

Verizon Sues Provider Of Fixed VoIP Services For Patent Infringement

On January 11, 2008, the Verizon companies filed a lawsuit against the Cox cable companies in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia for infringement of eight patents involving Voice over Internet Protocol (“VoIP”). The lawsuit is significant because Verizon is now seeking to expand the breadth and strength of its VoIP patent portfolio by targeting a provider of fixed VoIP services based upon its successful claims of patent infringement against Vonage. Four of the eight patents at issue in this lawsuit were also at issue in the Vonage case, which settled in October of last year after Vonage agreed to pay Verizon up to \$120 million.

The following eight patents are at issue in Verizon’s lawsuit against Cox::

- U.S. Patent No. 6,970,930 – Method and System of Providing Differentiated Services
- U.S. Patent No. 6,104,711 – Enhanced Internet Domain Name Server to Translate Information from a Public, Packet-Based Network
- U.S. Patent No. 6,430,275 – Enhanced Signaling for Terminating Resource

- U.S. Patent No. 6,137,869 – Network Session Management
- U.S. Patent No. 6,282,574 – Method, Server and Telecommunications System for Name Translation on a Conditional Basis and/or to a Telephone Number
- U.S. Patent No. 6,335,927 – Multi-Protocol Telecommunications Routing Optimization
- U.S. Patent No. 6,292,481 – Inter-Carrier Signaling and Usage Accounting Architecture for Internet Telephony
- U.S. Patent No. 6,636,597 – Method of and system for providing services in a communications network

A Verizon victory could have broad implications for other providers of VoIP services, particularly those which rely on DOCSIS. The lawsuit could also impact systems that support VoIP services, including systems that offer billing, routing and network management functionalities.

If you would like further information regarding the potential impact of the VoIP patent lawsuits and steps companies can take to protect themselves against similar lawsuits, please contact:

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