# Intellectual Property

CSE 403 Software Engineering Winter 2025

# Today's outline

- What is Intellectual Property (IP)
- Types of IP protection
  - Patent
  - Trade Secret
  - Trademark
  - Copyright
  - License

### https://PollEv.com/cse403wi



### Disclaimer

Disclaimer of Liability: With respect to the 403 class, neither the staff or the University of Washington, makes any warranty, express or implied, including the warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product, or process disclosed, or represents that its use would not infringe privately owned rights.

# Intellectual property (IP)

**Intellectual property**: any intangible asset that consists of human knowledge and ideas

- Protected by patents, copyrights, trade secrets, trademarks, contracts
   with the intent to encourage ingenuity and protect creative ventures
- Do you believe that IP should be protected?
- How would you value an intellectual asset?
  - They are very difficult to objectively value
  - One technique is to estimate the business that the IP enables
  - IP value can also depend on what someone else is willing to pay for it

# Patent

### **Patent**

- Protects: inventions, e.g., processes, machines, products, phrases, algorithms
- Protects against: others making, using, selling the innovation, even if they independently came up with it
- Requirements: novel, useful, non-obvious
- Term: 20 years from filing; must file within a year of being publicly disclosed
- Cost: relatively high, in time and cost

# Requirements for a patent

For a patent to be issued, your invention must meet three criteria:

- 1. Novel something not done before
- 2. Useful able to be used
- Non-obvious not simply an obvious tweak to something already invented

Your application must also provide a clear description of how to make and use the invention (enablement)

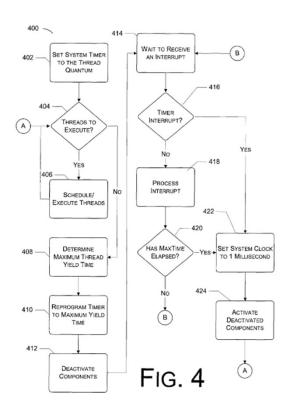
# **USPTO** on patents



"A patent for an invention is the grant of a property right to the inventor, issued by the US Patent and Trademark Office. ... The right conferred by the patent grant is ... 'the right to exclude others from making, using, offering for sale, or selling' the invention in the US or 'importing' the invention into the US."

"**Utility** patents may be granted to anyone who invents or discovers any new and useful **process**, machine, article of manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof." (There are also **Design** patents.)

https://patentcenter.uspto.gov



#### (12) United States Patent (10) Patent No.: Ginsberg (45) Date of Patent: Nov. 14, 2006 (54) DYNAMICALLY VARIABLE IDLE TIME 6,079,025 A 1 6/2000 Fung . THREAD SCHEDULING 12/2000 Watts, Jr. ..... 713/322 6,158,012 A 6,173,409 B1 \* 1/2001 Watts et al. ...... 713/322 (75) Inventor: Michael Ginsberg, Redmond, WA (US) 6,438,668 B1 \* 8/2002 Esfahani et al. ............ 711/165 (73) Assignee: Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, WA 6,499,102 B1\* 12/2002 Ewertz ...... 713/1 6,584,571 B1 \* 6/2003 Fung ...... 713/310 Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this, (\*) Notice: patent is extended or adjusted under U.S.C. 154(b) by 906 days. \* cited by examiner (21) Appl. No - 09/843 465 Primary Examiner-Lewis A. Bullock, Jr. Filed: Apr. 25, 2001 (74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm-Lee & Hayes, PLLC (65)**Prior Publication Data** ABSTRACT US 2002/0007387 A1 Jan. 17, 2002 The subject matter provides dynamically variable idle time Related U.S. Application Data thread scheduling in a device with a high system tick rate. (60) Provisional application No. 60/209,501, filed on Jun. A device based on the subject matter includes an operating 5, 2000. system, a set of application program modules, and one or more hardware elements. A thread scheduling mechanism in (51) Int. Cl. the operating system schedules threads at a periodic rate. G06F 9/48 (2006.01)Upon determining that there are no threads to execute, at (52) U.S. Cl. ..... 718/102; 718/100; 713/323; least a subset of components are deactivated for a dynamic 713/322: 713/300 variable amount of time before they are is re-activated. The (58) Field of Classification Search ....... 718/100-108; at least one subset of components are selected from the 713/300-323 hardware elements, one or more program modules compris-See application file for complete search history. ing the operating system, and the like. The dynamic variable amount of time is independent of the periodic rate and based (56)References Cited on a sleep state of a set of threads in a sleep queue. U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

5,247,677 A \* 9/1993 Welland et al. ...... 718/103

14 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets

#### The invention claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented method for providing thread scheduling in a device, the device comprising one or more hardware elements operatively coupled to an operating system comprising a plurality of program modules, the method comprising:

scheduling one or more threads according to a predetermined periodic rate;

setting a system timer to generate a notification at the predetermined periodic rate;

determining whether or not there are any threads to

responsive to a determination that there are no threads to execute:

- (a) deactivating one or more of the hardware elements and the program modules for a dynamic variable amount of time, the dynamic variable amount of time being independent of the predetermined periodic rate and being based on a sleep state of a set of threads in a sleep queue; and
- (b) resetting the system timer to generate the notification after the dynamic variable amount of time has elapsed since the deactivating; and

wherein the method further comprises:

receiving the notification after the dynamic variable amount of time has elapsed since the deactivating; responsive to the receiving:

resetting the system timer to generate the notification at the predetermined periodic rate; and

activating the one or more of the hardware elements and the program modules.

### (12) United States Patent Ginsberg

(10) Patent No.: US 7,137,117 B2 (45) Date of Patent: Nov. 14, 2006

(54)	DYNAMICALLY VARIABLE IDLE TIME	
	THREAD SCHEDULING	

- (75) Inventor: Michael Ginsberg, Redmond, WA (US)
- (73) Assignee: Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, WA
- (\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 906 days.
- (21) Appl. No.: 09/843,465
- (22) Filed: Apr. 25, 2001
- (65) Prior Publication Data US 2002/0007387 A1 Jan. 17, 2002

#### Related U.S. Application Data

- (60) Provisional application No. 60/209,501, filed on Jun. 5, 2000.
- (51) Int. Cl. G06F 9/48 (2006.01)
- (58) Field of Classification Search ....... 718/100–108; 713/300–323 See application file for complete search history.

#### (56) References Cited

#### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

5,247,677 A \* 9/1993 Welland et al. ...... 718/103

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6,584,571	В1		6/2003	Fung	713/310
6,779,182	В1	*	8/2004	Zolnowsky	718/103

\* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner—Lewis A. Bullock, Jr. (74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Lee & Hayes, PLLC

#### 57) ABSTRACT

The subject matter provides dynamically variable idle time thread scheduling in a device with a high system tick rate. A device based on the subject matter includes an operating system, a set of application program modules, and one or more hardware elements. A thread scheduling mechanism in the operating system schedules threads at a periodic rate. Upon determining that there are no threads to execute, at least a subset of components are deactivated for a dynamic variable amount of time before they are is re-activated. The at least one subset of components are selected from the hardware elements, one or more program modules comprising the operating system, and the like. The dynamic variable amount of time is independent of the periodic rate and based on a sleep state of a set of threads in a sleep queue.

#### 14 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets



Method and System for Placing a Purchase Order Via a **Communications** Network

Hartman, Bezos, Kaphan, Spiegel

#### United States Patent [19] Hartman et al.

5,960,411 **Patent Number:** Date of Patent:

Sep. 28, 1999

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PLACING A PURCHASE ORDER VIA A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

Inventors: Peri Hartman; Jeffrey P. Bezos; Sher Kaphan; Joel Spiegel, all of Seattle,

[73] Assignce: Amazon.com, Inc., Scattle, Wash.

[21] Appl. No.: 08/928,951

Sep. 12, 1997

G06F 17/60 U.S. Cl. ... 

Field of Search .... .. 705/26, 27; 380/24, 380/25; 235/2, 375, 378, 381; 395/188.01;

[56] References Cited

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5,627,940	5/1997	Rohra et al 395/12
5,640,501	6/1997	Turpin
5,640,577	6/1997	Scharmer 395/768
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5,715,314	2/1998	Payne et al 380/24
5,715,399	2/1998	Bezos 705/27
5,727,163	3/1998	Bezos 705/27
5,745,681	4/1998	Levine et al 395/200.3
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0845747A2	6/1998	European Pat. Off		
0883076A2	12/1998	European Pat. Off		
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WO 98/21679	5/1998	WIPO	G06F	17/60
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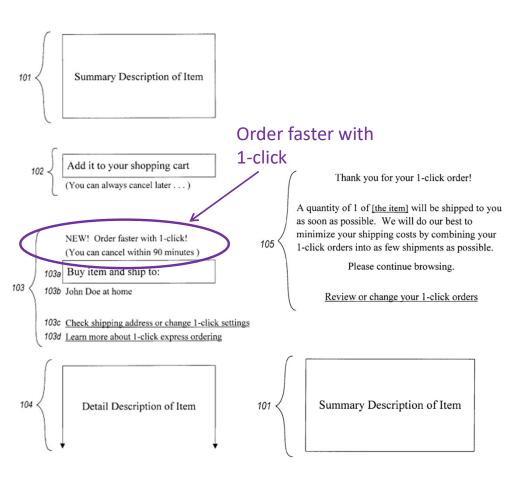
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(List continued on next page.)

Primary Examiner-James P. Trammell Assistant Examiner-Demetra R. Smith Attorney, Agent, or Firm-Perkins Coie LLP

ABSTRACT

A method and system for placing an order to purchase an item via the Internet. The order is placed by a purchaser at a client system and received by a server system. The server system receives purchaser information including identification of the purchaser, payment information, and shipment information from the client system. The server system then assigns a client identifier to the client system and associates the assigned client identifier with the received purchaser information. The server system sends to the client system the assigned client identifier and an HTML document identifying the item and including an order button. The client system receives and stores the assigned client identifier and receives and displays the HTML document. In response to the selection of the order button, the client system sends to the server system a request to purchase the identified item. The server system receives the request and combines the purchaser information associated with the client identifier of the client system to generate an order to purchase the item in accordance with the billing and shipment information whereby the purchaser effects the ordering of the product by selection of the order button.



### United States Patent [19]

Hartman et al.

5,960,411 **Patent Number:** 

Date of Patent:

Sep. 28, 1999

#### METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PLACING A PURCHASE ORDER VIA A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

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[21] Appl. No.: 08/928,951

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G06F 17/60 U.S. Cl. .... 

Field of Search ..... ... 705/26, 27; 380/24, 380/25; 235/2, 375, 378, 381; 395/188.01;

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5.71	15,399	2/1998	
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5.74	15,681	4/1998	Levine et al 395/200.3
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	EC	DEIGN	DATENET DOCUMENTS

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0855687 A2	1/1998	European Pat. Off		
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0883076A2	12/1998	European Pat. Off	G06F	17/60
WO 95/30961	11/1995	WIPO	G06F	17/60
WO 96/38799	12/1996	WIPO	G06F	17/60
WO 98/21679	5/1998	WIPO	G06F	17/60

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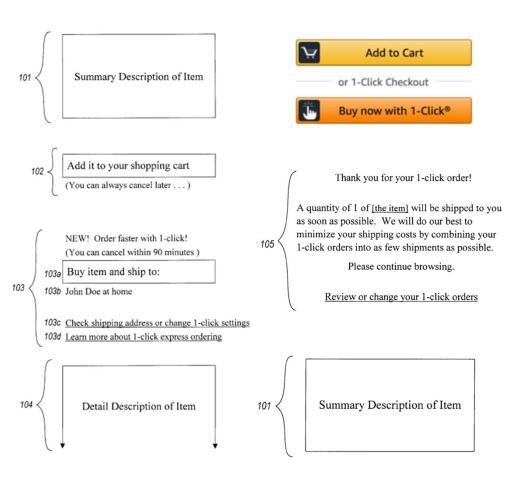
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(List continued on next page.)

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### United States Patent [19] Hartman et al.

[54] METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PLACING A PURCHASE ORDER VIA A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

[75] Inventors: Peri Hartman; Jeffrey P. Bezos; Shel Kaphan; Joel Spiegel, all of Seattle, Wash

[73] Assignce: Amazon.com, Inc., Scattle, Wash.

[21] Appl. No.: 68/928,951

[22]	Filed:	Sep. 12, 1997		
[51]	Int. Cl.		G	06F 17/60
[52]	U.S. Cl.		705/26; 705/2	7; 345/962
[58]	Field of	Search	705/26, 2	27; 380/24
		380/25; 235/2, 375	5, 378, 381; 3	95/188.01
				345/962

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5,627,940	5/1997	Rohra et al 395/12
5,640,501	6/1997	Turpin 395/768
5,640,577	6/1997	Scharmer
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5,715,314	2/1998	Payne et al 380/24
5,715,399	2/1998	Bezos 705/27
5,727,163	3/1998	Bezos 705/27
5,745,681	4/1998	Levine et al 395/200.3
5,758,126	5/1998	Daniels et al 395/500
FO	DEIGN	DATENT DOCUMENTS

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0883076A2	12/1998	European Pat. Off G	606F	17/60
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WO 96/38799	12/1996	WIPO G	606F	17/60
WO 98/21679	5/1998	WIPO G	i06F	17/60

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[11] Patent Number: 5,960,411

Date of Patent:

Sep. 28, 1999

"Pacific Coast Software Software creates virtual shopping cart." Sep. 6, 1996. 112 Communications Ltd 1996.

"Software Creater Virtual Shopping Cart." Sep. 5, 1996. Business Wire Inc.

Terdoslavich, William. "Java Electronic Commerce Framework." Computer Reseller News, Sep. 23, 1996, CMP Media, Inc., 1996, pp. 126, http://www.elibrary.com/id/101/101/getdoc . . rydocid=902269@library\_d&dtype=0-0&dinst=. [Accessed Nov. 19, 1998].

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Primary Examiner—James P. Trammell Assistant Examiner—Demetra R. Smith Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Perkins Coie LLP

#### [57] ABSTRACT

A method and system for placing an order to purchase an item via the Internet. The order is placed by a purchaser at a client system and received by a server system. The server system receives purchaser information including identification of the purchaser, payment information, and shipment information from the client system. The server system then assigns a client identifier to the client system and associates the assigned client identifier with the received purchaser information. The server system sends to the client system the assigned client identifier and an HTML document identifying the item and including an order button. The client system receives and stores the assigned client identifier and receives and displays the HTML document. In response to the selection of the order button, the client system sends to the server system a request to purchase the identified item. The server system receives the request and combines the purchaser information associated with the client identifier of the client system to generate an order to purchase the item in accordance with the billing and shipment information whereby the purchaser effects the ordering of the product by selection of the order button.

# Who counts as a patent inventor?

**Person A:** "We should build a better umbrella"

**Person B:** "The architecture would broadly include a handle that is capable of securing a beverage container to the umbrella"

**Person C:** "We need to use a spring-loaded cuff to enable different sized beverage containers to be secured to the umbrella"

**Person D:** "I'll implement your spec!"

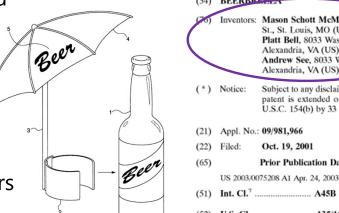


Figure 1

(12) United States Patent McMullin et al.

U.S.C. 154(b) by 33 days.

**Prior Publication Data** 

Oct. 19, 2001

(58)

(10) Patent No.: US 6,637,447 B2

(45) Date of Patent: Oct. 28, 2003

108/50.12

135/16

135/16

135/16

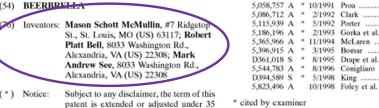
D7/619

220/735

D7/707

248/314

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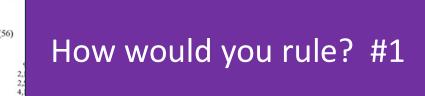
A45B 11/00; A45B 13/00;

135/16; 220/694; 206/217

Primary Examiner-Robert Canfield (74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm-Robert Platt Bell

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a small umbrella ("Beerbrella") which may be removably attached to a beverage container in order to shade the beverage container from the direct rays of the sun. The apparatus comprises a small umbrella approximately five to seven inches in diameter, although other appropriate sizes may be used within the spirit and scope of the present invention. Suitable



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## Who counts as a patent inventor?

Person A: We should build a better umbrella

Person B: The architecture would broadly include a handle that is capable of securing a beverage container to the umbrella

Person C: We need to use a spring-loaded cuff to enable different sized beverage containers to be secured to the umbrella

Person D: I'll implement your spec!

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#### TECH / SAMSUNG / APPLE

# Apple and Samsung settle seven-year-long patent fight over copying the iPhone

By Jacob Kastrenakes, a deputy editor who oversees tech and news coverage. Since joining The Verge in 2012, he's published 5,000+ stories and is the founding editor of the creators desk.

Jun 27, 2018, 11:59 AM PDT | O Comments / O New









••

Most recently, the verdict had been whittled down to \$539 million for Apple. Samsung filed to appeal that earlier this month. But the two companies were able to reach an agreement before it could be litigated again.

•••

https://www.theverge.com/2018/6/27/17510908/a pple-samsung-settle-patent-battle-over-copyingiphone

#### META / TECH / FACEBOOK

# Meta ordered to pay Voxer \$175 million for violating live-streaming patents / Facebook had once tried to collaborate with the Walkie Talkie app developer

By Jess Weatherbed, a news writer focused on creative industries, computing, and internet culture. Jess started her career at TechRadar, covering news and hardware reviews.

Sep 22, 2022, 4:10 AM PDT | 3 Comments / 3 New







If you buy something from a Verge link, Vox Media may earn a commission. See our ethics statement.



Meta has been ordered to pay almost \$175 million in fines to app developer Voxer for violating live-streaming patents Illustration by Alex Castro / The Verge

### Meta appealed

Feb 2023, (first) appeal failed

Jan 2024, Meta reached a settlement with Voxer

https://www.theverge.com/2022/9/22/23 366516/meta-facebook-instagram-175-million-violation-voxer-live-streaming-patents

# More patent concepts

War chest: a collection of patents owned by a company

- To protect their investments from competitors
- To help them avoid lawsuits from competitors
  - May motivate purchasing the IP (or the competitor!)
- To use in licensing agreements
  - Including defensively with cross-licensing agreements
    - You license me yours; I'll license you mine (win-win)

PUBLIC POLICY

Apr 03. 2017 - 1 min read

# Introducing PAX: the Android Networked Cross-License Agreement

Under PAX [peace], members grant each other royalty-free patent licenses covering Android and Google Applications on qualified devices. This community-driven clearinghouse, developed together with our Android partners, ensures that innovation and consumer choice—not patent threats—will continue to be key drivers of our Android ecosystem. PAX is free to join and open to anyone.

Jamie Rosenberg
VP. Business & Operations, Android and Google Play

Share

In Latin, the word pax means "peace." In the world of intellectual property, patent peace often coincides with innovation and healthy competition that benefit consumers. It is with a hope for such benefits that we are announcing our newest patent licensing initiative focusing on patent peace, which we call PAX.

Under PAX, members grant each other royalty-free patent licenses covering Android and Google Applications on qualified devices. This community-driven clearinghouse, developed together with our Android partners, ensures that innovation and consumer choice—not patent threats—will continue to be key drivers of our Android ecosystem. PAX is free to join and open to anyone.

# More patent concepts

**Non-practicing entity ("patent troll")**: an entity that owns a patent without practicing the technology, for the purpose of asserting it against others (for payment)

• Patent troll suits cost defendants approximately \$29 billion per year on <a href="litigation">litigation</a> (2014 study – imagine what it is now!), before counting the corresponding decline in investment in R&D

# Apple ordered to pay patent troll more than \$500 million in iMessage case



/ The eight-year battle between Apple and VirnetX takes another turn

By Nick Statt, is a Senior Producer on Decoder. Previously, he wrote about technology and gaming for Naavik, Protocol, and The Verge.

Apr 10, 2018, 4:38 PM PDT | O Comments / O New







**Apple appealed** 

Apple has been ordered by a federal court in Texas today to pay million to a <u>patent troll called VirnetX</u>, the latest turn in an eight old legal battle over FaceTime and iMessage patents, <u>according Bloomberg</u>.

How would you rule? #2

## Should Apple have to pay the troll for patent infringement?

Yes

No

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Litigation | Patent | Technology | Intellectual Property | Litigation

### Apple wins U.S. appeal over patents in \$502 mln VirnetX verdict

By Blake Brittain

March 30, 2023 1:53 PM PDT · Updated 7 months ago









The Apple Inc. logo is seen hanging at the entrance to the Apple store on 5th Avenue in Manhattan, New York, U.S., October 16, 2019. REUTERS/Mike Segar/File Photo Acquire Licensing Rights [7]

**Patents were** shown to be invalid

# Patent and copyright are mentioned in the Constitution of the United States

### First Patent Board (1790):

- Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson
- Secretary of War Henry Knox
- Attorney General Edmund Randolph

# Trade Secret

### Trade secret

- Protects: concept, idea, info, or innovation
- Protects against: misappropriation (but NOT independent creation of same work)
- Requirements:
  - info not generally known or available
  - must spend reasonable effort to maintain secrecy
  - company derives some (economic) value from secrecy
- Term: no predefined limit
- Cost: no registration or examination

So what happens if someone reveals a trade secret?



Litigation | Litigation | ADAS, AV & Safety | Supply Chain | Manufacturing

# Tesla settles with engineer accused of taking AI trade secrets



A view shows the Tesla logo on the hood of a car in Oslo, Norway November 10, 2022. REUTERS/Victoria Klesty/File Photo <u>Acquire Licensing</u> <u>Rights</u> [2]

https://www.reuters.com/legal/tesla-settleswith-engineer-accused-taking-ai-trade-secrets-2023-04-19/



# Jury Hits Ford With \$105M Contract And Trade Secrets Verdict

By Ryan Davis · 🕟 Listen to article

Law360 (October 26, 2022, 5:40 PM EDT) -- A Michigan federal jury found Wednesday that Ford Motor Co. breached a contract with Versata Software and misappropriated its trade secrets, awarding Versata a total of \$104.65 million in damages after a three-week trial.

The trial, which kicked off Oct. 4 in Detroit before U.S. District Judge Matthew F. Leitman, hinged on a 2004 agreement between Ford and Versata involving software Versata developed to manage how components in Ford vehicles are configured during assembly.

The jury found that Ford breached the agreement by misusing and disclosing confidential information, reverse engineering Versata's software for its own commercial use,

software for its own commercial use, and using it without a license. It awarded \$82.26 million on the

After a three-week trial, Ford Motor Co. will pay \$104.65 million in damages after a Michigan federal jury found the company breached a contract and misappropriated trade secrets. (AP Photo/David Zalubowski, File)

ter a three-week trial Ford Motor Co will pay \$104.65 million in

Ford appealed

In addition, the jury found that Ford misappropriated three Ve awarded \$22.39 million on those claims. Jurors also found that not willful and malicious, and rejected Versata's claims regarding a fourth alleged trade secret.

How would you rule? #3

confidential information, reverse engineering – Versata's software for its own commercial use, and

using it without a license.

The jury found that Ford

breached the agreement

by misusing and disclosing

### Should Ford have to pay Versata for stealing trade secrets?

Yes

No

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Litigation | Intellectual Property | ADAS, AV & Safety | Software-Defined Vehicle | Manufacturing

### Ford wins reversal of \$105 million tradesecrets verdict

By Jonathan Stempel

May 1, 2023 4:23 PM PDT · Updated 6 months ago







[Judge] also said jurors had no basis to determine how long Ford would have needed to develop three trade secrets it allegedly stole, and that this also required voiding the damages award.



The Ford logo is seen at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Michigan, U.S., January 15, 2019. REUTERS/Brendan McDermid Acquire Licensing Rights [2]

https://www.reuters.com/legal/for d-wins-reversal-105-mln-tradesecrets-verdict-2023-05-01/

# Related to trade secrets ... contracts you might have to sign

### Non-disclosure agreements

- Key mechanism to protect trade secrets
- You may need to sign one to interview or even visit a site

### Non-compete agreements

Illegal in some jurisdictions

# Trademark

### **Trademarks**

- Protects: any word, name, symbol, or device, or any combination thereof used to distinguish goods from others
- Protects against: others using the mark, likelihood of confusion and dilution
- Excluded: use in other industries / geographic areas
- Requirements: use mark in commerce or register with intent to do so in future; must maintain quality control over goods
- Term: 10 year renewable (no upper limit)

### **USPTO** on trademarks



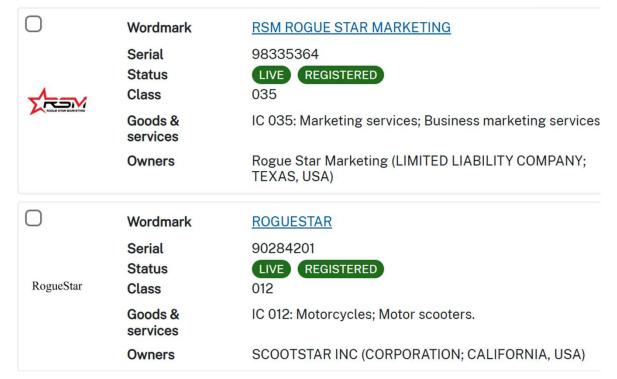
"A trademark is a word, name, symbol, or device that is used in trade with goods to indicate the source of the goods and to distinguish them from the goods of others."

"Trademark rights may be used to prevent others from using a confusingly similar mark, but not to prevent others from making the same goods or from selling the same goods or services under a clearly different mark."

# Is your product name trademarked?

https://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/search

#### 2 results for "rogue star"



But not in the software domain

### Rogue Star

#### 970 results for "divvy" & software

0	Wordmark	DIVVI
	Serial	97016452
	Status	LIVE REGISTERED
DIVVI	Class	009, 035, 042
	Goods & services	IC 009: Downloadable computer application software for mobile media
	Owners	DIVVI Solutions Inc. (CORPORATION; CANADA)
0	Wordmark	DIVVY
	Serial	87814081
	Status	LIVE REGISTERED
Divvy	Class	009
	Goods & services	IC 009: Computer software, namely, electronic financial platform that
	Owners	BILL OPERATIONS, LLC (LIMITED LIABILITY COMPAIDELAWARE, USA)
0	Wordmark	DIVVY
	Serial	86367431
	Status	LIVE REGISTERED
DIŞY	Class	025, 039, 042, 009
	Goods & services	IC 025: Hats, t-shirts.; IC 039: Bicycle rental services.; IC 042:
	Owners	City of Chicago (municipal corporation; ILLINOIS, USA
0	Wordmark	DIVVY



#### 3.693 results for duet & software



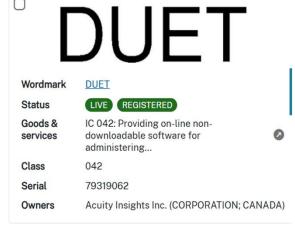








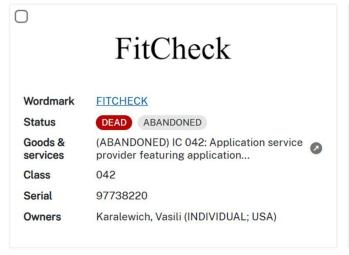


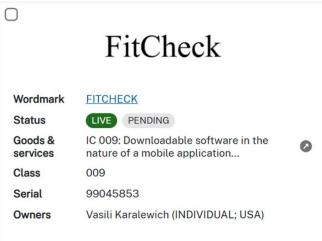


**DUET** 

**DUET** 

DUET











What do you notice about some of these?



### QuizMe

Does close count?

# No results with <name> + "software" + Live Are we in the clear?

- Floor It
- Foodography AI
- Frugal Finder
- Globegram
- HintCode
- QuickFolds
- QuizMe
- SeeQL

# Meta Platforms hit with US trademark lawsuit from tech company Metabyte

By Blake Brittain

September 22, 2023 5:41 PM PDT · Updated 2 months ago





People walk behind a logo of Meta Platforms company, during a conference in Mumbai, India, September 20, 2023. REUTERS/Francis Mascarenhas Acquire Licensing Rights [2]

Summary Companies

- · Metabyte said former Facebook's rebrand would cause confusion
- · Lawsuit joins at least three others over Meta Platforms' name

https://www.reuters.com/legal/litigation /meta-platforms-hit-with-us-trademarklawsuit-tech-company-metabyte-2023-09-22/

#### More trademark concepts

#### **Trade dress**

- Protects the visual appearance of a product or its packaging
- Infringement occurs when one product's design mimics that of another to the extent that there is likelihood of confusion
- Example: shape of a soda bottle, overall look and feel of a UI

Other protection options for visual appearance: design patent

## Copyright

### Copyright

- Protects: expression of ideas in a medium, but not the ideas
- Protects against: reproduction, copy distribution, derivative work creation (but NOT independent creation of same work)
- Requirements: original work, fixed in tangible form
- Term: author's life + 70 years
- Cost: simple, no registration

### USPTO on copyright



"Copyright is a form of protection provided to the authors of 'original works of authorship' including literary, dramatic, musical, artistic, and other intellectual works, published and unpublished. The 1976 Copyright Act generally gives the owner of copyright the exclusive right to reproduce the copyrighted work, to prepare derivative works, to distribute copies ..."

"The copyright **protects the <u>form</u> of expression** rather than the subject matter of the writing. For example, a description of a machine could be copyrighted, but this would only prevent others from copying the description; it would not prevent others from writing a description of their own or from making and using the machine. "

### More facts on copyright

 Almost all things are copyrighted the moment they are written; no copyright notice or registration is required

 Copyright software – contracts/licenses can provide permission to use copyright material Would posting someone's email, social media, or photo, be a violation of copyright?

Who owns the copyright of Al generated code?

•••

If a third party sues a commercial [Microsoft] customer for **copyright infringement** for using Microsoft's Copilots or the output they generate, we will defend the customer and pay the amount of any adverse judgments or settlements that result from the lawsuit, as long as the customer used the guardrails and content filters we have built into our products.

https://blogs.microsoft.com/on-the-issues/2023/09/07/copilot-copyright-commitment-ai-legal-concerns/

#### Microsoft announces new Copilot Copyright Commitment for customers

Sep 7, 2023 | Brad Smith, Vice Chair and President, Hossein Nowbar, CVP and Chief Legal Officer









#### **DEVELOPER**

Judge dismisses majority of GitHub Copilot copyright claims



About the Author

By Ryan Daws | 10th July 2024 https://twitter.com/gadget\_ry Categories: Artificial Intelligence, Developer, Development Tools, Git, Platforms,

... An amended version of the complaint had taken issue with GitHub's duplication detection filter, which allows users to "detect and suppress" Copilot suggestions matching public code on GitHub.

The developers argued that turning off this filter would "receive identical code" and cited a study showing how Al models can "memorise" and reproduce parts of their training data, potentially including copyrighted code.

However, Judge Tigar found these arguments unconvincing. He determined that the code allegedly copied by GitHub was not sufficiently similar to the developers' original work. ...

This case highlights the ongoing challenges and legal complexities surrounding Al-powered coding assistants and their use of existing codebases for training.

https://www.developertech.com/news/judge-dismisses-majoritygithub-copilot-copyright-claims/

#### What about "fair use" of material?

**Fair use**: a limitation and exception to copyright that allows duplication and use under certain conditions

The fair use of a copyrighted work ... is <u>not</u> an infringement of copyright

Factors to consider when determining fair use:

- 1. Purpose and character of the use, e.g., is use for commercial or nonprofit educational purposes
- 2. Nature of the copyrighted work
- **3. Amount and substantiality** of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole
- **4. Effect of use upon the market** for or value of the copyrighted work

#### Oracle wants \$9.3B for Google's use of Java in Android

The figure appears in a report by Oracle's damages expert, which Google strongly contests













By James Niccolai

Deputy News Editor, IDG News Service | MAR 28, 2016 10:17 AM PDT



The companies went to trial over the matter in 2012 but the jury was split on the crucial question of whether Google's use of Java APIs was protected by "fair use," which **permits copying** under limited circumstances.

**Supreme Court weighed in** 

How would you rule? #4

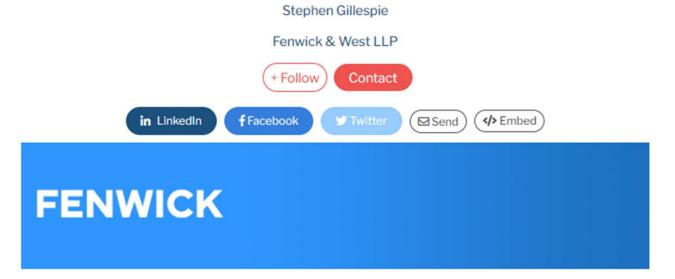
### Should APIs be able to be freely used under the "Fair Use" doctrine?

Yes

No

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## Supreme Court Expands Upon Software Fair Use in Google v. Oracle



On April 5, 2021, after 10 years of litigation, the U.S. Supreme Court published its decision in the much-watched *Google v. Oracle* dispute. The Court held that use of certain "declaring code" from the Java API in the Android operating system was a fair use under Section 107 of the Copyright Act. The Supreme Court provided a detailed explication of how, in the context of the copyright in computer code, federal courts should assess the four guiding fair use factors set forth in Section 107: (1) the purpose and character of the use: (2) the nature of the copyrighted

https://www.jdsupra.com/lega Inews/supreme-courtexpands-upon-software-1221531/ 54

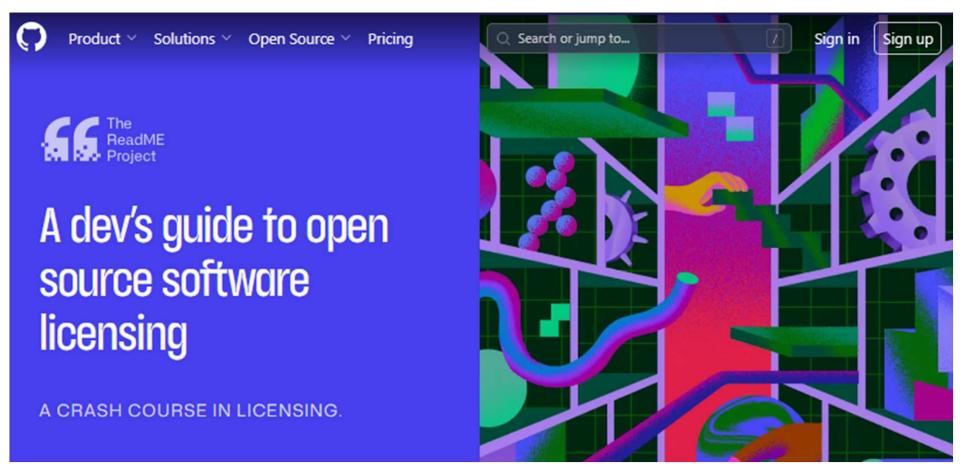
# Licensing

### Licensing – a class in itself!

Intellectual property can be shared through licensing - use by others doesn't always have to result in a lawsuit!

**Proprietary licenses**: allow the use of IP, typically for the exchange of money or cross-licensing rights

**Open-source licenses**: allow the use of software to promote freely\* sharing and encouraging creative works



https://github.com/readme/guides/open-source-licensing

### Take aways from today

It's important to be aware of ways YOU can protect your intellectual property

as well as

It's important to be aware of protection OTHERS may have on IP that you may want to leverage

UW IP support: https://comotion.uw.edu/

#### Articles referenced for (optional) further reading:

- https://www.theverge.com/2018/6/27/17510908/apple-samsung-settle-patent-battle-over-copying-iphone
- <a href="https://www.theverge.com/2022/9/22/23366516/meta-facebook-instagram-175-million-violation-voxer-live-streaming-patents">https://www.theverge.com/2022/9/22/23366516/meta-facebook-instagram-175-million-violation-voxer-live-streaming-patents</a>
- <a href="https://www.reuters.com/technology/meta-loses-bid-toss-175-mln-verdict-streaming-patent-case-2023-02-22/#:~:text=A%20jury%20found%20last%20September,%24174.5%20million%20in%20royalty%20damages.">https://www.reuters.com/technology/meta-loses-bid-toss-175-mln-verdict-streaming-patent-case-2023-02-22/#:~:text=A%20jury%20found%20last%20September,%24174.5%20million%20in%20royalty%20damages.</a>
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