

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF KANSAS**

KATHLEEN KIRCH and TERRY KIRCH, )  
individually, and on behalf of themselves and )  
all others similarly situated, )

*Plaintiffs,* )

v. )

EMBARQ MANAGEMENT CO., a Delaware )  
Corporation, and UNITED TELEPHONE )  
COMPANY OF EASTERN KANSAS, a )  
Delaware Corporation, and DOE )  
DEFENDANTS 1-5 )

*Defendants.*

No. 10-CV-2047 JAR/GLR

**Jury Trial Demanded**

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

Plaintiffs Kathleen Kirch and Terry Kirch (“Plaintiffs”), on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated (the “Class” and each a “Class Member”), by and through their attorneys, Stockton Law Office, LLC, KamberLaw LLC, Panish, Shea & Boyle, LLP, the Law Office of Joseph H. Malley, P.C., and Parisi & Havens LLP, as and for Plaintiffs’ complaint and demanding trial by jury, allege as follows upon personal knowledge as to themselves and their own acts and observations and, otherwise, upon information and belief based on the investigation of counsel and which Plaintiffs believe further investigation and discovery will support with substantial evidence.

**NATURE OF THE CASE**

1. In late 2007, Embarq Management Co. d/b/a CenturyLink (“Embarq”) and United Telephone Co. of Eastern Kansas d/b/a CenturyLink (“UTC”) (each a “Defendant,” collectively, “Defendants”) began installing spyware devices on their broadband networks. The devices

funneled all affected users' Internet communications—inbound and outbound, in their entirety—to a third-party Internet advertisement-serving company, NebuAd.

2. NebuAd and the Defendants used the intercepted communications to monitor and profile individual users, inject advertisements into the web pages users visited, transmit code that caused undeletable tracking cookies to be installed on users' computers, and forge the "return addresses" of user communications so their tampering would escape the detection of Users' privacy and security controls.

3. Historically, "spyware" is a term that has been applied to software installed on users' personal computers. The ISP-based spyware provided by NebuAd and deployed by Defendants represented a radical innovation. In the context of Defendants' role as the trusted conduit for all its users' Internet communications, this ISP-based spyware created an unprecedented, extraordinarily pervasive ability to monitor users, identify particular individuals, and tamper with their communications and personal computers—even when those users were interacting with websites with which neither Defendants nor NebuAd had any relationship.

4. Offering its users little warning and no choice, Defendants merely amended their online privacy policy with misleading information. Embarq provided similarly misleading statements in response to Congressional inquiries about its relationship with NebuAd.

5. Defendants did it for the money. For a price per customer per month, Defendants exploited its trusted position as a carrier for users' private communications, selling its unique ability to access users' Internet traffic and transmit communications to their personal computers. As to the effects of Defendants' conduct on users' privacy, their personal computers, and Defendants' quality of service, Defendants left users to fend for themselves. Accordingly,

Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and all other similarly situated users, now seeks the relief requested in this complaint.

### **PARTIES**

6. At all times relevant to this complaint, Plaintiffs Kathleen and Terry Kirch were citizens and residents of Johnson County, Kansas, were subscribers to Embarq's broadband Internet services, and therefore Users, as defined herein.

7. At all times relevant to this complaint, Embarq Management Co., a Delaware corporation doing business under names that included "Embarq, Inc.," "Embarq Communications, Inc.," and "Embarq Corporation", was a commercial provider of high-speed, broadband Internet services to customers in and about the area of Gardner, Kansas.

8. At all times relevant to this complaint, UTC, a Delaware corporation, was a commercial provider of telephone network facilities. Upon information and belief, UTC is a subsidiary of Embarq.

9. Defendants Does 1-5, are entities associated with Embarq and/or UTC, possibly with contractual obligations with Defendants, that may require Defendants to provide notice to the Does of this matter so as to appear and represent their interests. When the identities of any Does who are sued as Does are identified, Plaintiffs will amend their complaint to name such parties.

10. At all times relevant to this complaint, Defendants were privately owned companies headquartered in Kansas.

a. Defendants provided Internet services to approximately 6 million customer accounts, including Plaintiffs, who accessed the Internet using Embarq-supplied modems connected to their personal computers. (According to Embarq's statement to Congress, the NebuAd test was only conducted in Gardner, Kansas, with 26,000 high-speed Internet

subscribers, but overall had approx 6 mill customers in 18 states.) Since a given customer account was often utilized for Internet access by multiple consumers, such as members of the account-holder's household, the actual number of consumers using Defendants' ISP services ("Users") was much higher than 26,000.

b. As an Internet Services Provider ("ISP") providing broadband Internet services to the consuming public, Defendants were "provider[s] of an electronic communications service" as defined in the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, Title 18, United States Code, Section 2510(15) (the "Wiretap Act").

c. Users' Internet communications transmitted by Defendants consisted of the transfer of data transmitted in whole or in part by wire, radio, electromagnetic, photoelectronic, or photooptical systems that affected interstate and/or foreign commerce and were therefore "electronic communications" as defined in the Wiretap Act, Title 18, United States Code, Section 2510(12).

d. Defendants' Users were persons or entities who used Defendants' electronic communications services, were duly authorized by Defendants to engage in such use, and were therefore "users" as defined in the Wiretap Act, Title 18, United States Code, Section 2510(13).

e. The personal computers of Defendants' Users were computers used in and affecting interstate commerce and communication and were therefore "protected computers" as defined in the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, Title 18, United States Code, Section 1030(e)(2).

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

11. This Court has original jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, Section 1331, arising from the federal causes of action set forth in this complaint.

12. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, Section 1332 in that the aggregate claims of Plaintiffs and the proposed Class Members exceed the sum or value of \$5,000,000.

13. There is minimal diversity of citizenship between proposed Class Members and Defendants in that Embarq is a Delaware corporation headquartered in Kansas with customers in eighteen states, UTC is a Delaware corporation headquartered in Kansas with customers in Kansas and Plaintiffs are citizens and residents of the State of Kansas asserting claims on behalf of a proposed class whose members reside in Gardner, Kansas and any other area that discovery shows was subjected to the conduct complained of herein.

14. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because: (a) Defendants maintain offices and/or facilities in the State of Kansas; (b) a substantial portion of the wrongdoing alleged in this complaint took place in this State, and (c) Defendants are authorized to do business in and have sufficient minimum contacts with this State and/or has otherwise intentionally availed itself of the markets in this State through the promotion, marketing, and sale of their products and/or services in this State, to render the exercise of jurisdiction by this Court permissible under traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

15. Venue is proper in this District under Title 28, United States Code, Sections 1391(b) and (c), in that Defendants conduct business with consumers in this District, and a substantial portion of the events and conduct giving rise to the violations of law set forth in this complaint took place in this District.

### **CONDUCT COMPLAINED OF**

#### **A. Defendants' Deployment of Appliances**

16. An ISP is a conduit. Its job is to provide users with a connection to the Internet so users can communicate with other Internet-connected parties. Through the ISP's services, users

browse websites, engage in e-commerce, hold voice-over-Internet-Protocol (VoIP) conversations, exchange e-mail correspondence, instant messages, and “tweets,” and otherwise use the ISP’s services to conduct all their Internet activities.

17. In or about late 2007, Defendants entered into an agreement with NebuAd, Inc. (“NebuAd”), a “third party provider of tailored advertising services.” Embarq has acknowledged that it engaged NebuAd and participated in serving advertisements to its Users until some time in 2008 prior to July 23. (*See* Letter from Tom Gerke to the Hon. John D. Dingell, Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce, United States House of Representatives, July 23, 2008, pp. 2-3, <http://energycommerce.house.gov/images/stories/Documents/PDF/Letters/Embarq-response-1.pdf>; hereinafter, “Embarq Resp. to Congress.”) Embarq has further acknowledged that the ad-serving model included monitoring and analyzing of its Users’ Internet communications. (*See* Cal. Mtn. Dism. p. 4:14-16.<sup>1</sup>)

18. NebuAd agreed to share with Embarq the revenue from serving advertisements to Embarq Users, paying Embarq based on the number of subscriber accounts, per month, whose communications Embarq diverted to the Appliance.

19. Defendants’ and NebuAd’s actions set forth in this complaint were undertaken by Defendants and NebuAd in the performance of their respective obligations under their agreement.

20. On NebuAd’s website at <http://www.nebuad.com>, it provided the following overview of its business model:

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<sup>1</sup> “Cal. Mtn. Dism.” refers to Defendants CenturyTel and Embarq’s Motion to Dismiss (DKT. 44), *Valentine v. NebuAd*, No. 3:08-cv-05113 (TEH) (N.D. Cal.), in a suit brought against NebuAd and a number of its ISP clients. In that case, on October 6, 2009, the Court dismissed the claims against Embarq and other defendant ISPs on grounds of lack of personal jurisdiction. (*Id.*, DKT. 166.) Embarq’s motion to dismiss is cited herein as “Cal. Mtn. Dism. p. [page]:[line numbers].”

Through its unique technology and methodology, industry expertise, and ISP partnerships, NebuAd is leading the industry to a new level of advertising effectiveness. NebuAd combines web-wide consumer activity data with reach into any site on the Internet. The result is vastly more data and relevance than existing solutions that are limited to one network or site.

21. NebuAd's ad-serving model relied on its gaining direct access to Users' Internet communications en route to and from Users' personal computers. To accomplish this, Defendants licensed and installed the NebuAd Ultra-Transparent Appliance (the "Appliance") from NebuAd and deployed Appliances in Defendants' Gardner broadband service network location.

22. Defendants installed the Appliance in their broadband networks beginning in or about late 2007 or early 2008.

23. With NebuAd's cooperation, Defendants deployed the Appliance by physically situating it within Defendants' existing network infrastructure, reconfiguring its network to recognize the Appliance as a network device, and configuring its network connections to funnel all User Internet activity through the Appliance.

24. In the operation of the Defendants-NebuAd relationship, Defendants were responsible for installation of the Appliances; maintaining the flow of Users' Internet traffic to the Appliances; and, subsequently, resuming the handling of intercepted communications by delivering them to their destinations. Defendants supported the continued operation of the Appliances by providing ongoing network environment resources and services.

25. Assuming a single User from each of 26,000 customer accounts visited one website per day during a five-month period, the number of diverted incoming and outgoing communications would be approximately 4 million.

26. Embarq claimed to have terminated its use of the Appliances in early 2008. (*See* Embarq Resp. to Congress, p. 4.)

## B. Interception and Use of Personally Identifiable Information

### *Interception of Users' Electronic Communications*

27. The scope of Defendants' indiscriminate diversion of Internet traffic to the Appliance encompassed all of its Users' web navigation activity and other Internet transactions, such as file downloads and inbound and outbound messages—all unfiltered, in their entirety. The communicative components of User traffic diverted to the Appliance necessarily included:

a. all communications protocol types, including web communications (*http* traffic); encrypted web communications (*https* traffic); e-mail communications, including web-based email communications (*e.g.*, GMail, Hotmail, and Yahoo email account traffic); instant messages; file transfer protocol (*ftp*) and secure file transfer protocol (*ftps*) downloads; and voice-over-Internet-Protocol (VoIP) telephony communications;

b. all navigation information, including Users' search terms and the universal resource locators (URLs) identifying websites and Internet addresses accessed by Users;

c. Internet Protocol (IP) addresses, which uniquely and persistently identified Users' specific personal computers, in that Users generally leave their modems in an always-on state, causing Users' personal computers to remain linked to unique, "sticky" IP addresses, much like static IP addresses;

d. personally identifying information<sup>2</sup> and substantive content in communications relating to personal and sensitive matters such as health events, insurance

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<sup>2</sup> The Federal Trade Commission has defined "personally identifiable information" or "personal information" as:

individually identifiable information from or about an individual [consumer] including, but not limited to: (a) a first and last name; (b) a home or other physical address, including street name and name of city or town; (c) an email address or other online contact information, such as an instant messaging user identifier or a screen name that reveals an individual's email address; (d) a telephone number; (e) a Social Security Number; (f) a persistent identifier, such as a customer number held in a "cookie" or processor serial number, that is combined with

coverage, financial and e-commerce transactions, financial account status details, credit reports, political activities and interests, personal relationships and dating, job searches, and movie rental choices; privileged correspondence such as marital and attorney-client communications; and information contained in the financial records of financial institutions, of card issuers, as defined in Title 15, United States Code, Section 1602(n), and from the files of consumer reporting agencies on consumers, as defined in the Fair Credit Reporting Act, Title 15, United States Code, Section 1681, *et seq.*; and

e. information to, from, and about children under the age of 13.

28. NebuAd confirmed that it received unfiltered Internet traffic when it stated in Congressional testimony that “the NebuAd service constructs anonymous inferences about the user's level of qualification for a predefined set of market segment categories, *and then discards the raw data* that was used to create or update a user's anonymous profile.” (*See* Testimony of Bob Dykes, CEO, NebuAd, Inc., Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, “Privacy Implications of Online Advertising,” July 9, 2008, p. 6, [http://commerce.senate.gov/public/\\_files/RobertDykesNebuAdOnlinePrivacyTestimony.pdf](http://commerce.senate.gov/public/_files/RobertDykesNebuAdOnlinePrivacyTestimony.pdf), emphasis added; hereinafter, “Dykes Senate Testimony.”) When NebuAd’s CEO testified that “NebuAd's ad optimization and serving system does not collect PII or use information deemed to be sensitive (e.g., information involving a user's financial, sensitive health, or medical matters),” he was not denying NebuAd’s

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other available data that identifies an individual; or (g) any information that is combined with any of (a) through (f) above.

*In the Matter of Microsoft Corporation*, Federal Trade Commission, File No. 012 3240, Docket No. C-4069, Agreement Containing Consent Order, Aug. 8, 2002, pp. 2-3, <http://www.ftc.gov/os/caselist/0123240/microsoftagree.pdf>; accord *In the Matter of Eli Lilly and Company*, Assurance of Voluntary Compliance and Discontinuance, Attorneys General of the States of California, Connecticut, Idaho, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Vermont, p. 7 n.3, [http://supplierportal.lilly.com/Home/Multi\\_State\\_Order.pdf](http://supplierportal.lilly.com/Home/Multi_State_Order.pdf) and <http://epic.org/privacy/medical/lillyagreement.pdf>.)

acquisition of such information, merely claiming that NebuAd did not utilize such information to select and deliver advertisements. (*See id.*, p. 4.)

29. Further, Embarq admitted that NebuAd assumed control of User information diverted to the Appliance. (*See Cal. Mtn. Dism. p. 4:15-22.*) NebuAd confirmed this in testimony before Congress when it described “the NebuAd advertising service—part of which is co-located with, but operates separate and apart from, an ISP’s facilities.” (*See Testimony of Bob Dykes, CEO, NebuAd, Inc., House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, “What Your Broadband Provider Knows about Your Web Use: Deep Packet Inspection and Communications Law and Policies,” July 17, 2008, p. 4, <http://energycommerce.house.gov/images/stories/Documents/Hearings/PDF/Testimony/TI/110-ti-hrg.071708.Dykes-testimony.pdf>; hereinafter, “Dykes House Testimony.”)*

30. In light of the foregoing admissions, Embarq misrepresented the content of User traffic it diverted to NebuAd when it stated to a Congressional committee, that “[n]o raw or identifiable customer data was collected or utilized,” and that “[t]he only data during the test consisted of codes representing categories of interest that were derived anonymously via software.” (*See Embarq Resp. to Congress, p. 3.*)

31. In light of the foregoing:

a. The Appliance was a device used to acquire the “contents” of communications, as that term is defined in the Wiretap Act, Title 18, United States Code, Section 2510(8), in that Defendants used the Appliance to divert and transfer the substance, purport, and meaning of the communications to the Appliance. Therefore, the Appliance was used to “intercept” the contents of electronic communications, as that term is defined in the Wiretap Act, Title 18, United States Code, Section 2510(4);

b. Each of the Defendants' networks or network segments incorporating the Appliance into its routine operations was a device and apparatus that could be and was used to intercept, retain, and transcribe in-transit electronic communications and was therefore an "electronic, mechanical, or other device" as defined in the Wiretap Act, Title 18, United States Code, Section 2510(5).

c. Likewise, each Appliance was itself a device and apparatus that could be and was used to intercept, retain, and transcribe in-transit electronic communications and was therefore an "electronic, mechanical, or other device" as defined in the Wiretap Act, Title 18, United States Code, Section 2510(6).

32. Neither Defendants nor NebuAd were the originator or recipient of the User communications traversing Defendants' networks and, as further detailed in section E, "Defendants' Deception and Lack of Authorization," below, neither Defendants nor NebuAd were authorized to intercept and read the contents of Users' communications. Therefore, neither Defendants nor NebuAd were a "party" to Users' electronic communications, as that term is used in the Wiretap Act, Title 18, United States Code, Section 2511(2)(d).

33. Defendants' interception and eavesdropping was intentional and knowing in that it was undertaken by Defendants in the performance of Embarq's agreement with NebuAd and accomplished with instrumentalities that included the Appliance and Defendants' networks installed and configured specifically to perform interception and eavesdropping.

#### ***Tracking and Profiling of Individually Identified Users***

34. Regardless of whether NebuAd eventually discarded the personally identified content in Users' "raw data," it identified individual users and maintained behavioral profiles on them. NebuAd's profiles were linked not just to individual personal computers, but to the particular users, themselves.

35. To obtain information for NebuAd's behavioral profiles of Users, the Appliance included deep packet inspection ("DPI") functions that read and analyzed Users' communications. DPI software enables a party to read the contents OSI layers 6 and 7 of the data packets comprising an Internet communication—which is to say that DPI looks past the "envelope" and "handling instructions" layers of an Internet communication and drills down to transcribe the payload—the actual substance intended to be read by the recipient of the communications.

36. In addition, despite NebuAd's claim that "[t]here is no connection or link between the ISP's registration data systems and NebuAd" (*see* Dykes Senate Testimony, p. 7), NebuAd's user profiles included Users' five-digit zip codes, which it either deduced from Users' Internet communications or received from Defendants.

37. Through NebuAd's identification of individual Users and Defendants' interception of all of its Users' Internet communications, NebuAd could claim, "[W]e're able to get a 360-degree, multidimensional view over a long period of time of all the pages users visit." *Behavioral Insider*, Nov. 14, 2007, [http://publications.mediapost.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=Articles.showArticle&art\\_aid=71020](http://publications.mediapost.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=Articles.showArticle&art_aid=71020).

38. The relationship between Defendants and NebuAd represented an unprecedented and extraordinarily pervasive ability to locate and monitor Users and—as discussed below in section C, "Tampering with User Communications and Computers"—control Users' communications in all of their Internet activities. This ability to identify individuals and intervene in their communications extended to Users' interactions with websites with which neither Defendants nor NebuAd had any relationship.

39. The unique and persistent identifiers NebuAd used to track Users and link their online behavior to its profiles constituted personally identifying information, just as a telephone number constitutes personally identifying information used to contact an individual, a street address constitutes personally identifying information used to find or correspond with persons residing at that address, or a global positioning system (GPS) signal constitutes personally identifying information used to locate the GPS device user while in transit. Therefore, Embarq's statement to a Congressional committee that NebuAd used no personally identifiable information was a misrepresentation. (*See* Embarq Resp. to Congress, p. 3.)

### **C. Tampering with User Communications and Computers**

40. NebuAd and the Appliance used DPI not only to read the contents of Users' communications, but to alter the contents, load the communications with atypically persistent tracking cookies, and forge components of the communications to evade Users' security and privacy controls when Defendants ultimately delivered the communications to Users, as follows:

a. For a communication en route to a User, if NebuAd identified the opportunity to serve a targeted advertisement, the Appliance inserted the advertisement into the web page being downloaded for display to the User.

b. The Appliance also inserted Javascript program code to be executed on the User's personal computer. Upon reaching Users' personal computers, the code forced Users' computers to download cookies from a NebuAd division. Causing Users' computers to contact a third-party website not authorized by the original web page the User downloaded violates Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) standards designed to maintain the security and integrity of Internet communications. Further, the cookies that the code caused to be deposited on Users' computers were no ordinary cookies that Users could manage with their privacy controls. They were super-persistent cookies that, if removed, simply reappeared. NebuAd's CEO alluded to this

fact in testimony before Congress when he stated, “NebuAd has enhanced the industry-standard opt-out “cookie” based system with the use of proprietary techniques. This enables the opt-out to be more persistent.” (Dykes Senate Testimony, p. 4 n.4.)

c. The Appliance forged the “envelope” of the altered communication to make the communication appear to the User’s personal computer as if it were the authentic and unaltered web page the User had requested, thus escaping detection by Users’ security controls designed to protect against unauthorized third-party content.

d. Defendants then delivered the altered, loaded, forged communications to the User’s personal computer.

41. The Appliance’s functions were consistent with NebuAd’s March 30, 2007 patent application for “[a] network device for monitoring data traffic between a client device and a server device,” which stated:

The data packets exchanged between a computer and a website being visited are altered or modified in such a way that the head of the packets remains largely intact while the payloads of the packets are changed to suit the need.

(*See* U.S. Patent Application No. 11693719, “Network device for monitoring and modifying network traffic between an end user and a content provider,” filed Mar. 30, 2007, Abstract, Summary ¶¶ 9-10, Claims ¶¶ 4, 8, 12-14, 16; *see also* U.S. Patent Application No. 11759157, “Method and system for inserting targeted data in available spaces of a webpage,” filed June 6, 2007; U.S. Patent Application No. 11759179, “Network device for embedding data in a data packet sequence,” filed June 6, 2007; U.S. Patent Application No. 11759187, “Network devices for replacing an advertisement with another advertisement,” filed June 6, 2007.)

42. The content modification, forgery, and tracking code behavior of the Appliance implemented by Defendants was independently documented in “NebuAd and Partner ISPs: Wiretapping, Forgery and Browser Hijacking” by Robert M. Topolski, co-published by Free

Press and Public Knowledge, June 18, 2008, [http://www.freepress.net/files/NebuAd\\_Report.pdf](http://www.freepress.net/files/NebuAd_Report.pdf); <http://www.publicknowledge.org/pdf/nebuad-report-20080618.pdf>.

43. As further detailed in section E, “Defendants’ Deception and Lack of Authorization,” Defendants did not have authority to access Users’ personal computers and/or Defendants exceeded what authority they had to access Users’ personal computers in that Defendants were not authorized by its Users to transmit altered and forged communications that avoided detection and rejection by Users’ security controls and that caused the transmission and execution of code that defeated Users’ privacy and security management tools.

44. Defendants’ access of Users’ personal computers was knowing and intentional and Defendants were aware of and intended the natural and probable consequences of such conduct, inasmuch as Defendants acted in concert with NebuAd and their actions were undertaken pursuant to an agreement between Embarq and NebuAd to engage in just such conduct.

45. Defendants knowingly caused the transmission of programs, information, codes, and commands in that Defendants transmitted forged communications designed to avoid detection by Users’ security controls, and Defendants transmitted commands and code that created persistent tracking cookies on Users’ personal computers, which were protected computers, defeating Users’ privacy management tools.

#### **D. Defendants’ Abnormal Course of Business and Unnecessary Conduct**

46. Defendants’ acts alleged in this complaint far exceeded the scope of the “ordinary course of business” as that phrase is used in the Wiretap Act, Title 18, United States Code, Section 2510(5)(a) and the “normal course of [Defendants’] employment while engaged in any activity which is a necessary incident to the rendition of [its] service or to the protection of the

rights or property of the provider of that service” as that phrase is used in the Wiretap Act, Title 18, United States Code, Section 2511(2)(a)(i).

47. It was not in Defendants’ normal course of business to engage in or facilitate User monitoring and behavioral profiling, advertisement selection, and advertisement delivery—whether by inserting ads into web content being downloaded by Users or by any other means.

a. Upon information and belief, prior to late 2007 or early 2008, Embarq’s online advertising activity was limited to its role in the placement of advertisements on its own web pages.

b. Embarq has repeatedly characterized its foray into profiling and ad distribution with NebuAd as “brief” (Embarq Resp. to Congress, p. 4.) Since Embarq’s termination of its NebuAd relationship, Defendants have been able to continue providing Internet services to their Users and have not found that it must engage in online ad-serving to be capable of providing such services.

c. Therefore, consumer profiling and ad selection and delivery were not activities Defendants conducted in the normal course of its business or as necessarily incident to its rendition of services or protection of rights or property.

48. The particular ad-serving activity in which Defendants participated with NebuAd was a novel ad-serving model, not one in which Defendants participated in the normal or necessary conduct of its business. As noted by NebuAd CEO Bob Dykes, NebuAd and its ISP partners adopted this novel model because “ISPs, who have up to now facilitated but barely participated in online advertising opportunities, can open new revenue streams that complement advertiser and publisher objectives to maximize revenue and generate higher revenue-per-subscriber.” *Behavioral Insider*, Nov. 14, 2007,

[http://publications.mediapost.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=Articles.showArticle&art\\_aid=71020](http://publications.mediapost.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=Articles.showArticle&art_aid=71020).

Therefore, Defendants' and NebuAd's collaboration was motivated by the money-making potential of combining Defendants' unique access to its Users' communications combined with NebuAd's technology and business relationships—not to provide Defendants' Users the Internet services to which they had subscribed.

49. Defendants' use of the Appliance and deep packet inspection technology was not in their normal course of business or a necessary incident to its rendition of services or protection of their rights or property. In the normal course of an ISP's business and as a necessary incident to its need to protect its customers and network resources and to maintain the availability of its services, an ISP may indeed use tools that employ DPI. For example, an ISP may use DPI tools to scan Internet communications for data content that matches recognized types of security threats, such as malicious viruses and worms.

50. In contrast, Defendants subjected Users' communications to deep packet inspection to identify users, monitor and track their Internet activity, alter the content of their communications, and forge communications characteristics that bypassed Users' security and privacy controls and bugged their personal computers. Defendants used DPI for their own commercial gain, independent of any normal and necessary activity in providing Internet services to Users, preserving its rights, or protecting its property.

51. The Appliance was spyware<sup>3</sup> in that it caused and enabled the surreptitious tracking of Users' Internet activity and transmittal of code that affected Users' control of their

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<sup>3</sup> "Spyware" has been defined as

any type of software that is surreptitiously installed on a computer and, without the consent of the user, could collect information from a computer, could allow third parties to control remotely the use of a computer, or could facilitate botnet communications.

personal computers. However, unlike traditional spyware, which is installed on a user's computers, the Appliance represented a new breed of ISP-hosted spyware.

52. The Appliance was adware<sup>4</sup> in that it caused the display of advertisements to computer users, and which advertisements were other than those authorized by the publishers of the web pages downloaded by users. Again, unlike traditional adware, the ISP-hosted location of the Appliance's represented an adware innovation.

53. Defendants were an adware marketing partner<sup>5</sup> in that their installation of the Appliance caused the display of advertisements through adware.

54. Spyware and adware hosting and execution and serving as NebuAd's adware marketing partner were not in Defendants' ordinary course of business, were not necessarily incident to Defendants' rendition of Internet connectivity services, and were not necessarily incident to Defendants' protection of rights and property.

#### **E. Defendants' Deception and Lack of Authorization**

55. Defendant Embarq did not notify Users of its activities by letter or e-mail, despite the fact that it regularly communicated with its Users for billing purposes. Instead, by its own admission, it merely amended its privacy policy two weeks before activating the Appliance.

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*FTC v. Pricewert*, Case. No. C-09-2407 (RMW) (N.D. Cal.), Order Appointing Temporary Receiver, June 15, 2009 (Dkt. 38).

<sup>4</sup> "Adware" has been defined as:

any downloadable software program that displays advertisements to a computer user, including, but not limited to, programs that display pop-up or pop-under advertisements, redirect website or search requests, install toolbars onto Internet browsers or electronic mail clients, or highlight particular keywords or phrases for Internet users as they surf the web.

*In the Matter of Priceline.com Incorporated*, Assurance of Discontinuance, Attorney General of the State of New York, Jan. 29, 2007, p. 1, [http://www.oag.state.ny.us/media\\_center/2007/jan/adware-scannedAODs.pdf](http://www.oag.state.ny.us/media_center/2007/jan/adware-scannedAODs.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> "Adware marketing partner" has been defined as "any adware company, ad buyer, affiliate, third party distribution partner or other entity that arranges for, purchases, places, or installs the adware program that displays advertising of the products or services . . . through adware." *Id.*

Embarq's excuse for choosing this passive and less-than-noticeable means of communication was that it was following the "prevailing industry practices of the most similar business model, that of online advertising networks." (Embarq Resp. to Congress, p. 2). Despite the fact that Embarq's business model and the nature of its relationship to Users was that of an ISP, not an online advertising network.

56. Further, in what notice Embarq did provide, it failed to disclose that Defendants were intercepting and funneling all User communications to NebuAd, including Users' personally identifiable information; enabling a third party to track and profile individually identified Users, anytime and anywhere, and forge communications being transmitted to them; delivering altered and forged communications that affected the integrity, performance, and operations of Users' personal computers. Further, Defendants failed to disclose that the opt-out it offered users only affected whether Users saw ads delivered by NebuAd but did not alter the fact that Defendants continued its wholesale interception and diversion of traffic to NebuAd. Therefore, Defendants' notices were misleading, deceptive, and constituted material omissions.

57. In the case of the NebuAd Ultra-Transparent Appliance, "transparent" meant operating in a manner designed to be invisible to both of the authorized parties to an electronic communication. Users had no reasonable means by which they would have become aware that Defendants were diverting their communications to NebuAd and no reasonable means by which to diagnose the effects of Defendants' conduct on the operation and performance of their personal computer.

58. Accordingly, Users received no notice or, at best, inadequate notice of Defendants' conduct alleged in this complaint, and any User consent, express or implied, was invalid.

**F. User Consequences**

59. Defendants' interception and inspection of Users' electronic communications and monitoring of identified Users constituted invasions of Users' privacy by intruding upon the solitude and seclusion of Users' private affairs:

a. Embarq's job as an ISP was to provide a secure and confidential conduit for Users' Internet communications, through connectivity services in which in-transit communications are ordinarily transmitted in solitude and seclusion and not ordinarily displayed or available to the general public or third parties.

b. Users' Internet communications were confidential communications intended for receipt by particular recipients that did not include Defendants and NebuAd and, as such, were private affairs of Users.

c. Users' ability to engage in Internet communications in solitude and seclusion were private affairs of Users.

d. Users paid Defendants for their services and entrusted them with all their Internet communications—and the communications of Users who were their family members—with the material expectation that Defendants would provide a connectivity setting that would preserve the privacy of their communications, free from unauthorized and improper interception and inspection.

e. Defendants had a duty to Users to hold as confidential all information imparted by and linked to individual Users through their communications and Internet navigation.

f. Defendants invaded Users' privacy by intruding upon the solitude and seclusion of their communications when it caused Users' Internet communications to be intercepted, diverted to a third party, read and analyzed, and used for individual profiling.

g. Defendants perpetrated their intrusions surreptitiously, installing technology designed to escape user detection, and further hid its intrusions by issuing deceptive and misleading statements to Users and to a Congressional committee inquiring into the privacy consequences of Embarq's relationship with NebuAd.

h. Defendants used Users' communications for commercial purposes other than the purposes for which Users' had entrusted those communications to Defendants.

i. The degree of Defendants' intrusions encompassed the entire scope of Users' communications, including personal and confidential content and communications to and from minors; all communications types, including HTTPS, web mail, and VoIP traffic; the entire scope of Users' Internet navigation activity; the entirety of Defendants' User base; a duration of at least several months; and many millions of User communications.

j. Defendants' motive was to make money by exploiting the trusted role through which it had access to Users' communications.

k. Defendants' intrusions continue to affect Users in that their personal information continues to be retained in identity-linked behavioral profiles stored on NebuAd servers.

l. Therefore—in light of Defendants' breach of trust in its role as a provider of confidential communications transmittal; Users' expectations in their ability to use Defendants' services to communicate privately; Users' expectations in the privacy and confidentiality of the particular communications they exchanged over connections provided by Defendants; Defendants' surreptitious and deceptive conduct and representations in carrying out its intrusions; Defendants' selfish motives and willingness to exploit its relationships with Users and betray their privacy interests for its own gain; and the scope and scale of Defendants'

intrusions—Defendants’ invasions of its Users’ privacy by intruding upon the solitude and seclusion of their Internet communications would be highly offensive and objectionable to a reasonable person.

60. Further, Defendants’ tampering with Users’ electronic communications and personal computers constituted intrusions upon the solitude and seclusion of Users’ private affairs that would be highly offensive and objectionable to a reasonable person for reasons cited in the foregoing paragraph 59, and in that:

a. Defendants had a duty to Users to hold as confidential all information imparted by and linked to individual Users through their communications and Internet navigation, and its duty of confidentiality include a duty to safeguard the integrity of those communications.

b. Defendants invaded Users’ privacy by intruding upon the solitude and seclusion of their communications when it caused Users’ Internet communications to be altered, loaded with computer-affecting code designed to facilitate tracking and defeat Users’ privacy controls, and affixed with forged origin information designed to defeat Users’ security controls.

c. Users expected to be protected in the solitude and seclusion of their communications, and they expected their communications to remain unmolested by the message carrier to whom they had entrusted their Internet communications.

d. Defendants’ intrusions in tampering with Users’ communications and computers extended to all Users to whom it provided services and its tampering with computers extended to the personal computers of all Users to whom it provided services.

e. Therefore, Defendants’ conduct in tampering with Users’ communications and personal computers constituted intrusions upon the solitude and seclusion of Users’ private

affairs, including the privacy and integrity of their communications and personal computers, that were detrimental to Users' interests and that would be highly offensive and objectionable to a reasonable person.

61. Defendants' conduct alleged in this complaint constituted an ongoing course of conduct that harmed Users and caused them to incur financial losses, in that:

a. Defendant Embarq, which was compensated by NebuAd for its performance under the Embarq-NebuAd agreement, realized significant economic benefits from the interception and modification of communications that belonged to Users and to which Users enjoyed a superior right of ownership.

b. As a carrier of messages with no authority to engage in the activities for which NebuAd compensated Embarq, Embarq appropriated compensation to itself for access to Users' information, communications, and personal computers when such compensation rightfully belonged to Users.

c. Embarq did so through a novel technology and business model that it implemented in a surreptitious manner and without adequate notice, intentionally deceiving and misleading Users in order to deprive them of the opportunity to realize the economic benefits flowing from the use of their information and computers.

d. Therefore, Embarq was unjustly enriched, and Users are entitled to compensation paid or owed to Embarq by NebuAd, or a just and fair portion of such compensation.

e. Further, the diminution in the performance levels of Defendants' services caused by its deployment of the Appliances deprived Users of the utility and quality of service for which they had paid, and Users therefore did not receive the full value of paid-for service.

f. Further, the invasions of privacy perpetrated by Defendants in providing its services deprived users of the quality and character of service for which they had paid, and Users therefore did not receive the fair value of paid-for service.

g. Further, each deployment of an Appliance on one of Defendants' network segments constituted a single act that caused an aggregated loss of at least \$5,000 within a one-year period to each group of Users affected by each Appliance.

62. In Defendants' conduct alleged above, including the allegations of section C, "Tampering with User Communications and Computers," Defendants' tampering with Users' personal computers and Internet communications caused damage to Users in that:

a. Defendants' interception and processing of intercepted communications consumed resources of and diminished the quality and performance of its Internet connectivity services to users.

b. Defendants' alterations and forgeries of communications diminished the utility, integrity, and value of such communications.

c. The cookie-creating code Defendants transmitted to Users' computers diminished the performance, utility, value, performance, and capabilities of Users' computers.

d. The cookie-creating code and communications with forged origins Defendants transmitted to Users' computers controlled and altered the functioning of Users' computers, including by circumventing Users' security and privacy controls.

e. Defendants' actions caused Users to expend money, time, and resources investigating and attempting to mitigate their personal computers' diminished performance and investigating and attempting to remove the persistently recurring and unauthorized third-party

tracking cookies installed on their computers without notice or consent; and, in the process, diminished Users' productivity.

f. Further, these actions interfered with, diminished, and devalued Users' possessory interests in their personal computers and Internet communications, infringed on Users' right to exclude others from unauthorized access to their personal computers, and compromised the integrity and ownership of Users' personal computers.

g. Therefore, Users were economically damaged by Defendants' conduct.

63. Defendants' conduct alleged above, including that alleged in section C, "Tampering with User Communications and Computers," constituted interference with and intermeddling with Users' personal property in that:

a. Users' personal computers were their personal property.

b. Users' Internet communications were their personal property and property in which Users' rights of possession were superior to Defendants'.

c. Users' personal computers were designed to be capable of connecting to the Internet, which connection Defendants provided by means of its networks linked to cable modems installed in Users' homes and connected to Users' personal computers, and for which services and equipment Users paid fees to Defendants.

d. Through Defendants' interception, alteration, and forgery of communications, Defendants accessed and obtained control over communications sent from User's computers to other Internet-connected parties and those parties' responses.

e. Through Defendants' interception and diversion of communications and through its transmission of commands and codes that caused the creation of unusual and

persistent cookies, Defendants diminished the utility, value, speed, and capacity of Users' personal computers.

f. Through Defendants' forgery of communications components, Defendants disabled and nullified the utility of security detection controls and privacy management tools on Users' personal computers, altering and commandeering control of the functioning of Users' personal computers, diminishing the capabilities of Users' personal computers, and compromising the privacy, security, and integrity of Users' personal computers.

g. Further, the consequences of this conduct were devaluations of Users' personal computers and Internet communications; interference with Users' possessory interests in their personal computers and Internet communications; and diminutions in Users' productivity in using their personal computers and Internet communications.

h. Defendants' conduct was unauthorized and in excess of its authority to transmit Users' Internet communications.

i. Therefore, Defendants, without Users' consent, interfered with and intermeddled with Users' personal computers and Internet communications, harming Users' personal property and diminishing its value, quality, condition, and utility, and causing real and substantial damage to Users, including the damages alleged in the preceding paragraph 62.

64. Defendants' conduct alleged in this section F was knowing and intentional and Defendants intended the natural and probable consequences of its acts and omissions.

### **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

65. Plaintiffs bring this class action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 on behalf of themselves and the following Class:

All individuals who were users of Embarq's Internet services and whose Internet communications traversing UTC's Internet services network were diverted to a NebuAd Appliance (any class period?).

66. Plaintiffs reserve the right to revise these definitions of the Class based on facts they learn during discovery.

67. Excluded from the Class are: (i) any Judge or Magistrate presiding over this action, and the court personnel supporting the Judge or Magistrate presiding over this action, and members of their respective families; (ii) Defendants, Defendants' subsidiaries, parents, successors, predecessors, and any entity in which a Defendant or its parent has a controlling interest and their current or former employees, officers, and directors; (iii) persons who properly execute and file a timely request for exclusion from the Class; and (iv) the legal representatives, successors, or assigns of any such excluded persons.

68. *Numerosity*: Individual joinder of all members of the Class is impracticable. The Class includes thousands of individuals. Upon information and belief, Class Members can be identified through the electronic records of Defendants.

69. *Class Commonality*: Common questions of fact and law exist as to all Class Members and predominate over questions affecting only individual Class Members. All Class Members were Users of Defendants during the time that Defendants engaged in the activities alleged in this complaint. All Class Members' Internet communications were diverted, monitored, intercepted, disclosed, divulged, accessed, copied, retained, inspected, analyzed, tampered with, modified, altered, forged, and/or used by Plaintiffs. Common questions for the Class include:

- a. how many Users and User communications were the subject of Defendants' conduct herein alleged;
- b. what Internet communications protocol types were affected by Defendants' conduct herein alleged;
- c. what personally identifying information was included in the intercepted communications;

- d. how intercepted communications were used;
- e. aside from intercepted communications traffic, what User registration, billing, or other User information was disclosed to NebuAd by Defendants;
- f. what effect deployment of the Appliances had on Defendants' service levels;
- g. what authority Defendants had to engage in their uses of Users' electronic communications in the context of their deployment of the Appliance and its relationship with NebuAd;
- h. what User information collected by or as a result of use of the Appliances continues to be retained by Defendants and/or NebuAd;
- i. whether Defendants tortiously intruded upon Users' seclusion and solitude;
- j. whether Defendant Embarq tortiously and unjustly enriched itself;
- k. whether Defendants violated the Wiretap Act, Title 18, United States Code, Section 2510, et seq.;
- l. whether Defendants violated the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, Title 18, United States Code, Section 1030, et seq.
- m. whether Defendants tortiously trespassed upon Users' personal computers;
- n. whether Plaintiffs and Class Members are entitled to damages, injunctive relief, and other equitable relief as a result of the consequences of Defendants' conduct; and
- o. if so, what is the measure of those damages and the nature of injunctive and other equitable relief.

70. Defendants engaged in a common course of conduct giving rise to the legal rights sought to be enforced by the Class Members. Similar or identical statutory and common law violations, business practices, and injuries are involved. Individual questions, if any, pale by comparison to the numerous common questions that dominate.

71. The injuries sustained by the Class Members flow, in each instance, from a common nucleus of operative facts. In each case, without authorization, through an ongoing, routinized, and common course of conduct, Defendants deployed the Appliance and caused Class

Members' communications to be intercepted; caused Class Members to be monitored, identified, and tracked in their Internet activity; invaded Class Members' privacy; and tampered with their communications and personal computers.

72. *Typicality*: Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of other members of the Class, as the Plaintiffs and other Class Members were all subjected to Defendants' identical wrongful conduct based upon the same transactions which occurred uniformly in regards to the Plaintiffs and to the Class.

73. *Adequacy*: Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class. Plaintiffs are familiar with the basic facts that form the bases of the proposed Class Members' claims. Plaintiffs' interests do not conflict with the interests of the other Class Members that they seek to represent. Plaintiffs have retained counsel competent and experienced in class action litigation and intend to prosecute this action vigorously. Plaintiffs' counsel has successfully prosecuted complex actions including consumer protection class actions. Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' counsel will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class Members.

74. *Superiority*: The class action device is superior to other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of the claims of Plaintiffs and the proposed Class Members. The relief sought per individual member of the Class is small given the burden and expense of individual prosecution of the potentially extensive litigation necessitated by the conduct of Defendants. Furthermore, it would be virtually impossible for the Class Members to seek redress on an individual basis. Even if the Class Members, themselves, could afford such individual litigation, the court system could not.

75. Individual litigation of the legal and factual issues raised by the conduct of Defendants would increase delay and expense to all parties and to the court system. The class

action device presents far fewer management difficulties and provides the benefits of a single, uniform adjudication, economies of scale and comprehensive supervision by a single court.

76. Given the similar nature of the Class Members' claims and the material similarity in the state statutes and common laws upon which the Class Members' claims are based, a nationwide class will be easily managed by the Court and the parties.

77. In the alternative, the Class may be certified because:

a. the prosecution of separate actions by the individual members of the Class would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual Class Members, which would establish incompatible standards of conduct by Defendants;

b. the prosecution of separate actions by individual Class Members would create a risk of adjudications with respect to them which would, as a practical matter, be dispositive of the interests of other Class Members not parties to the adjudications, or would substantially impair or impede other Class Members' their ability to protect their interests; and

c. Defendants have acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Class as a whole, thereby making appropriate final and injunctive relief with respect to the members of the Class as a whole.

### COUNT I

#### **(Invasion of Privacy by Intrusion Upon Seclusion: On Behalf of the Class)**

78. Plaintiffs incorporate the above allegations as if fully set forth herein.

79. Defendants' interception and inspection of Users' Internet communications and its identification and monitoring of individual Users, as alleged above, including the allegations of paragraph 59 in section F, "User Consequences," constituted tortious invasion of privacy by its intrusion upon the solitude and seclusion of Users' private affairs that would be highly offensive and objectionable to a reasonable person.

80. Defendants' tampering with Users' communications and personal computers as alleged above, including the allegations in section F, "User Consequences," constituted tortious invasion of privacy by its intrusion upon the solitude and seclusion of Users' private affairs that would be highly offensive and objectionable to a reasonable person.

81. Plaintiffs and Class Members were harmed in the loss of the seclusion and solitude in their ability to communicate via the Internet and the seclusion and solitude of their Internet communications, and of which harm Defendants were the cause.

82. Accordingly, for Defendants' invasions of privacy by its intrusion upon Plaintiffs' and Class Members' solitude and seclusion, Plaintiffs and Class Members seek the injunctive relief of an order requiring Defendants to cease and refrain from resuming such conduct; the equitable relief of an accounting of the precise nature, duration, and extent of Defendants' intrusion; such other equitable or declaratory relief as may be just and proper; and all such other relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

**COUNT II**  
**(Violations of the Electronic Communications Privacy Act,**  
**18 U.S.C. § 2510 et seq.: On Behalf of the Class)**

83. Plaintiffs incorporate the above allegations as if fully set forth herein.

84. Defendants' conduct, including that alleged in section A, "Defendants' Deployment of Appliance" and section B, "Interception and Use of Personally Identifiable Information," above, was in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2511(1)(a) because Defendants intentionally intercepted and endeavored to intercept Plaintiffs' and Class Members' electronic communications and procured NebuAd to intercept and endeavor to intercept Plaintiffs' and Class Members' electronic communications.

85. Defendants' conduct, including that alleged in section A, "Defendants' Deployment of Appliance" and section B, "Interception and Use of Personally Identifiable Information," above, was in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2511(1)(d) in that Defendants used and endeavored to use the contents of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' electronic communications, knowing and having reason to know that the information was obtain through interception in violation of Title 18, United States Code Section 2511(1).

86. Through Defendants' interception, endeavoring to intercept, use, and endeavoring to use Class Members' electronic communications, their electronic communications were in fact intercepted and intentional used in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Chapter 119. Accordingly, Class Members are entitled to:

- a. such preliminary and other equitable or declaratory relief as may be just and proper;
- b. damages computed as the greater of (i) the sum of the actual damages suffered by Plaintiffs and Class Members plus Defendants' profits made through the violative conduct alleged in this complaint; (ii) statutory damages for each Class Member of \$100 a day for each day of violation; or (iii) statutory damages of \$10,000 per User;
- c. punitive damages; and
- d. reasonable attorneys' fees and other litigation costs reasonably incurred.

**COUNT III**  
**(Violations of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act,**  
**18 U.S.C. § 1030 *et seq.*: On Behalf of the Class)**

87. Plaintiffs incorporate the above allegations as if fully set forth herein.

88. Defendants' conduct, including that alleged in section C, "Tampering with User Communications and Computers" and section F, "User Consequences," above, was in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1030, *et seq.*

89. Specifically, Defendants' conduct was in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1030(a)(2)(A) in that Defendants intentionally accessed computers without authorization and exceeded authorized access and thereby obtained information that consisted of and included the financial records of financial institutions; of card issuers, as defined in Title 15, United States Code, Section 1602(n); and from the files of consumer reporting agencies on consumers, as defined in the Fair Credit Reporting Act, Title 15, United States Code, Section 1681, *et seq.*

90. Defendants' conduct was in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1030(a)(5)(A) in that Defendants knowingly caused the transmission of programs, information, codes, or commands, and as a result of such conduct, intentionally and recklessly caused damage, without authorization, to protected computers and, as a result of such conduct, caused damage and loss.

91. Defendants' conduct was in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1030(a)(5)(B) in that Defendants intentionally accessed protected computers without authorization, and as a result of such conduct, recklessly caused damage, and such damage resulted in an aggregated loss of at least \$5,000 within a one-year period to each group of Plaintiffs and Class Members affected by each Appliance.

92. Defendants' conduct was in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1030(a)(5)(C) in that Defendants intentionally accessed protected computers without authorization, and as a result of such conduct, caused damage and loss.

93. Accordingly, for Defendants' conduct in violation of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, Plaintiffs and Class Members are entitled to compensation for Plaintiffs' and Class Members' economic damages and such injunctive and other equitable relief as may be just and proper.

**COUNT IV**  
**(Trespass to Chattels: On Behalf of the Class)**

94. Plaintiffs incorporate the above allegations as if fully set forth herein.

95. The common law prohibits the intentional intermeddling with personal property, including a computer in another's possession, which results in the deprivation of the use of the personal property or impairment of the condition, quality, or usefulness of the personal property.

96. Defendants, in its conduct alleged in this complaint, including the allegations of paragraph 63 in section F, "User Consequences," Defendants, in a relationship as a paid Internet service provider to Plaintiffs and Class Members and without authority or consent, interfered with and intermeddled with Plaintiffs' and Class Members' personal computers and Internet communications.

97. Defendants' conduct harmed Plaintiffs' and Class Members' personal property and diminished its value, quality, condition, and utility, and caused real and substantial damage to Plaintiffs and Class Members.

98. Defendants' acts constituted repeated and persistent trespass, nuisance, and intentional interference with Plaintiffs' and Class Members' use and enjoyment of their computers and communications, in violation of common law.

99. Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the Class, seek injunctive relief restraining Defendants from trespass to chattels, an award of damages to be determined at trial, and such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully prays for the following:

- (a) with respect to all counts, declaring the action to be a proper class action and designating Plaintiffs and their counsel as representatives of the Class;
- (b) as applicable to the Class *mutatis mutandis*, awarding injunctive and equitable relief including, *inter alia*:
  - (i) prohibiting Defendants from engaging in the acts alleged above;
  - (ii) requiring Defendants to disgorge all their ill-gotten gains to Plaintiffs and the other Class Members, or to whomever the Court deems appropriate;
  - (iii) requiring Defendants to delete all data wrongfully collected and retained through the acts alleged above;
  - (iv) requiring Defendants to provide Plaintiffs and the other Class Members a reasonably clear, conspicuous, effective, and permanent means to decline to participate in any data collection activities by means of the Appliance and any similar device, in any present or future iteration, whether connected to NebuAd or any other third party;
  - (v) awarding Plaintiffs and Class Members full restitution of all benefits wrongfully acquired by Defendants by means of the wrongful conduct alleged in this complaint; and
  - (vi) ordering an accounting and constructive trust imposed on the data, funds, and other assets obtained by unlawful means as alleged above, to avoid dissipation, fraudulent transfers, and concealment of such assets by Defendants;
- (c) for a preliminary and permanent injunction restraining Defendants and Defendants' officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and those in active concert or participation with any of them from:
  - (i) transmitting any information about Plaintiffs' or Class Members' activities on the internet for advertising purposes to any other websites, without fair, clear and conspicuous notice of the intent to transmit information, including a full description of all information potentially and/or actually available for transmission;
  - (ii) transmitting any information about Plaintiffs' or Class Members' activities on the internet for advertising purposes to any other websites, without fair, clear and conspicuous opportunity to decline the transmittal prior to any transmission of data or information;

- (d) awarding damages, including statutory damages where applicable, to the Class in an amount to be determined at trial;
- (e) awarding Plaintiffs reasonable attorney's fees and costs;
- (f) awarding pre- and post-judgment interest; and
- (g) granting such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

### **JURY TRIAL DEMAND**

Plaintiffs request trial by jury of all claims that may be so tried in the United States District Court for the District of Kansas, Kansas City court.

Dated: January \_\_, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

KATHLEEN KIRCH and TERRY  
KIRCH, individually and on behalf of all  
others similarly situated

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