

1 Matthew K. Blackburn (SBN 261959)
mblackburn@diamondmccarthy.com
2 DIAMOND McCARTHY LLP
150 California Street Suite 2200
3 San Francisco, California 94111
4 T: 415.692.5200 | F: 415.263.9200

5 Allan B. Diamond (*pro hac vice to be filed*)
adiamond@diamondmccarthy.com
6 John Sample (*pro hac vice to be filed*)
john.sample@diamondmccarthy.com
7 DIAMOND McCARTHY LLP
8 909 Fannin Street, 37th Floor
Houston, Texas 77010
9 T: 713.333.5100 | F: 713.333.5199

10 *Attorneys for Plaintiffs*
11 NANTWORKS, LLC and
NANT HOLDINGS IP, LLC

12 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
13 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

15 NANTWORKS, LLC, and NANT
16 HOLDINGS IP, LLC,

17 Plaintiffs,

18 v.

19 NIAN TIC, INC.,

20 Defendant.
21

Case No. 3:20-cv-06262

COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

22
23 Plaintiffs NantWorks, LLC (“NantWorks”) and Nant Holdings IP, LLC
24 (“Nant IP”) (collectively, “Plaintiffs”), by and through their undersigned counsel, bring this
25 action for patent infringement under 35 U.S.C. § 271 against defendant Niantic, Inc.
26 (“Niantic” or “Defendant”) alleging, based upon personal knowledge with respect to
27 themselves and their own acts and on information and belief as to other matters, as follows:
28

INTRODUCTION

1
2 1. This is a civil action by plaintiffs NantWorks and Nant IP against
3 defendant Niantic to stop its infringement of U.S. Patent Nos. 10,403,051 (the
4 “‘051 Patent”), 10,614,477 (the “‘477 Patent”), and 10,664,518 (the “‘518 Patent”)
5 (collectively, the “Asserted Patents”), which claim groundbreaking augmented reality
6 (“AR”) and gaming systems and methods for using them.

7 2. Plaintiffs develop various technologies to advance healthcare,
8 commerce, and digital entertainment. NantWorks founder, Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong, comes
9 from a medical background, and has pioneered revolutionary new therapies for both cancer
10 and diabetes by combining medical, engineering, and other disciplines. He is passionate
11 about the innovative potential of converging disparate technologies and creative talents, and
12 his inventions have been recognized by the issuance of hundreds of patents worldwide
13 ranging from breakthrough cancer therapies to mobile location-based services. Dr. Soon-
14 Shiong also is an avid investor in entrepreneurial companies with game-changing
15 technologies in the fields of healthcare, education, science, and technology.

16 3. Through multiyear efforts, involving investments of tens of millions of
17 dollars and the work of dozens of employees, Plaintiffs have developed a wide array of
18 proprietary intellectual property relating to digital entertainment, including AR. As
19 innovators, Plaintiffs safeguard their valuable intellectual property and have patented the
20 cutting-edge features of their AR, image recognition, and gaming technologies that make
21 digital entertainment products useful, efficient, and engaging for the end-user, including the
22 Asserted Patents.

23 4. Defendant Niantic directly infringes the Asserted Patents by making,
24 using, offering to sell, and/or selling in the United States and/or importing into the United
25 States AR games (including its Pokémon Go Application (“Pokémon Go App”) and its
26 Harry Potter Application (“Harry Potter App”). When these AR games are downloaded
27 onto mobile devices, permitted to interact with backend servers, and used by Niantic, its
28 employees, or its agents, these games practice the inventions claimed in one or more claims

1 of each of the Asserted Patents, as detailed below.

2 5. Defendant Niantic also indirectly infringes the Asserted Patents by
3 inducing its customers and/or consumer end-users to directly infringe the Asserted Patents.
4 Niantic induces infringement by providing AR games, including its Pokémon Go App and
5 its Harry Potter App, that when downloaded onto mobile devices, which devices are
6 permitted to interact with backend servers, and used by customers and/or consumer end-
7 users for AR gaming, as directed and intended by Niantic, cause those customers and/or
8 end-users to practice the inventions claimed in one or more claims of the Asserted Patents,
9 as detailed below.

10 6. Plaintiffs bring this suit to stop Niantic's free-riding on their patented
11 technologies, and they seek damages and other relief for Niantic's infringement of the
12 Asserted Patents.

13 **THE PARTIES**

14 7. Plaintiff NantWorks, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company
15 with its principal place of business located at 9920 Jefferson Boulevard, Culver City,
16 California 90232. NantWorks is the exclusive licensee of patents covering digital
17 entertainment (such as AR and gaming technologies), including the Asserted Patents.

18 8. Plaintiff Nant Holdings IP, LLC is a Delaware limited liability
19 company with its principal place of business located at 9920 Jefferson Boulevard, Culver
20 City, California 90232. Nant IP owns patents covering digital entertainment (such as AR
21 and gaming technologies), including the Asserted Patents.

22 9. Defendant Niantic, Inc. is a Delaware corporation with its principal
23 place of business located at 2 Bryant Street, Suite 220, San Francisco, California 94105.
24 Niantic maintains offices in San Francisco, California, operates and owns the websites
25 located at www.nianticlabs.com and niantic.helpshift.com, and markets, offers, and
26 distributes throughout the United States (including in California and within this District) AR
27 gaming applications, including the Pokémon Go App and the Harry Potter App, that
28 infringe the Asserted Patents as set out herein.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1
2 10. This is an action for patent infringement arising under the Patent Laws
3 of the United States, 35 U.S.C. § 1 *et seq.* This Court has exclusive subject matter
4 jurisdiction over this Complaint and the matters asserted herein under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331
5 and 1338(a).

6 11. This Court has both general and specific personal jurisdiction over
7 Niantic, who has established minimum contacts with this forum such that the exercise of
8 jurisdiction over Niantic would not offend traditional notions of fair play and substantial
9 justice. Niantic is registered to do business in the State of California (Registration
10 No. C3815285). Niantic maintains regular and established places of business in California,
11 including its principal place of business in this District, and conducts continuous and
12 systematic business in California, including in this District and elsewhere in California. In
13 addition, Niantic has committed, and continues to commit, acts that infringe the Asserted
14 Patents in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271 in California (including in this District) by, among
15 other things, making, using, testing, offering to sell, selling, and/or importing products and
16 services that infringe the Asserted Patents, as set forth herein. In conducting business in
17 California and in this District, Niantic derives substantial revenue from the infringing
18 products being used, offered for sale, sold, and/or imported in California and this District.
19 These acts by Niantic have caused injury to Plaintiffs in California, including in this
20 District.

21 12. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 and 1400(b),
22 at least because Niantic has committed and continues to commit acts of direct and indirect
23 patent infringement in this District giving rise to this action, regularly conducts business in
24 this District, has a regular and established place of business in this District and employs
25 engineers and/or other personnel within this District, including at its principal place of
26 business in San Francisco, and is subject to personal jurisdiction in this District.

INTRADISTRICT ASSIGNMENT

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28 13. This is an intellectual property action to be assigned on a district-wide

1 basis under Civil Local Rule 3-2(c).

2 **BACKGROUND**

3 **NantWorks' Innovation**

4 14. Although the potential of digital entertainment (including AR and
5 gaming) was clear by 2011, developers faced daunting technical challenges in trying to
6 incorporate these technologies into mobile devices. Digital entertainment products had to
7 deliver on the promise of a fun and engaging experience at speeds and with a visual quality
8 that was unknown at that time in mobile devices.

9 15. That same year NantWorks was founded and invested in Fourth Wall
10 Studios, a Culver City, California-based company, to develop immersive storytelling
11 techniques for gaming. This began a four-year effort toward developing original digital
12 entertainment content to enable interaction with fictional worlds using mobile devices,
13 browsers, and even social networks.

14 16. Nantworks' engineers initially began conceptualizing an AR game,
15 which they would later call "Scavenger Hunt," and by December 2012 they had a fully
16 operational application which allowed teams of Nantworks' employees to use their mobile
17 devices and search for AR objects around the company's office during a NantWorks'
18 holiday party.

19 17. By 2013, Nantworks' AR technologies had caught the attention of
20 Jakks Pacific (a leading toy and consumer products company), which partnered with
21 Nantworks to develop AR toys using Nantworks' groundbreaking image recognition
22 technology to allow children to interact with associated AR characters using their mobile
23 device's camera:

1 objects along side real-world elements.” *See, e.g.,* ’051 Patent, 1/32-33. In one prior AR
2 system, users were given access to multiple, distinct, and separate AR layers, and users had
3 to manually select which layer of AR content to see. *See, e.g., id.,* 1/53-61. The ’051 Patent
4 explains that “users should be able to seamlessly access or interact with [AR] content as
5 naturally as they would interact with real-world elements.” *See, e.g., id.,* 1/63-67.

6 22. Then, the ’051 Patent explains that “[s]ome progress had been made
7 towards creating a seamless integration between user and augmented reality environments.”
8 *See, e.g., id.,* 2/1-3. After introducing several existing AR systems that allow some AR
9 content contextualization, the ’051 Patent notes that these systems “fail to appreciate that
10 objects within an environment or scene can interfere with each other to give rise to an
11 augmented reality experience.” *See, e.g., id.,* 2/3-29; *see also id.,* 2/37-41.

12 23. Also, “existing infrastructures fail to treat [AR] objects as distinct
13 manageable objects in an infrastructure agonistic [sic agnostic] manner....” *See, e.g., id.,*
14 3/8-11. Without the ability provided by the ’051 Patent, certain AR objects would always
15 appear on top of all other AR objects and could not appear to go behind any other AR
16 objects. For example, a gaming avatar (an AR object that is always visible) would not be
17 able to go behind or around other AR objects.

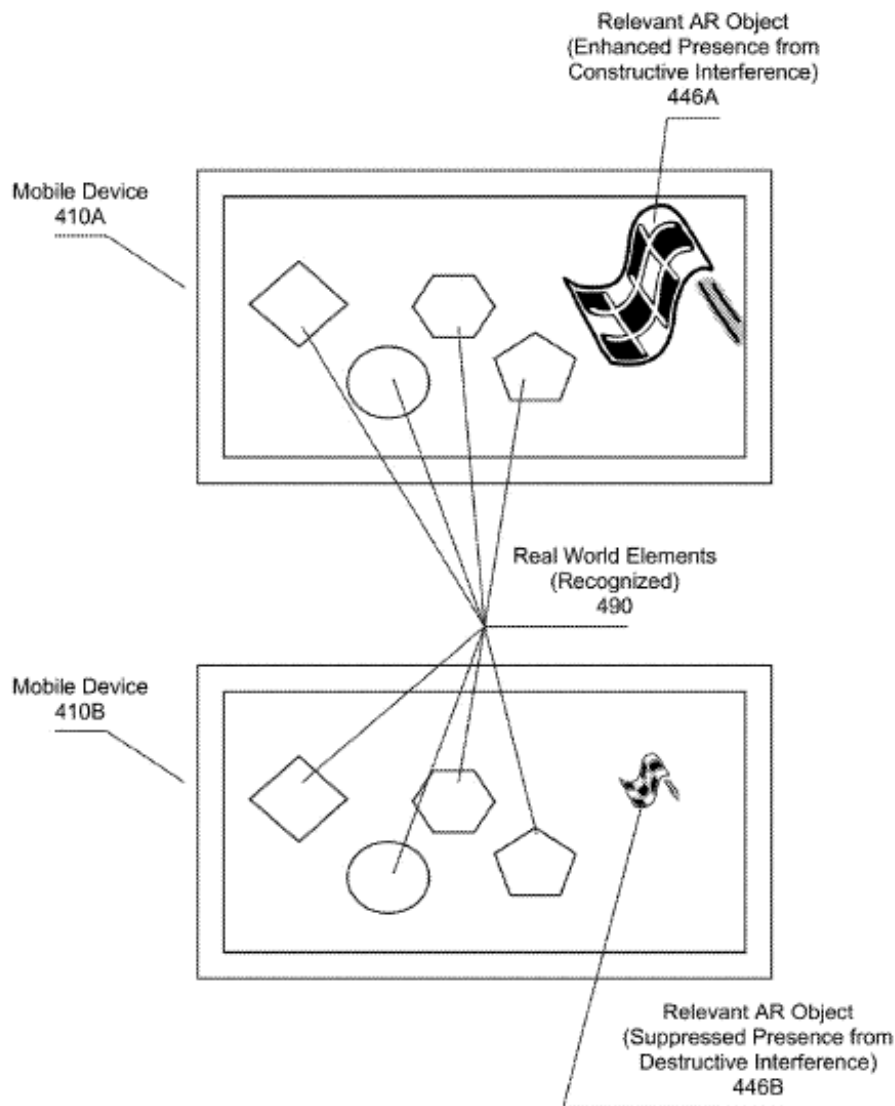
18 24. As AR objects proliferate, “individuals still require presentation of
19 relevant [AR] content especially when features, real or virtual, of an [AR] can interfere with
20 each other.” *See, e.g., id.,* 3/15-20.

21 25. The claims of the ’051 Patent are directed to technological
22 improvements in delivering a realistic AR experience with AR objects within an
23 environment or scene that can interfere with each other. The claims of the ’051 Patent relate
24 to particular solutions that provide AR objects within an environment or scene that can
25 interfere with each other. The ’051 Patent, for example, discloses the use of at least one
26 context related to the AR capable device and pertinent to the environment based at least on
27 device location, identifying relevant AR objects representing available AR objects
28 corresponding to the at least one context, and determining whether to alter presence of a

1 relevant AR object based on at least the device location and the virtual element attribute.
2 *See, e.g., id.*, 3/43-52; *see also id.*, 21/47-22/2. “Augmented reality context can now be
3 used to determine how elements in a scene, a location relevant to an individual, can interfere
4 with each other to give rise to relevant [AR] experiences.” *See, e.g., id.*, 3/49-52; *see also*
5 *id.*, 3/30-34.

6 26. As the '051 Patent explains, relevant AR objects can have an altered
7 presence due to interference among elements within a scene. *See, e.g., id.*, 17/63-66. The
8 nature of relevant AR objects, the context, and other factors relating to the scene can trigger
9 enhanced or suppressed presence. *See, e.g., id.*, 18/18-21; *see also id.*, 18/42-45. For
10 example, Figure 4 of the '051 Patent shows that an AR object can be either an enhanced
11 presence (reference numeral 446A below) or a suppressed presence (reference numeral
12 446B below):

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19 The technology of the '051 Patent enables this type of interaction as well as others, allowing
 20 a much more compelling AR experience.

21 27. Exemplary claim 1 of the '051 Patent, for example, reads as follows:

- 22 *1. An augmented reality (AR) platform system comprising:*
 23 *an AR object repository storing available AR objects in a first*
 24 *non-transitory computer readable memory; and*
 25 *an AR server coupled with the AR object repository and,*
 26 *upon execution of software instructions stored in a second non-*
 27 *transitory computer readable memory by a processor, is*
 28 *configured to:*

1 *obtain digital data representative of an environment of an AR*
2 *capable mobile device, the digital data including a device*
3 *location of the AR capable device and a virtual element*
4 *attribute;*
5 *determine at least one context related to the AR capable device*
6 *and pertinent to the environment based at least on the device*
7 *location;*
8 *identify relevant AR objects from the AR object repository*
9 *representing available AR objects corresponding to the at least*
10 *one context;*
11 *determine whether to alter presence of a relevant AR object*
12 *based on at least the device location and the virtual element*
13 *attribute; and*
14 *cause the AR capable device to render the relevant AR object*
15 *according to its altered presence.*

16 (*Id.*, 21/47-22/2).

17 28. According to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (“USPTO”) examiner, the best prior art was U.S. Patent Publication No. 2010/0017722 to Cohen (“Cohen”), which disclosed an AR gaming platform. ’051 Patent File History, Notice of Allowance, April 10, 2019, at 2 – 3. However, Cohen lacked several claimed features of the ’051 Patent, including among other features, “determin[ing] whether to alter presence of a relevant AR object based on at least the device location and a virtual element attribute” and “caus[ing] the AR capable device to render the relevant AR object according to its altered presence.” *Id.* at 3 – 4.

25 29. AR platform systems that determined whether to alter presence of a relevant AR object based on at least the device location and the virtual element attribute were not common or conventional at the time of the ’051 Patent.

28 30. The inventor of the ’051 Patent recognized that prior AR systems

1 failed to deliver an experience with objects within an environment or scene that can
2 interfere with each other to give rise to an AR experience. To the contrary, existing AR
3 systems sought to avoid interference among elements of the augmented reality by simply
4 forcing individuals to select which features to experience. *See, e.g.*, '051 Patent, 3/25-27.
5 Also, interference among elements was not managed according to the properties or
6 attributes of the specific AR elements. *See, e.g., id.*, 3/27-29.

7 31. As taught by the '051 Patent, the disclosed invention determines
8 whether to alter presence of a relevant AR object based on at least the device location and
9 the virtual element attribute. *See, e.g., id.*, Abstract, and 5/36-44.

10 32. Given the state of the art at the time of the invention of the
11 '051 Patent, the inventive concepts of the '051 Patent were not conventional, well-
12 understood, or routine. The '051 Patent discloses, among other things, an unconventional
13 and technological solution to an issue arising specifically in the context of AR capable
14 devices, and the delivery of AR content to such devices. The solution implemented by the
15 '051 Patent provides a specific and substantial improvement over prior AR systems,
16 resulting in an improved system for the delivery of AR to end-users. The '051 Patent
17 achieves this result by determining at least one context related to the AR capable device and
18 pertinent to the environment based at least on the device's location; identifying relevant AR
19 objects from the AR object repository representing available AR objects corresponding to
20 the at least one context; and determining whether to alter presence of a relevant AR object
21 based on at least the device location and the virtual element attribute. *See, e.g., id.*, Abstract
22 and 21/59-67.

23 33. Consistent with the problem addressed being rooted in providing AR
24 for AR capable devices, the '051 Patent's solutions also are rooted in that same technology
25 that cannot be performed with pen and paper or in the human mind. This technical context is
26 reflected in the '051 Patent's claims. For example, claim 1 recites "an AR object repository
27 storing available AR objects in a first non-transitory computer readable memory," "an AR
28 server coupled with the AR object repository," and "an AR capable mobile device." *See id.*,

1 21/49-56.

2 34. A person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the inventions
3 of the '051 Patent would not have understood how the inventions could or would be
4 performed solely using pen and paper or in the human mind. Using pen and paper would
5 ignore the stated purpose of the '051 Patent of providing AR content to an AR capable
6 mobile device and the problem it was specifically designed to address, which arose in the
7 context of needing an improved system and method for delivering AR content to mobile
8 devices. Doing so would also run counter to the inventor's detailed description of the
9 inventions and the length of the claims, and be a practical impossibility.

10 **NantWorks' '477 Patent**

11 35. U.S. Patent No. 10,614,477, entitled "Subscription bill service,
12 systems and methods," was duly and legally issued by the U.S Patent and Trademark Office
13 on April 7, 2020. A true and correct copy of the '477 Patent is attached as Exhibit B. The
14 '477 Patent identifies Patrick Soon-Shiong as the inventor. The patent application from
15 which the '477 Patent issued was filed on May 24, 2019. The '477 Patent claims priority
16 through a series of applications to, *inter alia*, U.S. Provisional Appl. No. 61/562,385, filed
17 November 21, 2011.

18 36. The claims of the '477 Patent are directed to technological
19 improvements in in-game transaction infrastructure technologies. *See, e.g.*, '477 Patent,
20 1/26-27. The '477 Patent explains that "existing transaction systems provide a single
21 provider the ability to conduct a transaction with a single user" and "lack the ability to
22 offer ... consumers a system that can reconcile aspects of a transaction among multiple ...
23 user accounts." *See, e.g., id.*, 1/38-43, 1/62-64, and 1/67-2/2. Also, "existing transaction
24 systems apparently fail to reconcile aspects of a transaction based at least in part on derived
25 object attributes." *See, e.g., id.*, 1/64-67.

26 37. The claims of the '477 Patent disclose particular solutions to the
27 technical problem of facilitating in-game transactions between two players. The
28 '477 Patent, for example, discloses the use of determining, within a computer game, at least

1 one object attribute based on physical location data associated with a first player whose
2 physical location has been acquired by a location sensor, determining transaction amounts
3 of game points the accounts of two players based on a reconciliation matrix and the at least
4 one object attribute based on the physical location data, and reconciling a game transaction,
5 when a criterion based on the physical location data of the first player is met within the
6 computer game, among the first account and the second account in accordance with the
7 determined transaction amounts.

8 38. Exemplary claim 20 of the '477 Patent, for example, reads as follows:

9 *20. A reconciliation system, comprising:*

10 *at least one processor communicatively coupled with at least*

11 *one memory storing instructions that, when executed by the at*

12 *least one processor, cause the at least one processor to:*

13 *determine, within a computer game, at least one object*

14 *attribute based on physical location data associated with a first*

15 *player whose physical location has been acquired by a location*

16 *sensor;*

17 *determine transaction amounts of game points for a first*

18 *account of the first player and a second account of a second*

19 *player, the transaction amounts being determined based on a*

20 *reconciliation matrix and the at least one object attribute*

21 *based on the physical location data; and*

22 *cause reconciliation of a game transaction, when a criterion*

23 *based on the physical location data of the first player is met*

24 *within the computer game, among the first account and the*

25 *second account in accordance with the determined transaction*

26 *amounts,*

27 *wherein the game transaction comprises a first transfer of at*

28 *least a first amount of game points associated with the first*

1 *account based on at least a portion of the transaction*
2 *attributed to a first entity associated with the first account and*
3 *a second transfer of at least a second amount of game points*
4 *associated with the second account based on at least a portion*
5 *of the transaction attributed to a second entity associated with*
6 *the second account.*

7 (*Id.*, 34/1-27).

8 39. According to the USPTO examiner, the claims of the '477 Patent
9 issued because, among other reasons, the prior art fails to teach the reconciliation step when
10 a criterion based on the physical location data of the first player is met within the computer
11 game. '477 Patent File History, Notice of Allowance, November 14, 2019, at 4.

12 40. Determining transaction amounts of game points based on a
13 reconciliation matrix and the at least one object attribute based on the physical location data
14 and then reconciling a game transaction, when a criterion based on the physical location
15 data of the first player is met within the computer game was not common or conventional at
16 the time of the '477 Patent.

17 41. The inventor of the '477 Patent recognized that prior transaction
18 infrastructure technologies were ill-suited for on-line transactions because they only
19 allowed a single provider the ability to conduct a transaction with a single user and lacked
20 the ability to offer providers or consumers a system that can reconcile aspects of a
21 transaction among multiple providers or user accounts.

22 42. Given the state of the art at the time of the inventions of the
23 '477 Patent, the inventive concepts of the '477 Patent were not conventional, well-
24 understood, or routine. The '477 Patent discloses, among other things, an unconventional
25 and technological solution to an issue arising specifically in the context of computer
26 gaming, and the ability of two players of the computer game to reconcile a transaction
27 between themselves. The solution implemented by the '477 Patent provides a specific and
28 substantial improvement over prior systems used for this purpose, resulting in an improved

1 system for reconciling in-game transactions between two players using mobile devices.
2 Rather than relying on one-dimensional transaction systems that provide a set transactional
3 price or value for a specific object, the '477 Patent inventor introduced the use of location
4 and context to the process of reconciling in-game transactions in order to enhance the game
5 experience. The '477 Patent achieves this result by reconciling a game transaction when a
6 criterion based on the physical location data of the first player is met within the computer
7 game. *See, e.g., '477 Patent, 31/51-53.*

8 43. Consistent with the problem addressed being rooted in computer
9 gaming, the '477 Patent's solutions also are rooted in that same technology that cannot be
10 performed with pen and paper or in the human mind. This technical context is reflected in
11 the '477 Patent's claims. For example, the claims recite "determin[ing], within a computer
12 game, at least one object attribute based on physical location data associated with a first
13 player whose physical location has been acquired by a location sensor," "determin[ing]
14 transaction amounts of game points for a first account of the first player and a second
15 account of a second player, the transaction amounts being determined based on a
16 reconciliation matrix and the at least one object attribute based on the physical location
17 data," and "caus[ing] reconciliation of a game transaction, when a criterion based on the
18 physical location data of the first player is met within the computer game, among the first
19 account and the second account in accordance with the determined transaction amounts."
20 *See, e.g., id., 34/6-20.*

21 44. A person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the inventions
22 of the '477 Patent would not have understood how the inventions could or would be
23 performed solely using pen and paper or in the human mind. Using pen and paper would
24 ignore the stated purpose of the '477 Patent of reconciling transactions within a computer
25 game and the problem it was specifically designed to address, which arose in the context of
26 needing an improved system and method for reconciling in-game transactions between two
27 players. Doing so would also run counter to the inventor's detailed description of the
28 inventions and the length of the claims, and be a practical impossibility.

NantWorks' '518 Patent

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2 45. U.S. Patent No. 10,664,518, entitled “Wide Area Augmented Reality
3 Location-Based Services,” was duly and legally issued by the U.S Patent and Trademark
4 Office on May 26, 2020. A true and correct copy of the '518 Patent is attached as Exhibit
5 C. The '518 Patent identifies David McKinnon, Kamil Wnuk, Jeremi Sudol, Matheen
6 Siddiqui, John Wiacek, Bing Song, and Nicholas J. Witchey as the inventors. The patent
7 application from which the '518 Patent issued was filed on October 26, 2017. The '518
8 Patent claims priority through a series of applications to, *inter alia*, U.S. Provisional Appl.
9 No. 61/892,238, filed October 17, 2013.

10 46. The claims of the '518 Patent are directed to improved AR service
11 technologies. *See, e.g.*, '518 Patent, 1/15-16. The '518 Patent explains, with the
12 popularization of AR, attempts had been made to employ object recognition and location
13 tracking. *See, e.g., id.*, 1/26-31. One prior art system “schedule[s] content distribution to a
14 mobile device by storing different locations, collecting user location data over a period of
15 time, collecting wireless signal strength data, and scheduling pre-caching of content to the
16 device if the user is predicted to be at a location with poor signal strength.” *See, e.g., id.*,
17 1/48-55.

18 47. However, these known references “fail to consider that areas have
19 various views of interest, and fail to differentiate between sub-areas based on AR content
20 densities.” *See, e.g., id.*, 2/1-5. Existing location-based AR systems “fail to contemplate
21 segmenting an area into clusters based on what is viewable or what AR content is
22 available.” *See, e.g., id.*, 2/5-8.

23 48. The '518 Patent discloses particular solutions to the technical problem
24 of providing AR content to mobile devices. The '518 Patent, for example, explains that “a
25 device (e.g., a mobile device, a kiosk, a tablet, a cell phone, a laptop, a watch, a vehicle, a
26 server, a computer, etc.)” is configured “to obtain at least a portion of the subset based on
27 the tile map (e.g., based on the device's location in relation to the tiles of a tile map, etc.),
28 and to present at least a portion of the AR content objects on a display of the device (e.g.,

1 instantiate the object, etc.).” *See, e.g., id.*, 3/54-61. “[T]he disclosed techniques provide
2 many advantageous technical effects including providing augmented reality content to a
3 user device based on a precise location of the user device relative to one or more tiles of a
4 tessellated area associated with view(s) of interest.” *See, e.g., id.*, 4/48-52; *see also id.*,
5 4/63-67 and 16/42-52. “Tessellated” refers to the area being composed of a pattern of
6 repeated shapes that fit together closely without gaps or overlaps such as square ceramic
7 tiles on a bathroom wall or rectangular bricks in a walkway.

8 49. Exemplary claim 1 of the ’518 Patent, for example, reads as follows:

9 *1. A device capable of rendering augmented reality (AR), the*
10 *device comprising:*
11 *at least one sensor, including a location sensor;*
12 *a display;*
13 *a non-transitory computer readable memory storing software*
14 *instructions; and*
15 *at least one processor coupled with the non-transitory*
16 *computer readable memory, the at least one sensor, and the*
17 *display; and,*
18 *upon execution of the software instructions, is configurable to:*
19 *obtain sensor data from the at least one sensor*
20 *wherein the sensor data includes a device location obtained*
21 *from the location sensor;*
22 *obtain an area of interest via an area database based on at*
23 *least the device location within the sensor data;*
24 *access an area tile map of the area of interest,*
25 *the area tile map represented by a set of tile subareas that*
26 *includes one or more tessellated tiles from a tessellated tile*
27 *map;*

1 *identify a tile subarea from the set of tile subareas based at*
2 *least in part on the device location relative to one or more*
3 *locations of tile subareas from the set of tile subareas,*
4 *wherein the identified tile subarea covers at least a portion of*
5 *the area of interest, and*
6 *wherein one or more tessellated tiles within the identified tile*
7 *subarea are associated with one or more AR content objects;*
8 *populate the non-transitory computer readable memory with at*
9 *least one of the one or more AR content objects associated with*
10 *the one or more tessellated tiles corresponding with the*
11 *identified tile subarea; and*
12 *render the at least one of the one or more AR content objects*
13 *that is associated with the identified tile subarea on the display*
14 *based on a view of interest.*

15 50. According to the USPTO examiner, the closest prior art was a
16 combination of two references: U.S. Patent Publication No. 2012/0075342 to Choubassi
17 (“Choubassi”) and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2015/0172626 to Martini (“Martini”). The
18 examiner said that Choubassi’s AR content management device obtained an initial map of
19 an area of interest, obtained AR content for a set of views from the area of interest, and then
20 established AR experience clusters. ’518 Patent File History, Notice of Allowance, January
21 21, 2020, at 2 – 3. Martini also was said to disclose an AR presentation system “in
22 conjunction with a plurality of views of interest for an area of interest” and “discloses the
23 generation of a tile map for detecting the presence of a real object within an image.”
24 ’518 Patent File History, Notice of Allowance, January 21, 2020, at 3 – 4. However, the
25 examiner concluded that the claims of the ’518 Patent should issue because, among other
26 reasons, “the closest prior art ... fails to disclose and/or teach” all of the recited steps.
27 ’518 Patent File History, Notice of Allowance, January 21, 2020, at 4. Neither Choubassi
28 nor Martini used tessellated maps of an area of interest for binding AR content objects to the

1 tiles as subareas of interest, and both fail to disclose “an area tile map” with “a set of tile
2 subareas that includes one or more tessellated tiles from a tessellated tile map”; and “one or
3 more tessellated tiles within the identified tile subarea are associated with one or more AR
4 content objects;” ’518 Patent File History, Notice of Allowance, January 21, 2020, at 4.

5 51. Identifying a tile subarea based at least in part on the device location
6 relative to one or more locations of tile subareas, having one or more tessellated tiles
7 associated with one or more AR content objects, and populating the non-transitory
8 computer readable memory with at least one of the one or more AR content objects
9 associated with the one or more tessellated tiles corresponding with the identified tile
10 subarea was not common or conventional at the time of the ’518 Patent.

11 52. The inventors of the ’518 Patent recognized that known AR rendering
12 devices contemplate refining location identification or pre-caching content based on
13 location information, but these prior references fail to contemplate segmenting an area into
14 clusters based on what is viewable or what AR content is available. *See, e.g.*, ’518 Patent,
15 2/1-8. As taught by the ’518 Patent, the disclosed invention identifies a location of a device
16 at or near a tile of a tessellated area of interest and auto-populates the device with pre-
17 selected content objects based upon the identified location. *See, e.g., id.*, 4/63-67.

18 53. Given the state of the art at the time of the inventions of the
19 ’518 Patent, the inventive concepts of the ’518 Patent were not conventional, well-
20 understood, or routine. The ’518 Patent discloses, among other things, an unconventional
21 and technological solution to an issue arising specifically in the context of augmented
22 reality for mobile devices, and the delivery of augmented reality content to such devices.
23 The solution implemented by the ’518 Patent provides a specific and substantial
24 improvement over prior systems used for this purpose, resulting in an improved system for
25 the delivery of augmented reality to mobile device users. The ’518 Patent achieves this
26 result by identifying a tile subarea based at least in part on the device location relative to
27 one or more locations of tile subareas with one or more tessellated tiles associated with one
28 or more AR content objects and populating the non-transitory computer readable memory

1 with at least one of the one or more AR content objects associated with the one or more
2 tessellated tiles corresponding with the identified tile subarea.

3 54. Consistent with the problem addressed being rooted in AR for mobile
4 devices, the '518 Patent's solutions also are rooted in that same technology that cannot be
5 performed with pen and paper or in the human mind. This technical context is reflected in
6 the '518 Patent's claims. For example, the claims recite "[a] device capable of rendering
7 augmented reality," "a location sensor," "a display," "a non-transitory computer readable
8 memory storing software instructions," and "at least one processor," and describe that the
9 software instructions include "obtain[ing] an area of interest via an area database based on
10 at least the device location within the sensor data," "access[ing] an area tile map of the area
11 of interest," "identify[ing] a tile subarea ... based at least in part on the device location
12 relative to one or more locations of tile subareas" and "one or more tessellated tiles ...
13 associated with one or more AR content objects," and "populat[ing] the non-transitory
14 computer readable memory with at least one of the one or more AR content objects
15 associated with the one or more tessellated tiles corresponding with the identified tile
16 subarea."

17 55. A person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the inventions
18 of the '518 Patent would not have understood how the inventions could or would be
19 performed solely using pen and paper or in the human mind. Using pen and paper would
20 ignore the stated purpose of the '518 Patent and the problem it was specifically designed to
21 address, which arose in the context of needing an improved system and method for
22 delivering augmented reality content to mobile devices. Doing so would also run counter to
23 the inventors' detailed description of the inventions and the length of the claims, and be a
24 practical impossibility.

25 **Niantic's Direct Infringement of Plaintiffs' Patented Technologies**

26 56. Niantic is a venture-backed private company that publishes location-
27 based AR games for use on mobile devices, such as Android and iOS mobile phones or
28 tablets. Niantic's Pokémon Go App has proven to be quite popular and made \$3.6 billion in

1 global player spending during the first four years after it was released.

2 <https://sensortower.com/blog/pokemon-go-revenue-year-four>. Some 105 million users

3 downloaded the game onto their mobile devices in the United States over that time period.

4 *Id.* This has been made possible by Niantic’s illicit and unauthorized use of the proprietary
5 technology set out in Plaintiffs’ Asserted Patents.

6 57. Google first launched Niantic as an internal start-up, and in September
7 2012 its “Field Trip” app helped guide mobile phone users to interesting things around
8 them. This AR guide relied on location information from the user’s mobile device and
9 allowed users to immediately access and know what others already knew about the area
10 around the mobile device’s location.

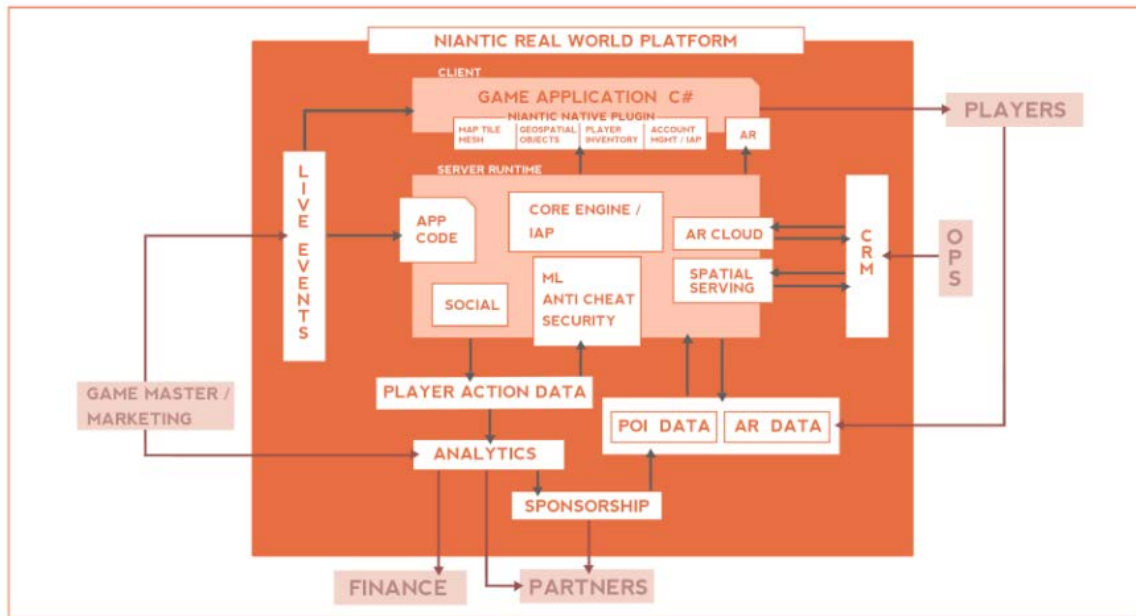
11 58. By 2014, Niantic had hired several former employees of Fourth Wall
12 Studios, including Jim Stewartson and Elan Lee. While at Fourth Wall Studios (prior to
13 joining Niantic), Stewartson had been involved in the development and/or testing of the
14 “Scavenger Hunt” AR game discussed above (also internally called “Captify”), as well as a
15 fantasy AR game called “Cathedral” and other digital entertainment technologies.

16 59. In October 2015, Niantic, Inc. was formally incorporated and spun out
17 of Google.

18 60. In July 2016, Niantic launched its Pokémon Go App (an AR game for
19 mobile devices) and sent people on scavenger hunts to collect Pokémon cartoon characters
20 years after the priority dates of Plaintiffs’ Asserted Patents. The Pokémon Go App is
21 designed to be downloaded onto Android or iOS-based mobile devices. The Pokémon Go
22 App uses the camera and GPS system of mobile devices as well as the “Niantic Real World
23 Platform” (discussed further below) to digitally superimpose AR objects onto digital
24 representations of the mobile devices’ current surroundings.

25 61. In December 2017, Niantic introduced a dynamic weather feature for
26 the Pokémon Go App that adjusts AR within the virtual environment based on the real-
27 world weather in the vicinity of the mobile device (“Dynamic Weather”), again years after
28 the priority dates of Plaintiffs’ Asserted Patents.

1 62. In 2019, Niantic posted an entry on its blog entitled “Designing a
2 planet-scale real-world AR platform” which describes the Niantic Real World Platform.
3 <https://nianticlabs.com/en/blog/nrwp-update/>. Niantic admits that “this technology
4 underpins the core server and client engines” of the Pokémon Go App and the Harry Potter
5 App. That entry also contained a high-level schematic representation of that platform
6 showing how players of Niantic’s games use applications on their “client” devices to
7 interact with Niantic’s servers, AR cloud, and AR data repository:



8 63. In June 2019, Niantic formally released its Harry Potter App (another
9 AR game for mobile devices), years after the priority dates of Plaintiffs’ Asserted Patents.
10 The Harry Potter App is designed to be downloaded onto Android or iOS-based mobile
11 devices. The Harry Potter App uses the camera and GPS system of mobile devices as well
12 as the Niantic Real World Platform (discussed above) to digitally superimpose AR objects
13 onto digital representations of the mobile devices’ current surroundings. The Harry Potter
14 App had the Dynamic Weather feature when it was launched, again years after the priority
15 dates of Plaintiffs’ Asserted Patents.
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17 64. The Pokémon Go App and the Harry Potter App are the primary
18 games Niantic publishes in the United States. Niantic markets, offers, and distributes the
19 infringing Pokémon Go App and the infringing Harry Potter App in and within the United
20 States.
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1 States, including through distribution platforms such as the Apple App Store, Google
2 Android Play Store, and the Samsung Galaxy Store.

3 65. Niantic has directly infringed, and continues to directly infringe, the
4 Asserted Patents by, for example, making, using, offering to sell, and/or selling in the
5 United States, and/or importing into the United States without authority, products,
6 equipment, software, and/or services that practice one or more claims of each of the
7 Asserted Patents, including without limitation systems that include and/or interact with
8 Android and iOS mobile devices (such as mobile phones and tablet computers) and the
9 Pokémon Go App and the Harry Potter App. For example, Niantic tests, directs, or controls
10 others to download its Pokémon Go App and its Harry Potter App onto various mobile
11 devices and to test its Pokémon Go App and its Harry Potter App to ensure that these AR
12 games are hardware and software compliant.

13 **Niantic's Indirect Infringement of Plaintiffs' Patented Technologies**

14 66. Niantic has indirectly infringed, and continues to indirectly infringe,
15 the Asserted Patents by inducing third parties to directly infringe those patents. Niantic has
16 induced, and continues to induce, direct infringement of the Asserted Patents by customers
17 and/or end users of its Pokémon Go App and its Harry Potter App.

18 67. Niantic encourages users of Android and iOS mobile devices (such as
19 mobile phones and tablet computers) in the United States to download and use the Pokémon
20 Go App and the Harry Potter App, and such users do download and use the Pokémon Go
21 App and the Harry Potter App in a manner that Niantic intends such applications to be used.
22 Niantic also has designed, developed, tested, and used the Pokémon Go App and the Harry
23 Potter App in and within the United States.

24 68. Niantic performs the acts that constitute induced infringement with
25 knowledge of the Asserted Patents and with knowledge or willful blindness that the induced
26 acts would constitute infringement. At the very latest, Niantic has had actual knowledge of
27 the Asserted Patents, and has had actual knowledge of or has been willfully blind to its
28 infringement of the Asserted Patents and the infringement of the Asserted Patents by its

1 customers and/or end users of the Pokémon Go App and the Harry Potter App as of the date
2 that it was served with a copy of this Complaint.

3 69. Niantic knows the Pokémon Go App and the Harry Potter App in
4 combination with mobile devices and its own back-end servers constitute infringement of
5 the Asserted Patents.

6 70. Niantic advertises the Pokémon Go App and the Harry Potter App,
7 publishes promotional literature encouraging customers and/or end users to operate the
8 Pokémon Go App and the Harry Potter App, creates and/or distributes in-app support for
9 the Pokémon Go App and the Harry Potter App that provides instruction and/or encourages
10 infringing use, and offers technical assistance to its customers and/or end users that provide
11 instructions on and/or encourage infringing use including on its websites:

12 nianticlabs.com/en/support/pokemongo, nianticlabs.com/en/support/wizardsunite,
13 niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-go, and niantic.helpshift.com/a/hpwizardsunite.

14 71. Niantic encourages and facilitates its customers and/or end users to
15 infringe the Asserted Patents by instructing them to download Niantic's Pokémon Go App
16 and Niantic's Harry Potter App, instructing them to operate these programs on the
17 customers' or end users' mobile devices, and providing access to the Niantic Real World
18 Platform (including its backend servers and AR data).

19 72. Customers and/or end users of Niantic's Pokémon Go App and
20 Niantic's Harry Potter App, pursuant to Niantic's instructions, indicators, and
21 advertisements; thus each directly infringe the Asserted Patents. Niantic continues to
22 encourage and facilitate the direct infringement of the Asserted Patents by customers and/or
23 end users of the Pokémon Go App and the Harry Potter App.

24 **COUNT I: INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 10,403,051**

25 73. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege all of the foregoing
26 paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

27 74. Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 282, the '051 Patent is valid and enforceable
28 under United States Patent Laws.

1 75. Niantic has had actual notice of the '051 Patent at least as of the date
2 that it was served with a copy of this Complaint, which identifies the '051 Patent.

3 76. Each of the Pokémon Go App and the Harry Potter App (the
4 “'051 Accused Products”), including the use in accordance with the guidance and
5 instructions that Niantic provides for these products, infringes at least claim 1 of the
6 '051 Patent, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents.

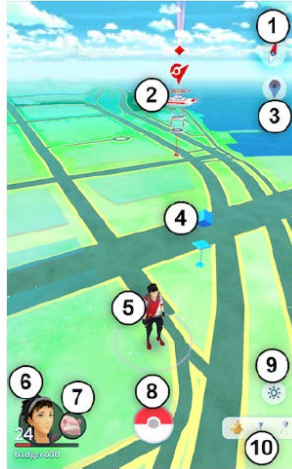
7 77. Exemplary claim 1 of the '051 Patent is reproduced above at
8 paragraph 27.

9 78. The '051 Patent Accused Products operate, in part on Niantic
10 customers' and/or end users' mobile devices, such as a mobile phones or tablets, which have
11 processor(s) and storage memory. The '051 Patent Accused Products operate together with
12 the Niantic Real World Platform (such as its backend servers) as an AR platform system as
13 described below.

14 79. The '051 Patent Accused Products use the Niantic Real World
15 Platform (shown above at paragraph 62), which includes a “SERVER RUNTIME” and “AR
16 CLOUD” that interact with the game application software (either the Pokémon Go App or
17 the Harry Potter App) on the user's mobile device. *See also*
18 <https://nianticlabs.com/en/blog/launch/> (“massively scalable server”). That platform
19 includes stored “AR DATA,” which is an AR object repository or database of available AR
20 objects. The server is coupled to and can access the AR data.

21 80. The '051 Patent Accused Products operate to obtain digital data
22 representative of an environment of an AR capable mobile device. For example, when the
23 Pokémon Go App is operating (executed), it can display “a Map View” that depicts the real-
24 world location around the mobile device running the Pokémon Go App, as shown below:

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<https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-go/?p=web&s=getting-started&f=map-view>. The digital data include the location of the mobile device (depicted above with the avatar #5) and nearby Pokémon (depicted above at #10). The specific Pokémon type is a virtual element attribute. Although not shown in the specific scene reproduced down, if a given Pokémon was located within that scene, it would be reproduced at its unique location (a virtual element attribute) and using its particular image (a virtual element attribute).

81. Similarly, when the Harry Potter App is operating (executed), it can display “an Overworld Map View” that depicts the real-world location around the mobile device running the Harry Potter App, as shown below:



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14 <https://gamepress.gg/wizardsunite/guide/wizards-unite-map-and-overworld-guide>. The
15 digital data include the mobile device location (depicted above with the green avatar) and
16 nearby Foundables (colored discs) within the depicted scene. The specific Foundable type is
17 a virtual element attribute. Its unique location is a virtual element attribute. Its particular
18 image is a virtual element attribute.

19 82. The '051 Patent Accused Products operate to determine a context
20 related to the AR capable device and pertinent to the environment based at least on the
21 device location. For example, when the Pokémon Go App is operating (executed), it
22 considers the real-world environment of the user's mobile device during game play, which
23 changes in-game probability of encountering particular Pokémon types. Water-type
24 Pokémon appear more frequently when the user's mobile device is near a body of water,
25 such as a lake, ocean, etc. [https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-go/?p=web&s=getting-](https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-go/?p=web&s=getting-started&f=finding-catching-wild-pokemon&l=en)
26 [started&f=finding-catching-wild-pokemon&l=en](https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-go/?p=web&s=getting-started&f=finding-catching-wild-pokemon&l=en) ("Some wild Pokémon appear only in
27 certain environments and climates. For example, some Pokémon may appear only near
28 lakes, oceans, or other bodies of water."). Also, the current weather at the device's location

1 changes in-game probability of encountering particular Pokémon types.

2 <https://nianticlabs.com/en/blog/decdevupdate-weather/>. The Pokémon Go App also tailors
3 interactions with those Pokémon depending on the real-world environment, real-world
4 time, and real-world weather (e.g., increasing user bonuses for capturing certain Pokémon).
5 *See, e.g.*, <https://nianticlabs.com/en/blog/decdevupdate-weather/> (Pokémon-types that are
6 suited to the weather “yield bonus Stardust” and “are more likely to have greater potential in
7 battle”); [https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-go/?p=web&s=finding-evolving-
8 hatching&f=weather-boosts&l=en](https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-go/?p=web&s=finding-evolving-hatching&f=weather-boosts&l=en) (Water-type Pokémon “tend to have higher CP and
9 perform better in battle” in wet conditions).

10 83. Similarly, when the Harry Potter App is operating (executed), it
11 considers the real-world environment of the user’s mobile device during game play, which
12 changes in-game probability of encountering particular Foundables. The Harry Potter App
13 “pairs the weather and environmental conditions in the real world with the conditions
14 [experienced] in the game.”

15 [https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/hpwizardsunite/?p=web&s=getting-started&f=weather-
16 conditions&l=en](https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/hpwizardsunite/?p=web&s=getting-started&f=weather-conditions&l=en). For example, weather conditions affect the spawn (appearance) rate of
17 certain Foundables in the game. [https://www.imore.com/bad-weather-warnings-affecting-
18 gameplay-harry-potter-wizards-unite-heres-fix](https://www.imore.com/bad-weather-warnings-affecting-gameplay-harry-potter-wizards-unite-heres-fix).

19 84. The ’051 Patent Accused Products also operate to identify relevant AR
20 objects from the AR object repository representing available AR objects corresponding to
21 the at least one context. For example, the Pokémon Go App identifies particular Pokémon
22 that are available for in-game interaction and have certain attributes based on the context
23 determined above. In particular weather conditions (e.g., sunny conditions), the Pokémon
24 Go App identifies grass, ground, and fire-type Pokémon AR objects to spawn, or appear,
25 more frequently near the user for display on Map View (available AR objects):



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11 [https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-go/?p=web&l=en%2F&s=finding-evolving-and-](https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-go/?p=web&l=en%2F&s=finding-evolving-and-hatching&f=weather-boosts)
12 [hatching&f=weather-boosts](https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-go/?p=web&l=en%2F&s=finding-evolving-and-hatching&f=weather-boosts). Grass, ground, and fire-type Pokémon share the attribute of
13 being boosted when the current weather at the mobile device's location is sunny. *Id.*

14 85. Similarly, when the Harry Potter App is operating (executed), it
15 identifies particular Foundables that are available for in-game interaction and have certain
16 attributes based on the context determined above. "Some Foundables can only be found in
17 certain weather conditions, time of day, or moon phases in the game. For example, you'll
18 only be able to find a werewolf during or around the time of a full moon."

19 <https://www.imore.com/harry-potter-wizards-unite-beginners-guide>. Thus, certain
20 Foundable AR objects appear more frequently near the user for display on Map View
21 (available AR objects) based on the context determined above.

22 86. The '051 Patent Accused Products also operate to determine whether
23 to alter presence of a relevant AR object based on the device's location and the virtual
24 element attribute. For example, when the Pokémon Go App is operating (executed), it
25 determines whether to display a Pokémon based on the device's real-world location and the
26 in-game location of the Pokémon AR object. If the user's avatar and the Pokémon AR
27 object are close enough, the Pokémon AR object is displayed on the Map View:
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<https://nianticlabs.com/en/blog/pokemon-go-first-look/>. The Squirtle AR object (blue turtle) is in proximity to the user's avatar and it is displayed, which other Pokémon AR objects are indicated as being nearby and others are not displayed at all. Particular Pokémon types (a virtual element attribute) appear more frequently or less frequently depending on the device's real-world location and/or the current weather at that real-world location (e.g., water type Pokémon are more common near bodies of water, and certain Pokémon only appear in particular areas of the world). [https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-go/?p=web&s=getting-started&f=finding-catching-wild-pokemon&l=en](https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-go/?p=web&s=getting-started&f=finding-catching-wild-pokemon&l=en;); <https://nianticlabs.com/en/blog/pokemon-go-first-look/>; <https://nianticlabs.com/en/blog/decdevupdate-weather/>. Also, Pokémon AR objects move during game play and their particular locations (a virtual element attribute) vary with time. <https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-go/?p=web&s=getting-started&f=finding-catching-wild-pokemon&l=en>. In this way, the presence of a particular Pokémon AR object within a scene (e.g., whether it is visible) and its size within that scene varies.

87. Similarly, when the Harry Potter App is operating (executed), it determines whether to display a Foundable based on the device's real-world location and the in-game location of the Foundable AR object. If the user's avatar and the Foundable AR object are close enough, the Foundable AR object is displayed on the Map View. Particular Foundable types (a virtual element attribute) appear more frequently or less frequently

1 depending on the device's real-world location and/or the current weather at that real-world
2 location. <https://www.imore.com/harry-potter-wizards-unite-beginners-guide>. In this way,
3 the presence of a particular Foundable AR object within a scene (*e.g.*, whether it is visible)
4 and its size within that scene varies.

5 88. Further, the '051 Patent Accused Products operate to cause the AR
6 capable device to render the relevant AR objects according to their altered presence. For
7 example, when the Pokémon Go App is operating (executed), it causes the user's mobile
8 device to display (or not display) at least some of the Pokémon AR objects:



18 <https://nianticlabs.com/en/blog/pokemon-go-first-look/>. In the image above, a Squirtle
19 Pokémon AR object is depicted in the Map View on the user's device. If the Squirtle
20 Pokémon AR object were more distant from the user's device or was located outside of the
21 current viewing area (*e.g.*, behind the user), it would be depicted as being nearby or would
22 not be displayed at all.

23 89. Similarly, when the Harry Potter App is operating (executed), it causes
24 the user's mobile device to display (or not display) at least some of the Foundable AR
25 objects:
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10 <https://gamepress.gg/wizardsunite/guide/wizards-unite-map-and-overworld-guide>. In the
11 image above, a Foundable, represented by the orange disc, is depicted in the Map View on
12 the user's device. If that Foundable were more distant from the user's device or was located
13 outside of the current viewing area (e.g., behind the user), it would not be displayed at all.

14 90. The '051 Accused Products are non-limiting examples, identified
15 based on publicly available information, and Plaintiffs reserve the right to identify
16 additional infringing activities, products, and services, including, for example, on the basis
17 of information obtained during discovery.

18 91. Each element of the claimed systems exists in the United States. In
19 violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271(a), Niantic has been and is directly infringing the '051 Patent,
20 either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, by making, using, offering to sell, and/or
21 selling in the United States, and/or importing into the United States, without authority or
22 license, the '051 Accused Products including the Pokémon Go App and the Harry Potter
23 App as well as associated backend servers and systems and/or mobile devices.

24 92. In violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271(b), Niantic has been and is indirectly
25 infringing the '051 Patent by inducing infringement of this patent by others, such as the
26 users of the Pokémon Go App and the Harry Potter App in the United States by making the
27 '051 Accused Products available for download onto Android and iOS mobile devices as
28 well as associated backend servers and systems.

1 93. Niantic’s affirmative act of making its Pokémon Go App and Harry
2 Potter App, cause the ’051 Accused Products to be used in a manner that infringes the
3 ’051 Patent. Niantic also provides guidance and instruction to third parties to use the
4 ’051 Accused Products in their normal and customary way to infringe the ’051 Patent.
5 Niantic further provides access to the Niantic Real World Platform to third parties to use the
6 ’051 Accused Products in their normal and customary way to infringe the ’051 Patent.

7 94. Subject to discovery and review of Niantic’s Pokémon Go App and
8 Niantic’s Harry Potter App, Plaintiffs anticipate that additional claims of the ’051 Patent
9 may be infringed by Niantic as well.

10 95. As the direct and proximate result of Niantic’s conduct, Plaintiffs have
11 suffered and will continue to suffer, unless Niantic is enjoined by this Court, competitive
12 harm, irreparable injury, and damages in an amount to be proven at trial by Niantic’s
13 infringement of the ’051 Patent. Plaintiffs are entitled to recover from Niantic all damages
14 that Plaintiffs have sustained as a result of Niantic’s infringement of the ’051 Patent,
15 including without limitation not less than a reasonable royalty.

16 **COUNT II:INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 10,614,477**

17 96. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege all of the foregoing
18 paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

19 97. Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 282, the ’477 Patent is valid and enforceable
20 under United States Patent Laws.

21 98. Niantic has had actual notice of the ’477 Patent at least as of the date
22 that it was served with a copy of this Complaint, which identifies the ’477 Patent.

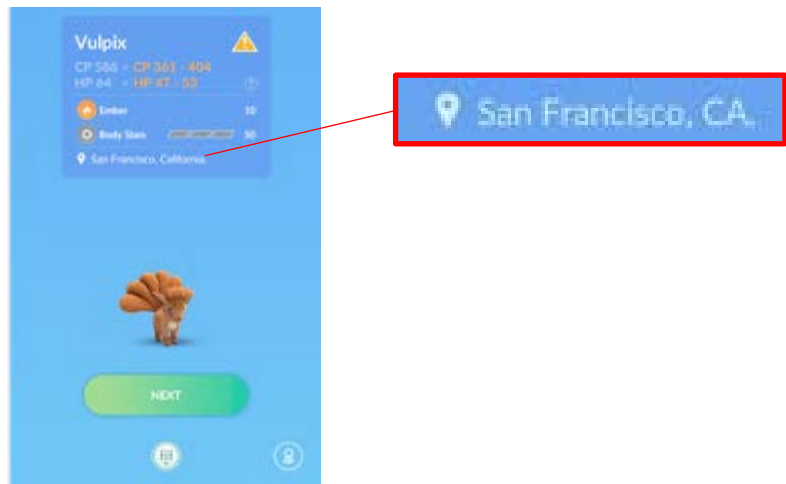
23 99. The Pokémon Go App (the “’477 Accused Product”), including the
24 use in accordance with the guidance and instructions that Niantic provides for these
25 products, infringes at least claim 20 of the ’477 Patent, either literally or under the doctrine
26 of equivalents.

27 100. Exemplary claim 20 of the ’477 Patent is reproduced above at
28 paragraph 38.

1 101. The '477 Patent Accused Product operates, in part on Niantic
2 customers' and/or end users' mobile devices, such as a mobile phones or tablets, which have
3 processor(s) and storage memory. The '477 Patent Accused Product operates together with
4 the Niantic Real World Platform (such as its backend servers) to reconcile in-game
5 transactions as described below.

6 102. The '477 Patent Accused Product operates to determine, within a
7 computer game (Pokémon Go), at least one object attribute based on physical location data
8 associated with a first player whose physical location has been acquired by a location
9 sensor. For example, when the Pokémon Go App is operating (executed), it obtains location
10 information from the Android or iOS device, which shows the device's current real-world
11 location.

12 103. To do this, the Pokémon Go App obtains sensor data from the device's
13 location sensor. When a particular Pokémon character is caught, that virtual object is tagged
14 or associated with the user's real world location. For example, the Vulpix character shown
15 below was captured in San Francisco, California:

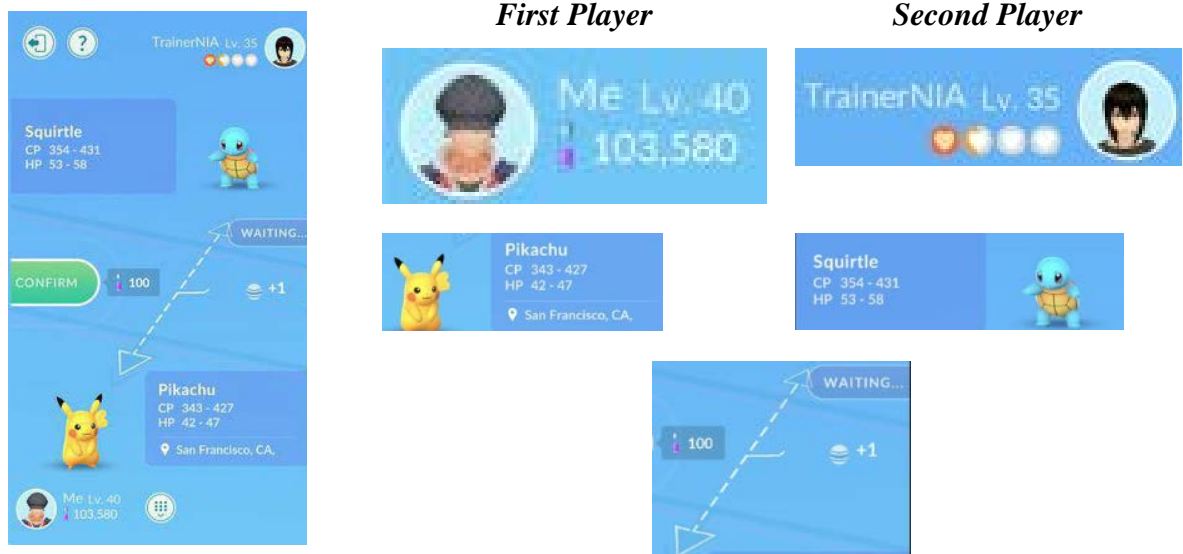


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24 [https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-go/?p=web&s=friends-gifting-and-](https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-go/?p=web&s=friends-gifting-and-trading&f=trading-pokemon)
25 [trading&f=trading-pokemon](https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-go/?p=web&s=friends-gifting-and-trading&f=trading-pokemon). The capture location of a particular Pokémon character is an
26 object attribute that is based on physical location data associated with the player.

27 104. With Pokémon trading, the '477 Patent Accused Product operates to
28 determine transaction amounts of game points for a transaction between two players (each

1 with their own account) based on a reconciliation matrix and the at least one object attribute
 2 based on the physical location data. For example, when the Pokémon Go App is operating
 3 (executed), after two players have selected particular Pokémon to trade, “[t]he amount of
 4 Stardust that is required for the trade will appear” and “the amount of Candy you’ve
 5 received through the trade” will be displayed, which is based “on the distance between
 6 where the two Pokémon were caught.” [https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-](https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-go/?p=web&s=friends-gifting-trading&f=trading-pokemon&l=en)
 7 [go/?p=web&s=friends-gifting-trading&f=trading-pokemon&l=en](https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-go/?p=web&s=friends-gifting-trading&f=trading-pokemon&l=en).

8 105. In the Pokémon Go trade shown below, each player must pay
 9 100 stardust to complete the trade transaction and each will receive a single candy.



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20 [https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidthier/2018/06/25/heres-how-much-stardust-it-costs-to-](https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidthier/2018/06/25/heres-how-much-stardust-it-costs-to-trade-pokemon-by-friend-level-in-pokemon-go/#47c231dd15f7)
 21 [trade-pokemon-by-friend-level-in-pokemon-go/#47c231dd15f7](https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidthier/2018/06/25/heres-how-much-stardust-it-costs-to-trade-pokemon-by-friend-level-in-pokemon-go/#47c231dd15f7). The amount of stardust
 22 required for a trading transaction “varies depending on the Pokémon and the friendship
 23 level between the two players making the trade.” [https://www.imore.com/pokemon-go-](https://www.imore.com/pokemon-go-trading)
 24 [trading](https://www.imore.com/pokemon-go-trading). “The amount of Candy you earn depends on the distance between where the two
 25 Pokémon were caught.” [https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-go/?p=web&s=friends-](https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-go/?p=web&s=friends-gifting-trading&f=trading-pokemon&l=en)
 26 [gifting-trading&f=trading-pokemon&l=en](https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-go/?p=web&s=friends-gifting-trading&f=trading-pokemon&l=en).

27 106. The '477 Patent Accused Product operates to cause game transactions
 28 to be reconciled when a criterion based on the physical location data of the first player is

1 met within the computer game among two user accounts. For example, in the Pokémon Go
2 App, when a trade is completed, the first and second players pay the required amount of
3 stardust and receive bonus candy. [https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-](https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-go/?p=web&s=friends-gifting-trading&f=trading-pokemon&l=en)
4 [go/?p=web&s=friends-gifting-trading&f=trading-pokemon&l=en](https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-go/?p=web&s=friends-gifting-trading&f=trading-pokemon&l=en). The transfers of stardust
5 and bonus candy are transfers of game points associated with a first account (the first
6 player) and associated with a second account (the second player). “Players must be
7 physically in the same location in order to trade.” [https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-](https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-go/?p=web&s=friends-gifting-trading&f=trading-pokemon&l=en)
8 [go/?p=web&s=friends-gifting-trading&f=trading-pokemon&l=en](https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-go/?p=web&s=friends-gifting-trading&f=trading-pokemon&l=en);
9 <https://www.gamesradar.com/pokemon-go-trading-guide/> (within 100m).

10 107. The ’477 Accused Product is a non-limiting example, identified based
11 on publicly available information, and Plaintiffs reserve the right to identify additional
12 infringing activities, products, and services, including, for example, on the basis of
13 information obtained during discovery.

14 108. Each element of the claimed systems exists in the United States. In
15 violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271(a), Niantic has been and is directly infringing the ’477 Patent,
16 either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, by making, using, offering to sell, and/or
17 selling in the United States, and/or importing into the United States, without authority or
18 license, the ’477 Accused Product including the Pokémon Go App as well as associated
19 backend servers and systems and/or mobile devices.

20 109. In violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271(b), Niantic has been and is indirectly
21 infringing the ’477 Patent by inducing infringement of this patent by others, such as the
22 users of the Pokémon Go App in the United States by making the ’477 Accused Product
23 available for download onto Android and iOS mobile devices as well as associated backend
24 servers and systems.

25 110. Niantic’s affirmative act of making its Pokémon Go App, cause the
26 ’477 Accused Product to be used in a manner that infringes the ’477 Patent. Niantic also
27 provides guidance and instruction to third parties to use the ’477 Accused Product in their
28 normal and customary way to infringe the ’477 Patent. Niantic further provides access to the

1 Niantic Real World Platform to third parties to use the '477 Accused Product in their
2 normal and customary way to infringe the '477 Patent.

3 111. Subject to discovery and review of Niantic's Pokémon Go App,
4 Plaintiffs anticipate that additional claims of the '477 Patent may be infringed by Niantic as
5 well.

6 112. As the direct and proximate result of Niantic's conduct, Plaintiffs have
7 suffered and will continue to suffer, unless Niantic is enjoined by this Court, competitive
8 harm, irreparable injury, and damages in an amount to be proven at trial by Niantic's
9 infringement of the '477 Patent. Plaintiffs are entitled to recover from Niantic all damages
10 that Plaintiffs have sustained as a result of Niantic's infringement of the '477 Patent,
11 including without limitation not less than a reasonable royalty.

12 **COUNT III: INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 10,664,518**

13 113. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege all of the foregoing
14 paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

15 114. Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 282, the '518 Patent is valid and enforceable
16 under United States Patent Laws.

17 115. Niantic has had actual notice of the '518 Patent at least as of the date
18 that it was served with a copy of this Complaint, which identifies the '518 Patent.

19 116. Each of the Pokémon Go App and the Harry Potter App (the
20 "'518 Accused Products"), including the use in accordance with the guidance and
21 instructions that Niantic provides for these products, infringes at least claim 1 of the
22 '518 Patent, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents.

23 117. Exemplary claim 1 of the '518 Patent is reproduced above at
24 paragraph 49.

25 118. The '518 Patent Accused Products operate, in part on Niantic
26 customers' and/or end users' mobile devices, such as a mobile phones or tablets, which have
27 location sensors (*e.g.*, GPS or Wi-Fi), displays, storage memory, and processor(s). The
28 '518 Patent Accused Products operate together with the Niantic Real World Platform (such

1 as its backend servers) as a device capable of rendering AR, as described below.

2 119. The '518 Patent Accused Products operate to obtain sensor data from
3 location sensor(s) that includes a device location. For example, when the Pokémon Go App
4 is operating (executed), it obtains location information from the user's mobile device, which
5 shows the device's location in the real world. Similarly, when the Harry Potter App is
6 operating (executed), it obtains location information from the user's mobile device, which
7 shows the device's location in the real world. In both of the '518 Patent Accused Products,
8 by walking in the real world, the device user moves an in-game avatar.

9 [https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-go/?s=getting-started&f=how-do-i-move-my-](https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-go/?s=getting-started&f=how-do-i-move-my-avatar&p=web)
10 [avatar&p=web; https://attackofthefanboy.com/guides/harry-potter-wizards-unite-how-to-](https://attackofthefanboy.com/guides/harry-potter-wizards-unite-how-to-walk-and-move-around/)
11 [walk-and-move-around/.](https://attackofthefanboy.com/guides/harry-potter-wizards-unite-how-to-walk-and-move-around/)

12 120. The '518 Patent Accused Products operate to obtain an area of interest
13 via an area database based on at least the device location within the sensor data. For
14 example, when the Pokémon Go App is operating (executed), it obtains geospatial data
15 corresponding to the device's location in order to generate a digital representation of the real
16 world location near the device (the area of interest). In the map depicted below, the user's
17 location is represented by Avatar (#5), and the image shows a representation of the area
18 close to the user's mobile device (*e.g.*, nearby streets):



27 [https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-go/?p=web&s=getting-started&f=map-view.](https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-go/?p=web&s=getting-started&f=map-view)

28 121. Similarly, when the Harry Potter App is operating (executed), it

1 obtains geospatial data for the device's location in order to generate a digital representation
2 of the real world location near the device (the area of interest):



12 <https://gamepress.gg/wizardsunite/guide/wizards-unite-map-and-overworld-guide>; *see also*
13 <https://www.vg247.com/2019/03/11/harry-potter-wizards-unite-impressions/>. The image
14 shows a representation of the area close to the user's mobile device (*e.g.*, nearby streets):

15 122. The '518 Patent Accused Products operate to access an area tile map
16 of the area of interest that is represented by a set of tile subareas and includes one or more
17 tessellated tiles from a tessellated tile map. For example, when the Pokémon Go App is
18 operating (executed), it accesses the OpenStreetMaps tile data for the area of interest (the
19 vicinity of the user's phone). [https://ag.hyperxgaming.com/article/3496/niantic-switches-to-](https://ag.hyperxgaming.com/article/3496/niantic-switches-to-openstreetmap-in-pokeacutemon-go)
20 [openstreetmap-in-pokeacutemon-go](https://ag.hyperxgaming.com/article/3496/niantic-switches-to-openstreetmap-in-pokeacutemon-go). Similarly, when the Harry Potter App is operating
21 (executed), it accesses the OpenStreetMaps tile data for the area of interest (the vicinity of
22 the user's phone). These tile maps have a number of tile subareas arranged in a closely fitted
23 together fashion without gaps or overlaps (tessellation) in order to depict a given area of
24 interest. Maier, G. (2014) "OpenStreetMap, the Wikipedia Map," REGION, 1(1), pp. R3-
25 R10.

26 123. The '518 Patent Accused Products also operate to identify a tile
27 subarea from the set of tile subareas based at least in part on the device location relative to
28 one or more locations of tile subareas from the set of tile subareas. That identified tile

1 subarea covers at least a portion of the area of interest, and tessellated tiles within the
 2 identified tile subarea are associated with one or more AR content objects. For example, the
 3 Pokémon Go App's Map View includes an avatar (#5) to show the device's location within
 4 the depicted area as well as virtual elements (e.g., particular Pokémon within the depicted
 5 area, Pokéstop, or Gym):



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 14 <https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-go/?p=web&s=getting-started&f=map-view>. The
 15 Pokémon Go App identifies a tile subarea within the depicted scene that corresponds to the
 16 location of a particular virtual element within the in-game scene (Pokémon, Pokéstop, or
 17 Gym) relative to the device location. In the Map View image above, the Pokéstop (#4),
 18 which is an identified tile subarea, occupies a portion of the entire scene depicted (an area of
 19 interest). The tessellated tiles within the scene depicted for that particular location are
 20 associated with that Pokéstop (an AR content object).

21 124. Similarly, when the Harry Potter App is operating (executed), it
 22 identifies a tile subarea based at least in part on the device location relative to one or more
 23 locations of tile subareas that covers a portion of the area of interest, and tessellated tiles
 24 within that subarea are associated with AR content object(s). For example, to generate the
 25 Map View depicted below, the Harry Potter App identifies a tile subarea based on the
 26 device's location that covers a portion of the depicted scene (area of interest) and associates
 27 an orange Foundable with a tessellated tile corresponding to that particular location within
 28 the scene:

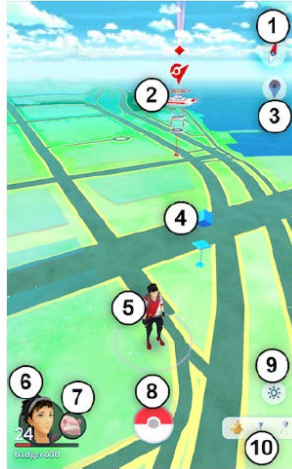


10 <https://gamepress.gg/wizardsunite/guide/wizards-unite-map-and-overworld-guide>.

11 125. The '518 Patent Accused Products also operate to populate the mobile
12 device's memory with at least one of the one or more AR content objects associated with
13 the one or more tessellated tiles corresponding with the identified tile subarea. For example,
14 when the Pokémon Go App is operating (executed), it interacts with the Niantic Real World
15 Platform (and its servers) in order to put into the mobile device's memory data associated
16 with AR content objects (Pokémon, Pokéstops, and Gyms) that appear within an in-game
17 scene. For example, if a particular Pokémon is within the depicted scene, its AR image is
18 populated into the computer readable memory along with its corresponding tessellated tile
19 location. Similarly, when the Harry Potter App is operating (executed), it interacts with the
20 Niantic Real World Platform (and its servers) in order to put into memory data associated
21 with AR content objects (e.g., Foundables, Inns, Ingredients) that appear within an in-game
22 scene.

23 126. Further, the '518 Patent Accused Products operate to render the AR
24 content object(s) associated with the identified tile subarea on the mobile device's display
25 based on a view of interest. For example, when the Pokémon Go App is operating
26 (executed), it depicts Pokémon, Pokéstop (#4) and Gyms (#2) on the mobile device's
27 display based on a view of interest:
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<https://niantic.helpshift.com/a/pokemon-go/?p=web&s=getting-started&f=map-view>. The Pokéstop (#4) is associated with the identified tile subarea within the depicted scene and it is displayed. If a particular Pokémon were associated with an identified tile subarea within the depicted scene, it is displayed.

127. Similarly, when the Harry Potter App is operating (executed), it depicts Foundables on the mobile device's display based on a view of interest.



<https://gamepress.gg/wizardsunite/guide/wizards-unite-map-and-overworld-guide>. The orange Foundable is associated with the identified tile subarea within the depicted scene and it is displayed.

128. The '518 Accused Products are non-limiting examples, identified based on publicly available information, and Plaintiffs reserve the right to identify

1 additional infringing activities, products, and services, including, for example, on the basis
2 of information obtained during discovery.

3 129. Each element of the claimed devices exists in the United States. In
4 violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271(a), Niantic has been and is directly infringing the '518 Patent,
5 either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, by making, using, offering to sell, and/or
6 selling in the United States, and/or importing into the United States, without authority or
7 license, the '518 Accused Products including the Pokémon Go App and the Harry Potter
8 App as well as associated backend servers and systems and/or mobile devices.

9 130. In violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271(b), Niantic has been and is indirectly
10 infringing the '518 Patent by inducing infringement of this patent by others, such as the
11 users of the Pokémon Go App and the Harry Potter App in the United States by making the
12 '518 Accused Products available for download onto Android and iOS mobile devices as
13 well as associated backend servers and systems.

14 131. Niantic's affirmative act of making its Pokémon Go App and Harry
15 Potter App, cause the '518 Accused Products to be used in a manner that infringes the
16 '518 Patent. Niantic also provides guidance and instruction to third parties to use the
17 '518 Accused Products in their normal and customary way to infringe the '518 Patent.
18 Niantic further provides access to the Niantic Real World Platform to third parties to use the
19 '518 Accused Products in their normal and customary way to infringe the '518 Patent.

20 132. Subject to discovery and review of Niantic's Pokémon Go App and
21 Niantic's Harry Potter App, Plaintiffs anticipate that additional claims of the '518 Patent
22 may be infringed by Niantic as well.

23 133. As the direct and proximate result of Niantic's conduct, Plaintiffs have
24 suffered and will continue to suffer, unless Niantic is enjoined by this Court, competitive
25 harm, irreparable injury, and damages in an amount to be proven at trial by Niantic's
26 infringement of the '518 Patent. Plaintiffs are entitled to recover from Niantic all damages
27 that Plaintiffs have sustained as a result of Niantic's infringement of the '518 Patent,
28 including without limitation not less than a reasonable royalty.

REQUESTED RELIEF

1
2 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Court enter judgment
3 in their favor and grant the following relief against Niantic as follows:

4 A. Judgment that Niantic has directly infringed one or more claims of the
5 Asserted Patents, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, in violation of 35
6 U.S.C. § 271(a);

7 B. Judgment that Niantic has induced infringement of one or more claims of
8 the Asserted Patents in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271(b);

9 C. Award Plaintiffs monetary damages, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284, in an
10 amount adequate to compensate for Niantic’s infringement of the Asserted Patents (and, if
11 necessary, related accountings), in an amount to be determined at trial, but no less than a
12 reasonable royalty;

13 D. Order, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 285, deeming this to be an exceptional case
14 and award Plaintiffs their reasonable attorneys’ fees;

15 E. Award Plaintiffs their costs and expenses incurred in this suit;

16 F. Award Plaintiffs prejudgment and post-judgment interest at the maximum
17 rates allowable under the law;

18 G. Order a post-judgment equitable accounting of damages for the period of
19 infringement of the Asserted Patents following the period of damages established at trial;
20 and

21 H. Award such further relief as the Court may deem just and appropriate
22 under the circumstances.

JURY DEMAND

Pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 38, Plaintiffs respectfully demand a trial by jury on all issues and claims so triable.

Dated: September 3, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

DIAMOND McCARTHY LLP

By: /s/ Matthew K. Blackburn

Matthew K. Blackburn
DIAMOND McCARTHY LLP
150 California Street, Suite 2200
San Francisco, California 94111
T: 415.692.5200 | F: 415.263.9200

Allan B. Diamond
John B. Sample
DIAMOND McCARTHY LLP
909 Fannin Street, 37th Floor
Houston, Texas 77010
T: 713.333.5100 | F: 713.333.5199

Attorneys for Plaintiffs, NANTWORKS,
LLC and NANT HOLDINGS IP, LLC

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