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The PACid Group sues Apple, 18 other firms for patent infringement

Posted by Dennis Sellers ■ Mar 31, 2009 at 4:29pm



Another, another lawsuit. The PACid Group named 19 tech companies, including Apple, in a lawsuit claiming infringement of its patent on generating encryption keys, reports [InformationWeek](#). The company says the firms it's suing include in their products PACid's patented technique for generating pseudo-random, symmetric encryption keys.



The PACid Group—a Houston company formed by inventors Guy L. Fielder and Paul N. Alito—on Monday filed a patent-infringement lawsuit in the Eastern District of Texas against 19 computer and semiconductor companies and their subsidiaries. They include Apple, Atheros, Broadcom, Dell, Edimax, Gateway, Hewlett-Packard, Intel, Lenovo, Marvell, Realtek, and Toshiba.

The patent in question is U.S. patent No. 5,963,646, "Secure deterministic encryption key generator system and method," which describes an encryption key generator. The system allows for "the destruction of an encryption key after each use by providing for the re-creation of the key without need of key directories or other encryption key storage processes."

The PACid Group describes itself as "an encryption technology research firm, specializing in dynamic key management." the company claims to have invented and "patented novel encryption key management technologies, extending the value of today's encryption systems."

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Dennis has been a newspaper editor/reporter (seven years) and teacher (seven years). He has over 4,000 magazine, newspaper and online articles to his credit. He has also covered the Mac and tech industries for over a decade for such online publications as MacCentral, MacMinute and now MacsimumNews.

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