

**THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

**ROTHSCHILD BROADCAST  
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS, LLC,**

**Plaintiff,**

**v.**

**PROJECT PANTHER US, LLC d/b/a  
TIDAL,**

**Defendant.**

**CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:20-CV-00396-MN**

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

**FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff Rothschild Broadcast Distribution Systems, LLC (“Plaintiff” or “Rothschild Broadcast Distribution Systems”) files this First Amended Complaint against Defendant Project Panther US, LLC (“Defendant” or “Project Panther”) for infringement of U.S. Patent No. 8,856,221 (hereinafter the “’221 Patent”) and alleges as follows:

**PARTIES**

1. Plaintiff is a Texas limited liability company with an office at 1801 NE 123 Street, Suite 314, Miami, FL 33181.

2. On information and belief, Defendant is a Delaware limited liability company with its principal office in the United States located at C/O Tidal, 540 West 26th St., 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10001. On information and belief, Defendant may be served with process through its registered agent, Corporation Service Company, at 251 Little Falls Dr., Wilmington, DE 19808.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

3. This action arises under the patent laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. § 271 et seq. Plaintiff is seeking damages, as well as attorney fees and costs.

4. Jurisdiction is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 (Federal Question) and 1338(a) (Patents).

5. On information and belief, this Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant has committed, and continues to commit, acts of infringement in this District, has conducted business in this District, and/or has engaged in continuous and systematic activities in this District.

6. Upon information and belief, Defendant's instrumentalities that are alleged herein to infringe were and continue to be used, imported, offered for sale, and/or sold in the District. Alternatively, Defendant has already appeared in this action and has not challenged *in personam* jurisdiction or venue, which are now waived by operation of law.

7. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. §1400(b) because Defendant is deemed to be a resident in this District.

### **BACKGROUND**

8. On October 7, 2014, the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") duly and legally issued the '221 Patent, entitled "System and Method for Storing Broadcast Content in a Cloud-Based Computing Environment" after the USPTO completed a full and fair examination. The '221 Patent is attached as Exhibit A.

9. Rothschild Broadcast Distribution Systems is currently the owner of the '221 Patent.

10. Rothschild Broadcast Distribution Systems possesses all rights of recovery under the '221 Patent, including the exclusive right to recover for past, present and future infringement.

11. The '221 Patent contains thirteen claims including two independent claims (claims 1 and 7) and eleven dependent claims.

**COUNT ONE**  
**(Infringement of United States Patent No. 8,856,221)**

12. Plaintiff refers to and incorporates the allegations in Paragraphs 1 - 11, the same as if set forth herein.

13. This cause of action arises under the patent laws of the United States and, in particular under 35 U.S.C. §§ 271, *et seq.*

14. Defendant has knowledge of its infringement of the '221 Patent, at least as of the service of the present complaint.

15. On October 7, 2014, the United States Patent & Trademark Office (USPTO) duly and legally issued the '221 Patent.

16. The '221 Patent teaches a method and apparatus for media content storage and delivery. Among other things, the claimed system includes a server, which has a receiver in communication with a processor. The receiver receives a request message. The request message includes media data indicating requested media content and a consumer device identifier corresponding to a consumer device. The processor determines whether the consumer device identifier corresponds to a registered consumer device. If the processor determines that the consumer device identifier corresponds to the registered consumer device, then the processor determines whether the request message is one of a storage request message and a content request message. If the request message is the storage request message, then the processor is further configured to determine whether the requested media content is available for storage. If

the request message is the content request message, then the processor initiates delivery of the requested media content to the consumer device. ‘221 Patent, Abstract.

17. The present invention solves problems that existed with then-existing media delivery systems. One problem with prior delivery systems is that the customer was charged according to the expenses of the provider rather than the usage of the customer. Customers were not charged based on the amount of programming delivered or the amount or duration of the customer’s storage of media. *Id.*, 1:31-57. Another such problem, more generally, is that customers were not billed and services were not provided, in a way that was tailored to the customer’s needs and usage. *Id.* 2:3-13.

18. A number of aspects of the invention(s) embodied in the ‘221 Patent overcome the problems with the prior art. For example, the inventive system includes a processor in communication with a receiver. *Id.*, 2:23-34. The processor determines media content characteristics that correspond to the media content to be stored. *Id.* The processor determines a length of time to store the media content based on the media data and determines a cost amount based at least in part on the determined media content characteristics and length of time to store the media content. *Id.* As another example, the system makes a determination that media content is available for download. *Id.*, 2:64-3:2. A determination is made that content is not stored. Download of the media content is initiated. *Id.* The media content is received and the received media content is stored. *Id.*

19. The ‘221 Patent is directed to computerized technologies to provide users with tailored media delivery systems and tailored billing for such systems. Among other things, the ‘221 Patent claims include sending and receiving of request messages indicating requested media content and including a device identifier corresponding to a consumer device. A determination

is made whether the identifier corresponds to the device. A determination is also made as to whether the request is for delivery or storage. The media data in the request includes time data that indicates a length of time for storage. A processor is configured to determine whether requested media exists and whether there are any restrictions associated with delivery or storage of the requested media.

20. The system(s) and methods of the '221 Patent include software and hardware that do not operate in a conventional manner. For example, the software is tailored to provide functionality to perform recited steps and the processor is configured (and/or programmed) to provide functionality recited throughout the claims of the '221 Patent.

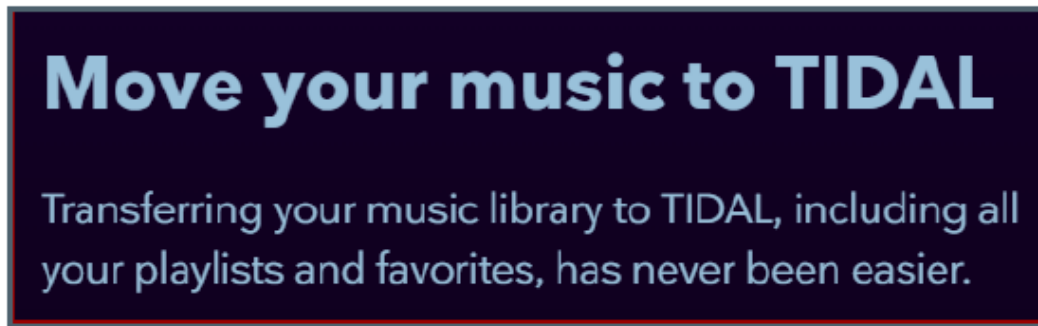
21. The '221 Patent solves problems with the art that are rooted in computer technology and that are associated with electronic transmission, loading, and storage of location information, as well as automatic provisioning of route guidance. The '221 Patent claims do not merely recite the performance of some business practice known from the pre-Internet world along with the requirement to perform it on the Internet.

22. Upon information and belief, Defendant has infringed and continues to infringe one or more claims, including at least Claim 7, of the '221 Patent by making, using, importing, selling, and/or offering for media content storage and delivery systems and services covered by one or more claims of the '221 Patent.

23. Accordingly, Defendant has infringed, and continues to infringe, the '221 Patent in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271.

24. Defendant sells, offers to sell, and/or uses media content storage and delivery systems and services, including, without limitation, the Tidal music streaming platform, and any similar products ("Product"), which infringes at least Claim 7 of the '221 Patent.

25. The Product practices a method of storing (e.g., cloud storage) media content (e.g. and recorded music) and delivering requested media content to a consumer device. Certain aspects of these elements are illustrated in the screenshots below and/or in those provided in connection with other allegations herein.



Source: <https://tidal.com/import-playlist>

## About TIDAL

TIDAL is an artist-owned global music streaming and entertainment platform that brings artists and fans closer together through unique original content and exclusive experiences.

Source: <https://tidal.com/whatistidal>

## **Stream your favorite songs**

With our library of over 60 million tracks and 250,000 videos, you'll get the ultimate music experience.

Create a playlist or try one of ours, hand-curated by music editors and even the artists themselves.

Source: <https://tidal.com/about>

We know it takes time and energy to curate the perfect music library. Transfer your old music library and playlists to TIDAL with just a few easy steps.

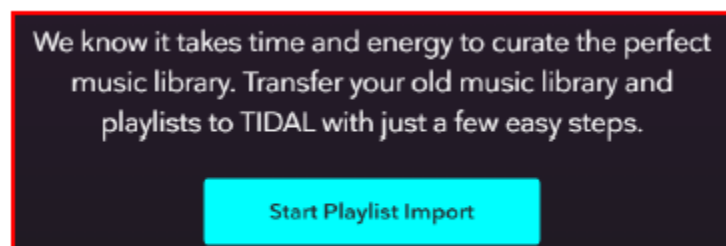
**Start Playlist Import**

Source: <https://tidal.com/import-playlist>

TIDAL brings music fans closer to their favorite artists and gives on-demand access to discover new music from our massive music and video catalog. TIDAL's extensive catalog is supplemented by exclusive content, including exclusive songs, albums, and videos featuring the world's top musicians, athletes, entertainers and up-and-coming independent artists. We offer not only access to exclusive digital content, but also the ability to participate in unique real-life experiences, such as concerts with established or emerging artists, and other direct interactions between fans and their favorite artists. Human curation is an important part of what we do at TIDAL, and we have an expert group of tastemakers to help select and promote emerging artists to a broader audience via our TIDAL Rising program. We also provide a choice of both premium and HiFi music quality that enables fans to experience music as the artists intended it to be heard.

Source: <https://tidal.com/whatistidal>

26. The Product necessarily includes a receiver configured to receive a request message including data indicating requested media content (e.g., the Product must have infrastructure to receive a request to store recorded media content or to stream recorded media content on a smartphone; additionally, the request message must contain data that identifies the content to be stored or streamed) and a consumer device identifier corresponding to a consumer device (e.g., the user credentials are used to access the contents of the Product). Certain aspects of these elements are illustrated in the screenshots below and/or in those provided in connection with other allegations herein.



Source: <https://tidal.com/import-playlist>

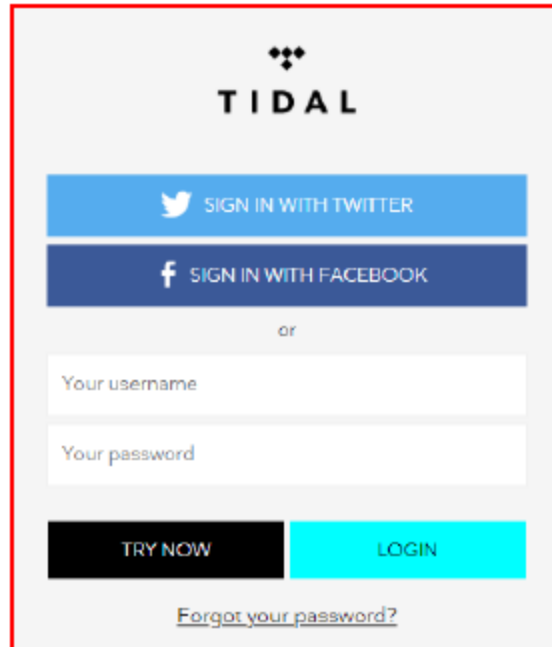


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Source: <https://tidal.com/whatistidal>

Source: <https://my.tidal.com/login>

27. The at least one server necessarily determines whether the consumer device identifier corresponds to the registered consumer device (e.g., a user must be a registered user to access the Product's services). Certain aspects of these elements are illustrated in the screenshots below and/or in those provided in connection with other allegations herein.



Source: <https://my.tidal.com/login>

28. The Product provides for both media downloads and/or storage, and media streaming. After a successful login, the Product necessarily determines whether the request received from a customer is a request for storage (e.g., recording or storing content) or content (e.g., streaming of media content). Certain aspects of these elements are illustrated in the screenshots below and/or in those provided in connection with other allegations herein.

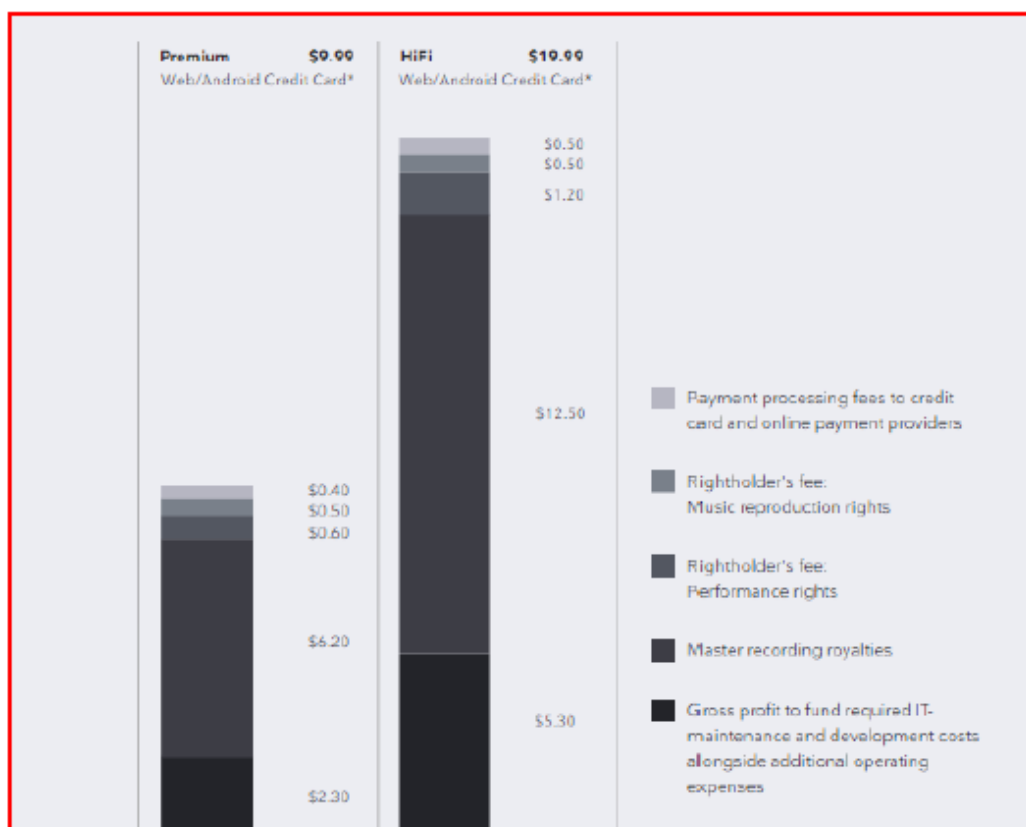
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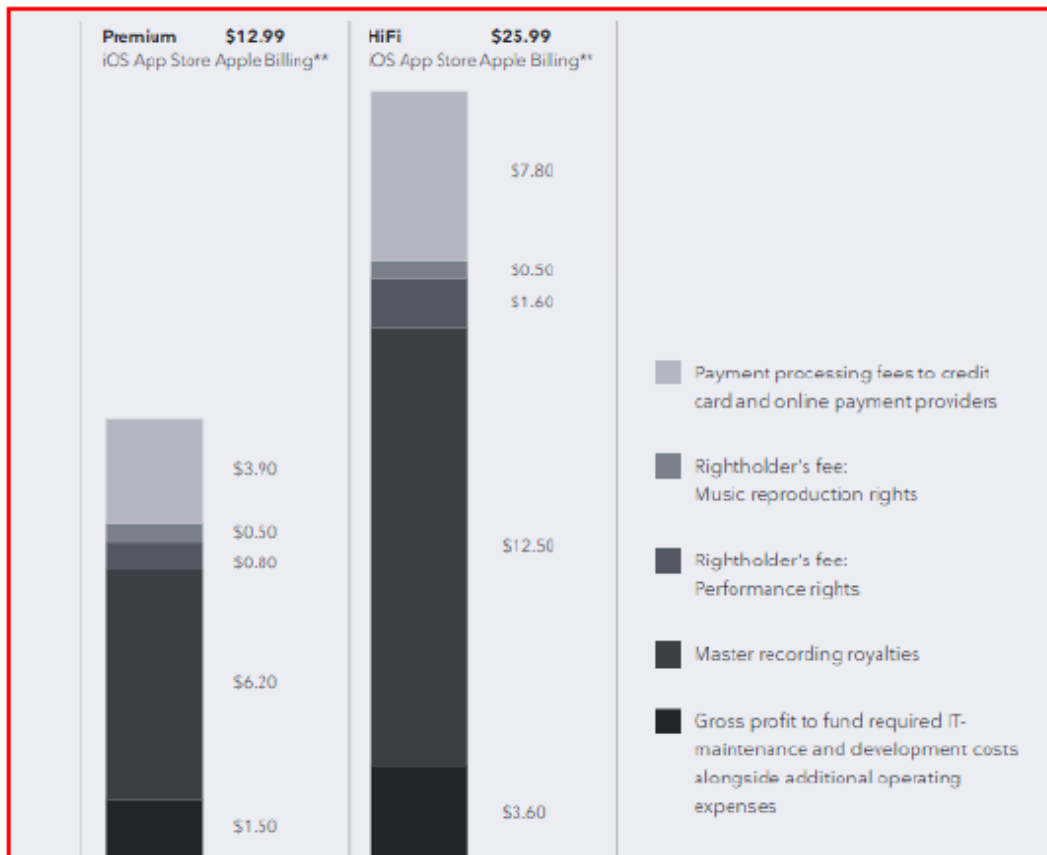
29. The Product verifies that media content identified in the media data of the storage request message (e.g., request to record content) is available for storage in order to prevent data errors that would result from attempting to store content that is not available for storage. The Product must verify that the media content (e.g. specific recording) identified in the media data of the storage request message is available for storage in order to prevent data errors that would result from attempting to store content that is not available for storage (e.g., the product must verify a user's ability to store video is limited to a certain amount of memory usage based upon their subscription; thus media content may not be available for storage if a user is already above their memory limit or if the user has not subscribed to any service). Certain aspects of these elements are illustrated in the screenshots below and/or in those provided in connection with other allegations herein.

TIDAL brings music fans closer to their favorite artists and gives on-demand access to discover new music from our massive music and video catalog. TIDAL's extensive catalog is supplemented by exclusive content, including exclusive songs, albums, and videos featuring the world's top musicians, athletes, entertainers and up-and-coming independent artists. We offer not only access to exclusive digital content, but also the ability to participate in unique real-life experiences, such as concerts with established or emerging artists, and other direct interactions between fans and their favorite artists. Human curation is an important part of what we do at TIDAL, and we have an expert group of tastemakers to help select and promote emerging artists to a broader audience via our TIDAL Rising program. We also provide a choice of both premium and HiFi music quality that enables fans to experience music as the artists intended it to be heard.

Source: <https://tidal.com/whatistidal>



Source: <https://tidal.com/whatistidal>



Source: <https://tidal.com/whatistidal>

30. If a customer requests content (e.g., live streaming of media content), then a processor within the Product necessarily initiates delivery of the content to the customer's device. The server will initiate delivery of the requested media content to the consumer device (e.g., stream live camera feed to a smartphone or tablet or desktop computer) if the request message is a content request message (e.g., request for live streaming). Certain aspects of these elements are illustrated in the screen shots below and/or in screen shots provided in connection with other allegations herein.

### **Premium for \$9.99 / month**

For \$9.99 per month, TIDAL's Premium tier gives users unlimited music across multiple devices including smartphones, computers, and tablets, as well as access to exclusive TIDAL X events. TIDAL Premium subscribers can also create playlists and download songs to their devices for offline listening - all without intrusive advertisements.

### **HiFi for \$19.99 / month**

TIDAL's HiFi tier gives subscribers all the same great content and experiences as a Premium subscription, except music is delivered in lossless, CD and Master Quality Authenticated (MQA) quality (1411 kbps vs. 320 kbps for standard streaming).

HiFi streaming delivers an uncompressed sound file, which means that you can hear every instrument and every note - as the artist intended. This tier costs \$19.99 per month.

Source: <https://tidal.com/whatistidal>

TIDAL is currently available in 53 countries, with plans for further international expansion soon! As we continue to grow, we'll be able to deliver more great content and TIDAL X events for our subscribers, as well as continue to contribute to the health of the music industry by growing the amount of royalties we pay to music creators.

Source: <https://tidal.com/whatistidal>

31. The media data time data that indicates a length of time to store the requested media content (e.g. a user is allowed to store media content for maximum of 30 days as based upon their subscription level). Certain aspects of these elements are illustrated in the screenshots below and/or in those provided in connection with other allegations herein.



TIDAL generates revenues by charging users a subscription fee. TIDAL currently has 2 subscriptions tiers (and a subscriber can try either with a 30-day free trial).

**Premium for \$9.99 / month**

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**Subscription Types**

**Premium** - \$9.99 USD a month with standard sound quality, high definition music videos, and expertly curated editorial. (prices vary depending on region and local currency)

**HiFi** - \$19.99 USD a month with lossless High Fidelity sound quality, high definition music videos, and expertly curated editorial. (prices vary depending on region and local currency)

**Family Premium** - \$14.99 USD a month including up to 5 additional family members totaling 6 on the account. Standard sound quality, high definition music videos, and expertly curated editorial (prices vary depending on region and local currency)

**Family HiFi** - \$29.99 USD a month including up to 5 additional family members totaling 6 on the account. Lossless High Fidelity sound quality, high definition music videos, and expertly curated editorial (prices vary depending on region and local currency)

**Student Premium** - \$4.99 USD a month, must be able to confirm eligibility, you will need to reverify eligibility every 12 months. (Not available in all regions)

**Student HiFi** - \$9.99 USD a month, must be able to confirm eligibility, you will need to reverify eligibility every 12 months. (Not available in all regions)

**Military Premium** - \$5.99 USD a month, must be able to confirm eligibility (US only)

**Military HiFi** - \$11.99 USD a month, must be able to confirm eligibility (US only)

**First Responders Premium** - \$5.99 USD a month, must be able to confirm eligibility (US Only)

**First Responders HiFi** - \$11.99 USD a month, must be able to confirm eligibility (US Only)

Source: <https://support.tidal.com/hc/en-us/articles/115003662825-Subscription-Types>

32. The server must first determine whether the requested media content exists prior to initiating delivery in order to prevent data errors that would result from attempting to transmit media content that does not exist (e.g. the product must verify that a particular requested data is stored in the cloud). Certain aspects of these elements are illustrated in the screenshots below and/or in those provided in connection with other allegations herein.



## About TIDAL

TIDAL is an artist-owned global music streaming and entertainment platform that brings artists and fans closer together through unique original content and exclusive experiences.

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### Stream your favorite songs

With our library of over 60 million tracks and 250,000 videos, you'll get the ultimate music experience.

Create a playlist or try one of ours, hand-curated by music editors and even the artists themselves.

Source: <https://tidal.com/about>

We know it takes time and energy to curate the perfect music library. Transfer your old music library and playlists to TIDAL with just a few easy steps.

Start Playlist Import

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TIDAL brings music fans closer to their favorite artists and gives on-demand access to discover new music from our massive music and video catalog. TIDAL's extensive catalog is supplemented by exclusive content, including exclusive songs, albums, and videos featuring the world's top musicians, athletes, entertainers and up-and-coming independent artists. We offer not only access to exclusive digital content, but also the ability to participate in unique real-life experiences, such as concerts with established or emerging artists, and other direct interactions between fans and their favorite artists. Human curation is an important part of what we do at TIDAL, and we have an expert group of tastemakers to help select and promote emerging artists to a broader audience via our TIDAL Rising program. We also provide a choice of both premium and HiFi music quality that enables fans to experience music as the artists intended it to be heard.

Source: <https://tidal.com/whatistidal>

### **Offline Mode on Android**

You can save files directly to your Android device instead of streaming via a network connection using Offline Mode. This allows you to access your favorite content when you cannot connect to the internet. Albums, movies, videos, shows, and playlists can be saved Offline. The Offline Mode works on all mobiles and tablets supported by TIDAL.

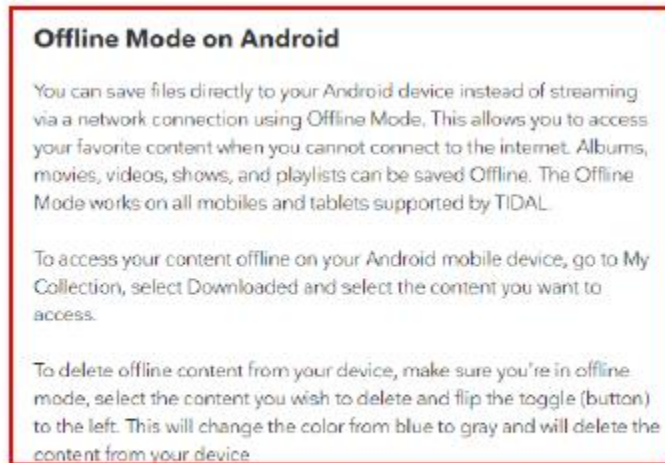
To access your content offline on your Android mobile device, go to My Collection, select Downloaded and select the content you want to access.

To delete offline content from your device, make sure you're in offline mode, select the content you wish to delete and flip the toggle (button) to the left. This will change the color from blue to gray and will delete the content from your device

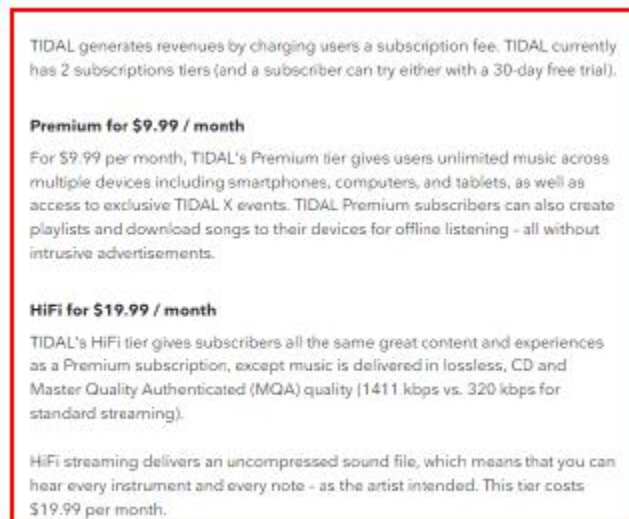
Source: <https://support.tidal.com/hc/en-us/articles/201315081-Offline-Mode-on-Android>

33. After the processor determines whether the requested media content is available, it determines whether there are restrictions associated with the requested media content (e.g.,

subscription level etc.). Certain aspects of these elements are illustrated in the screenshots below and/or those provided in connection with other allegations herein.



Source: <https://support.tidal.com/hc/en-us/articles/201315081-Offline-Mode-on-Android>



Source: <https://tidal.com/whatistidal>

34. Defendant's actions complained of herein will continue unless Defendant is enjoined by this Court.

35. Defendant's actions complained of herein is causing irreparable harm and monetary damage to Plaintiff and will continue to do so unless and until Defendant is enjoined and restrained by this Court.

36. The '221 Patent is valid, enforceable, and was duly issued in full compliance with Title 35 of the United States Code.

37. A copy of the '221 Patent, titled "System and Method for Storing Broadcast Content in a Cloud-based Computing Environment," is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

38. By engaging in the conduct described herein, Defendant has injured Plaintiff and is liable for infringement of the '221 Patent, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271.

39. Defendant has committed these acts of literal infringement, or infringement under the doctrine of equivalents of the '221 Patent, without license or authorization.

40. As a result of Defendant's infringement of the '221 Patent, injured Plaintiff has suffered monetary damages and is entitled to a monetary judgment in an amount adequate to compensate for Defendant's past infringement, together with interests and costs.

41. Plaintiff is in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 287.

42. As such, Plaintiff is entitled to compensation for any continuing and/or future infringement of the '221 Patent up until the date that Defendant ceases its infringing activities.

#### **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

43. Rothschild Broadcast Distribution Systems, under Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, requests a trial by jury of any issues so triable by right.

#### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff asks the Court to:

(a) Enter judgment for Plaintiff on this Complaint on all cases of action asserted herein;

- (b) Enter an Order enjoining Defendant, its agents, officers, servants, employees, attorneys, and all persons in active concert or participation with Defendant who receives notice of the order from further infringement of United States Patent No. 8,856,221 (or, in the alternative, awarding Plaintiff running royalty from the time judgment going forward);
- (c) Award Plaintiff damages resulting from Defendants infringement in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 284;
- (d) Award Plaintiff such further relief to which the Court finds Plaintiff entitled under law or equity.

Dated: June 3, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jimmy Chong

**JIMMY CHONG, ESQ. (#4839)**

**CHONG LAW FIRM, P.A.**

2961 Centerville Rd.

Ste 350

Wilmington, DE 19808

302-999-9480

chong@chonglawfirm.com

**ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF  
ROTHSCHILD BROADCAST  
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS, LLC**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned certifies that all counsel of record who have consented to electronic service are being served with a copy of this document via the Court's CM/ECF system on June 3, 2020.

/s/Jimmy Chong

Jimmy Chong