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AMAZON WEB SERVICES, INC.

12  
13 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
14 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

15  
16 AMAZON.COM, INC. and AMAZON WEB  
SERVICES, INC.,

17 Plaintiffs,

18 v.

19 PERSONAL WEB TECHNOLOGIES, LLC, and  
20 LEVEL 3 COMMUNICATIONS, LLC

21 Defendants.

Case No.: 5:18-cv-00767-BLF

**FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR  
DECLARATORY JUDGMENT**

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

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1 Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15(a), Plaintiffs Amazon.com, Inc. (“Ama-  
 2 zon.com”) and Amazon Web Services, Inc. (“AWS”) (collectively, “Amazon”) file this first  
 3 amended complaint against defendants PersonalWeb Technologies, LLC (“PersonalWeb”) and  
 4 Level 3 Communications, LLC (“Level 3”) (collectively, “defendants”) and allege:

#### 5 NATURE OF THE ACTION

6 1. This is an action to protect AWS customers from a wave of identical and meritless  
 7 patent lawsuits. Those lawsuits, filed within weeks of each other, accuse more than fifty unrelated  
 8 AWS customers of patent infringement based on their use of AWS’s Simple Storage Service  
 9 (“S3”). All of the lawsuits are meritless because, in 2011, the same defendants filed a suit against  
 10 Amazon and AWS directly that accused the same technology of infringing the same patents, and  
 11 those claims were dismissed with prejudice. Consequently, all of PersonalWeb’s subsequent cus-  
 12 tomer suits are barred as a matter of law.

13 2. This is the only Court, and this is the only case, where this patent dispute should be  
 14 litigated. Federal Circuit law could not be clearer. The upstream manufacturer or supplier of ac-  
 15 cused processes—here, Amazon—should be given the opportunity to defend its own technology  
 16 and therewith its customers. “[L]itigation . . . brought by the manufacturer of infringing goods  
 17 takes precedence over a suit by the patent owner against customers of the manufacturer,” and thus  
 18 customer cases—like the scores of cases filed by PersonalWeb—must be stayed or enjoined pend-  
 19 ing resolution of the manufacturer action. *See Katz v. Lear Siegler, Inc.*, 909 F.2d 1459, 1463 (Fed.  
 20 Cir. 1990); *see also In re Google Inc.*, 588 F. App’x 988, 990 (Fed. Cir. 2014); *In re Nintendo of*  
 21 *Am., Inc.*, 756 F.3d 1363, 1365 (Fed. Cir. 2014). To that end, the Federal Circuit has expressly  
 22 empowered district courts presiding over a manufacturers’ declaratory judgment action to enjoin  
 23 collateral and duplicative customer suits. *Katz*, 909 F.2d at 1463-64.

24 3. For this reason, and as alleged more particularly herein, Amazon brings this action  
 25 for a declaratory judgment, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202, that PersonalWeb’s claims  
 26 are barred by res judicata and the *Kessler* doctrine, and to enjoin defendants, pursuant to the man-  
 27 ufacturer-customer suit rule, from proceeding with its duplicative and collateral litigations against  
 28 AWS’s customers.

**THE PARTIES**

4. Amazon.com is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of Delaware, with offices and employees throughout several of the United States, including the Northern District of California.

5. AWS is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Amazon and provides on-demand cloud computing services on a subscription basis.

6. Defendant PersonalWeb has alleged that it is a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of Texas with its principal place of business at 112 E. Line Street, Suite 204, Tyler, TX 75702.

7. Defendant Level 3, LLC has alleged that it is a limited liability company organized under the laws of Delaware with its principal place of business at 100 CenturyLink Drive, Monroe, Louisiana, 71203. Level 3 represented in the customer lawsuits that it is a plaintiff due solely to a contractual obligation, and that it does not purport to assert any claims of infringement.<sup>1</sup>

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

8. This is a civil action regarding allegations of patent infringement arising under the patent laws of the United States, Title 35 of the United States Code, in which Amazon seeks declaratory relief under the Declaratory Judgment Act. Defendants have sued Amazon’s customers, alleging patent infringement because they use Amazon’s S3 service. Defendants’ allegations are identical for all customers and consistently reference Amazon S3 as the allegedly infringing technology, and therefore give rise to implied indirect infringement claims against Amazon. As discussed below, Amazon is indemnifying and defending its customers in these suits consistent with the indemnity provisions of the AWS Customer Agreement. Thus, a substantial controversy exists between Amazon and defendants that is of sufficient immediacy and reality to empower the Court to issue a declaratory judgment. *See Microsoft Corp. v. DataTern, Inc.*, 755 F.3d 899, 903 (Fed. Cir. 2014). The Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338, and under 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202.

<sup>1</sup> Accordingly, Amazon’s real dispute is with PersonalWeb only. Amazon names Level 3 as a defendant solely in an excess of caution because Level 3 claims an ownership interest in the patents-in-suit.

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1 S3 is a web storage offering. By using S3, developers can access highly scalable, reliable, fast, and  
2 inexpensive data storage infrastructure similar to what Amazon itself uses to run its own global  
3 network of websites.

4 **I. DEFENDANTS ALREADY ACCUSED S3 OF PATENT INFRINGE-**  
5 **MENT WHEN THEY SUED AMAZON, AND THE COURT DIS-**  
6 **MISSSED THAT CASE WITH PREJUDICE.**

7 14. In 2011, PersonalWeb sued Amazon and AWS in the Eastern District of Texas for  
8 infringement of eight patents: U.S. Patent Nos. 5,978,791 (the “791 patent”); 6,415,280 (the “280  
9 patent”); 6,928,442 (the “442 patent”); 7,802,310 (the “310 patent”); 7,945,539 (the “539 pa-  
10 tent”); 7,945,544 (the “544 patent”); 7,949,662 (the “662 patent”); and 8,001,096 (the “096 pa-  
11 tent”). *PersonalWeb Techs., LLC v. Amazon.com Inc.*, No. 6:11-cv-00658 (E.D. Tex. Filed Dec. 8,  
12 2011). Defendants amended the complaint in that case, including adding Level 3 as a party, on  
13 April 6, 2012.

14 15. All of the patents involved in the Texas case share a common specification, and each  
15 is generally directed to the same general idea: creating a content-based identifier for an object  
16 using a hash function, which is then used to find or identify objects in a system. Every claim of  
17 every one of those patents requires some form of content-based unique identifier.

18 16. In the Texas case, PersonalWeb alleged that Amazon’s S3 infringes all of these pa-  
19 tents because “the hardware and software used by the Amazon S3 system” “accesses a data item in  
20 the system using the ‘ETag’ identifier of the data.”

21 17. An entity tag or “ETag” is defined by HTTP, the protocol used by the World Wide  
22 Web. It is assigned by a web server in order to distinguish between versions of a resource found at  
23 a given URL.

24 18. PersonalWeb could not prove that S3 infringed the patents that were asserted against  
25 Amazon. After the court in the Eastern District of Texas issued its claim construction order, the  
26 parties stipulated to dismiss PersonalWeb’s claims with prejudice. The stipulated dismissal ex-  
27 pressly reserved Amazon’s right to challenge validity, infringement, and/or enforceability of the  
28 patents-in-suit via defense or otherwise, in any future suit or proceeding. On June 9, 2014, the  
Eastern District of Texas entered the dismissal order. *PersonalWeb Techs., LLC v. Amazon.com,*

1 *Inc.*, No. 6:11-cv-00658 (E.D. Tex. June 9, 2014). That court entered final judgment on June 11,  
2 2014.

3 19. A dismissal with prejudice acts as a final judgment on the merits. PersonalWeb’s  
4 claims against S3, including claims against Amazon’s customers using S3, are barred by the doc-  
5 trine of claim preclusion and the *Kessler* doctrine.

6 **II. DEFENDANTS FILED SCORES OF IDENTICAL LAWSUITS**  
7 **AGAINST AMAZON’S CUSTOMERS ACCUSING THE SAME S3**  
8 **SERVICE OF INFRINGING THE SAME PATENTS THEY AS-**  
9 **SERTEED AGAINST AMAZON IN THE TEXAS CASE.**

10 20. On January 8 and January 9, 2018, defendants filed twenty-eight lawsuits against  
11 Amazon’s customers in the Northern District of California, alleging infringement of the ’791 pa-  
12 tent, the ’442 patent, the ’310 patent, the ’544 patent, and U.S. Patent No. 8,099,420 (the “’420  
13 patent”) (collectively, the “patents-in-suit”). Defendants filed identical lawsuits in other jurisdic-  
14 tions around the same time, including one in the Central District of California, three in the Eastern  
15 District of New York, sixteen in the Southern District of New York, and five in the Eastern District  
16 of Texas.

17 21. PersonalWeb previously asserted all of those patents, except for the ’420 patent,  
18 against Amazon in the Texas case. But the ’420 patent is a continuation of the ’442 patent and thus  
19 shares the same specification. Important for this case, the patentee during prosecution was required  
20 by the Patent Office to file a terminal disclaimer limiting the term of the ’420 patent to that of the  
21 same ’280 patent that defendants asserted against Amazon in the Texas case because the Patent  
22 Office determined that the claims of the ’420 patent are not patentably distinct from the claims of  
23 the ’280 patent. Further, the claims of the ’420 patent have essentially the same scope as both the  
24 ’442 patent and its parent, the ’280 patent. PersonalWeb has pled essentially identical facts in  
25 support of its infringement allegations against Amazon’s customers on both the ’420 patent and the  
26 ’442 patent. Based on the fact of the terminal disclaimer, the substantial identity of PersonalWeb’s  
27 infringement allegations, and the fact that its claims have essentially the same scope, the ’420 patent  
28 is not patentably distinct from the ’442 and ’280 patents and PersonalWeb’s infringement claim is  
transactionally-related to its prior claims. *SimpleAir, Inc. v. Google LLC*, No. 2016-2738, 2018

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1 WL 1247003 (Fed. Cir. Mar. 12, 2018). Also important for this case, the '420 patent issued before  
 2 PersonalWeb amended its complaint in the Texas case—which means that PersonalWeb could have  
 3 asserted (but declined to assert) the '420 patent in the Texas case, which in turn means that all  
 4 claims under the '420 patent against the same S3 service were merged into the Texas court's final  
 5 judgment.

6 22. All of the patents asserted against Amazon's customers have now expired.

7 23. The customers accused in defendants' latest campaign include a salmagundi of un-  
 8 related entities engaged in a wide range of unrelated business:

9 Airbnb, Inc, Amicus FTW, Inc., Atlassian, Inc., Cloud 66, Inc.,  
 10 Curebit, Inc., Doximity, Inc., Fandor, Inc., Goldbely, Inc., GoPro,  
 11 Inc., Heroku, Inc., Leap Motion, Inc., Lithium Technologies, Inc.,  
 12 Melian labs, Inc., Merkle, Inc., MyFitnessPal, Inc., Optimizely, Inc.,  
 13 Popsugar Inc., Quotient Technology Inc., Reddit, Inc., Roblox Cor-  
 14 poration, Smugmug, Inc., Square, Inc., Stitch Fix, Inc., Stum-  
 15 bleUpon, Inc., Teespring, Inc., Tophatter, Inc., Vend Inc., Vend,  
 16 Ltd., Venmo, Inc., Webflow, Inc., Spokeo, Inc., Atlas Obscura Inc.,  
 17 Cloud Warmer Inc., Kickstarter, PBC, BDG Media, Inc., Bitly, Inc.,  
 18 Blue Apron, LLC, Centaur Media USA, Inc., E-consultancy.com  
 19 Limited, ELEQT Group, Ltd., Fab Commerce & Design, Inc., Fan-  
 20 Duel Inc., FanDuel Limited, Food52, Inc., Group Nine Media, Inc.,  
 21 Panjiva, Inc., RocketHub, Inc. Spongecell, Inc., Thrillist Media  
 22 Group, Inc., Ziff Davis, LLC, Fiverr International Ltd., Hootsuite  
 23 Media Inc., Lesson Nine GmbH, MWM My Wedding Match Ltd.,  
 24 Yotpo Ltd.

25 24. The sole common fact connecting the AWS customers is that each uses S3, and on  
 26 that basis alone allegedly infringes the PersonalWeb patents.

27 25. The complaints against the AWS customers are identical. They allege that each  
 28 customer infringes because of "actions that occur on the S3 host system":

On information and belief, once Defendant's webpage files have  
 been compiled and are complete, Defendant uploads them to an Am-  
 azon S3 host system as objects. On Information and belief, Defend-  
 ant has contracted with, directed and/or controlled the uploading of  
 its files and subsequent actions that occur on the S3 host system due  
 to Defendant's contractual choice of using content-based identifiers,  
 e.g., fingerprints of content of files necessary to render webpages,  
 as well as Defendant's relationship with Amazon, so that it may con-  
 trol its content distribution in an infringement of the Patents-In-Suit  
 in the manner specified herein.

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1 *E.g., PersonalWeb Techs., LLC v. Airbnb, Inc.*, No. 5:18-cv-00149, Dkt. No. 1 at ¶ 22 (N.D. Cal.  
2 Jan. 8, 2018).

3 26. More specifically, the identical complaints allege that the AWS customers infringe  
4 the patents-in-suit because they make a “contractual choice” to use “both hardware and software  
5 hosted on the Amazon S3 hosting system” and “uploads [files] to an Amazon S3 host system as  
6 objects.” In other words, according to PersonalWeb, the customers infringe because they “control”  
7 Amazon’s S3 service by using it in a conventional manner for its intended purpose.

8 27. The complaints identically allege that the content-based identifier of the patents-in-  
9 suit is the “the object’s associated E-Tag value generated [by Amazon’s S3] upon upload”—the  
10 same ETag generated by the same “hardware and software of the Amazon S3 system” that Person-  
11 alWeb unsuccessfully accused in the earlier Texas case against Amazon. (*Id.* ¶ 38, the customer’s  
12 “website has determined a substantially unique identifier for the data item by calculating a hash  
13 fingerprint and E-Tags of the file’s contents”). *Cf., PersonalWeb Technologies, LLC et al v.*  
14 *Airbnb, Inc.*, 3-18-cv-00149, Dkt. No. 1 at ¶¶ 36, 46, 55, 62, 73, 78 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 8, 2018).

15 28. PersonalWeb alleges that each of Amazon’s customers infringes at least claims 38  
16 and 42 of the ’791 patent; claims 10 and 11 of the ’422 patent; claims 20, 69, and 71 of the ’310  
17 Patent; claims 46, 48, 59, 52, 55 and 56 of the ’544 Patent; and claims 25- 27, 29, 30, 32-36 and  
18 166 of the ’420 patent. *See, e.g., PersonalWeb Technologies, LLC et al v. Airbnb, Inc.*, 3-18-cv-  
19 00149, Dkt. No. 1 at ¶¶ 36, 46, 55, 62, 73 (N.D. Cal. Jan 8, 2018).

20 **III. DEFENDANTS’ ALLEGATIONS AGAINST AMAZON’S CUSTOM-**  
21 **ERS GAVE RISE TO AN IMMEDIATE AND ACTUAL CASE OR**  
22 **CONTROVERSY BETWEEN DEFENDANTS AND AMAZON.**

23 29. As a result of Defendants’ allegations against the Amazon’s customers, there is an  
24 immediate and actual case or controversy regarding whether claim preclusion and the *Kessler* doc-  
25 trine bar the claims against the customers. Defendants’ continued pursuit of more than 50 separate  
26 lawsuits dispersed throughout the country on precluded claims will irreparably harm Amazon and  
its customers.

27 30. Amazon S3 technology does not infringe any claim of the patents-in-suit, directly  
28 or indirectly.



1           31. Amazon has a direct and substantial interest in defeating any patent infringement  
2 claims relating to S3 alleged by defendants in their complaints against Amazon's customers. De-  
3 fendants specifically targeted the S3 technology. AWS designs and develops the accused S3 tech-  
4 nology, and the accused object storage and generation of the alleged content-based identifiers is  
5 carried out by servers in AWS data centers. Defendants' allegations are identical for all customers  
6 and consistently reference Amazon S3 as infringing. Thus, defendants' infringement allegations  
7 directly implicate Amazon and its technology and give rise to implied indirect infringement claims  
8 against Amazon.

9           32. The AWS Customer Agreement (the "Agreement") is and for all relevant time peri-  
10 ods has been publicly available on the AWS website at the web address [https://aws.ama-](https://aws.amazon.com/agreement/)  
11 [zon.com/agreement/](https://aws.amazon.com/agreement/). Customers typically use S3 subject to the Agreement. Section 9.2(a) of the  
12 Agreement provides that "AWS will defend [customers] against any third-party claim alleging that  
13 the Services infringe or misappropriate [any] third party's intellectual property rights, and will pay  
14 the amount of any adverse final judgment or settlement."

15           33. Pursuant to Section 9.2 of the Agreement, Amazon has agreed for purposes of this  
16 case to indemnify and defend the Amazon customers that PersonalWeb has accused of infringing  
17 the patents-in-suit, and therefore "stands in the shoes" of these customers and represents their in-  
18 terests. Accordingly, Amazon has standing to assert claims for declaratory judgment against Per-  
19 sonalWeb. *See Microsoft Corp. v. DataTern, Inc.*, 755 F.3d 899, 904 (Fed. Cir. 2014); *Arris Grp.,*  
20 *Inc. v. British Telecomm'cns PLC*, 639 F.3d 1368, 1375 (Fed. Cir. 2011).

21           34. This controversy is between parties having adverse legal interests and is of sufficient  
22 immediacy and reality to warrant issuance of a declaratory judgment under 28 U.S.C. § 2201(a) as  
23 to the alleged infringement of the patents in suit by Amazon customers using Amazon technology.

24           35. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338, and 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202, defend-  
25 ants are subject to suit in the Northern District of California. Amazon has therefore brought this  
26 action here to obtain just and speedy resolution of this dispute, to relieve Amazon's customers of  
27 the unnecessary burden of litigating meritless cases that target AWS technology, and to once and  
28 for all remove the cloud of uncertainty that has been cast over Amazon's technology. *Goodyear*

1 *Tire & Rubber Co. v. Releasomers, Inc.*, 824 F.2d 953, 956 (Fed.Cir.1987) (“the purpose of the  
2 Declaratory Judgment Act . . . in patent cases is to provide the allegedly infringing party relief from  
3 uncertainty and delay regarding its legal rights”); *Elecs. for Imaging, Inc. v. Coyle*, 394 F.3d 1341,  
4 1347 (Fed. Cir. 2005) (where patentee’s “forceful threats [against customers] created a cloud over  
5 [supplier’s] business, shareholders, and customers, and [supplier’s] potential liability increased as  
6 it continued to sell the allegedly infringing products,” supplier “entitled under the Declaratory Judg-  
7 ment Act to seek a timely resolution of . . . threats of litigation and remove itself from ‘the shadow  
8 of threatened infringement litigation’”) (citation omitted).

9 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION—DECLARATION OF CLAIM PRECLUSION**

10 36. Amazon restates and incorporates by reference each of the allegations in the preced-  
11 ing paragraphs of this complaint.

12 37. The doctrine of claim preclusion bars a party from bringing a claim when a court of  
13 competent jurisdiction has rendered final judgment on the merits of the claim in a previous action  
14 on the same claims. Any claims or defenses that were raised or could have been raised in that  
15 action are extinguished. See *Hallco Mfg. Co. v. Foster*, 256 F.3d 1290, 1294 (Fed. Cir. 2001); see  
16 also *In re Int’l Nutronics, Inc.*, 28 F.3d 965, 969 (9th Cir. 1994). These extinguished claims include  
17 all rights of the plaintiff to remedies against the defendant with respect to all or any part of the  
18 transaction, or series of connected transactions, out of which the action arose. *Acumed LLC v.*  
19 *Stryker Corp.*, 525 F.3d 1319, 1324 (Fed. Cir. 2008).

20 38. In 2011, PersonalWeb sued Amazon in the Eastern District of Texas for infringe-  
21 ment of eight patents, four of which it now asserts against Amazon’s customers: the ’791 patent,  
22 the ’442 patent, the ’310 patent, and the ’544 patent. The suit against Amazon reached a final  
23 determination on the merits because it was dismissed with prejudice.

24 39. The claim in the previous litigation and the claims in the present customer suits are  
25 the same. Both then and now PersonalWeb accused use of Amazon’s S3 technology. Both then  
26 and now PersonalWeb asserted the same patents. Because the same patents and the same accused  
27 technology are involved in all suits, claim preclusion bars PersonalWeb’s claims against Amazon’s  
28 customers.

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1           40.     The '420 patent, which PersonalWeb did not assert (but could have asserted) in the  
2 prior infringement suit, is a continuation of the '442 patent that issued after the initial complaint  
3 was filed in *PersonalWeb Technologies, LLC v. Amazon.com, Inc.*, but before PersonalWeb and  
4 Level 3 filed their amended complaint in that case. In response to a double-patenting rejection of  
5 the claims of the '420 patent in light of the '280 patent, the applicants filed a terminal disclaimer  
6 limiting the term of the '420 patent to that of the asserted '280 patent. The '420 patent addresses  
7 the same subject matter as the '791, '442, '310, and '544 patents, and the infringement claims based  
8 on it are directed at the same accused product and are based on the same underlying facts. The  
9 '420 patent is a continuation of the '442 patent, is patentably indistinct from the '442 patent and  
10 the scope of its claims is essentially the same as the '442 patent. The '420 patent is also patentably  
11 indistinct from the '280 patent with which it shares its term, and the '420 patent claims are essen-  
12 tially the same as those of the '280 patent. As explained above, PersonalWeb's infringement claims  
13 as to the '420 patent are based on transactional facts which substantially overlap its prior claims.  
14 *SimpleAir, Inc. v. Google LLC*, No. 2016-2738, 2018 WL 1247003 (Fed. Cir. Mar. 12, 2018). Per-  
15 sonalWeb also could have included claims based on the '420 patent in its amended complaint  
16 against Amazon, and had a duty to do so. Accordingly, claim preclusion bars claims based on the  
17 '420 patent as well.

18           41.     An actual and justiciable controversy exists between Amazon and PersonalWeb as  
19 to whether claim preclusion bars PersonalWeb's current claims against Amazon's customers.

20           42.     Pursuant to the Federal Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201, et seq., Am-  
21 azon seeks a declaration that claim preclusion bars PersonalWeb's claims against Amazon's cus-  
22 tomers.

23           **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION—PRECLUSION UNDER THE *KESSLER* DOCTRINE**

24           43.     Amazon restates and incorporates by reference each of the allegations in the preced-  
25 ing paragraphs of this complaint.

26           44.     The *Kessler* doctrine “bars a patent infringement action against a customer of a seller  
27 who has previously prevailed against the patentee because of invalidity or noninfringement of the  
28 patent.” *SpeedTrack, Inc. v. Office Depot, Inc.*, 791 F.3d 1317, 1322 (Fed. Cir. 2015) (citing *MGA*,

1 *Inc. v. Gen. Motors Corp.*, 827 F.2d 729, 734 (Fed. Cir. 1987)).

2 45. In the prior Texas suit, Amazon prevailed against PersonalWeb’s claims that S3  
3 infringed the patents-in-suit. Under the *Kessler* doctrine, S3 carries with it a “limited trade license”  
4 for use in commerce by Amazon and its customers, free and clear of additional claims of infringe-  
5 ment based on the same patents-in-suit. While the ’420 patent was not asserted in the prior suit, it  
6 is a continuation of the ’442 patent, is patentably indistinct from the ’442 patent and the scope of  
7 its claims is essentially the same as the ’442 patent. Further, in response to a double-patenting  
8 rejection of the claims of the ’420 patent in light of the ’280 patent, the applicants filed a terminal  
9 disclaimer limiting the term of the ’420 patent to that of the asserted ’280 patent. The ’420 patent  
10 is patentably indistinct from the ’280 patent with which it shares its term, and the ’420 patent claims  
11 are essentially the same as those of the ’280 patent. As explained above, PersonalWeb’s infringe-  
12 ment claims as to the ’420 patent are based on transactional facts which substantially overlap its  
13 prior claims. *SimpleAir, Inc. v. Google LLC*, No. 2016-2738, 2018 WL 1247003 (Fed. Cir. Mar.  
14 12, 2018). Thus, the *Kessler* doctrine applies to the ’420 patent with equal force.

15 46. PersonalWeb has asserted the patents-in-suit against Amazon’s customers alleging  
16 that their use of Amazon’s S3 infringes the patents.

17 47. Accordingly, an actual and justiciable controversy exists between Amazon and Per-  
18 sonalWeb as to whether the *Kessler* doctrine bars PersonalWeb’s claims against Amazon’s cus-  
19 tomers.

20 48. Pursuant to the Federal Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201, et seq., Am-  
21 azon seeks a declaration that the *Kessler* doctrine bars PersonalWeb’s claims against Amazon’s  
22 customers.

23 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION—DECLARATION OF NON-INFRINGEMENT**  
24 **(’791 PATENT)**

25 49. Amazon restates and incorporates by reference each of the allegations in the preced-  
26 ing paragraphs of this complaint.

27 50. PersonalWeb has alleged and continues to allege that use or incorporation of Ama-  
28 zon’s technology infringes claims of the ’791 patent.

1           51. PersonalWeb’s allegations are barred, as described above. Should the Court disa-  
2 gree, however, the Court should enter judgment declaring that Amazon and its technology, includ-  
3 ing when used by Amazon’s customers, does not infringe the ’791 patent.

4           52. Amazon has not and does not make, use, offer for sale, or import any product, ser-  
5 vice, or technology that infringes, induces, or contributes to any infringement of, any claim of the  
6 ’791 patent either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents. Nor does Amazon’s technology,  
7 including S3, infringe the ’791 patent either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents.

8           53. The ’791 patent is directed to the idea of a data processing system that locates a  
9 particular data item with unique identifiers. Claim 38, for example, recites the act of “(A) deter-  
10 mining a substantially unique identifier for the data item, the identifier depending on and being  
11 determined using all of the data in the data item and only the data in the data item, whereby two  
12 identical data items in the system will have the same identifier;” “(B) requesting the particular data  
13 item by sending the data identifier of the data item from the requester location to at least one loca-  
14 tion of a plurality of provider locations in the system.”

15           54. Neither Amazon nor its technology, including S3, infringes the ’791 patent directly  
16 or indirectly, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, for at least the following reasons. The  
17 claimed methods require using the “substantially unique identifiers” to retrieve a data object. The  
18 ETags alleged to be such identifiers cannot be used to request an S3 object and are not used as  
19 identifiers in the S3 system. S3, therefore, does not meet at least the claim requirements of “deter-  
20 mining a substantially unique identifier for the data item, the identifier depending on and being  
21 determined using all of the data in the data item and only the data in the data item, whereby two  
22 identical data items in the system will have the same identifier”, “requesting the particular data item  
23 by sending the data identifier of the data item from the requester location to at least one location of  
24 a plurality of provider locations in the system” of claim 38 and similar claim limitations in the other  
25 claims of the ’791 patent. On information and belief all of this information was known to Person-  
26 alWeb based on its prior suit against Amazon asserting the ’791 patent against the same technology.

27           55. An actual and justiciable controversy exists between Amazon and PersonalWeb as  
28 to Amazon’s non-infringement of the ’791 patent.

1           56. Pursuant to the Federal Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201, et seq., Am-  
2       amazon seeks a declaration that it does not infringe any claim of the '791 patent.

3                           **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION—DECLARATION OF NON-INFRINGEMENT**  
4   **('442 PATENT)**

5           57. Amazon restates and incorporates by reference each of the allegations in the preced-  
6       ing paragraphs of this complaint.

7           58. PersonalWeb has alleged and continues to allege that use or incorporation of Ama-  
8       zon's technology infringes claims of the '442 patent.

9           59. PersonalWeb's allegations are barred, as described above. Should the Court disa-  
10       gree, however, the Court should enter judgment declaring that Amazon and its technology, includ-  
11       ing when used by Amazon's customers, does not infringe the '442 patent.

12           60. Amazon has not and does not make, use, offer for sale, or import any product, ser-  
13       vice, or technology that infringes, induces, or contributes to any infringement of, any claim of the  
14       '442 patent either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents. Nor does Amazon's technology,  
15       including S3, infringe the '442 patent either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents.

16           61. The '442 patent is directed to the method of policing licensed content using content-  
17       based identifiers. Claim 10, for example, recites "a method, in a system in which a plurality of files  
18       are distributed across a plurality of computers;" the act of "obtaining a name for a data file, the  
19       name being based at least in part on a given function of the data, wherein the data used by the  
20       function comprises the contents of the particular file;" and the act of "determining, using at least  
21       the name, whether a copy of the data file is present on at least one of said computers."

22           62. Neither Amazon nor its technology, including S3, infringes the '442 patent directly  
23       or indirectly, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, for at least the following reasons. The  
24       claims require the act of "determining, using at least the name, whether a copy of the data file is  
25       present on at least one of said computers." Accordingly, the claimed process must enable data  
26       identifiers to locate a particular data object. The ETags alleged to be such names cannot be used  
27       to request an S3 object and are not used as identifiers in the S3 system. S3, therefore, does not  
28       meet at least the claim requirements of "determining, using at least the name, whether a copy of the

1 data file is present on at least one of said computers” of claim 10 and similar claim limitations in  
 2 the other claims of the ’442 patent. On information and belief all of this information was known  
 3 to PersonalWeb based on its prior suit against Amazon asserting the ’442 patent against the same  
 4 technology.

5 63. An actual and justiciable controversy exists between Amazon and PersonalWeb as  
 6 to Amazon’s non-infringement of the ’442 patent.

7 64. Pursuant to the Federal Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201, et seq., Am-  
 8 azon seeks a declaration that it does not infringe any claim of the ’442 patent.

9 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION—DECLARATION OF NON-INFRINGEMENT**  
 10 **(’310 PATENT)**

11 65. Amazon restates and incorporates by reference each of the allegations in the preced-  
 12 ing paragraphs of this complaint.

13 66. PersonalWeb has alleged and continues to allege that use or incorporation of Ama-  
 14 zon’s technology infringes claims of the ’310 patent.

15 67. PersonalWeb’s allegations are barred, as described above. Should the Court disa-  
 16 gree, however, the Court should enter judgment declaring that Amazon and its technology, includ-  
 17 ing when used by Amazon’s customers, does not infringe the ’310 patent.

18 68. Amazon has not and does not make, use, offer for sale, or import any product, ser-  
 19 vice, or technology that infringes, induces, or contributes to any infringement of, any claim of the  
 20 ’310 patent either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents. Nor does Amazon’s technology,  
 21 including S3, infringe the ’310 patent either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents.

22 69. The ’310 patent is directed to controlling access to data in a data processing system.  
 23 Claim 69, for example, recites “a system operable in a network of computers, the system comprising  
 24 hardware including at least a processor, and software, in combination with said hardware;” a system  
 25 “(a) . . . receive at a first computer, from a second computer, a request regarding a data item, said  
 26 request including at least a content-dependent name for the data item, the content-dependent name  
 27 being based at least in part on the function of the data in the data item, wherein the data used by the  
 28 function to determine the content-dependent name comprises at least some of the contents of the

1 data item, wherein the function that was used is a message digest function or hash function, and  
 2 wherein two identical data items will have the same content-dependent name;” and a system “(i) to  
 3 cause the content-dependent name of the data item to be compared to a plurality of values; and (ii)  
 4 to determine if access to the data item is authorized or unauthorized based on whether or not the  
 5 content-dependent name corresponds to at least one of said plurality of values.”

6 70. Neither Amazon nor its technology, including S3, infringes the ’310 patent directly  
 7 or indirectly, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, for at least the following reasons. Claim  
 8 69 requires the acts of “caus[ing] the content-dependent name of the data item to be compared to a  
 9 plurality of values; and [] determin[ing] if access to the data item is authorized or unauthorized  
 10 based on whether or not the content-dependent name corresponds to at least one of said plurality of  
 11 values.” The ETags alleged to be such content-dependent names cannot be used to request an S3  
 12 object and are not used as identifiers in the S3 system, nor are they used to determine whether  
 13 access is authorized. S3, therefore, does not meet at least the claim requirements of “determin[ing]  
 14 if access to the data item is authorized or unauthorized based on whether or not the content-depend-  
 15 ent name corresponds to at least one of said plurality of values” of claim 69 and similar claim  
 16 limitations in the other claims of the ’310 patent. On information and belief all of this information  
 17 was known to PersonalWeb based on its prior suit against Amazon asserting the ’310 patent against  
 18 the same technology.

19 71. An actual and justiciable controversy exists between Amazon and PersonalWeb as  
 20 to Amazon’s non-infringement of the ’310 patent.

21 72. Pursuant to the Federal Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201, et seq., Am-  
 22 azon seeks a declaration that it does not infringe any claim of the ’310 patent.

23 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION—DECLARATION OF NON-INFRINGEMENT**  
 24 **(’544 PATENT)**

25 73. Amazon restates and incorporates by reference each of the allegations in the preced-  
 26 ing paragraphs of this complaint.

27 74. PersonalWeb has alleged and continues to allege that use or incorporation of Ama-  
 28 zon’s technology infringes claims of the ’544 patent.



1           75.     PersonalWeb’s allegations are barred, as described above. Should the Court disa-  
2     gree, however, the Court should enter judgment declaring that Amazon and its technology, includ-  
3     ing when used by Amazon’s customers, does not infringe the ’544 patent.

4           76.     Amazon has not and does not make, use, offer for sale, or import any product, ser-  
5     vice, or technology that infringes, induces, or contributes to any infringement of, any claim of the  
6     ’544 patent either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents. Nor does Amazon’s technology,  
7     including S3, infringe the ’544 patent either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents.

8           77.     The ’544 patent is directed to a system in which one or more parts of an object are  
9     provided with individual hashes, and those hashes are hashed together to create one unique identi-  
10    fier for all of the parts. Claim 46, for example, recites the act of “(A) for each particular file of a  
11    plurality of files: (a2) determining a particular digital key for the particular file, wherein the partic-  
12    ular file comprises a first one or more parts;” the act of “(a2) adding the particular digital key of  
13    the particular file to a database, the database including a mapping from digital keys of files to in-  
14    formation about the corresponding files.” Claim 46 further requires “(C) attempting to match the  
15    search key with a digital key in the database.”

16           78.     Neither Amazon nor its technology, including S3, infringe the ’544 patent directly  
17    or indirectly, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, for at least the following reasons. Claim  
18    46 requires the act of “attempting to match the search key with a digital key in the database.” When  
19    S3 evaluates a conditional GET request and checks an ETag, it does not check against a number of  
20    matches in a database; there is only one ETag value that is examined. Amazon, therefore, does not  
21    meet at least the claim requirements of “attempting to match the search key with a digital key in  
22    the database” of claim 46 and similar claim limitations in the other claims of the ’544 patent. On  
23    information and belief all of this information was known to PersonalWeb based on its prior suit  
24    against Amazon asserting the ’544 patent against the same technology.

25           79.     An actual and justiciable controversy exists between Amazon and PersonalWeb as  
26    to Amazon’s non-infringement of the ’544 patent.

27           80.     Pursuant to the Federal Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201, et seq., Am-  
28    azon seeks a declaration that it does not infringe any claim of the ’544 patent.

**NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION—DECLARATION OF NON-INFRINGEMENT  
(’420 PATENT)**

1  
2 81. Amazon restates and incorporates by reference each of the allegations in the preced-  
3 ing paragraphs of this complaint.

4 82. PersonalWeb has alleged and continues to allege that use or incorporation of Ama-  
5 zon’s technology infringes claims of the ’420 patent.

6 83. PersonalWeb’s allegations are barred, as described above. Should the Court disa-  
7 gree, however, the Court should enter judgment declaring that Amazon and its technology, includ-  
8 ing when used by Amazon’s customers, does not infringe the ’420 patent.

9 84. Amazon has not and does not make, use, offer for sale, or import any product, ser-  
10 vice, or technology that infringes, induces, or contributes to any infringement of, any claim of the  
11 ’420 patent either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents. Nor does Amazon’s technology,  
12 including S3, infringe the ’420 patent either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents.

13 85. The ’420 patent is directed to accessing data in a data processing system. Claim  
14 166, for example, recites “(A) for a particular data item in a set of data items, said particular data  
15 item comprising a corresponding particular sequence of bits.”

16 86. Neither Amazon nor its technology, including S3 infringes the ’420 patent directly  
17 or indirectly, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, for at least the following reasons. For  
18 example, Claim 166 requires the particular data item to “(a2) selectively permit the particular data  
19 item to be made available for access and to be provided to or accessed by or from at least some of  
20 the computers in a network of computers, wherein the data item is not to be made available for  
21 access or provided without authorization, as resolved based, at least in part, on whether or not at  
22 least one of said one or more content-dependent digital identifiers for said particular data item  
23 corresponds to an entry in one or more databases, each of said one or more databases comprising a  
24 plurality of identifiers, each of said identifiers in each said database corresponding to at least one  
25 data item of a plurality of data items, and each of said identifiers in each said database being based,  
26 at least in part, on at least some of the data in a corresponding data item.” Accordingly, the claimed  
27  
28

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1 process must use the claimed content-dependent digital identifiers to retrieve a particular data ob-  
2 ject to and evaluate whether the access is authorized. The ETags alleged to be such content-de-  
3 pendent digital identifiers cannot be used to request an S3 object and are not used as identifiers in  
4 the S3 system, nor are they used to determine whether access is authorized. All of this information  
5 would have been readily apparent to PersonalWeb from even a cursory pre-filing investigation and  
6 in light of their prior suit against Amazon involving the same technology.

7 87. An actual and justiciable controversy exists between Amazon and PersonalWeb as  
8 to Amazon’s non-infringement of the ’420 patent.

9 88. Pursuant to the Federal Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201, et seq., Am-  
10 azon seeks a declaration that it does not infringe any claim of the ’420 patent.

11 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

12 WHEREFORE, Amazon prays for a declaratory judgment against Defendants as follows:

- 13 A. A declaration that PersonalWeb’s claims against Amazon.com, AWS, and their cus-  
14 tomers are barred by res judicata;
- 15 B. A declaration that PersonalWeb’s claims against Amazon.com, AWS, and their cus-  
16 tomers are barred by the *Kessler* doctrine;
- 17 C. An order enjoining PersonalWeb from pursuing its claims against Amazon and its  
18 customers;
- 19 D. If PersonalWeb’s claims are not barred, a declaration that Amazon does not infringe  
20 any claim of the ’791 patent;
- 21 E. If PersonalWeb’s claims are not barred, a declaration that Amazon does not infringe  
22 any claim of the ’442 patent;
- 23 F. If PersonalWeb’s claims are not barred, a declaration that Amazon does not infringe  
24 any claim of the ’310 patent;
- 25 G. If PersonalWeb’s claims are not barred, a declaration that Amazon does not infringe  
26 any claim of the ’544 patent;
- 27 H. If PersonalWeb’s claims are not barred, a declaration that Amazon does not infringe  
28 any claim of the ’420 patent;

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- 1 I. An award of costs and attorneys’ fees to Amazon; and
- 2 J. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and reasonable.

**JURY TRIAL DEMAND**

3 Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 38(b) and Local Rule 3-6, Plaintiffs Amazon.com and AWS  
4 hereby demand a trial by jury of all issues so triable.  
5

6  
7 Respectfully submitted,

8  
9 Dated: March 23, 2018

FENWICK & WEST LLP

10  
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