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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

DIGITAL REG OF TEXAS, LLC,

Plaintiff,

v.

ADOBE SYSTEMS, INC., et al.,

Defendants.

No. C 12-1971 CW

ORDER ON MOTIONS
IN LIMINE (Docket
Nos. 587, 592)

In this patent infringement case, Plaintiff Digital Reg of Texas, LLC, and Defendant Adobe Systems, Inc., the only remaining Defendant, are set to go to trial on August 25, 2014. Before the Court are the parties' motions in limine; Adobe brings nine and Digital Reg brings twenty one. On August 13, 2014, the Court held a pretrial conference. Having considered the papers and the arguments of counsel, the Court rules as follows on the motions in limine.

A. Adobe's motions in limine

1. Exclude unreliable opinion of Plaintiff's damages expert, Robert Parr

Adobe's motion is GRANTED.

This is a Daubert¹ motion, which requires the district court to exercise its gatekeeping function in mandating that any

¹ Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharm., Inc., 509 U.S. 579, 589 (1993) ("under the [Federal] Rules [of Evidence] the trial judge must ensure that any and all scientific testimony or evidence admitted is not only relevant, but reliable").

1 testimony grounded in scientific or technical expertise be
2 relevant and reliable. Uniloc USA, Inc. v. Microsoft Corp., 632
3 F.3d 1292, 1306 (Fed. Cir. 2011); Fed. R. Evid. 702. In
4 scrutinizing an expert's principles and methodology, a court "may
5 conclude that there is simply too great an analytical gap between
6 the data and the opinion proffered." Gen. Elec. Co. v. Joiner,
7 522 U.S. 136, 146 (1997). A court may not, however, "evaluate the
8 credibility of witnesses, resolve conflicts in testimony, or
9 evaluate the weight of the evidence." Uniloc USA, Inc., 632 F.3d
10 at 1305-06.

12 Adobe contends Mr. Parr used incomplete information to
13 calculate the percentage of sales Adobe saved from piracy because
14 of its use of the patented invention. Mr. Parr arrived at this
15 conclusion by subtracting from software piracy rates across the
16 industry (twenty percent) the piracy rates experienced by Symantec
17 (six to ten percent), which allegedly shows the benefit of using
18 the claimed invention (ten to fourteen percent). Beebe Decl., Ex.
19 1 (Parr Depo.) at 84:2-19; Ex. 2 (Parr Rep.) ¶ 174. Mr. Parr thus
20 did not consider piracy data specific to Adobe. He instead relied
21 on data spanning the entire software industry, regardless of the
22 type of software or whether the software uses some form of DRM or
23 not, without explaining why this would be proper. He also relied
24 on Symantec data, even though Symantec settled and was not shown
25 to be infringing. He did not analyze how differences in the
26 software might affect his calculation.
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1 Digital Reg responds that Mr. Parr used the evidence that was
2 available to him. Digital Reg contends that Adobe "failed to
3 produce records regarding piracy rates specific to its products or
4 the efficacy of its DRM strategy." Digital Reg Response at 2.
5 Adobe stated at the hearing that it provided Digital Reg with
6 piracy information, but did not have the statistic Digital Reg
7 sought because it does not track that information. But even if
8 information tracking Adobe's accused products was not available,
9 data tracking products shown to be sufficiently similar to the
10 accused products would have been more relevant. Cf.
11 LaserDynamics, Inc. v. Quanta Computer, Inc., 694 F.3d 51, 78-79
12 (Fed. Cir. 2012) (permitting expert to use price information
13 tracking a similar product where price information of the accused
14 product was unavailable). Different types of software are likely
15 to experience different rates of piracy, depending on the level of
16 demand for the software, the importance of the software's
17 function, the price of the software, and the availability of
18 alternatives, to name a few factors. Mr. Parr did not use data
19 regarding products that are similar to Adobe's accused products,
20 or attempt to demonstrate that Adobe would experience piracy rates
21 equal to the average of the industry. Mr. Parr did not even
22 attempt to justify his assumption that Symantec and industry data
23 are an accurate representation of what would occur with Adobe.
24 See Parr Rep. ¶ 174. He acknowledged in his deposition that
25 Symantec and Adobe's products are different and offer different
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1 functionalities. Parr Depo. at 81:2-9, 82:23-83:9 (remarking
2 that, although the products are different, Adobe and Symantec
3 would experience the same gains from the DRM technology because
4 they are large companies that "sell a large diversified portfolio
5 of products to consumers and enterprises"). Moreover, Mr. Parr
6 did not consider whether other anti-piracy measures are taken by
7 Symantec or the industry, and what effect those measures might
8 have. Symantec has not even been shown to employ the infringing
9 DRM technology. In short, there are many uncertainties that Mr.
10 Parr fails to address with his use of industry and Symantec data
11 as a proxy for Adobe data. Because piracy and the effectiveness
12 of DRM technology may vary widely across the industry, the inputs
13 of Mr. Parr's damages calculation are inherently unreliable.
14

15 Adobe also attacks Mr. Parr's methodology for calculating the
16 yield of a hypothetical negotiation between Adobe and Digital Reg.
17 "[T]he classic way to determine the reasonable royalty amount is
18 to multiply the royalty base, which represents the revenue
19 generated by the infringement, by the royalty rate, which
20 represents the percentage of revenue owed to the patentee."
21 Whitserve, LLC v. Computer Packages, Inc., 694 F.3d 10, 27 (Fed.
22 Cir. 2012). Adobe takes issue with both the royalty rate and
23 royalty base used in Mr. Parr's report.
24

25 In calculating the royalty rate, Mr. Parr assumed the parties
26 would begin their negotiation at an equal fifty-fifty share of
27 saved profits. Adobe contends this is contrary to established
28

1 Federal Circuit case law. In Uniloc, the Federal Circuit
2 disapproved of arbitrary starting points for negotiations of a
3 reasonable royalty rate. In that case, the expert used Robert
4 Goldscheider's "25 Percent Rule,"² which assumes that the
5 manufacturer would be willing to pay the patentee twenty-five
6 percent of its expected profits for the product that incorporated
7 the intellectual property at issue. Uniloc USA, Inc., 632 F.3d at
8 1312. To arrive at a reasonable royalty rate under the 25 Percent
9 Rule, the profits for the product embodying the invention are
10 divided by the expected net sales yielding a profit rate, which is
11 then multiplied by twenty-five percent to arrive at a running
12 royalty rate. Id. Because the rule was "essentially arbitrary"
13 and did "not relate to any issue in the case," the court held that
14 it was "fundamentally flawed" and inadmissible as a matter of law
15 under Daubert. Id. at 1314.

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18 A court in this district recently applied Uniloc's holding in
19 a similar case, Dynetix Design Solutions, Inc. v. Synopsys, Inc.,
20 2013 WL 4538210 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 23, 2013). In Dynetix, the expert
21 began his royalty rate analysis at fifty percent of the gross
22 profit margin of the accused products, adjusting the rate upwards
23 or downwards based on the application of the Georgia-Pacific
24 factors. Id. at *1. Because "an arbitrary starting point is
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28 ² This rule was based on Robert Goldscheider's studies of
commercial licensing negotiations generally. Id. at 1313.

1 impermissible under Uniloc," the court excluded the expert's
2 damages testimony. Id. at *4.

3 Here, Mr. Parr decided to adopt a fifty-percent starting
4 point based on his vague, undisclosed general experience. "I
5 believe that a sharing of the saved profits would result in a 50%
6 split of the saved profits. In my career I have seen instances
7 where inventions that result in a savings to the licensee are
8 priced at a 50% sharing of the savings." See Parr Report ¶¶ 176-
9 77. During his deposition, Mr. Parr admitted that he had not seen
10 any evidence of either Adobe or Digital Reg commencing
11 negotiations with a fifty-fifty profit split. See Parr Depo. at
12 106:25-107:16. Mr. Parr's starting point, based only on his
13 personal experience not limited to the DRM industry, is even more
14 arbitrary than the rule rejected in Uniloc. See Dynetix Design
15 Solutions, Inc., 2013 WL 4538210, at *4. To ensure damages
16 figures are not conjectural or speculative, a starting point
17 should be tied to case-specific factors grounded in reliable data,
18 such as the parties' relative bargaining power, the relationship
19 between the patented invention and the accused product, other
20 licenses involving the same patent, and analogous licenses in the
21 industry for patents covering component parts. See id.

22 Digital Reg contends that, unlike in Uniloc and Dynetix, Mr.
23 Parr multiplied his fifty-fifty starting point by the amount of
24 sales that would be saved from piracy by incorporating the
25 patented invention in the accused product. This is not in
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1 substance distinct from Uniloc and Dynetix because, according to
2 his own words, Mr. Parr started with "a 50% split of the saved
3 profits." This introduces an arbitrary element to the
4 calculation, even if Mr. Parr went on to adjust his initial
5 determination with case-specific factors. The rate is still
6 tainted by its fifty/fifty starting point which is unsupported by
7 any evidence. Dynetix Design Solutions, Inc., 2013 WL 4538210, at
8 *4 (an "arbitrary starting point is impermissible under Uniloc").
9

10 Adobe next criticizes Mr. Parr's use of the entire value of
11 the accused products as the royalty base. It is well-established
12 that a patentee may assess damages based on the entire value of
13 the accused product "only where the patented feature creates the
14 'basis for customer demand' or 'substantially creates the value of
15 the component parts.'" Uniloc USA, Inc., 632 F.3d at 1318 (citing
16 Garretson v. Clark, 111 U.S. 120, 121 (1884)). Otherwise, the
17 patentee must "apportion the defendant's profits . . . between the
18 patented feature and the unpatented feature." Id.
19

20 Digital Reg suggests that it is free to use revenue of the
21 entire product for its royalty base as long as it is "economically
22 justified." Mondis Tech., Ltd. v. LG Electronics, Inc., 2011 WL
23 2417367, at *2 (E.D. Tex. June 14, 2011) (citing Lucent Techs.,
24 Inc. v. Gateway, Inc., 580 F.3d 1301, 1336 (Fed. Cir. 2009)).
25 Relying on the Federal Circuit's language in Lucent, the Mondis
26 court found that, because the only relevant prior licensing
27 agreements available were based on the value of the entire
28

1 product, the patentee was justified in using the entire market
2 value with a correspondingly lower royalty rate. See id.³ In
3 focusing on this one Eastern District of Texas case, Digital Reg
4 ignores more recent case law from the Federal Circuit and this
5 district clarifying the same point. In Uniloc, the Federal
6 Circuit explained that the plaintiff misinterpreted the passage in
7 Lucent that was relied upon by the Mondis court -- that "the base
8 used in a running royalty calculation can always be the value of
9 the entire commercial embodiment, as long as the magnitude of the
10 rate is within an acceptable range" -- because it was preceded by
11 the qualification that the entire market value could not be used
12 in that case because there was no evidence that the patented
13 feature was the basis of consumer demand. Uniloc USA, Inc., 632
14 F.3d at 1319-20 (quoting Lucent Techs., Inc., 580 F.3d at 1339-
15 39). After clarifying that Lucent does not stand for the
16 proposition that the entire market value can be used absent
17 evidence that the patented feature drives demand, the Uniloc court
18 went on expressly to disapprove of the plaintiff's use of the
19 entire market value, so long as the royalty rate is "low enough."
20 Id. at 1319. In 2012 the Federal Circuit again explained that the
21 language in Lucent was misinterpreted, and reaffirmed that "in any
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25 ³ The Mondis court held that use of the entire market value
26 was "economically justified" because the previous comparable
27 licenses were calculated based on the entire market value. Mondis
28 Technology, Ltd., 2011 WL 2417367, at *2. Digital Reg does not
show that much.

1 case involving multi-component products, patentees may not
2 calculate damages based on sales of the entire product, as opposed
3 to the smallest salable patent-practicing unit, without showing
4 that the demand for the entire product is attributable to the
5 patented feature." LaserDynamics, Inc., 694 F.3d at 67-68.

6 Because there is no evidence that the patented feature drives
7 demand here,⁴ Mr. Parr's use of the entire market value of the
8 products cannot be justified.
9

10 Mr. Parr provides an alternative calculation that apportions
11 the royalty base to be thirty percent of the profit. But he
12 increased the rate proportionally to arrive at the same ultimate
13 damages figure. Parr Depo. at 212:20-24, 213:10-18, 214:15-23,
14 215:11-16. This analysis contravenes Federal Circuit precedent
15 and does not serve the purpose of the rule, which is to award only
16 damages which are fairly attributable to the patented feature.
17 See Lucent Techs., Inc., 580 F.3d at 1338 ("Being precluded from
18 using the computer as the royalty base, he used the price of the
19 software, but inflated the royalty rate accordingly. This cannot
20 be an acceptable way" to conduct the reasonable royalty analysis).
21 Due to the multiple flaws in Mr. Parr's inputs and analysis, his
22 damages testimony must be excluded in full.
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26 ⁴ In fact, Mr. Parr recognizes the opposite: he states, "The
27 patented invention is not a product that consumers seek-out and
28 are only aware of when they wish to begin using the products they
have purchased." Parr Rep. ¶ 152.

1 Because upon a finding of infringement, Digital Reg is
2 entitled to "in no event less than a reasonable royalty for the
3 use made by the invention by the infringer," the Court will permit
4 Mr. Parr to submit a revised damages report⁵ curing only the
5 problems identified in this order, to be filed no later than the
6 close of business on August 21, 2014. He may not include any
7 additional information on any points, and may not rely on
8 additional settlement agreements.⁶ Mr. Parr must be made
9 available for a deposition of up to two hours no later than the
10 close of business on August 28, 2014. If Mr. Parr's report is
11 again deficient, the Court will preclude him from testifying and
12 only Adobe's damages expert will be permitted to testify.⁷ See
13 ePlus, Inc. v. Lawson Software, Inc., 700 F.3d 509, 523 (Fed. Cir.
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16 ⁵ Although the Court did not ask for additional briefing,
17 both parties submitted "letters" to further argue their points.
18 Dockets Nos. 615, 618. Although the Court need not consider the
19 substance of these letters, see Civil Local Rule 7-3(d), it notes
20 that Digital Reg offers to remove its profit-sharing analysis
21 included in Georgia-Pacific factor eleven and rely instead on
22 other settlement agreements such as ones involving EA and Symantec
23 to compute a royalty rate. While this might solve two of the
24 problems raised above, it would not solve the problem of using an
25 improper royalty base. To be admissible, any revised expert
26 report must address all of the problems identified in this order.

27 ⁶ The claims against EA and Symantec were dismissed on
28 December 20, 2013 and July 9, 2014, respectively. It is presumed
that Digital Reg settled its claims with these parties some time
before those dates. If Digital Reg wished to supplement its
expert report, it should have sought leave from the Court
diligently.

⁷ Adobe now confirms its offer at the pretrial conference to
have its expert testify. Docket No. 615 at 1.

1 2012) (affirming trial court's decision, in its discretion, to
2 preclude the plaintiff from presenting expert testimony on a
3 reasonable royalty because a "last-minute addition" would "disrupt
4 the proceedings and cause unacceptable delay"); Golden Bridge
5 Technology v. Apple Inc., Case No. 12-cv-04882-PSG, Docket No. 494
6 (N.D. Cal. June 1, 2014), Docket No. 494 (after finding
7 plaintiff's damages expert used an unreliable methodology,
8 permitting him to file an amended report before trial; after
9 finding plaintiff's expert again erred, excluding the expert from
10 trial entirely, allowing only defendant's expert and plaintiff's
11 fact witnesses to testify); NetAirus Technologies, LLC v. Apple,
12 Inc., Case No. 10-cv-03257-JAK, Docket No. 619 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 11,
13 2013) (after striking plaintiffs' damages expert, allowing
14 plaintiffs to call defendant's expert).

16 2. Exclude the RPX license

17 Adobe's motion is DENIED.

18 Adobe moves to exclude all evidence of the licensing
19 agreements between Digital Reg and RPX. RPX is a patent
20 aggregator, or an entity that licenses patents from patentees and
21 then sublicenses those patents to its members. Around December
22 12, 2008, RPX took a license from Digital Reg and has since
23 sublicensed it to at least 120 companies. Because RPX's business
24 model is unique, Adobe argues its license is of limited relevance
25 to Adobe's hypothetical licensing posture and should be excluded.
26 See Fed. R. Evid. 403.
27
28

1 Digital Reg contends that the license is relevant to
2 calculation of a reasonable royalty here. Mr. Parr discussed the
3 RPX license in his report, although he did not ultimately factor
4 it in to the royalty rate. Some of the license agreements Mr.
5 Parr reviewed involved licensees (such as Zynga, Intuit, AVG, and
6 Symantec) that already had a license to the '541 patent through
7 their membership with RPX. These licensees would have
8 contemplated the effect of their existing license and paid a lower
9 rate to settle claims with Digital Reg. Ignoring the RPX
10 agreement would leave the jury with the mistaken impression that
11 the license agreements included the '541 patent. The RPX
12 agreement is therefore relevant to a reasonable royalty.
13

14 Adobe argues that even though the RPX license is relevant,
15 its \$8.5 million figure will skew the jury's perception of a
16 reasonable royalty, causing unfair prejudice to Adobe.
17 Accordingly, Digital Reg may describe the circumstances of the RPX
18 license, but not the actual amount.
19

20 3. Exclude evidence of Adobe's AMT product

21 Adobe's motion is GRANTED.

22 Adobe seeks to exclude portions of Digital Reg's infringement
23 expert's report which alleges infringement by Adobe's AMT product.
24 See Docket No. 523-10 (Devanbu Report App'x A-3) at 2. While both
25 parties agree that AMT as a whole is not an accused product,
26 Digital Reg's expert Premkumar Devanbu argues that ALM, which is
27 an accused product, is a component of AMT.
28

1 Adobe responds that this is contrary to Magistrate Judge
2 Westmore's ruling on a discovery motion. Judge Westmore found
3 that while ALM is an accused product, AMT is not, nor is a
4 component of AMT that is similar to ALM. Docket No. 431 at 7. In
5 arguing that motion, Digital Reg submitted the same user logs of
6 AMT, which it claims shows continued use of ALM in conjunction
7 with AMT. Docket No. 371 at 8. Adobe disagreed, explaining that
8 AMT is composed of entirely new source code. Adobe further
9 pointed out that Digital Reg's infringement contentions only
10 accused the version of ALM "sold through volume licensing plans."
11 Id. at 9 (citing Digital Reg's Infringement Contentions at 3).
12 Judge Westmore agreed with Adobe, finding that Digital Reg's
13 infringement contentions accused the version of ALM related to
14 Adobe's volume licensing services, and that version of ALM was
15 discontinued. Docket No. 431 at 7. Because Digital Reg's
16 infringement contentions failed specifically to accuse AMT and a
17 feature of it that appears similar to ALM but is actually "new
18 code" and a "new system," Digital Reg was not entitled to
19 discovery on that product. Id. Digital Reg objected to the
20 order, but the undersigned denied the objection. Docket No. 452.

23 Digital Reg now reasserts the same arguments. But Judge
24 Westmore did not err in finding that Digital Reg's infringement
25 contentions accused only the volume licensing version of ALM. The
26 Patent Local Rules of this district require the plaintiff to be
27 "as specific as possible" in identifying every accused "product,
28

1 device, and apparatus," by name if possible. Patent L.R. 3-1(b).
2 Digital Reg failed to do so with respect to AMT and its ALM-like
3 component. See Digital Reg's Infringement Contentions at 3
4 ("Adobe License Manager is an embedded e-license management system
5 that enables automated license management . . . It will be
6 integrated into all of Adobe's best-selling desktop applications
7 and suites sold through volume licensing plans . . .") (emphasis
8 added). See also Docket No. 431 at 6-7. At that point, Digital
9 Reg could have sought leave to amend its infringement contentions
10 to allege with specificity that it sought to accuse AMT, along
11 with its ALM-like component. Patent L.R. 3-6. Because Digital
12 Reg did not do so, Adobe had no timely notice of a theory accusing
13 AMT and its ALM-like component and relied upon Judge Westmore's
14 order. Accordingly, AMT and its ALM-like component cannot be
15 inserted into the case at this late stage.
16

- 17
- 18 4. Exclude mention of Adobe's total revenues, revenues not
19 tied to accused features, market capitalization, company
valuation, or overall financial success

20 Adobe's motion is GRANTED in part.

21 Adobe next moves to exclude any mention of global figures
22 such as its company's total revenues which include products not at
23 issue, the overall valuation of its company, and its financial
24 success, because it would be unfairly prejudicial to Adobe. Fed.
25 R. Evid. 403. Digital Reg states that it does not intend to refer
26 to any of this information, except to the extent that it wishes to
27 introduce exhibits containing global figures that were used to
28

1 calculate gross profit margins. Digital Reg needs to introduce
2 these documents to establish the foundation for its damages
3 calculation. Digital Reg may use these documents, but if
4 practicable should redact any global figures unrelated to the case
5 and may not draw attention to these figures. See Uniloc USA,
6 Inc., 632 F.3d at 1318-20 (finding that presentation of
7 Microsoft's total revenue "cannot help but skew the damages
8 horizon for the jury" and that "the \$19 billion cat was never put
9 back into the bag" even though there was "a final instruction that
10 the jury may not award damages based on Microsoft's entire revenue
11 from all the accused products in the case").

12
13 5. Preclude any reference or evidence regarding willfulness
14 Adobe's motion is DENIED.

15 Adobe seeks to exclude Digital Reg's willfulness case.
16 Willfulness is a two part inquiry. First, the objective prong
17 requires that a patentee "show by clear and convincing evidence
18 that the infringer acted despite an objectively high likelihood
19 that its actions constituted infringement of a valid patent." In
20 re Seagate, 497 F.3d 1360, 1371 (Fed. Cir. 2007). Second, the
21 subjective prong concerns whether a patentee can prove that the
22 objectively high risk was either known by the alleged infringer,
23 or so obvious that it should have known of the risk. Id. The
24 objective prong is a threshold legal inquiry that must be
25 satisfied before the subjective prong is considered. Bard
26 Peripheral Vascular, Inc. v. W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc., 682

1 F.3d 1003, 1005-07 (Fed. Cir. 2012) (even where the objective
2 prong is predicated on underlying mixed questions of law and fact,
3 it is nevertheless best decided by the judge because the judge is
4 best positioned to determine which legal defenses are objectively
5 reasonable). Although some courts ultimately send the entire
6 willfulness question to the jury, it is appropriate for the court
7 to evaluate whether the objective prong is met before allowing the
8 jury to consider the subjective prong. See Powell v. Home Depot
9 U.S.A., Inc., 663 F.3d 1221, 1236 (Fed. Cir. 2011) ("Should the
10 court determine that the infringer's reliance on a defense was not
11 objectively reckless, it cannot send the question of willfulness
12 to the jury, since proving the objective prong is a predicate to
13 consideration of the subjective prong.")

14
15 There is some debate over the appropriate time for a court to
16 make the objective reasonableness determination. The summary
17 judgment and judgment as a matter of law (JMOL) stages are
18 equipped with substantive and procedural safeguards that enable
19 the Court to make a well-reasoned decision on objective
20 reasonableness. By contrast, a motion in limine occurs close to
21 trial and is designed "to narrow the evidentiary issues for trial
22 and to eliminate unnecessary trial interruptions." Bowers v.
23 Nat'l Collegiate Athletic Ass'n, 563 F. Supp. 2d 508, 532 (D.N.J.
24 2008). A motion in limine is therefore not the "proper vehicle
25 for a party to ask the Court to weigh the sufficiency of the
26 evidence to support a particular claim or defense." Id.; see also
27
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1 Kobie v. Fifthian, 2014 WL 1652421, at *2 (M.D. Fla. Apr. 23,
2 2014); Graves v. D.C., 850 F. Supp. 2d 6, 11 (D.D.C. 2011). Thus,
3 even if objective willfulness is purely a legal question, a motion
4 in limine is not the appropriate vehicle to seek a ruling that
5 Digital Reg's willfulness claims are unsupported as a matter of
6 law.

7 The substance of Adobe's motion further demonstrates this
8 principle. Adobe first argues that the non-infringement and
9 invalidity defenses contained in its summary judgment motions
10 foreclose any finding of objective recklessness. Adobe's MILs at
11 18. The Court denied Adobe's motions for summary judgment of
12 invalidity and non-infringement regarding a substantial portion of
13 the patent claims asserted against Adobe, including the ones that
14 are to be tried. Adobe has not established that its defenses are
15 objectively reasonable as a matter of law.

16 Adobe next claims that Digital Reg lacks sufficient evidence
17 to prove the subjective prong. Adobe again attacks the
18 sufficiency of Digital Reg's evidence, which is inappropriate at
19 this juncture. Even if it were not procedurally improper, Adobe's
20 argument lacks merit. Digital Reg contends (and Adobe does not
21 dispute) that Digital Reg has disclosed at least seven occasions
22 where Adobe was made aware of the existence of the patents-in-suit
23 or the potential infringement, starting with meetings in 2004.

24 See Docket No. 607, Ex. N. Yet Adobe did not seek the advice of
25 counsel until at least 2011. Where the defendant "made little-to-

1 no effort to assess whether it infringed or whether the patent was
2 invalid after receiving notice of the patent," a reasonable
3 factfinder could reasonably conclude that the defendant was
4 willful. Golden Blount, Inc. v. Robert H. Peterson Co., 438 F.3d
5 1354, 1369 (Fed. Cir. 2006). Accordingly, both the objective and
6 subjective prong will be sent to the jury. After the jury
7 verdict, the Court will first consider "based on the record
8 ultimately made in the infringement proceedings, whether a
9 reasonable litigant could reasonably expect those defenses to
10 succeed." Bard Peripheral Vascular, Inc., 682 F.3d at 1008. If
11 the Court determines that the asserted defenses were not
12 reasonable, "only then can the jury's subjective willfulness
13 finding be reviewed for substantial evidence." Id.

15 6. Preclude certain infringement theories not timely
16 disclosed in discovery

17 Adobe's motion is DENIED.

18 Adobe moves to exclude Digital Reg's joint infringement and
19 indirect infringement theories on the premise that they were not
20 properly disclosed during discovery. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(e)
21 and 37(c)(1). Of course, neither side should discuss infringement
22 theories not properly disclosed. Id. But Digital Reg's joint
23 infringement and indirect infringement theories were properly
24 disclosed in its complaint and October 28, 2011 infringement
25 contentions. Docket No. 607, Ex. U, S. Further, the theories
26 were discussed at length at summary judgment, showing that Adobe
27
28

1 was aware of Digital Reg's theory that Adobe's user agreements and
2 software direct and maintain control over users. Any objections
3 to Digital Reg's initial disclosure were either waived or were
4 substantially harmless. See Yeti by Molly, Ltd. v. Deckers
5 Outdoor Corp., 259 F.3d 1101, 1106 (9th Cir. 2001) ("Two express
6 exceptions ameliorate the harshness of Rule 37(c)(1): The
7 information may be introduced if the parties' failure to disclose
8 the required information is substantially justified or harmless").
9

10 7. Preclude Digital Reg's experts from offering opinions
11 not disclosed during expert discovery

12 Adobe's motion is GRANTED.

13 Adobe is correct in asserting that Digital Reg's experts
14 cannot offer opinions not presented in their expert reports.
15 Adobe points out that in at least some instances, Digital Reg's
16 experts did not opine on infringement under the claim construction
17 ultimately adopted by the Court. For these constructions, Digital
18 Reg may offer the disclosed opinions of its experts, but not their
19 discussion of now-defunct claim construction proposals, and argue
20 that the underlying opinions show infringement under the Court's
21 claim construction. This approach may be successful if Digital
22 Reg can persuade the jury that the differences between its
23 proposed claim construction and the Court's claim construction are
24 not significant for purposes of its infringement analysis. As for
25 scienter and noninfringing alternatives, Digital Reg has pointed
26 to portions of its expert's report addressing these issues, which
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28

1 may be presented to the jury. Again, neither side may offer
2 evidence regarding these theories that has not been disclosed.

3 8. Preclude any suggestion or argument relating to alleged
4 discovery deficiencies

5 Adobe's motion is GRANTED.

6 Adobe requests that Digital Reg be precluded from arguing or
7 suggesting that Adobe failed to produce evidence, because it is
8 irrelevant and would be highly prejudicial. Fed. R. Evid. 402,
9 403. Digital Reg responds that it should be allowed to explain to
10 the jury why, in compiling its damages report, it relied upon
11 public documents such as SEC filings rather than Adobe's internal
12 documents. Digital Reg may explain that internal information is
13 unavailable, but may not blame Adobe. Neither may Adobe allude to
14 any discovery deficiencies on Digital Reg's part.
15

16 9. Preclude allegations of copying

17 Adobe's motion is DENIED.

18 Adobe urges the Court to prevent Digital Reg from presenting
19 evidence showing that Adobe copied Digital Reg's patent because
20 there is no evidence that Adobe did so. Digital Reg contends that
21 it has evidence that the allegedly infringing products were
22 released and/or modified after Adobe learned of the patent, which
23 tends to show copying. While the issue of copying is not relevant
24 to the question of whether Adobe infringed the claims of the
25 patent, this evidence is relevant to whether Adobe knew or should
26 have that it infringed, i.e., the subjective prong of the
27
28

1 willfulness inquiry. DePuy Spine, Inc. v. Medtronic Sofamor
2 Danek, Inc., 567 F.3d 1314, 1336 (Fed. Cir. 2009). Evidence
3 supporting an inference of copying may also be relevant to proving
4 induced infringement, enhanced damages, and nonobviousness. Adobe
5 has not shown that any of the claimed copying evidence has
6 prejudicial effect that would substantially outweigh its probative
7 value.

8
9 B. Digital Reg's motions in limine

- 10 1. Exclude evidence or testimony from prior art inventors
11 regarding printed references

12 Digital Reg's motion is GRANTED in part.

13 Digital Reg argues that Jonathan Schull, inventor of the
14 Softlock system and related patents, should not be allowed to
15 testify. Although Mr. Schull has not submitted an expert report,
16 Adobe intends to call him to discuss the Softlock system as a
17 prior art reference demonstrating invalidity of the '541 and '670
18 patents. Because he is not a properly disclosed expert witness,
19 he may not opine on what a hypothetical person skilled in the art
20 would know or what is disclosed by the claims of the patent.

21 Those opinions fall within the purview of expert testimony, which
22 must be disclosed by a qualified expert in an expert report,
23 subject to review and expert discovery by Digital Reg.

24 Innogenetics, N.V. v. Abbott Labs., 512 F.3d 1363, 1375 (Fed. Cir.
25 2008) (affirming district court's decision to exclude a prior art
26 inventor who did not provide an expert report because "any
27
28

1 information he might have to offer beyond the words of the Cha PCT
2 application would be irrelevant to the issue before the jury" of
3 whether the prior art reference disclosed a certain element).
4 However, as Adobe points out, Mr. Schull can speak to topics
5 within his personal knowledge, such as the process of obtaining
6 the Softlock patents, research of which he was personally aware,
7 and the authenticity, if disputed, of documents related to the
8 Softlock system. His testimony as to the bounds of the Softlock
9 system as a device is also admissible.
10

- 11 2. Exclude all prior art references and invalidity defenses
12 not included in Adobe's designated three prior art
reference combinations for each asserted claim

13 Digital Reg's motion is GRANTED in part.

14 Digital Reg contends that Adobe should not be allowed to
15 present the prior art references included in Adobe's trial
16 exhibits which were not chosen in Adobe's election of prior art
17 references. Previously, the Court required Defendants to limit
18 their prior art references to "three references or combinations
19 per patent claim with respect to the invalidity contentions of
20 Defendants." Docket No. 587-6 at 6. On May 16, 2013, Adobe
21 served its "Disclosure of Prior Art References and Prior Art
22 Reference Combinations," choosing the prior art upon which it
23 intended to rely. See Docket No. 587-3 (Prior Art Election).
24
25

26 Digital Reg complains that Adobe improperly included in its
27 trial exhibits at least forty patents, thirteen applications or
28 publications, and forty-two articles or other related documents.

1 Adobe argues that "background and development" of the systems,
2 "contemporaneous articles, inventor testimony, and corroborating
3 documents" should be allowed. Adobe's Response to MILs at 5. The
4 Court agrees. To the extent that these documents are supporting
5 documents to explain further how the chosen prior art references
6 disclose required limitations, they will be allowed. But Adobe
7 also asks to present additional documents which disclose other
8 required limitations not covered by the chosen prior art
9 references. For example, Adobe argues that because "the Softlock
10 system does not disclose local creation of a permission," Adobe's
11 expert could include an additional document to show that one of
12 the ordinary skill in the art would have recognized the local
13 creation of a permission as an obvious design choice. Id. Adobe
14 contends this is appropriate because the document shows "the scope
15 of the prior art generally and the knowledge held by one of
16 ordinary skill in the art." Id. But such a document,
17 demonstrating a separate limitation is disclosed in the prior art,
18 constitutes another prior art reference that should have been
19 disclosed in its Prior Art Election. There is no such exception
20 to the Court-mandated Prior Art Election; holding otherwise would
21 allow Adobe to completely circumvent the limits of that Election
22 and add unlimited extra references. This would defeat the purpose
23 of limiting the number of prior art references that each side must
24 review.
25
26
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1 Digital Reg additionally argues that Adobe should not be
2 allowed to argue anticipation because that theory was not
3 disclosed in the Prior Art Election. Although Adobe did not claim
4 anticipation regarding the '670 patent, it stated, "depending on
5 the court's claim construction, Defendants reserve the right to
6 rely on a subset of the references disclosed in combinations."
7 Docket No. 587-3 at 2-4. Because Adobe argues that the Court's
8 claim construction permits Adobe to rely on the disclosed Griswold
9 reference standing alone, rather than in conjunction with the
10 Softlock system, Adobe may do so. Digital Reg will not be
11 prejudiced, because the Griswold system was properly disclosed.

13 3. Exclude untimely designated witnesses or untimely
14 produced documents

15 Digital Reg's motion is DENIED.

16 Digital Reg complains that, on March 29, 2013, the last day
17 of fact discovery, Adobe produced 89,838 pages of documents. Two
18 weeks earlier, on March 12, 2013, Adobe identified seven new
19 witnesses that it had not previously disclosed. Digital Reg
20 argues that, although these disclosures occurred before the cut-
21 off of fact discovery, they were unduly prejudicial because they
22 were timed so late as to prevent Digital Reg from properly
23 investigating them.
24

25 This complaint should have been raised at the time the
26 productions occurred, not now. Digital Reg could have requested
27 additional time to review the documents and to depose the later-
28

1 disclosed witnesses, but instead chose to wait until over a year
2 later, when any wrong could not be remedied, to ask the Court to
3 exclude Adobe's evidence entirely. While neither side may use
4 truly untimely disclosed evidence, this motion is denied.

5 4. Exclude evidence of Plaintiff's fee arrangement with
6 counsel

7 Digital Reg's motion is GRANTED.

8 Digital Reg requests that Adobe refrain from introducing
9 evidence of Digital Reg's fee arrangement with counsel. Adobe
10 agrees not to raise the issue, so long as Digital Reg does not
11 open the door. Adobe must seek a ruling from the Court before
12 doing so. This prohibition applies to both sides.

13
14 5. Preclude mention of Digital Reg's decision to drop
15 claims and streamline litigation

16 Digital Reg's motion is GRANTED.

17 Digital Reg's decision to drop claims during litigation is
18 not relevant to the issues to be tried. Contrary to Adobe's
19 assertion, Digital Reg's decision to drop claims is not probative
20 of Adobe's state of mind with respect to its alleged willful or
21 indirect infringement of the separate claims that remain.

22 6. Preclude mention of Digital Reg's decision to file in
23 Eastern District of Texas

24 Digital Reg's motion is GRANTED.

25 This fact is not relevant to the issues to be tried. Adobe
26 asserts that it intends to present evidence that this case was
27 originally filed in the Eastern District of Texas to provide
28

1 "background" and to show Digital Reg is an "entity that does not
2 compete with Adobe in the marketplace." The facts that Digital
3 Reg is from Texas and does not compete in the product market are
4 admissible, but that is not the subject of Digital Reg's motion.
5 Adobe may not insinuate that Digital Reg is engaged in "forum
6 shopping."

7
8 7. Preclude negative or derogatory comments about the USPTO
9 Digital Reg's motion is GRANTED.

10 Neither party may discuss the quality of the USPTO's
11 examination process, which is irrelevant and may be unfairly
12 prejudicial or distracting from the relevant standard. See
13 Applied Material, Inc. v. Advanced Semiconductor Materials Am.,
14 Inc., 1995 WL 261507, at *3 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 25, 1995) (finding
15 irrelevant and inappropriate testimony about "overwork, quotas,
16 awards or promotions at the Patent Office . . . or insinuat[ions]
17 that the Patent Office does not do its job properly"). The law
18 mandates that patents are presumed valid, but may be found invalid
19 if proved by clear and convincing evidence. 35 U.S.C. § 282;
20 Newell Cos., Inc. v. Kenney Mfg. Co., 864 F.2d 757, 782 (Fed. Cir.
21 1988). The parties have agreed to show the Federal Judicial
22 Center's video about the process of obtaining a patent, which will
23 give the jury the necessary background.
24

25
26 8. Exclude comparisons of the accused devices to prior art
27 or to an alleged commercial embodiment of the invention
28 Digital Reg's motion is GRANTED in part.

1 Digital Reg seeks to prevent Adobe from comparing the accused
2 products to the prior art. It would be improper for Adobe to
3 argue that the accused product does not infringe merely because it
4 practices the prior art. Tate Access Floors, Inc. v. Interface
5 Architectural Res., Inc., 279 F.3d 1357, 1366 (Fed. Cir. 2002) (no
6 "practicing the prior art" defense to literal infringement).
7 Comparisons of the prior art and the accused products for purposes
8 of infringement are thus inapposite. However, Adobe is correct
9 that the same claim scope must be applied to infringement and
10 invalidity. See id. at 1367 (noting that if "an accused infringer
11 is clearly practicing only that which was in the prior art, and
12 nothing more, and the patentee's proffered construction reads on
13 the accused device, meeting this burden of proof should not prove
14 difficult."). Id. Accordingly, Adobe may argue that the same
15 claim scope ought to be applied to the patent for infringement and
16 invalidity. Adobe may also analyze the similarities between the
17 prior art and the accused products to show that Digital Reg's
18 patents describe obvious modifications to the prior art, so long
19 as that evidence is otherwise admissible and relevant.
20
21

22 Digital Reg additionally requests that Adobe be prohibited
23 from comparing the accused product to an alleged commercial
24 embodiment of the patented invention. Adobe responds that it is
25 not aware of any commercial embodiments of Digital Reg's
26 invention. This part of the motion is therefore denied as moot.
27
28

1 9. Exclude opinions of counsel regarding non-infringement
2 or invalidity

3 Digital Reg's motion is DENIED as moot.

4 Adobe has stipulated that it will not rely on any opinion
5 letter regarding non-infringement or invalidity. Docket No. 593
6 at 12.

7 10. Exclude opinion testimony from individuals not
8 designated as experts

9 Digital Reg's motion is GRANTED.

10 Digital Reg seeks to preclude Adobe from offering expert
11 opinion testimony by percipient fact witnesses. Federal Rule of
12 Evidence 701 prohibits opinion testimony by lay witnesses if it is
13 "based on scientific, technical, or other specialized knowledge
14 within the scope of Rule 702." Adobe does not oppose this
15 motion, but notes that percipient witnesses may testify as to
16 their personal knowledge. For prior art inventors, the line
17 between expert and fact testimony may be thin. As discussed
18 above, they may testify about the process of developing their
19 invention and the context in which they invented it, but not the
20 legal scope of their invention.
21

22 11. Preclude suggestion that damages awards may drive up the
23 price of products, put any manufacturers out of
24 business, or cause jobs to be lost

25 Digital Reg's motion is DENIED as moot.

26 Adobe has stipulated that it will not suggest that a damages
27 award would drive up product prices, put Adobe out of business, or
28 cause jobs to be lost. Docket No. 593 at 12.

1 12. Exclude personal characteristics and financial status of
2 counsel and their firms

3 Digital Reg's motion is GRANTED.

4 Neither party will address the personal characteristics and
5 financial status of counsel or their firms. Such evidence would
6 be irrelevant and unfairly prejudicial.

7 13. Exclude evidence of any legal proceedings involving
8 either party other than the present suit

9 Digital Reg's motion is GRANTED in part.

10 Digital Reg seeks to exclude mention of all other lawsuits
11 involving either party. Adobe wishes to present (1) Digital Reg's
12 prior lawsuit asserting the '541 patent involving Microsoft, Sony,
13 Apple, and others; and (2) Digital Reg's prior patent litigation
14 lawsuits that are the subject of the settlement agreements
15 considered by the parties' damages experts. The '541 patent
16 lawsuit is not relevant. However, the patent litigation lawsuits
17 underlying the settlement agreements provide relevant context to
18 the settlement amounts. Accordingly, Adobe may present evidence
19 of those lawsuits, but not others.
20

21 14. Exclude interpretations or application of claim
22 limitations contrary to this Court's claims construction
23 order

24 Digital Reg's motion is DENIED as moot.

25 The parties stipulated not to offer any evidence or argument
26 suggesting claim constructions or applying claim limitations in a
27 way that would be contrary to the Court's Order Regarding Claim
28

1 Construction and Motions for Summary Judgment. Docket No. 593 at
2 12.

3 15. Preclude derogatory, disparaging, and/or pejorative
4 references to Digital Reg

5 Digital Reg's motion is GRANTED in part.

6 Digital Reg seeks to prevent Adobe from using a wide array of
7 terms to describe Digital Reg's status. Adobe may not use
8 pejorative terms, such as "patent troll," "pirate," "bounty
9 hunter," "paper patent," "playing the lawsuit lottery," and "shell
10 corporation," which have negative connotations. Adobe may,
11 however, describe the nature of Digital Reg's business with
12 neutral, strictly factual terms, such as "patent assertion
13 entity," a "company that does not make anything," a "company that
14 does not sell anything," or "licensing entity." Digital Reg's
15 status as a non-practicing entity is relevant to damages and the
16 Georgia-Pacific factors. A neutral description of Digital Reg's
17 status is thus permitted. See HTC Corp. v. Tech. Props. Ltd.,
18 2013 WL 4782598, at *4 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 6, 2013) (allowing terms
19 such as "non-practicing entity," "patent assertion entity," and
20 related terms).
21
22

23 16. Preclude Dr. Wicker from testifying about source code to
24 prove non-infringement

25 Digital Reg's motion is GRANTED in part.

26 Digital Reg asserts that Adobe's expert witness, Dr. Wicker,
27 admitted he did not review source code to reach his conclusions of
28 non-infringement regarding Adobe's accused products, and thus

1 should not be allowed to discuss source code. Adobe agrees that
2 Dr. Wicker did not cite to source code in his affirmative report,
3 but points out that in his rebuttal expert report, Dr. Wicker
4 considered and cited to certain portions of Adobe's source code.
5 Docket No. 523-15 at ¶¶ 45, 85. Both parties' experts may testify
6 only to the source code they actually reviewed and cited in their
7 respective reports.

8
9 17. Preclude discussion of lease on a townhome rented by,
10 for, or behalf of Deskgate, Inc. and/or Patrick
11 Patterson

12 Digital Reg's motion is GRANTED.

13 Digital Reg moves to exclude evidence related to a collateral
14 controversy about a townhouse lease agreement for Deskgate, Inc.
15 The Court fails to see the relevancy of this information, the
16 introduction of which would spawn time-consuming satellite
17 disputes.

18 18. Exclude marking as an affirmative defense or limitation
19 on damages

20 Digital Reg's motion is DENIED as moot.

21 Adobe stipulated not to assert a marking defense. Docket No.
22 593 at 13.

23 19. Exclude evidence of parallel or related patent
24 prosecution in foreign countries of the invention
25 disclosed in the '541 patent and '670 patent

26 Digital Reg's motion is GRANTED.

27 Adobe seeks to introduce evidence of statements made by
28 Digital Reg when it attempted to extend its rights under the '541

1 patent before the European Union Patent Office. Adobe asserts
2 that the European Patent Office rejected Digital Reg's attempt to
3 assert that a "token" and a "permission" are the same structure.
4 See Docket No. 604-9. This evidence would only be probative of
5 claim scope, which was resolved at the claim construction stage.
6 Allowing Adobe to present this evidence at trial would be
7 unnecessarily confusing, cumulative, and potentially prejudicial.
8

9 20. Exclude mention of the Court's prior rulings

10 Digital Reg's motion is GRANTED in part.

11 Digital Reg seeks to exclude as potentially prejudicial any
12 of the Court's rulings on dispositive, evidentiary, or procedural
13 motions, except to disclose the Court's claim construction
14 rulings. While Adobe is not barred from presenting pre-suit
15 communications between the parties that mention claims no longer
16 in the case, Adobe should not discuss the reasons why the claims
17 are now absent. Again, evidence of previously asserted claims
18 that are no longer in the case is not relevant to Adobe's alleged
19 willful and induced infringement of the separate claims that are
20 still in the case.
21

22 At the hearing, Adobe expressed that it wished to present
23 passages of the Court's claim construction order to rebut some of
24 Digital Reg's infringement arguments. This would confuse the
25 jury; one object of claim construction is to simplify the
26 definitions of these terms for the jury. At the same time,
27 Digital Reg may not present interpretations of the claim
28

1 constructions that would clearly be contrary to the reasoning of
2 the Court's order. If it does, the Court's construction will be
3 explained in the jury instructions.

4 21. Exclude mention to connections to California (or lack
5 thereof)

6 Digital Reg's motion is DENIED.

7 The parties are permitted to provide the jury with basic
8 background facts, such as that Adobe is located in California and
9 Digital Reg is located in Texas. Digital Reg has not shown that
10 this basic background information presents a risk of unfair
11 prejudice or bias that substantially outweighs its probative
12 value. Fed. R. Evid. 403. Adobe has nevertheless agreed it will
13 not suggest that the parties' connections to California, or lack
14 thereof, are somehow probative of the merits of the parties'
15 dispute.
16

17 IT IS SO ORDERED.

18 Dated: 8/19/2014

19 
20 CLAUDIA WILKEN
21 United States District Judge
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