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 9

10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
 11 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
 12

13 BLIZZARD ENTERTAINMENT,  
 INC., a Delaware corporation,

14 Plaintiff,

15 v.

16 BOSSLAND GMBH, a foreign  
 17 corporation, and Does 1 through 10,  
 inclusive,

18 Defendants.  
 19

CASE NO.

**COMPLAINT FOR:**

- (1) TRAFFICKING IN CIRCUMVENTION DEVICES**
  - (2) INDUCEMENT TO INFRINGE COPYRIGHT**
  - (3) CONTRIBUTORY COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT**
  - (4) VICARIOUS COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT**
  - (5) INTENTIONAL INTERFERENCE WITH CONTRACTUAL RELATIONS**
  - (6) UNFAIR COMPETITION**
- [DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL]**

1 Blizzard Entertainment, Inc. (“Blizzard”) avers as follows:  
2

3 **PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

4 1. Blizzard is a developer and publisher of high-quality computer games  
5 and related entertainment products, including the massively popular online  
6 computer games “World of Warcraft” (“WoW”), “Diablo 3” (“D3”), “Heroes of  
7 the Storm” (“HOTS”), and “Hearthstone.” Most recently, on May 24, 2016,  
8 Blizzard released the highly anticipated multiplayer game “Overwatch.” In the  
9 few weeks since its release, Overwatch has become one of the most popular games  
10 ever released, and it represents a massive investment of time, money, and creative  
11 energy. (WoW, D3, HOTS, Hearthstone, and Overwatch collectively are referred  
12 to as the “Blizzard Games.”)

13 2. Defendant Bossland GmbH (“Bossland”) and those working in  
14 concert with it have built a profitable business by creating, distributing,  
15 maintaining, and updating malicious software products that are specifically  
16 designed to enable their users to cheat at the Blizzard Games, at the expense of  
17 Blizzard and its legitimate customers. These software products include four “bot”  
18 programs – “HonorBuddy,” “DemonBuddy,” “StormBuddy,” and “Hearthbuddy”  
19 (the “Buddy Bots”) – that enable users to automate their gameplay and manipulate  
20 the Blizzard Games to their competitive advantage. Additionally, Bossland  
21 recently developed and released to the public “Watchover Tyrant,” a product that  
22 enables users to cheat in Blizzard’s brand new game “Overwatch” (the “Overwatch  
23 Cheat”).

24 3. The Buddy Bots and the Overwatch Cheat (collectively, the “Bossland  
25 Hacks”) have caused, and are continuing to cause, massive and irreparable harm to  
26 Blizzard. Blizzard’s business depends upon its games being enjoyable and fair for  
27 players of all skill levels, and Blizzard expends an enormous amount of time and  
28 money to ensure that this is the case. The Bossland Hacks destroy the integrity of

1 the Blizzard Games, thereby alienating and frustrating legitimate players and  
2 diverting revenue from Blizzard to Defendants. Defendants’ sale and distribution  
3 of the Bossland Hacks in the United States has caused Blizzard to lose millions or  
4 tens of millions of dollars in revenue, and to suffer irreparable damage to its  
5 goodwill and reputation. Moreover, by releasing “Overwatch Cheat” just days  
6 after the release of “Overwatch,” Defendants are attempting to destroy or  
7 irreparably harm that game before it even has had a chance to fully flourish.  
8 Meanwhile, Defendants have been massively and unjustly enriched at Blizzard’s  
9 expense, having received hundreds of thousands (if not millions) of dollars in  
10 profits from the sale of the Bossland Hacks in the United States.

11 4. In creating and distributing the Bossland Hacks, Defendants have  
12 engaged in numerous unlawful acts under U.S. law. Defendants have violated  
13 Section 1201 of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (“DMCA”), 17 U.S.C. §  
14 1201(b)(1), by selling, importing, offering, providing, and otherwise trafficking in  
15 technologies that circumvent or evade Blizzard’s anti-cheat technologies.  
16 Defendants have encouraged and induced individuals located in the United States  
17 to infringe copyrights. Defendants also have knowingly, intentionally, and  
18 maliciously induced thousands or tens of thousands of Blizzard customers in the  
19 United States to breach their contracts with Blizzard, including contracts that  
20 explicitly prohibit them from engaging in the precise type of cheating that  
21 Bossland enables by its hacks. Defendants not only know that their conduct is  
22 unlawful, but they engage in that conduct with the deliberate intent to harm  
23 Blizzard and its business. Blizzard is entitled to monetary damages, injunctive and  
24 other equitable relief, and punitive damages against Defendants.

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**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

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2 5. This is a civil action seeking damages, injunctive relief, and other  
3 equitable relief, under the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.*; the DMCA, 17  
4 U.S.C. § 1201; and the laws of the State of California.

5 6. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over Blizzard’s claims for  
6 copyright infringement and violation of the DMCA pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331  
7 and 1338(a). Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367, this Court has supplemental  
8 jurisdiction over Blizzard’s state law claims for intentional interference with  
9 contract and unfair competition, which are so related to Blizzard’s claims under the  
10 Copyright Act and DMCA as to be part of the same case or controversy.  
11 Additionally, this Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C.  
12 § 1332 because the amount in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000,  
13 and the action is between a California citizen and a citizen of a foreign jurisdiction.

14 7. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because they  
15 have purposefully directed their activities at the United States, and at California in  
16 particular, have purposefully availed themselves of the benefits of doing business  
17 in California, and have established a continuing presence in California. Blizzard is  
18 informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that, without limitation:

19 (a) Defendants conduct extensive and ongoing business with users in the  
20 United States and the State of California;

21 (b) Defendants distribute the Bossland Hacks in the United States and the  
22 State of California, advertise and market the Bossland Hacks in the United States  
23 and the State of California, and communicate directly with users in the State of  
24 California, including for the purposes of soliciting purchases of the Bossland  
25 Hacks by such users and providing technical support for the Bossland Hacks;

26 (c) Defendants have directed their unlawful activities at Blizzard,  
27 knowing and intending that Blizzard would be harmed by their conduct in the  
28 United States and primarily in California, where Blizzard has its principal place of

1 business (in fact, Defendants specifically advertise their products as being made  
2 for Blizzard's games);

3 (d) Defendants have entered into, and continue to enter into, hundreds or  
4 thousands of contracts with individuals in the United States and in the State of  
5 California, including contracts pursuant to which such individuals license from  
6 Defendants the right to install and use the Bossland Hacks. In return for such  
7 licenses, Defendants receive ongoing recurring monthly payments from individuals  
8 in the United States and the State of California;

9 (e) Defendants employ or engage individuals residing within the United  
10 States to create, code, develop, test, and support the Bossland Hacks;

11 (f) Defendants contract with numerous entities located in the United  
12 States and the State of California in connection with their business. This includes,  
13 for example, domain name registries, hosting or content delivery services, and  
14 credit card processors and merchant banks; and

15 (g) Defendants distribute the Bossland Hacks via content delivery  
16 networks and servers located in the United States and the State of California.

17 8. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)  
18 because this is a judicial district in which a substantial part of the events giving rise  
19 to the claims occurred, and/or in which Blizzard's injury was suffered.

20

21

### **THE PARTIES**

22 9. Blizzard is a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws  
23 of the State of Delaware, with its principal place of business in Irvine, California.  
24 Blizzard is the publisher and owner of all rights, title, and interest in the immensely  
25 popular computer games "World of Warcraft," "Diablo 3," "Heroes of the Storm,"  
26 "Hearthstone," and "Overwatch."

27 10. Blizzard is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that  
28 Defendant Bossland GmbH is a company incorporated in Germany, with its

1 principal place of business in Zwickau, Germany. Blizzard is informed and  
2 believes that Bossland is the developer and distributor of the Bossland Hacks and  
3 is responsible for creating, producing, maintaining, marketing, advertising,  
4 supporting, and monetizing the Bossland Hacks.

5 11. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate,  
6 associate, or otherwise, of the defendants sued herein as Does 1-10 inclusive, are  
7 unknown to Blizzard, which has therefore sued said defendants by such fictitious  
8 names. These defendants may include individuals whose real identities are not yet  
9 known to Blizzard, but who are acting in concert with one another, often in the  
10 guise of Internet aliases, in committing the unlawful acts alleged herein. Blizzard  
11 will seek leave to amend this complaint to state their true names and capacities  
12 once said defendants' identities and capacities are ascertained. Blizzard is  
13 informed and believes, and on that basis avers, that all defendants sued herein are  
14 liable to Blizzard as a result of their participation in all or some of the acts set forth  
15 in this complaint. (All of the aforementioned defendants collectively are referred  
16 to herein as "Defendants.")

17 12. Blizzard is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that at all  
18 times mentioned in this complaint, each of the Defendants was the agent of each of  
19 the other Defendants and, in doing the things averred in this complaint, was acting  
20 within the course and scope of such agency.

## 21 **FACTS APPLICABLE TO ALL CLAIMS**

### 22 **Blizzard And Its Computer Games**

23 13. Blizzard is a computer game developer and publisher, engaged in the  
24 business of developing, financing, producing, marketing, and distributing high-  
25 quality software game products. Blizzard is one of the world's most respected  
26 makers of computer games, including the incredibly popular titles "World of  
27 Warcraft," "Diablo 3," "Heroes of the Storm," "Hearthstone," and, most recently,  
28

1 “Overwatch” (collectively, the “Blizzard Games”). Blizzard is the owner of valid  
2 and subsisting copyrights in each of the Blizzard Games.

3 14. The success of each of the Blizzard Games rests in part on Blizzard’s  
4 ability to offer a consistently compelling player experience so that its customers  
5 remain invested in the Blizzard Games and play them for a sustained period of  
6 time.

7 15. **World of Warcraft** (“WoW”) is a Massively Multiplayer Online  
8 Roleplaying Game (“MMORPG”), a genre of computer game in which a large  
9 number of players interact with each other simultaneously in a persistent “virtual”  
10 online world. In order to recoup its massive investment in WoW, Blizzard charges  
11 users a monthly (or yearly) subscription fee. Payment of the subscription fee  
12 permits users to access Blizzard’s WoW servers and play the WoW game.  
13 Accordingly, Blizzard takes great pains to ensure that the WoW game world offers  
14 fair, interesting, fun, and compelling challenges, so that players remain subscribers  
15 to WoW.

16 16. **Diablo 3** (“D3”) is an online “action roleplaying game” in which  
17 players (either on their own or cooperatively in groups of up to four) battle  
18 monsters, demons, and other enemies, building their characters by obtaining  
19 experience and in-game items. In addition to the substantial capital and resources  
20 expended by Blizzard in developing D3, Blizzard expends substantial resources on  
21 an ongoing basis developing and releasing content patches and maintaining the D3  
22 game (including server maintenance, bug fixes, and balance tweaks).

23 17. **Heroes of the Storm** (“HOTS”) is a competitive, skill-based  
24 multiplayer game in which two teams of five players engage one another in  
25 competitive head-to-head combat. HOTS utilizes a “free to play” business model,  
26 in which players are not charged to initially download the HOTS client software or  
27 play the game online. Instead, Blizzard relies on in-game user purchases  
28 (sometimes referred to as “microtransactions”) to recoup its massive investment in



1 HOTS (for example, a HOTS player might pay to unlock a new playable character,  
2 or purchase aesthetic upgrades for his or her existing characters). Only dedicated  
3 HOTS players typically make these in-game purchases, and thus it is critical to  
4 Blizzard’s business that players remain invested in the game and interested in  
5 purchasing in-game items and upgrades.

6 18. **Hearthstone** is an online collectible card game (a “CCG”), utilizing  
7 characters and settings from World of Warcraft. Hearthstone is free-to-play with  
8 no monthly subscription. Like other CCGs, Hearthstone has a base set of cards  
9 and a series of additions and expansions. New cards are awarded by playing the  
10 game or by purchasing card packs. To keep players interested in the game,  
11 Blizzard regularly releases card updates and single-player “adventures” that reward  
12 the player with new, exclusive cards. Because the financial success of Hearthstone  
13 relies on purchases of this additional content, it is critical to Blizzard’s business  
14 model that the game remains fun to play and that players are willing to invest in  
15 the game by purchasing new cards or new content.

16 19. **Overwatch**, released on May 24, 2016, is a team-based, online  
17 multiplayer, “first person shooter” (“FPS”) game. Overwatch is a highly  
18 competitive, skill-based game with a fixed set of rules and regulations that have  
19 been carefully designed to ensure that all players stand on equal footing and have a  
20 fair chance to defeat their opponents and progress in the game. Maintaining proper  
21 game balance is absolutely critical to the game’s success. Thousands of hours  
22 have been spent by Blizzard to ensure that the game is fair and fun to play. If that  
23 balance is artificially upset, or if there is a perception that some players are  
24 cheating or have an unfair advantage, then players will grow frustrated with the  
25 game and stop playing, the robust multiplayer community will wither before it  
26 takes root, and the game will not reach its full potential.

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28



1 **Blizzard’s Efforts To Protect Its Games**

2 20. The Blizzard Games are under near-constant threat from individuals  
3 and corporations who seek to exploit the Games for their own personal gain, at the  
4 expense of others. For this reason, Blizzard seeks to protect the integrity of its  
5 products and the sanctity of its users’ game play through both technical and  
6 contractual measures.

7  
8 **Blizzard’s Technical Security Measures**

9 21. In order to protect its games from cheating or unauthorized  
10 exploitation, Blizzard has developed and employs a software program called  
11 “Warden.” Warden is a technical measure that prevents unauthorized access to the  
12 Blizzard Games, restricts users from loading unauthorized copies of the Blizzard  
13 Games, and otherwise monitors the game client and environment for malicious or  
14 unauthorized software processes.

15 22. One of the ways that Warden enforces Blizzard’s rights is by running  
16 targeted scans for the presence and/or use of “signatures” of known unauthorized  
17 third-party programs that facilitate cheating or allow the modification of the game  
18 interface and/or experience in any way not authorized by Blizzard. If Warden  
19 detects that a user is engaged in prohibited hacking or cheating activities, it will  
20 deny that user access to the Blizzard Game. As a result, for any hack or cheat  
21 software, including the Bossland Hacks, to be effective, the software must be  
22 designed to prevent its detection by Warden, either by concealing itself from  
23 Warden or by disabling Warden.

24 23. Blizzard also uses encryption measures to protect the Blizzard Games  
25 from being exploited and manipulated by hackers and cheaters. For example,  
26 Blizzard encrypts the “data pointers” used by its games so that hackers cannot  
27 locate critical gameplay data such as enemy and ally positions and enemy health.

1 Thus, to access and obtain information that can be used to modify and alter the  
2 Blizzard Games it is necessary to engage in decryption activities.

3  
4 Blizzard’s Contractual Protection Of Its Games

5 24. In order to access, download, or play any of the Blizzard Games, users  
6 must create and register an account with Blizzard’s proprietary Battle.net system.  
7 To create a Battle.net account, users must expressly manifest their assent to the  
8 “Battle.net End User License Agreement” (the “EULA”). The entire text of the  
9 EULA is displayed to users at the time they are asked to assent to its terms. The  
10 EULA also is made available on Blizzard’s website at [http://us.blizzard.com/en-](http://us.blizzard.com/en-us/company/legal/eula.html)  
11 [us/company/legal/eula.html](http://us.blizzard.com/en-us/company/legal/eula.html).

12 25. The EULA is a conditional, limited license agreement between  
13 Blizzard and its users. Under the EULA, Blizzard licenses the right to download,  
14 copy, install, and play the Blizzard Games, subject to certain terms, restrictions,  
15 and conditions. Among other provisions, the EULA expressly states that, as a  
16 condition to the limited license: “You agree that you will not, in whole or in part  
17 or under any circumstances, do the following:

18 Derivative Works: Copy or reproduce (except as  
19 provided in Section 1(B)), translate, reverse engineer,  
20 derive source code from, modify, disassemble,  
21 decompile, or create derivative works based on or related  
to the Battle.net Client or Games.

22 Cheating: Create, use, offer, advertise, make available  
23 and/or distribute the following or assist therein:

24 1. Cheats; i.e. methods, not expressly  
25 authorized by Blizzard, influencing and/or facilitating the  
26 gameplay, including exploits of any in-game bugs, and  
27 thereby granting you and/or any other user an advantage  
over other players not using such methods;

28 2. Bots; i.e. any code and/or software, not  
expressly authorized by Blizzard, that allows the

1 automated control of a Game, Battle.net and/or any  
2 component or feature thereof, e.g. the automated control  
3 of a character in a Game;

4 3. Hacks; i.e. accessing or modifying the  
5 software of a Game or Battle.net in a manner, not  
6 expressly authorized by Blizzard; and/or

7 4. any code and/or software, not expressly  
8 authorized by Blizzard, that can be used in connection  
9 with the Battle.net client, Battle.net, a Game and/or any  
10 component or feature thereof which changes and/or  
11 facilitates the gameplay;

12 26. The Blizzard Games are made available to the public exclusively  
13 through Blizzard's proprietary Battle.net system. (This includes any physical  
14 copies of the Blizzard Games, which must be activated and played through the  
15 Battle.net system.) Thus, it is not possible for a user to lawfully obtain access to or  
16 play any of the Blizzard Games without expressly consenting to the EULA.

### 17 **Defendants And The Bossland Hacks**

18 27. Defendants are engaged in the for-profit business of creating,  
19 producing, marketing, distributing, and supporting a suite of malicious software  
20 products specifically designed to harm Blizzard and the Blizzard Games. The  
21 Bossland Hacks include the "Buddy Bots" and the "Overwatch Cheat."

22 28. All of the Bossland Hacks are designed to enable players of the  
23 Blizzard Games to circumvent the rules of the Blizzard Games and gain unfair  
24 advantages over other players.

### 25 **The Buddy Bots**

26 29. The Buddy Bots are software programs that, when installed on a  
27 user's computer, permit the user to "automate" his or her play of the Blizzard  
28 Games. In other words, the Buddy Bots play the game while the user is away from

1 his or her computer. Each of the Buddy Bots is designed to be used with a  
2 particular Blizzard Game, and can only be used with that game:

3 (a) **Honorbuddy** is described by Defendants as the “best available [third]  
4 party Bot for the game ‘World of Warcraft’ from Blizzard.” Defendants claim that  
5 Honorbuddy supports every WoW expansion, and “soon” will support Blizzard’s  
6 forthcoming and highly anticipated expansion “Legion.” Among other things, a  
7 WoW player using Honorbuddy is able to accumulate in-game experience and  
8 resources at a faster-than-normal rate, manipulate the in-game economy to the  
9 player’s advantage, and unfairly defeat opponents.

10 (b) **Demonbuddy** is described by Defendants as the “best available  
11 [third] party Bot for Blizzard’s Diablo 3.” Defendants claim that Demonbuddy  
12 “picks up all gems, potions, gold, and magic items,” will “sell, keep or salvage any  
13 items,” “is awesome for leveling,” and “farms [*i.e.* collects] gold for you.” Players  
14 using Demonbuddy are able to gather equipment, currency, and materials at a far  
15 greater rate than players who play legitimately.

16 (c) **Stormbuddy** is described by Defendants as “The Bot for HOTS  
17 [Heroes of the Storm].” Using Stormbuddy, a player may allow the computer to  
18 compete in his or her stead, easily defeating most human opponents and unfairly  
19 gaining experience and in-game currency.

20 (d) **Hearthbuddy** is described by Defendants as “the Bot for  
21 Hearthstone.” Defendants claim that using this product, players may “Win GOLD,  
22 level your Heroes in Hearthstone, [and] play and win ranked games.”

23 30. Subscriptions for each of the Buddy Bots are sold through dedicated  
24 websites owned and operated by Defendants, at a cost of 12.95 Euros  
25 (approximately \$14.50) per month or between 24.98 and 199 Euros (approximately  
26 \$28 to \$224) for a yearly subscription.

27 31. Defendants offer users in the United States technical support,  
28 customer service, and other advice for the Buddy Bots through their online forums

1 or through direct email correspondence. Among the support they offer is advice on  
2 how to avoid being caught by Blizzard for using the Buddy Bots, how to download  
3 and install the Buddy Bots, and how to most effectively use the Buddy Bots in the  
4 Blizzard Games. Defendants also regularly solicit and receive feedback from users  
5 of the Buddy Bots, which they incorporate to prevent Blizzard from detecting and  
6 barring use of the Buddy Bots.

7

8

### The Overwatch Cheat

9 32. On or about May 25, 2016 (the day after Overwatch was released to  
10 the public), Defendants released the Overwatch Cheat.

11 33. The Overwatch Cheat is advertised by Defendants as an “ESP  
12 Advantage for Overwatch.” The Overwatch Cheat purports to enable Overwatch  
13 players to cheat in the game by displaying information such as the locations and  
14 health status of hidden or obscured opponents.

15 34. Defendants sell licenses to use the Overwatch Cheat via their  
16 dedicated website for a recurring subscription fee of 12.95 Euros (approximately  
17 \$14.50) per month or an annual fee of 199 Euros (approximately \$224).

18 35. In order to use the Overwatch Cheat, users first must download the  
19 software client from Defendants’ website and install that product on their personal  
20 computers. When the Overwatch Cheat is launched, it presents an interface by  
21 which a user may select which features to activate or deactivate, such as whether to  
22 show a radar or whether to reveal the location of both hostiles and friendly players.

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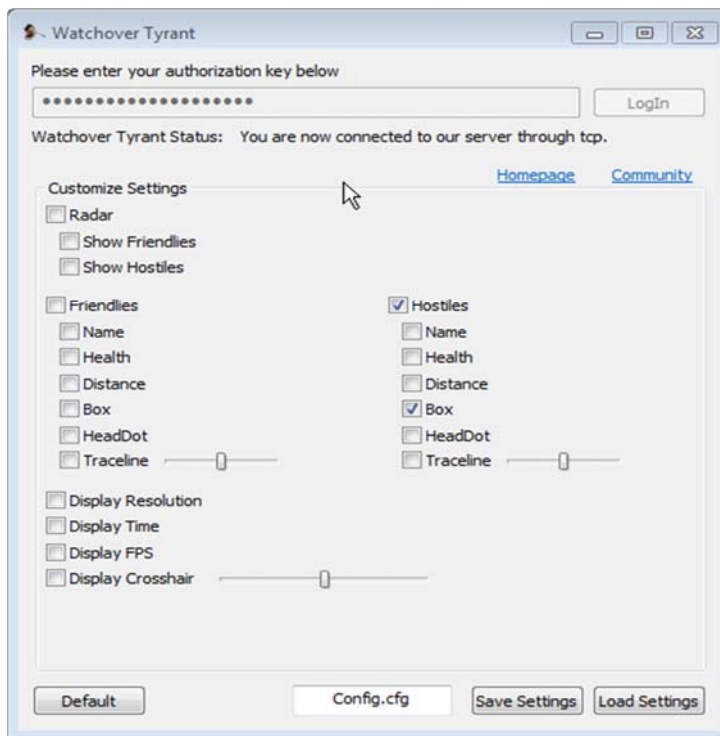
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36. Once a user of the Overwatch Cheat selects from the presented options, the program renders a dynamic screen display that shows, in real time, positional and other information as an Overwatch match is being played by the user. Blizzard is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that the Overwatch Cheat’s dynamic screen display is created by reading data (including rendering data) that is created by the Overwatch software and that resides on the user’s personal computer. Thus, in its normal course of operation, the Overwatch Cheat generates a visual representation of gameplay, positional, health, map layout, and other data from Overwatch. The visual display created by the combination of the Overwatch Cheat’s overlay and the Overwatch game is illustrated below:

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**Defendants’ Unlawful Conduct**

37. By creating, producing, marketing, distributing, and supporting each of the Bossland Hacks, Defendants have engaged in a variety of unlawful activities in the United States and have caused serious and continuing harm to Blizzard and its products.

**Unlawful Circumvention**

38. Defendants incorporate technology into the Bossland Hacks that is designed to avoid, bypass, or circumvent technological measures, including Warden, used by Blizzard to prevent unauthorized access to the Blizzard Games and restrict members of the public from hacking, manipulating, or improperly exploiting the Blizzard Games.

39. One of the ways that Defendants seek to avoid, bypass, or circumvent Warden is through use of a software application known as “Tripwire.” Defendants describe Tripwire as follows:

Tripwire is anti-spyware technology built into Bossland GmbH products to “watch the watchers.” Tripwire is always active. It is constantly looking at [Warden]. Tripwire will automatically render all active sessions of a



1 Buddy bot as invalid if it detects [Warden] doing  
2 anything sneaky. Bossland GmbH can also manually  
3 activate Tripwire upon discovery of something untoward.

4 40. Blizzard is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that  
5 Tripwire is incorporated into each of the Bossland Hacks. The sole purpose of  
6 Tripwire is to avoid detection of the Bossland Hacks by Warden, and Defendants  
7 advertise it as such. As Defendants post on their forum, “the Buddy bot is  
8 responsible for *avoiding* client-side detection [*i.e.* Warden].” (emphasis added).  
9 The Bossland Hacks would not have any commercial value or appeal without the  
10 Tripwire technology incorporated therein.

11  
12 Unlawful Access, Copying And Reverse Engineering

13 41. Blizzard is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that in  
14 order to create, improve, test, and maintain the Bossland Hacks, Defendants or  
15 freelance hackers operating in the United States, and acting at Defendants’  
16 direction, fraudulently obtained access to Blizzard’s software clients for each of  
17 the Blizzard Games (or directed and caused others to do so). They did so by  
18 purporting to assent to the EULA, without any intent to comply with its terms, in  
19 order to improperly gain access to the software clients for the express purpose of  
20 engaging in unauthorized copying, reverse engineering, disassembling,  
21 decompiling, and/or creating derivative works of the Blizzard Games.

22 42. Blizzard is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that once  
23 in possession of Blizzard’s copyrighted software code for the Blizzard Games,  
24 Defendants or freelance hackers working in concert with them operating in the  
25 United States engaged in multiple acts of unauthorized reproduction, adaptation,  
26 and/or distribution of Blizzard’s copyrighted works in order to reverse engineer,  
27 disassemble, decompile, and decrypt those works.

1           43. The foregoing unauthorized acts of reproduction, distribution, and  
2 adaptation were made solely for the purpose of developing or maintaining the  
3 Bossland Hacks, which have no purpose other than to allow their users to cheat in  
4 the Blizzard Games, and whose use is strictly prohibited by the EULA. Blizzard  
5 has never authorized any of the Defendants or their contractors or employees to  
6 engage in any of the foregoing acts; to the contrary, such conduct is expressly  
7 prohibited by Blizzard in its EULA.

8

9                                   Defendants' Intentional Interference With The EULA

10           44. Every time one of Defendants' customers uses one of the Bossland  
11 Hacks, that customer directly violates the EULA that each Blizzard customer must  
12 enter into as a precondition to installing and playing the Blizzard Games.

13           45. Each of the Bossland Hacks is a single-purpose software program and  
14 works only with the specific Blizzard Game that it has been designed for.  
15 Therefore, none of the Bossland Hacks can be used without violating the EULA.

16           46. Defendants know that the Bossland Hacks cannot be used without  
17 violating the EULA, but nevertheless encourage and induce their customers to use  
18 the Bossland Hacks in violation of the EULA. Moreover, Defendants encourage  
19 their customers in the United States to secretly commit ongoing and continuing  
20 breaches of the EULA by, for example, counseling their customers about how to  
21 avoid being caught by Blizzard for using the Bossland Hacks. Defendants even  
22 have created special message boards to discuss Blizzard's policing activities and to  
23 report account bans, so that customers can gain a better understanding of how to  
24 trick Blizzard and avoid being detected using the Bossland Hacks.

25           47. Recently, after Blizzard terminated the accounts of thousands of  
26 Overwatch players as a result of their use of the Overwatch Cheat, Defendants  
27 announced to the public that "[w]e are already working on a better way to handle

28

1 detection,” thus confirming their deliberate intent to cause additional and ongoing  
2 breaches of the EULA.

3

4 **The Harm To Blizzard From Defendants’ Conduct**

5 48. By their conduct, Defendants have caused and continue to cause  
6 serious harm to the value of Blizzard’s games and to Blizzard’s online community.  
7 Such harm is immediate, massive and irreparable, and includes (but is not limited  
8 to) the following:

9 (a) Defendants irreparably harm the ability of Blizzard’s legitimate  
10 customers in the United States to enjoy and participate in the online experience  
11 carefully created by Blizzard. That, in turn, causes users to grow dissatisfied with  
12 Blizzard’s games, lose interest, and stop playing. Blizzard is informed and  
13 believes, and on that basis alleges, that thousands of customers have cancelled  
14 World of Warcraft subscriptions, ceased playing the Blizzard Games, and/or  
15 ceased purchasing goods and services (including virtual goods) for the Blizzard  
16 Games as a result of the Bossland Hacks.

17 (b) Defendants’ conduct has forced Blizzard to spend enormous sums of  
18 money (and vast amounts of time) attempting to remediate the damage caused by  
19 the Bossland Hacks. This includes creating and releasing new versions of the  
20 Blizzard Games that counteract the Bossland Hacks, responding to player  
21 complaints, employing personnel to police the games to detect the use of the  
22 Bossland Hacks, and “banning” (*i.e.*, permanently deleting the accounts of) users  
23 who are using the Bossland Hacks.

24 (c) Defendants’ conduct harms Blizzard’s reputation and results in the  
25 loss of customer goodwill, in the United States and worldwide.

26 49. Defendants’ conduct has resulted in damage to Blizzard in an amount  
27 to be proven at trial. By Blizzard’s estimation, such damage is in the tens or  
28 hundreds of millions of dollars. Unless Defendants are preliminarily or

1 permanently enjoined, Blizzard will continue to suffer severe harm from the  
2 Bossland Hacks.

3  
4 **COUNT I**

5 **Trafficking In Circumvention Devices**

6 50. Blizzard realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations in  
7 paragraphs 1 through 49, as if set forth fully herein.

8 51. The Blizzard Games, including but not limited to the source code and  
9 audiovisual game play environments, are copyrighted works.

10 52. Blizzard has incorporated into the Blizzard Games technological  
11 measures, including Warden, that effectively control access to the Blizzard Games,  
12 including access to the dynamic audiovisual elements that comprise the Blizzard  
13 Games.

14 53. The Bossland Hacks are comprised of or contain technologies,  
15 products, services, devices, components, or parts thereof (including Tripwire) that  
16 primarily are designed or produced for the purpose of circumventing technological  
17 measures, including Warden, that effectively control the access to copyrighted  
18 works (the Blizzard Games), and that protect the exclusive rights of the copyright  
19 owner (Blizzard).

20 54. The Bossland Hacks (and the portions thereof that circumvent  
21 Warden) have no commercially significant purpose or use other than to circumvent  
22 a technological measure that effectively controls access to a copyrighted work and  
23 that protects the exclusive rights of a copyright owner.

24 55. Defendants market the Bossland Hacks in the United States with  
25 knowledge of their use to circumvent Blizzard's technological access controls.

26 56. As a result of the foregoing, Defendants are offering to the public,  
27 providing, or otherwise trafficking in the United States in technology that violates  
28 17 U.S.C. § 1201(a)(2).

1 57. Defendants' acts constituting DMCA violations have been and  
2 continue to be performed without the permission, authorization, or consent of  
3 Blizzard.

4 58. Defendants have violated Section 1201 of the DMCA willfully and for  
5 private commercial gain.

6 59. Defendants' conduct has caused damage to Blizzard and has unjustly  
7 enriched Defendants, in an amount to be proven at trial.

8 60. As a result of Defendants' acts and conduct, Blizzard has sustained  
9 and will continue to sustain substantial, immediate, and irreparable injury, for  
10 which there is no adequate remedy at law. Blizzard is informed and believes, and  
11 on that basis avers, that, unless enjoined and restrained by this Court, Defendants  
12 will continue to violate Section 1201 of the DMCA. Blizzard is entitled to  
13 injunctive relief to restrain and enjoin Defendants' continuing unlawful conduct.

14 61. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct, pursuant to  
15 17 U.S.C. § 1203(c), Blizzard is entitled to Defendant's profits attributable to their  
16 violations of 17 U.S.C § 1201.

17 62. Alternatively, Blizzard is entitled to the maximum statutory damages,  
18 pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 1203(c), in the amount of \$25,000 with respect to each  
19 violation by Defendants.

20 63. Blizzard further is entitled to its attorneys' fees and full costs pursuant  
21 to 17 U.S.C. § 1203(b).

22

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## **COUNT II**

24

### **Inducement To Infringe Copyright**

25 64. Blizzard realleges each and every allegation set forth in Paragraphs 1  
26 through 49, inclusive, and incorporates them by reference herein.

27 65. Defendants have actively encouraged and induced others located in  
28 the United States to engage in acts of copyright infringement. This includes

1 encouraging and inducing third-party “freelancers” or contractors to fraudulently  
2 obtain access to the Blizzard Games and then, having done so, to engage in  
3 unauthorized reproduction of the Blizzard Games. Defendants also have  
4 encouraged users of the Bossland Hacks (particularly the Overwatch Cheat) to use  
5 those hacks to create derivative works, such as the dynamic screen overlay  
6 generated by the Overwatch Cheat.

7 66. Defendants’ acts of infringement were willful, in disregard of, and  
8 with indifference to the rights of Blizzard.

9 67. As a direct and proximate result, Blizzard is entitled to damages and  
10 to Defendants’ profits in amounts to be proven at trial, which are not currently  
11 ascertainable. Alternatively, Blizzard is entitled to maximum statutory damages of  
12 \$150,000 for each copyright infringed, or in such other amount as may be proper  
13 under 17 U.S.C. § 504(c).

14 68. Blizzard further is entitled to its attorneys’ fees and full costs pursuant  
15 to 17 U.S.C. § 505.

16 69. As a result of Defendants’ acts and conduct, Blizzard has sustained  
17 and will continue to sustain substantial, immediate, and irreparable injury, for  
18 which there is no adequate remedy at law. Blizzard is informed and believes, and  
19 on that basis avers, that unless enjoined and restrained by this Court, Defendants  
20 will continue to induce infringement of Blizzard’s copyrights in the United States.  
21 Blizzard is entitled to injunctive relief to restrain and enjoin Defendants’  
22 continuing unlawful conduct.

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### **COUNT III**

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#### **Contributory Copyright Infringement**

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70. Blizzard realleges each and every allegation set forth in Paragraphs 1  
through 49, inclusive, and incorporates them by reference herein.

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1           71. Defendants have, with knowledge, materially contributed to copyright  
2 infringement in the United States. They have done so by enabling and encouraging  
3 third-party “freelancers” or contractors to fraudulently obtain access to the  
4 Blizzard Games and then, having done so, to engage in unauthorized reproduction  
5 of the Blizzard Games. They also have done so by enabling users of the Bossland  
6 Hacks (particularly the Overwatch Cheat) to use the software to create derivative  
7 works, such as the dynamic screen overlay generated by the Overwatch Cheat.

8           72. Defendants’ acts of infringement were willful, in disregard of, and  
9 with indifference to, the rights of Blizzard.

10           73. As a direct and proximate result, Blizzard is entitled to damages and  
11 to Defendants’ profits in amounts to be proven at trial, which are not currently  
12 ascertainable. Alternatively, Blizzard is entitled to maximum statutory damages of  
13 \$150,000 for each copyright infringed, or in such other amount as may be proper  
14 under 17 U.S.C. § 504(c).

15           74. Blizzard further is entitled to its attorneys’ fees and full costs pursuant  
16 to 17 U.S.C. § 505.

17           75. As a result of Defendants’ acts and conduct, Blizzard has sustained  
18 and will continue to sustain substantial, immediate, and irreparable injury, for  
19 which there is no adequate remedy at law. Blizzard is informed and believes, and  
20 on that basis avers, that unless enjoined and restrained by this Court, Defendants  
21 will continue to contribute to infringement of Blizzard’s copyrights in the United  
22 States. Blizzard is entitled to injunctive relief to restrain and enjoin Defendants’  
23 continuing unlawful conduct.

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#### **COUNT IV**

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#### **Vicarious Copyright Infringement**

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76. Blizzard realleges each and every allegation set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 49, inclusive, and incorporates them by reference herein.



1           77. When third-party “freelancers” or contractors in the United States  
2 engage in unauthorized reproduction of the Blizzard Games, and when users of the  
3 Bossland Hacks (particularly the Overwatch Cheat) in the United States use the  
4 software to create derivative works, such as the dynamic screen overlay generated  
5 by the Overwatch Cheat, they engage in copyright infringement. Defendants have  
6 the right and ability to supervise and control the foregoing infringing conduct.  
7 Defendants have failed and refused to exercise such supervision and control to  
8 limit infringement to the extent required by law. Defendants derive a direct  
9 financial benefit from this infringement.

10           78. Defendants’ acts of infringement were willful, in disregard of, and  
11 with indifference to, the rights of Blizzard.

12           79. As a direct and proximate result, Blizzard is entitled to damages and  
13 to Defendants’ profits in amounts to be proven at trial, which are not currently  
14 ascertainable. Alternatively, Blizzard is entitled to maximum statutory damages of  
15 \$150,000 for each copyright infringed, or in such other amount as may be proper  
16 under 17 U.S.C. § 504(c).

17           80. Blizzard further is entitled to its attorneys’ fees and full costs pursuant  
18 to 17 U.S.C. § 505.

19           81. As a result of Defendants’ acts and conduct, Blizzard has sustained  
20 and will continue to sustain substantial, immediate, and irreparable injury, for  
21 which there is no adequate remedy at law. Blizzard is informed and believes, and  
22 on that basis avers, that unless enjoined and restrained by this Court, Defendants  
23 will continue to vicariously infringe Blizzard’s copyrights in the United States.  
24 Blizzard is entitled to injunctive relief to restrain and enjoin Defendants’  
25 continuing unlawful conduct.

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**COUNT V**

**Intentional Interference With Contractual Relations**

82. Blizzard realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 49, as if set forth fully herein.

83. As described herein, before installing the client software and playing the Blizzard Games, licensed users in the United States first must assent to the EULA, thereby creating contracts between the users and Blizzard. Among other provisions, the EULA provides that the user may not “[c]reate, use, offer, advertise, make available and/or distribute . . . Cheats [or] Bots.”

84. Blizzard’s contracts with its users are valid and enforceable.

85. Blizzard is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that Defendants are aware of the contracts between Blizzard and its users in the United States, and additionally are aware of the Blizzard EULA by virtue of their own Blizzard accounts. Defendants specifically are aware that the EULA prohibits players from using cheats or bots. Nevertheless, Defendants intentionally encourage and induce users of the Blizzard Games to purchase and use the Bossland Hacks, knowing that the use of these products by their customers is a breach of these customers’ contracts with Blizzard.

86. By inducing licensed users to breach their contracts with Blizzard, Defendants have intentionally interfered, and continue to interfere, with the contracts between Blizzard and its users.

87. As a result of Defendants’ actions, Blizzard has suffered damage in an amount to be proven at trial, including but not limited to loss of goodwill among users of the Blizzard Games, diversion of Blizzard resources to attempt to detect and prevent the use of Bossland Hacks, decreased profits, and loss of profits from users whose accounts Blizzard has terminated for violation of the EULA in the United States.



1 constructive trustees for the benefit of Blizzard, and an order that Defendants  
2 convey to Blizzard the gross receipts received or to be received that are attributable  
3 to the sale of the Bossland Hacks in the United States.

4 94. Defendants are guilty of oppression, fraud or malice, and Blizzard, in  
5 addition to its actual damages, by reason thereof, is entitled to recover exemplary  
6 and punitive damages against Defendants.

7 95. As a result of Defendants' acts and conduct in the United States,  
8 Blizzard has sustained and will continue to sustain substantial, immediate, and  
9 irreparable injury, for which there is no adequate remedy at law. Blizzard is  
10 informed and believes, and on that basis avers, that unless enjoined and restrained  
11 by this Court, Defendants will continue to engage in unfair competition. Pursuant  
12 to California Business & Professions Code § 17203, Blizzard is entitled to  
13 temporary, preliminary and permanent injunctions prohibiting further acts of unfair  
14 competition.

15  
16 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

17 WHEREFORE, Blizzard prays that this Court enter judgment in its favor on  
18 each and every claim for relief set forth above and award it relief, including but not  
19 limited to an order:

20 1. Preliminarily and permanently enjoining Defendants, their officers,  
21 employees, agents, subsidiaries, representatives, distributors, dealers, members,  
22 affiliates, and all persons acting in concert or participation with Defendants from:  
23 (i) trafficking in circumvention devices in the United States; (ii) inducing,  
24 contributing to, or facilitating third-party infringements of Blizzard's copyrighted  
25 works in the United States; (iii) intentionally interfering with Blizzard's contracts  
26 with players in the United States; and (iv) engaging in unfair competition in the  
27 United States.

1           2.     Requiring Defendants to shut down the Bossland Hacks and any  
2 colorable copies thereof, hosted at any domain, address, location, or ISP.

3           3.     Requiring Defendants to deliver to Blizzard all copies of materials  
4 that infringe or violate any of Blizzard’s rights, as described herein.

5           4.     Requiring Defendants to provide Blizzard with an accounting of any  
6 and all sales of products or services in the United States that infringe or violate any  
7 of Blizzard’s rights, as described herein.

8           5.     Awarding Blizzard actual or statutory damages for copyright  
9 infringement and willful infringement under 17 U.S.C. § 504, as appropriate.

10          6.     Awarding Blizzard its full costs and attorneys’ fees in this action  
11 pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505 and other applicable laws.

12          7.     Awarding Blizzard exemplary and punitive damages against  
13 Defendants on Blizzard’s fifth cause of action for intentional interference with  
14 contractual relations.

15          8.     Awarding Blizzard restitution of Defendants’ unlawful proceeds,  
16 including an accounting of any and all sales of the Bossland Hacks in the United  
17 States, and/or any other products or services that violate any of Blizzard’s rights  
18 described herein.

19          9.     Imposing a constructive trust over the proceeds unjustly obtained by  
20 Defendants through the sales of the Bossland Hacks in the United States, and/or  
21 any other products or services that violate any of Blizzard’s rights described  
22 herein.

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**JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff Blizzard Entertainment, Inc. hereby demands a trial by jury on all matters and issues so triable.

Dated: July 1, 2016

KARIN G. PAGNANELLI  
MARC E. MAYER  
EMILY F. EVITT  
DANIEL A. KOHLER  
MITCHELL SILBERBERG & KNUPP LLP

By: /s/Marc E. Mayer  
Marc E. Mayer  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
Blizzard Entertainment, Inc.