

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

TQP DEVELOPMENT, LLC,

Plaintiff,

v.

ANN INC.,

Defendant,

Civil Action No. 2:12-cv-425

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

ORIGINAL COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT

This is an action for patent infringement in which TQP Development, LLC (“TQP”) makes the following allegations against Ann Inc. (“Defendant”):

PARTIES

1. Plaintiff TQP Development, LLC is a Texas limited liability company having a principal place of business of 179 W. Front Street, Suite 244, Tyler, Texas 75702.

2. On information and belief, Defendant Ann Inc. (“Ann”) is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at 7 Times Square, 15th Floor, New York, New York 10036. Ann may be served through its agent for service of process at Corporation Service Company; 2711 Centerville Road, Ste. 400, Wilmington, Delaware 19808.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

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

4. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(c) and 1400(b). On information and belief, Defendant has transacted business in this district, and has committed acts of patent infringement in this district.

5. On 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 their 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 from goods and services provided to individuals in Texas and in this Judicial District.

COUNT I

INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 5,412,730

6. Plaintiff is the owner by assignment of United States Patent No. 5,412,730 ("the '730 Patent") entitled "Encrypted Data Transmission System Employing Means for Randomly Altering the Encryption Keys." The '730 Patent issued on May 2, 1995. A true and correct copy of the '730 Patent is attached as Exhibit A.

7. Upon information and belief, Ann has been and now is infringing the '730 Patent in the State of Texas, in this judicial district, and elsewhere in the United States, by, among other things, methods practiced on various Ann websites (including, without limitation to, www.anntaylor.com and www.loft.com, and related internal systems supporting the operation of said websites) for transmitting data comprising a sequence of blocks in encrypted form over a communication link covered by one or more claims of the '730 Patent to the injury of TQP, such as using the RC4 encryption algorithm in combination with either the Secure Sockets Layer or Transport Layer Security encryption

protocol. Ann's infringement includes all websites and internal systems operated by or for Ann that transmit data comprising a sequence of blocks in encrypted form as described by one or more claims of the '730 Patent. For example, when Ann and/or Ann's customers connect to Ann's website, a communication link is established between host servers and the client computer. Data transmitted over this communication link comprises a sequence of blocks, and is transmitted as packets in a sequence over the communication link. Certain data transmissions (both from the client computer to the host server, and from the host server to the client computer) are encrypted according to the claimed method. In order to communicate with encrypted portions of Ann's website, client computers must agree to an encryption algorithm or protocol. Once that protocol is established by the host server, the client computer automatically implements the encryption algorithm under the direction of the host server. Ann provides, or directs the client computer to provide, a seed value for both the transmitter and receiver in a symmetric encryption algorithm, and uses the same key to encrypt and decrypt data. Ann generates, or directs the client computer to generate, a first sequence of pseudo-random key values, such as alpha and/or numerical values used to encrypt data, based on said seed value at the transmitter (whichever of the host server or client computer is sending the encrypted information), each new key value in said sequence being produced at a time dependent upon a predetermined characteristic of the data being transmitted over said link. Ann encrypts data for transmission from the host server to the client. In addition, Ann directs the client computer to encrypt data comprising information sent from the client to the host server before it is transmitted over the link. Ann generates, or directs the client computer to generate, a second sequence of pseudo-random key values,

such as alpha and/or numerical values used to encrypt data, based on said seed value at said transmitter, each new key value in said sequence being produced at a time dependent upon a predetermined characteristic of the data being transmitted over said link such that said first and second sequences are identical to one another, as is used in a symmetric algorithm, a new one of said key values in said first and second sequences being produced each time a predetermined number of said blocks are transmitted over said link. Ann decrypts data sent from the client in order to use the data, and directs the client computer to decrypt data transmitted from the host server in order to provide a useable display to, for example, a user of the client computer. By virtue of performing each step of the claimed method, Ann is directly infringing the '730 Patent. In addition, by virtue of performing some steps and directing and/or controlling others to perform the remaining steps, Ann is directly infringing, literally infringing, and/or infringing the '730 Patent under the doctrine of equivalents. Ann is thus liable for infringement of the '730 Patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271.

8. On information and belief, to the extent any marking was required by 35 U.S.C. §287, all predecessors in interest to the '730 Patent complied with any such requirements.

9. To the extent that facts learned in discovery show that Defendant's infringement of the '730 Patent is, or has been willful, Plaintiff reserves the right to request such a finding at the time of trial.

10. As a result of these Defendant's infringement of the '730 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.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court enter:

1. A judgment in favor of Plaintiff that Defendant has direct and/or jointly infringed the '730 Patent;
2. A judgment and order requiring Defendant pay Plaintiff its damages, costs, expenses, and prejudgment and post-judgment interest for Defendant's infringement of the '730 Patent as provided under 35 U.S.C. § 284;
3. A judgment and order finding that this is an exceptional case within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 285 and awarding to Plaintiff its reasonable attorneys' fees; and
4. Any and all other relief, at law or equity, to which Plaintiff may show itself to be entitled.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

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

Dated: August 8, 2012

Respectfully submitted,

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