, other than the first node, that is not directly connected to the first node but is associated with the at least one keyword, and jumps to the at least one node. For example, the Accused Instrumentality identifies a particular song or playlist relating to the keyword input by the user and allows jumping to those items/nodes without traversing preceding generic category nodes (*e.g.*, Smule Playlists, Music Genres) in the hierarchy.

14. Plaintiff has been damaged as a result of Defendant's infringing conduct. Defendant is thus liable to Plaintiff for damages in an amount that adequately compensates Plaintiff for such Defendant's infringement of the '379 patent, *i.e.*, in an amount that by law cannot be less than would constitute a reasonable royalty for the use of the patented technology, together with interest and costs as fixed by this Court under 35 U.S.C. § 284.

15. On information and belief, Defendant will continue its infringement of one or more claims of the '379 patent unless enjoined by the Court. Furthermore, the Defendant's infringing conduct thus causes Plaintiff irreparable harm and will continue to cause such harm without the issuance of an injunction.

16. On information and belief, Defendant has had at least constructive notice of the '379 patent by operation of law, and there are no marking requirements that have not been complied with.

**VI. JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff, under Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, requests a trial by jury of any issues so triable by right.

**VII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court find in its favor and against Defendant, and that the Court grant Plaintiff the following relief:

- a. Judgment that one or more claims of United States Patent No. 7,231,379 have been infringed, either literally and/or under the doctrine of equivalents, by Defendant;
- b. Judgment that Defendant account for and pay to Plaintiff all damages to and costs incurred by Plaintiff because of Defendant's infringing activities and other conduct complained of herein;
- c. That Plaintiff be granted pre-judgment and post-judgment interest on the damages caused by Defendant's infringing activities and other conduct complained of herein;
- d. That Defendant be permanently enjoined from any further activity or conduct that infringes one or more claims of United States Patent No. 7,231,379; and
- e. That Plaintiff be granted such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper under the circumstances.

Dated: October 14, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ David R. Bennett

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