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Apple, Microsoft, IBM Targeted Over Software Patent

By **Pete Brush**

Law360, New York (December 15, 2009) -- BetaNet LLC has filed suit against a who's who of technology companies, including Apple Inc., Microsoft Corp. and IBM Corp., alleging infringement of a patent for secure, remote operation of computer software.

Tyler, Texas-based BetaNet's suit, filed Monday in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, also names Adobe Systems Inc., Corel Corp., Eastman Kodak Co., SAP America Inc., Siemens Corp., Intuit Inc., McAfee Inc., Oracle Corp., Sony Creative Software Inc. and others as defendants.

According to the complaint, BetaNet's president is Dallas-based intellectual property and business law attorney Daniel F. Perez.

Perez declined to comment Monday on the case, saying the filings would speak for themselves.

BetaNet is the owner by assignment of U.S. Patent Numbers 5,222,134 and 5,103,476, both titled "Secure system for activating personal computer software at remote locations," the suit states.

The defendants have infringed the patent by selling software via a process that provides a program file, including a loader segment and a registration shell portion, to a remote computer, the complaint argues.

License transaction information is entered in the registration shell portion, and that information is transmitted to a separate program provided in a registration computer, the suit continues.

Such blockbuster computer programs such as Adobe's Acrobat and Photoshop, Apple's iTunes and Quicktime, and Microsoft's Office and Silverlight — among dozens of other well-

known applications — infringe the patents, according to the plaintiff.

The suit seeks a judgment that the defendants have infringed the patents, as well as injunctive relief and damages.

Representatives for Apple, IBM and Microsoft either did not return requests for comment or declined to comment.

BetaNet is represented by Spangler Law PC.

Counsel information for the defendants was not immediately available.

The case is BetaNet LLC v. Adobe Systems Inc. et al., case number 09-cv-00384, in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas.

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