

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **U.S. COMPANY CYBERSITTER, LLC FILES \$2.2 BILLION SOFTWARE PIRACY SUIT AGAINST PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, SEVEN MAJOR COMPUTER MANUFACTURERS FOR DISTRIBUTING OVER 56 MILLION COPIES OF GREEN DAM CENSORWARE**

LOS ANGELES (January 5, 2010) – CYBERSitter, LLC has filed a \$2.2 billion civil action in federal court in Los Angeles against the People's Republic of China, two Chinese software makers, and seven major computer manufacturers for misappropriation of trade secrets, unfair competition, copyright infringement and conspiracy in connection with their distribution of Green Dam Youth Escort, the controversial censorware program used by the Chinese government to block Chinese citizens' access to Internet sites, including political and religious sites. The computer manufacturers named in the conspiracy include Sony, Lenovo, Toshiba, Acer, ASUSTeK, BenQ and Haier.

CYBERSitter's complaint alleges that the Chinese makers of Green Dam illegally copied over 3,000 lines of code from its award winning Internet content filtering software, CYBERSitter, and conspired with the Chinese government and computer manufacturers to distribute over 56 million copies of the infringing software throughout China and to Chinese speakers globally. The complaint alleges that the computer manufacturers continued to distribute millions of copies of Green Dam even after they became aware that the program's content filters were stolen from CYBERSitter. The complaint also alleges that the Chinese software makers broke U.S. criminal laws governing economic espionage and misappropriation of trade secrets by stealing CYBERSitter's proprietary content filters, integrating them into Green Dam, and distributing them for the Chinese government's benefit.

According to CYBERSitter's attorney Greg Fayer, "This lawsuit aims to strike a blow against the all-too-common practices of foreign software manufacturers and distributors who believe that they can violate the intellectual property rights of small American companies with impunity without being brought to justice in U.S. courts. American innovation is the lifeblood of the software industry, and it is vital that the fruits of those labors be protected at home and abroad."

The controversial Green Dam software previously made headlines when the Chinese government issued a mandate requiring all computer manufacturers to bundle Green Dam with any computer sold in China after July 1, 2009. Human rights groups protested the mandate as Green Dam's filters would allow the Chinese government to prevent access to websites it deemed politically undesirable. While the mandate subsequently was reversed, the defendants continued to distribute millions of copies of Green Dam in furtherance of the Chinese government's efforts to control Internet access.

CYBERSitter, LLC is a family-owned software company based in Santa Barbara, California. The CYBERSitter Internet content filtering program is designed to help parents protect their children from viewing pornographic and violent content on the Web. CYBERSitter, the first commercially available Internet content filter software, has won *PC Magazine's* Editor's Choice Award five times.

CYBERSitter, LLC is represented by Gregory A. Fayer and Elliot B. Gipson of Gipson Hoffman & Pancione.

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