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6	Attorneys for Plaintiff Ameranth, Inc.			
7				
8	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT			
9	SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA			
)	AMERANTH, INC.	Case No. '12CV1647 AJB JMA		
1 2	Plaintiff, v.	COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT		
3	SUBTLEDATA, INC.,	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL		
4	Defendant.	DEMAND FOR JUNI TRIAL		
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	COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT			

COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT

Plaintiff Ameranth, Inc., for its Complaint against defendant Subtledata, Inc. (herein "Subtledata"), avers as follows:

PARTIES

- 1. Plaintiff Ameranth, Inc. ("Ameranth") is a Delaware corporation having a principal place of business at 5820 Oberlin Drive, Suite 202, San Diego, California 92121. Ameranth develops, manufactures and sells, *inter alia*, hospitality industry, entertainment, restaurant and food service information technology solutions under the trademarks 21st Century CommunicationsTM, and 21st Century RestaurantTM, among others, comprising the synchronization and integration of hospitality information and hospitality software applications between fixed, wireless and/or internet applications, including but not limited to computer servers, web servers, databases, affinity/social networking systems, desktop computers, laptops, "smart" phones and other wireless handheld computing devices.
- 2. Defendant Subtledata, Inc. (herein "Subtledata") is, on information and belief, a Delaware corporation having a principal place of business and headquarters in Washington, D.C. On information and belief, Subtledata makes, uses, sells and/or offers for sale, restaurant, foodservice, point-of-sale and property management and other hospitality information technology products, software, components and/or systems within this Judicial District, including the Subtledata Products as defined herein.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 3. This is an action for patent infringement arising under the Patent Laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. §§ 271, 281-285.
- 4. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).
- 5. On information and belief, Defendant engages in (a) the offer for sale or license and sale or license of hospitality, restaurant, food service, ordering, products and/or components in the United States, including this Judicial District, including services, products, software, and components, comprising wireless and internet POS and/or hospitality aspects; (b) the

 installation and maintenance of said services, products, software, components and/or systems in hospitality industry, restaurant, food service, and/or entertainment information technology systems in the United States, including this Judicial District; and/or (c) the use of hospitality industry, restaurant, food service, and/or entertainment information technology systems comprising said services, products, software, components and/or systems in the United States, including this Judicial District.

- 6. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant commits acts of patent infringement in this Judicial District including, *inter alia*, making, using, offering for sale or license, and/or selling or licensing infringing services, products, software, components and/or systems in this Judicial District.
- 7. Venue is proper in this Judicial District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and (c) and 1400(b).

BACKGROUND

- 8. Ameranth was established in 1996 to develop and provide its 21st Century CommunicationsTM innovative information technology solutions for the hospitality industry (inclusive of, e.g., restaurants, hotels, casinos, nightclubs, cruise ships and other entertainment and sports venues). Ameranth has been widely recognized as a technology leader in the provision of wireless and internet-based systems and services to, *inter alia*, restaurants, hotels, casinos, cruise ships and entertainment and sports venues. Ameranth's award winning inventions enable, in relevant part, generation and synchronization of menus, including but not limited to restaurant menus, event tickets, and other products across fixed, wireless and/or internet platforms as well as synchronization of hospitality information and hospitality software applications across fixed, wireless and internet platforms, including but not limited to, computer servers, web servers, databases, affinity/social networking systems, desktop computers, laptops, "smart" phones and other wireless handheld computing devices.
- 9. Ameranth began development of the inventions leading to the patent-in-suit and the other patents in this patent family in the late Summer of 1998, at a time when the then-available wireless and internet hospitality offerings were extremely limited in functionality,

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were not synchronized and did not provide an integrated system-wide solution to the pervasive ordering, reservations, affinity program and information management needs of the hospitality industry. Ameranth uniquely recognized the actual problems that needed to be resolved in order to meet those needs, and thereafter conceived and developed its breakthrough inventions and products to provide systemic and comprehensive solutions directed to optimally meeting these industry needs. Ameranth has expended considerable effort and resources in inventing, developing and marketing its inventions and protecting its rights therein.

- 10. Ameranth's pioneering inventions have been widely adopted and are thus now essential to the modern wireless hospitality enterprise of the 21st Century. Ameranth's solutions have been adopted, licensed and/or deployed by numerous entities across the hospitality industry.
- 11. The adoption of Ameranth's technology by industry leaders and the wide acclaim received by Ameranth for its technological innovations are just some of the many confirmations of the breakthrough aspects of Ameranth's inventions. Ameranth has received twelve different technology awards (three with "end customer" partners) and has been widely recognized as a hospitality wireless/internet technology leader by almost all major national and hospitality print publications, e.g., The Wall Street Journal, New York Times, USA Today and many others. Ameranth was personally nominated by Bill Gates, the Founder of Microsoft, for the prestigious Computerworld Honors Award that Ameranth received in 2001 for its breakthrough synchronized reservations/ticketing system with the Improv Comedy Theatres. In his nomination, Mr. Gates described Ameranth as "one of the leading pioneers of information technology for the betterment of mankind." This prestigious award was based on Ameranth's innovative synchronization of wireless/web/fixed hospitality software technology. Subsequently, the United States Patent and Trademark Office granted Ameranth a number of currently-issued patents, two of which are the basis for this lawsuit. Ameranth has issued press releases announcing these patent grants on business wires, on its web sites and at numerous trade shows since the first of the presently-asserted patents issued in 2002. A number of

companies have licensed patents and technology from Ameranth, recognizing and confirming the value of Ameranth's innovations.

RELATED CASES PREVIOUSLY FILED

- 12. The Ameranth patents asserted herein, U.S. Patent No. 6,384,850 (the "'850 patent"), U.S. Patent No. 6,871,325 (the "'325 patent"), and U.S. Patent No. 8,146,077 (the "'077 patent"), are all patents in Ameranth's "Information Management and Synchronous Communications" patent family.
- 13. Ameranth is also currently asserting claims of these same patents in separate lawsuits, against other defendants, that are already pending in this Court. The first-filed lawsuit asserts claims of the '850 and '325 patents and is entitled *Ameranth v. Pizza Hut, Inc. et al.*, Case No. 3:11-cv-01810-JLS-NLS. Lawsuits subsequently filed by Ameranth in this Court, asserting claims of the '077 patent, include Case Nos. 3:12-cv-00729-JLS-NLS; 3:12-cv-00731-JLS-NLS; 3:12-cv-00732-JLS-NLS; 3:12-cv-00733-JLS-NLS; 3:12-cv-00737-JLS-NLS; 3:12-cv-00738-JLS-NLS; 3:12-cv-00739-JLS-NLS; and 3:12-cv-00742-JLS-NLS. Another lawsuit subsequently filed by Ameranth in this Count, asserting claims of the '850, '325, and '077 patents, is Case No. 3:12-cv-00858-JLS-NLS.

COUNT I

Patent Infringement (U.S. Pat. No. 6,384,850)

(35 U.S.C. § 271)

- 14. Plaintiff reiterates and incorporates the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1-13 above as if fully set forth herein.
- 15. On May 7, 2002, United States Patent No. 6,384,850 entitled "Information Management and Synchronous Communications System with Menu Generation" ("the '850 patent") (a true and copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**) was duly and legally issued by the United States Patent & Trademark Office.
- 16. Plaintiff Ameranth is the lawful owner by assignment of all right, title and interest in and to the '850 patent.

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17. On information and belief, defendant Subtledata has indirectly infringed and continues to indirectly infringe one or more valid and enforceable claims of the '850 patent, in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271(b), by actively, knowingly, and intentionally inducing direct infringement by other persons, by making, using, offering for sale or license and/or selling or licensing infringing systems, products, and/or services in the United States without authority or license from Ameranth, including but not limited to the Subtledata products/services, which include, inter alia, application program interfaces (APIs), apps for smartphones and other computing devices, and/or other software and/or hardware to enable clients' online/mobile ordering systems, integration with e-mail and affinity program and social media applications such as Facebook, Twitter, Groupon, and YouTube, and/or other third-party web-based applications, and other hospitality aspects ("Subtledata Products").

On information and belief, systems including one or more of the Subtledata Products, as deployed and/or used at or from one or more locations by Subtledata, its agents, distributors, partners, affiliates, licensees, and/or their customers, infringe one or more valid and enforceable claims of the '850 patent, by, *inter alia*, doing at least one of the following: (a) Generating and transmitting menus in a system including a central processing unit, a data storage device, a computer operating system containing a graphical user interface, one or more displayable main menus, modifier menus, and sub-modifier menus, and application software for generating a second menu and transmitting it to a wireless handheld computing device or a Web page; and/or (b) Enabling ordering and other hospitality functions via iPhone, Android, and other internet-enabled wireless handheld computing devices as well as via Web pages, storing hospitality information and data on at least one central database, on at least one wireless handheld computing device, and on at least one Web server and Web page, and synchronizing applications and data, including but not limited to applications and data relating to ordering, between at least one central database, wireless handheld computing devices, and at least one Web server and Web page; utilizing an interface that provides a single point of entry that allows the synchronization of at least one wireless handheld computing device and at least one Web page with at least one central database; allowing information to be entered via Web pages,

transmitted over the internet, and automatically communicated to at least one central database and to wireless handheld computing devices; allowing information to be entered via wireless handheld computing devices, transmitted over the internet, and automatically communicated to at least one central database and to Web pages.

- 19. On information and belief, customers of Subtledata, including consumers and restaurant operators, use the Subtledata Products. Subtledata provides instruction and direction regarding the use of the Subtledata Products, and advertises, promotes, and encourages the use of the Subtledata Products.
- 20. Subtledata has long had knowledge of the '850 patent, and knew or should have known that its continued offering and deployment of the Subtledata Products, and its continued support of consumers, restaurant operators, and other users of the Subtledata Products, would induce direct infringement by those users. Additionally, Subtledata intended that its actions would induce direct infringement by those users.
- 21. On information and belief, Defendant has indirectly infringed and continues to indirectly infringe one or more valid and enforceable claims of the '850 patent, in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271(c).
- 22. By distributing, selling, offering, offering to sell or license and/or selling or licensing the Subtledata Products, Subtledata provides non-staple articles of commerce to others for use in infringing systems, products, and/or services. Additionally, Subtledata provides instruction and direction regarding the use of the Subtledata Products, and advertises, promotes, and encourages the use of the Subtledata Products. Users of systems including one or more of the Subtledata Products directly infringe one or more valid and enforceable claims of the '850 patent for the reasons set forth hereinabove.
- 23. On information and belief, Subtledata has had knowledge of the '850 patent, including knowledge that the Subtledata Products, which are non-staple articles of commerce, have been used as a material part of the claimed invention of the '850 patent, and that there are no substantial non-infringing uses for the Subtledata Products.

- 24. On information and belief, the aforesaid infringing activities of defendant Subtledata have been done with knowledge and willful disregard of Ameranth's patent rights, making this an exceptional case within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 285.
- 25. The aforesaid infringing activity of defendant Subtledata has directly and proximately caused damage to plaintiff Ameranth, including loss of profits from sales it would have made but for the infringements. Unless enjoined, the aforesaid infringing activity will continue and cause irreparable injury to Ameranth for which there is no adequate remedy at law.

COUNT II

Patent Infringement (U.S. Pat. No. 6,871,325)

(35 U.S.C. § 271)

- 26. Plaintiff reiterates and reincorporates the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1-28 above as if fully set forth herein.
- 27. On March 22, 2005, United States Patent No. 6,871,325 entitled "Information Management and Synchronous Communications System with Menu Generation" ("the '325 patent") (a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit B**) was duly and legally issued by the United States Patent & Trademark Office.
- 28. Plaintiff Ameranth is the lawful owner by assignment of all right, title and interest in and to the '325 patent.
- 29. On information and belief, defendant Subtledata has indirectly infringed and continues to indirectly infringe one or more valid and enforceable claims of the '325 patent, in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271(b), by actively, knowingly, and intentionally inducing direct infringement by other persons, by making, using, offering for sale or license and/or selling or licensing infringing systems, products, and/or services in the United States without authority or license from Ameranth, including but not limited to the Subtledata Products.
- 30. On information and belief, systems including one or more of the Subtledata Products, as deployed and/or used at or from one or more locations by Subtledata, its agents, distributors, partners, affiliates, licensees, and/or their customers, infringe one or more valid and

enforceable claims of the '325 patent, by, *inter alia*, doing at least one of the following: (a) Generating and transmitting menus in a system including a central processing unit, a data storage device, a computer operating system containing a graphical user interface, one or more displayable main menus, modifier menus, and sub-modifier menus, and application software for generating a second menu and transmitting it to a wireless handheld computing device or a Web page; and/or (b) Enabling ordering and other hospitality functions via iPhone, Android, and other internet-enabled wireless handheld computing devices as well as via Web pages, storing hospitality information and data on at least one central database, on at least one wireless handheld computing device, and on at least one Web server and Web page, and synchronizing applications and data, including but not limited to applications and data relating to orders, between at least one central database, wireless handheld computing devices, and at least one Web server and Web page; and sending alerts, confirmations, and other information regarding orders to various wireless mobile devices.

- 31. On information and belief, customers of Subtledata, including consumers and restaurant operators, use the Subtledata Products in a manner that infringes upon one or more valid and enforceable claims of the '325 patent. Subtledata provides instruction and direction regarding the use of the Subtledata Products and advertises, promotes, and encourages the use of the Subtledata Products.
- 32. On information and belief, Defendant actively induces others to infringe the '325 patent in violation of 35 U.S.C. §271(b) by knowingly encouraging, aiding and abetting customers of Subtledata, including consumers and restaurant operators, to use the infringing Subtledata Products in the United States without authority or license from Ameranth.
- 33. On information and belief, Defendant contributorily infringes and continues to contributorily infringe one or more valid and enforceable claims of the '325 patent, in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271(c) by offering to sell and/or selling components of systems on which claims of the '325 patent read, constituting a material part of the invention, knowing that the components were especially adapted for use in systems which infringe claims of the '325 patent.

34. By distributing, selling, offering, offering to sell or license and/or selling or licensing
the Subtledata Products, Defendant provides non-staple articles of commerce to others for use
in infringing systems, products, and/or services. Additionally, Subtledata provides instruction
and direction regarding the use of the Subtledata Products and advertises, promotes, and
encourages the use of the Subtledata Products. Users of the Subtledata Products directly
infringe one or more valid and enforceable claims of the '325 patent, for the reasons set forth
hereinabove.

- 35. Subtledata has had knowledge of the '325 patent, including knowledge that the Subtledata Products, which are non-staple articles of commerce, have been used as a material part of the claimed invention of the '325 patent, and that there are no substantial non-infringing uses for the Subtledata Products.
- 36. On information and belief, the aforesaid infringing activities of defendant Subtledata have been done with knowledge and willful disregard of Ameranth's patent rights, making this an exceptional case within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 285.
- 37. The aforesaid infringing activity of defendant Subtledata has directly and proximately caused damage to plaintiff Ameranth, including loss of profits from sales it would have made but for the infringements. Unless enjoined, the aforesaid infringing activity will continue and cause irreparable injury to Ameranth for which there is no adequate remedy at law.

COUNT III

Patent Infringement (U.S. Pat. No. 8,146,077)

(35 U.S.C. § 271)

- 38. Plaintiff reiterates and incorporates the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1-42 above as if fully set forth herein.
- 39. On March 27, 2012, United States Patent No. 8,146,077 entitled "Information Management and Synchronous Communications System with Menu Generation, and Handwriting and Voice Modification of Orders" (a true copy of which is attached hereto as

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Exhibit C and incorporated herein by reference) was duly and legally issued by the United States Patent & Trademark Office.

- 40. Plaintiff Ameranth is the lawful owner by assignment of all right, title and interest in and to the '077 patent.
- 41. On information and belief, defendant Subtledata has indirectly infringed and continues to indirectly infringe one or more valid and enforceable claims of the '077 patent, in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271(b), by actively, knowingly, and intentionally inducing direct infringement by other persons, by making, using, offering for sale or license and/or selling or licensing infringing systems, products, and/or services in the United States without authority or license from Ameranth, including but not limited to the Subtledata Products.
- 42. On information and belief, systems including one or more of the Subtledata Products, as deployed and/or used at or from one or more locations by Subtledata, its agents, distributors, partners, affiliates, licensees, and/or their customers, infringe one or more valid and enforceable claims of the '077 patent, by, *inter alia*, doing at least one of the following: (a) Configuring and transmitting menus in a system including a central processing unit, a data storage device, a computer operating system containing a graphical user interface, one or more displayable master menus, menu configuration software enabled to generate a menu configuration for a wireless handheld computing device in conformity with a customized display layout, and enabled for synchronous communications and to format the menu configuration for a customized display layout of at least two different wireless handheld computing device display sizes, and/or (b) Enabling ordering and other hospitality functions via iPhone, Android, and other internet-enabled wireless handheld computing devices as well as via Web pages, storing hospitality information and data on at least one database, on at least one wireless handheld computing device, and on at least one Web server and Web page, and synchronizing applications and data, including but not limited to applications and data relating to orders, between at least one database, wireless handheld computing devices, and at least one Web server and Web page; utilizing communications control software enabled to link and synchronize hospitality information between at least one database, wireless handheld

Web pages, transmitted over the internet, and automatically communicated to at least one database and to wireless handheld computing devices; allowing information to be entered via wireless handheld computing devices, transmitted over the internet, and automatically communicated to at least one database and to Web pages.

43. On information and belief, customers of Subtledata, including consumers and restaurant operators, use the Subtledata Products in a manner that infringes upon one or more.

computing device, and web page, to display information on web pages and on different

wireless handheld computing device display sizes, and to allow information to be entered via

- 43. On information and belief, customers of Subtledata, including consumers and restaurant operators, use the Subtledata Products in a manner that infringes upon one or more valid and enforceable claims of the '077 patent. Subtledata provides instruction and direction regarding the use of the Subtledata Products and advertises, promotes, and encourages the use of the Subtledata Products.
- 44. On information and belief, Defendant actively induces others to infringe the '077 patent in violation of 35 U.S.C. §271(b) by knowingly encouraging, aiding and abetting customers of Subtledata, including consumers and restaurant operators, to use the infringing Subtledata Products in the United States without authority or license from Ameranth.
- 45. On information and belief, Defendant contributorily infringes and continues to contributorily infringe one or more valid and enforceable claims of the '077 patent, in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271(c) by offering to sell and/or selling components of systems on which claims of the '077 patent read, constituting a material part of the invention, knowing that the components were especially adapted for use in systems which infringe claims of the '077 patent.
- 46. By distributing, selling, offering, offering to sell or license and/or selling or licensing the Subtledata Products, Defendant provides non-staple articles of commerce to others for use in infringing systems, products, and/or services. Additionally, Subtledata provides instruction and direction regarding the use of the Subtledata Products and advertises, promotes, and encourages the use of the Subtledata Products. Users of the Subtledata Products directly infringe one or more valid and enforceable claims of the '077 patent, for the reasons set forth hereinabove.

- 47. On information and belief, Subtledata has had knowledge of the '077 patent, including knowledge that the Subtledata Products, which are non-staple articles of commerce, have been used as a material part of the claimed invention of the '077 patent, and that there are no substantial non-infringing uses for the Subtledata Products.
- 48. On information and belief, the aforesaid infringing activities of defendant Subtledata have been done with knowledge and willful disregard of Ameranth's patent rights, making this an exceptional case within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 285.
- 49. The aforesaid infringing activity of defendant Subtledata has directly and proximately caused damage to plaintiff Ameranth, including loss of profits from sales it would have made but for the infringements. Unless enjoined, the aforesaid infringing activity will continue and cause irreparable injury to Ameranth for which there is no adequate remedy at law.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, plaintiff Ameranth respectfully prays for judgment against Defendant, as follows:

- 1. Adjudging that the manufacture, use, offer for sale or license and /or sale or license of the Subtledata Products indirectly infringes valid and enforceable claims of the '850 patent, and the '325 patent, and the '077 patent, as set forth hereinabove;
- 2. Adjudging that Defendant has infringed, actively induced others to infringe and/or contributorily infringed valid and enforceable claims of the '850 patent, and the '325 patent, and the '077 patent, as set forth hereinabove;
- 3. Adjudging that Defendant's indirect infringement of the valid and enforceable claims of the '850 patent, and the '325 patent, and the '077 patent, has been knowing and willful;
- 4. Enjoining Defendant, and its officers, directors, employees, attorneys, agents, representatives, parents, subsidiaries, affiliates and all other persons acting in concert, participation or privity with Defendant, and their successors and assigns, from infringing,

1	contributorily infringing and/or inducing others to infringe the valid and enforceable claims of			
2	the '850 patent, and the '325 patent, and the '077 patent;			
3	5.	5. Awarding Ameranth the damages it has sustained by reason of Defendant's		
4	infringemen	infringement, together with interest and costs pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284;		
5	6.	Awarding Ameranth increased damages of three times the amount of damages		
6	found or assessed against Defendant by reason of the knowing, willful and deliberate nature of			
7	Defendant's acts of infringement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284;			
8	7.	7. Adjudging this to be an exceptional case and awarding Ameranth its attorney's		
9	fees pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §285;			
10	8.	Awarding to Ameran	th its costs of suit, and interest as provided by law; and	
11	9.	Awarding to Amerar	nth such other and further relief that this Court may deem	
12	just and proper.			
13		<u>DEN</u>	MAND FOR JURY TRIAL	
14	Ameranth demands trial by jury of its claims set forth herein to the maximum exter			
15	permitted by	/ law.		
16			Respectfully submitted,	
17	Dated: June	29, 2012	CALDARELLI HEJMANOWSKI & PAGE LLP	
18 19			By: <u>/s/ William J. Caldarelli</u> William J. Caldarelli	
20			FABIANO LAW FIRM, P.C. Michael D. Fabiano	
21			OSBORNE LAW LLC John W. Osborne	
22 23			WATTS LAW OFFICES Ethan M. Watts	
24			Attorneys for Plaintiff AMERANTH, INC.	
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