

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

ALTPASS LLC,

Plaintiff,

v.

**PANASONIC CORPORATION OF
NORTH AMERICA,**

Defendant.

Case No. 2:21-cv-285

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT

This is an action for patent infringement in which Altpass LLC (“Plaintiff”) accuses Panasonic Corporation of North America (“Defendant” or “Panasonic”), of infringing U.S. Patent No. 7,350,078, U.S. Patent No. 7,725,725, and U.S. Patent No. 8,429,415 (collectively, the “Patents-in-Suit”), alleging as follows:

PARTIES

1. Plaintiff is a Texas limited liability company, having a principal place of business at 106 E St., Suite 900, Austin, TX 78701.
2. Upon information and belief, Defendant Panasonic Corporation of North America is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Delaware and maintains a regular and established place of business at 3461 Plano Pkwy, The Colony, Texas 75056.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. This is an action for infringement of the Patents-in-Suit arising under 35 §§ 271(a)-(b), 281, and 284 – 85. This Court has subject matter Jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C. §1331 and §1338(a).

4. Upon information and belief, Defendant is subject to this Court’s specific and general personal jurisdiction pursuant to due process and/or the Texas Long Arm Statute, due at least to its substantial business in this forum, including: (i) at least a portion of the infringements alleged herein, and (ii) regularly doing or soliciting business, engaging in other persistent courses of conduct, and/or deriving substantial revenue form goods and services provided to individuals in Texas and in this Judicial District.

5. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1400(b). Defendant has a regular and established place of business in this District located at 3461 Plano Pkwy, The Colony, Texas 75056. Additionally, Defendant has committed and continues to commit acts of patent infringement in this Judicial District, including by making, using, offering to sell, and/or selling accused products and services in this District, and/or importing accused products and services into this District

U.S. PATENT NO. 7,350,078

6. On March 25, 2008, United States Patent No. 7,350,078 (the “’078 Patent”) was duly and legally issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office for an invention entitled “User Selection of Computer Login.” A true and correct copy of the ‘078 patent is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

7. Gary Odom is the inventor of the '078 patent.

8. Plaintiff is the owner by assignment of the '078 patent with all rights in and to that patent.

9. Upon information and belief, to the extent any marking was required by 35 U.S.C. § 287, Plaintiff has complied with such requirements.

U.S. PATENT NO. 7,725,725

10. On May 10, 2010, United States Patent No. 7,725,725 (the "'725 patent") was duly and legally issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office for an invention entitled "User-Selectable Signatures." A true and correct copy of the '725 patent is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

11. Gary Odom is the inventor of the '725 patent.

12. Plaintiff is the owner by assignment of the '725 patent with all rights in and to that patent.

13. Upon information and belief, to the extent any marking was required by 35 U.S.C. § 287, Plaintiff has complied with such requirements.

U.S. PATENT NO. 8,429,415

14. On April 23, 2013, United States Patent No. 8,429,415 (the "'415 Patent") was duly and legally issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office for an invention entitled "User-Selectable Signatures." A true and correct copy of the '415 patent is attached hereto as Exhibit C.

15. Gary Odom is the inventor of the '415 patent.

16. Plaintiff is the owner by assignment of the '415 patent with all rights in and to that patent.

17. Upon information and belief, to the extent any marking was required by 35 U.S.C. § 287, Plaintiff has complied with such requirements.

COUNT I

Infringement of U.S. Patent No. 7,350,078

18. Plaintiff hereby realleges paragraphs 1 through 17 as though fully set forth herein.

19. Defendant directly and/or through intermediaries, makes, uses, offers to sell, or sells computing devices with user-selectable signatures which infringe the '078 Patent, shown in Exhibit A-1.

20. Upon information and belief, Defendant, its resellers, and end-user customers, have been and are now infringing at least claims 1 and 3 of the '078 Patent in the State of Texas, in this Judicial District, and elsewhere in the United States, by, among other things, directly or through intermediaries using computing devices with user-selectable signatures, *i.e.*, the Panasonic Toughpad FZ-G1, the Panasonic Toughbook 33, and the Panasonic Toughbook 20 (the "Accused Instrumentalities"), covered by at least claims 1 and 3 of the '078 Patent to the injury of Plaintiff. Defendant, its resellers, and end-user customers, are directly infringing, literally infringing, and/or infringing the '078 Patent under the doctrine of equivalents. Defendant is thus liable for direct infringement of the '078 Patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271(a).

21. For example, the use of the Panasonic Toughpad FZ-G1 by Defendant, its resellers, or end-user customers, directly infringe claim 1 of the '078 Patent and performs a method for creating a signature for subsequent authentication (*i.e.*, they create signatures in the

form of a PIN, a password, or a face unlock that are used for subsequent authentication) comprising: indicating to a user commencement of signature input recording (*i.e.*, they request user input to begin recording a signature); recording user input signals by type (*i.e.*, a pin or password is recorded) from at least one user-selected device among a plurality of selectable user input devices (*i.e.*, both a touch screen and a camera sensor that are built into the device), wherein a signal comprises a set of related software-recognizable data of the same type received from at least one input device (*i.e.*, the recorded data from the input signal is recognized as a type of data, such as face recognition, pin recognition, or password data), and wherein at least one user-selectable input device affords recording a plurality of signal types (*i.e.*, the touch screen (user-selectable input device) is used to record a password or PIN (a plurality of signal types)), and wherein a signal type comprises a category, among a plurality of possible categories (*i.e.*, face input, pin input, or password input), of measurable variable input associated with at least one user-selectable input device (*i.e.*, the input such as unlock pin, face or password contain measurable variations associated with the input device); terminating said recording; creating a signature based at least in part upon said recording; and storing said signature (*e.g.*, once the password signature is complete, the password signature data is stored). *See* Ex. A-1, Figs. 1-14.

22. Additionally, the use of the Panasonic Toughpad FZ-G1 by Defendant, its resellers, or end-user customers, directly infringe claim 3 of the '078 Patent by further comprising receiving user selection of at least one signal type (*e.g.*, PIN or password) from a plurality of signal types (*e.g.*, PIN or password) associated with at least one user input device (*e.g.*, touch screen).

23. As a result of Defendant's infringement of the '078 Patent, Plaintiff has suffered monetary damages and is entitled to a money judgment in an amount adequate to compensate for

Defendant's infringement, but in no event less than a reasonable royalty for the use made of the invention by Defendant, together with interest and costs as fixed by the court, and Plaintiff will continue to suffer damages in the future unless Defendant's infringing activities are enjoined by this Court.

COUNT II

INDUCED INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 7,350,078

24. Upon information and belief, Defendant is now inducing the infringement by its resellers and end-use customers of at least claims 1 and 3 of the '078 Patent in the State of Texas, in this Judicial District, and elsewhere in the United States, by, among other things, directly or through intermediaries, inducing its resellers and end-user customers to use the Accused Instrumentalities in its customary manner which, as shown above, infringe claims 1 and 3 of the '078 Patent to the injury of Plaintiff. Defendant's resellers and end-use customers are directly infringing, literally infringing, and/or infringing the '078 Patent under the doctrine of equivalents. Defendant is thus liable for infringement of the '078 Patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271(b).

25. Defendant received actual notice of the '078 Patent at least as early as the date of the filing of this Complaint.

26. Defendant's affirmative act of providing instruction manuals, advertisement of the infringing features, and support for the Accused Instrumentalities induces Defendant's resellers and end users to use the Accused Instrumentalities in their normal and customary way to directly infringe claims 1 of the '078 Patent.

27. As of the filing of this complaint, Defendant's continued making, selling, and/or offering for sale the Accused Instrumentalities and providing instruction manuals, advertisement of the infringing features, and support for the Accused Instrumentalities demonstrates

Defendant's specific intent that its resellers and end-users directly infringe claims 1 and 3 of the '078 Patent. Defendant is aware that such actions would induce actual infringement since at least the filing of this Complaint. Furthermore, Defendant remains aware that these normal and customary activities would infringe the '078 Patent.

28. For example, in connection with the sale and/or offering for sale of the Panasonic Toughpad FZ-G1, Defendant provides manuals and support to resellers and end-use customers regarding the use and operation of the Panasonic Toughpad FZ-G1. Specifically, Defendant provides manuals and support through its website https://na.panasonic.com/ns/272159_TOUGHPAD_FZ-G1_Reference_Manual.pdf. When end-users follow such instructions and support, they directly infringe the '078 Patent. Defendant knows or should know that by providing such instructions and support, resellers and end-use customers follow these instructions and support and directly infringe the '078 Patent.

29. Accordingly, Defendant continues to perform acts that induce actual infringement, with the knowledge of the '078 Patent and with the knowledge or willful blindness to the fact that the induced acts would constitute infringement.

30. As a result of Defendant's infringement, either directly or through inducement, of the '078 Patent, Plaintiff has suffered monetary damages and is entitled to a money judgment in an amount adequate to compensate for Defendant's direct infringement from July 26, 2015 and for any continuing acts of direct or induced infringement from the date of filing of this complaint, but in no event less than a reasonable royalty for the use made of the invention by Defendant and the use made by those Defendant induced to use the invention, together with interest and costs as fixed by the court, and Plaintiff will continue to suffer damages in the future unless Defendant's infringing activities are enjoined by this Court.

COUNT III

INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 7,725,725

31. Defendant directly or through intermediaries, makes, uses, offers to sell, or sells devices that practice a computer-implemented process which infringe the '725 Patent, shown in Exhibit B-1.

32. Upon information and belief, Defendant has been and is now infringing at least claims 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 of the '725 Patent in the State of Texas, in this judicial district, and elsewhere in the United States, by, among other things, directly or through intermediaries, using computing devices with user selectable signatures, *i.e.*, the Accused Instrumentalities, covered by one or more claims of the '725 Patent to the injury of Plaintiff. Defendant is directly infringing, literally infringing, and/or infringing the '725 Patent under the doctrine of equivalents. Defendant is thus liable for direct infringement of the '725 Patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271(a).

33. For example, the use of the Panasonic Toughpad FZ-G1 by Defendant, its resellers, or end-user customers, directly infringe Claim 1 of the '725 Patent and performs a computer implemented process comprising; commencing signature input recording (*i.e.*, it displays a menu that presents users with a choice of screen lock modes (signal types) to unlock the product); recording user input signals by type (*i.e.*, a PIN or password is recorded) from at least one user-selected device among a plurality of selectable user input devices connected to a single computer (*i.e.*, both a touch screen and a camera sensor); wherein a signal comprises a set of related software-recognizable data of the same type received from at least one input device (*i.e.*, the recorded data is recognized as a type of data, such as face data, PIN, recognition, or password data); wherein a signal type comprises a category (*i.e.*, face data input, PIN input, or password input) of measurable variable input associated with at least one user-selectable input

device (*i.e.*, the input such as face data, PIN, or password containing measurable variations associated with the input device), and wherein at least one user-selectable input device affords recording a plurality of signal types (*i.e.*, the touch screen (user-selectable input device) is used to record a password or PIN (a plurality of signal types)); terminating said recording; storing at least a portion of said recording; creating a signature based at least in part upon at least a portion of said stored recording (*i.e.*, if the password signal type was selected, the device will create a signature using the data received from the touchscreen input device); and storing said signature *See* Ex. B-1, Figs. 1-3.

34. As a result of Defendant's infringement of the '725 Patent, Plaintiff has suffered monetary damages and is entitled to a money judgment in an amount adequate to compensate for Defendant's infringement, but in no event less than a reasonable royalty for the use made of the invention by Defendant, together with interest and costs as fixed by the court, and Plaintiff will continue to suffer damages in the future unless Defendant's infringing activities are enjoined by this Court.

COUNT IV

INDUCED INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 7,725,725

35. Upon information and belief, Defendant is now inducing the infringement by its resellers and end-use customers of claim 1 of the '725 Patent in the State of Texas, in this Judicial District, and elsewhere in the United States, by, among other things, directly or through intermediaries, inducing its resellers and end-user customers to use the Accused Instrumentalities in their customary manner which, as shown above, infringes claim 1 of the '725 Patent to the injury of Plaintiff. Defendant's resellers and end-use customers are directly infringing, literally

infringing, and/or infringing the '725 Patent under the doctrine of equivalents. Defendant is thus liable for infringement of the '725 Patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271(b).

36. Defendant received actual notice of the '725 Patent at least as early as the date of the filing of this Complaint.

37. Defendant's affirmative act of providing instruction manuals, advertisement of the infringing features, and support for the Accused Instrumentalities induces Defendant's resellers and end users to use the Accused Instrumentalities in their normal and customary way to directly infringe claim 1 of the '725 Patent.

38. As of the filing of this complaint, Defendant's continued making, selling, and/or offering for sale the Accused Instrumentalities and providing instruction manuals, advertisement of the infringing features, and support for the Accused Instrumentalities demonstrates Defendant's specific intent that its resellers and end-users directly infringe claim 1 of the '725 Patent.

39. Defendant is aware that such actions would induce actual infringement since at least the filing of this Complaint. Furthermore, Defendant remains aware that these normal and customary activities would infringe the '725 Patent.

40. For example, in connection with the sale and/or offering for sale of the Panasonic Toughpad FZ-G1, Defendant provides manuals and support to resellers and end-use customers regarding the use and operation of the Panasonic Toughpad FZ-G1. Specifically, Defendant provides manuals and support through its website, https://na.panasonic.com/ns/272159_TOUGHPAD_FZ-G1_Reference_Manual.pdf. When end-users follow such instructions and support, they directly infringe the '725 Patent. Defendant

knows or should know that by providing such instructions and support, resellers and end-use customers follow these instructions and support and directly infringe the '725 Patent.

41. Accordingly, Defendant continues to perform acts that induce actual infringement, with the knowledge of the '725 Patent and with the knowledge or willful blindness to the fact that the induced acts would constitute infringement.

42. As a result of Defendant's infringement, either directly or through inducement, of the '725 Patent, Plaintiff has suffered monetary damages and is entitled to a money judgment in an amount adequate to compensate for Defendant's direct infringement from July 26, 2015 and for any continuing acts of direct or induced infringement from the date of filing of this complaint, but in no event less than a reasonable royalty for the use made of the invention by Defendant and the use made by those Defendant induced to use the invention, together with interest and costs as fixed by the court, and Plaintiff will continue to suffer damages in the future unless Defendant's infringing activities are enjoined by this Court.

COUNT V

INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 8,429,415

43. Defendant directly or through intermediaries, makes, uses, offers to sell, or sells navigation devices and software which infringe the '415 Patent, shown in Exhibit C-1.

44. Upon information and belief, Defendant has been and is now infringing at least claims 1 and 4, and 11 of the '415 Patent in the State of Texas, in this Judicial District, and elsewhere in the United States, by, among other things, directly or through intermediaries, making, using, selling, and/or offering for sale computing devices with user-selectable signatures, *i.e.*, the Accused Instrumentalities, covered by one or more claims of the '415 Patent to the injury of Plaintiff. Defendant is directly infringing, literally infringing, and/or infringing the '415 Patent

under the doctrine of equivalents. Defendant is thus liable for direct infringement of the '415 Patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271(a).

45. For example, the Panasonic Toughpad FZ-G1 infringes claim 1 of the '415 Patent. The Panasonic Toughpad FZ-G1 is a computing device (*e.g.*, Toughpad FZ-G1 with an Intel Core i5 vPro processor) which provides secured access (*i.e.*, through the unlock screen features such as PIN and password, as well as face unlock), the computing devices comprising: a program memory; a data storage memory (*i.e.*, internal and external memory); first and second input devices both of which are part of the computing device (*i.e.*, a touch screen and a camera sensor that are built into the device) and are selectable by a user via the computing device to allow the user to generate a reference signature that can be compared to a future submitted signature for authentication purposes to allow it to be determined whether access to the computing device should be granted based on the user selection (*i.e.*, a comparison is made between the stored signature data and the future signature data and access is granted or denied depending on whether the reference matches the future signature), wherein at least one of the first and second user selectable input devices is of a type of input device other than a keyboard (*i.e.*, these input devices are selectable through the lock screen menu when a user selects their desired security option. The camera sensor is not a keyboard.); a processor operatively interfaced with the program memory, the data storage memory, and the first and second user selectable input device (*e.g.*, Toughpad FZ-G1 has an Intel Core i5 vPro processor, program memory, data storage memory, and first and second user selectable input devices built into the product); a first set of instructions stored in the program memory that, when executed by the processor, allow a user to select at least one signal type (*i.e.*, the Panasonic Toughpad FZ-G1 displays a menu that presents users with a choice of various modes (signal types) to unlock the product such as face unlock,

PIN, or password), among at least two different user selectable signal types, to be received and stored in the memory (*e.g.*, internal storage), the at least two different signal types being associated with the first or second selectable input devices (*i.e.*, each selectable signal type is associated with either the touch screen or the camera sensor scanner (selectable input devices)); a second set of instructions stored in the memory that are adapted to be executed after the first set of instructions has been executed, the second set of instructions, when executed by the processor, causing (a) input data of at least one signal type from the user selected one of the first and second input devices to be generated and then recorded in the data storage memory (*i.e.*, when prompted, a user generates input data for the selected signal type and the Panasonic Toughpad FZ-G1 records and stores the input data in data storage memory); (b) a reference signature to be created which comprises in part at least a portion of the input data recorded in the data storage memory (*i.e.*, the Panasonic Toughpad FZ-G1 creates a signature using at least a portion of the input data previously recorded and stored. For example, if a user had input the password, the portion of the input data used to create the signature would be the characters correlating to the password created), and (c) the reference signature to be stored in the data storage memory (*i.e.*, the stored signature is later used to authenticate a user during subsequent unlock attempts); and a third set of instructions stored in the program memory that are adapted to be executed after both the first and second sets of instructions have been executed, the third set of instructions, when executed by the processor, retrieving the reference signature from the data storage memory and comparing it to a subsequent signature submission signal to allow a determination to be made as to whether or not access to the computing device should be granted (*i.e.*, after a screen lock function has been set up, the Panasonic Toughpad FZ-G1 will prompt a user to input a signature to unlock the tablet and not allow access to the device should the input signature not match the reference signature.

For example, if the face unlock function was used, the user must input the same data that has been previously recorded to unlock the device. If the incorrect data is given, the tablet will not unlock). *See* Ex. C-1, Figs. 1-16.

46. Additionally, the use of the Panasonic Toughpad FZ-G1 by Defendant, its resellers, or end-user customers, infringe claim 4 of the '415 Patent by further being comprised of a hand-held computing device.

47. As a result of Defendant's infringement of the '415 Patent, Plaintiff has suffered monetary damages and is entitled to a money judgment in an amount adequate to compensate for Defendant's infringement, but in no event less than a reasonable royalty for the use made of the invention by Defendant, together with interest and costs as fixed by the court, and Plaintiff will continue to suffer damages in the future unless Defendant's infringing activities are enjoined by this Court.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court enter:

- a. A judgment in favor of Plaintiff that Defendant has infringed and induced others to infringe the Patents-in-Suit;
- b. a permanent injunction enjoining Defendant and its officers, directors, agents servants, affiliates, employees, divisions, branches, subsidiaries, parents, and all others acting in active concert therewith from infringement, inducing the infringement of, or contributing to the infringement of the Patents-in-Suit, or such other equitable relief the Court determines is warranted;

- c. a judgment and order requiring Defendant to pay to Plaintiff its damages, costs, expenses, and prejudgment and post-judgment interest for Defendant's infringement of the Patents-in-Suit as provided under 35 U.S.C. § 284, and an accounting of ongoing post-judgment infringement; and
- d. any and all other relief, at law or equity, to which Plaintiff may show itself to be entitled.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

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

DATED July 28, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Hao Ni
Hao Ni
Texas Bar No. 24047205
hni@nilawfirm.com
Neal G. Massand
Texas Bar No. 24039038
nmassand@nilawfirm.com
Timothy T. Wang
Texas Bar No. 24067927
twang@nilawfirm.com
Stevenson Moore V
Texas Bar No. 24076573
smoore@nilawfirm.com

Ni, Wang & Massand, PLLC
8140 Walnut Hill Ln., Ste. 500
Dallas, TX 75231
Tel: (972) 331-4600
Fax: (972) 314-0900

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF
ALTPASS LLC