

Patrick Houlding

BT files patent infringement lawsuit against valve

<https://www.rockpapershotgun.com/2016/08/31/bt-valve-patent-infringement-lawsuit/>

Phillipa Warr, August 31, 2016

Overview:

This article reports British Telecommunications has filed a Patent Infringement lawsuit against the large video game company Valve. British Telecommunications claims that Valve has continued to infringe on four patents, which British Telecommunications has created. The four patents infringed upon are the Gittens patent, which is a node that provides a network based information service in an intelligent communications network, the Newton patent, a method for delivering messages, the Beddus patent, a way of using VoIP, and the Buckley patent, a streaming/broadcasting service. Each of these patents is used in Valve's videogame desktop program called Steam.

Analysis:

Major Ethical issue:

The major ethical issue faced in this is Patent Infringement. The problem is that Valve has created a system that uses patented techniques for users to communicate and present their gameplay created by British Telecommunications. This has caused BT to create a lawsuit against Valve.

Stakeholders:

The stakeholders affected by this lawsuit are those that use Steam as a communication system with their friends and colleagues, as well as the BT Company. This lawsuit affects Steam users as the features that they use, such as the messaging and broadcasting systems, may be removed from the Steam Client. This lawsuit affects BT too, since their technology is being used wrongfully and they are being ripped off as a company.

Decision Makers/Who is affected:

The court can end in the decision that Valve removes these features in Steam they have infringed upon. If this were the case, Valve would also have to pay British Telecommunications money as well. The other possible decision the court can make is that Valve didn't actually infringe on these patents, which would cause the case to be dropped and Steam to remain the same.

Relevant Theory:

A relevant theory that may have been violated is Kantianism. If the case is true and Valve has infringed on these patents, they have violated Kantianism. The reason for this is because if Valve were to have patents of their own, they would then have to reason that for nobody to infringe on theirs, they shouldn't infringe on anyone else's.

Solutions:

The solution to this matter would depend on the court's ruling. If the court rules in favor of British Telecommunications, the only thing that could be done is for Valve to remove the systems they used the infringed mechanisms for and create some of their own.