

The Risk of an Unsecured Wireless Network

*Andy S. Pollock, Esq.
Rembolt Ludtke LLP*

A recent lawsuit filed by a movie producer against thousands of individuals should teach us a lesson: Secure your wireless network. Many of the defendants in that suit were the victims of hackers who “piggybacked” onto the defendant’s unsecured wireless network and illegally downloaded the award-winning movie, [*The Hurt Locker*](#).

The defendants are the victims of these illegal downloads. The plaintiff alleges that the defendants are contributorily infringing on the movie producer’s copyright – as far-fetched as that may sound.

The producer is threatening the victims with continued litigation if they don’t pay several thousand dollars to settle out of court. The cost of defending these lawsuits would be even more expensive. So, the victims face the choice of paying for a wrong they did not commit and had no knowledge of, or fighting an expensive legal battle with no certainty of winning.

The lesson is simple: Secure your wireless network. The cost of not learning that lesson may be steep.

Andy Pollock serves in an of counsel capacity with the Lincoln-based law firm of Rembolt Ludtke LLP and may be reached at (402) 475-5100 or apollock@remboltludtke.com. This article is provided for general information purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice. Those requiring legal advice are encouraged to consult with their attorney.

Intellectual Property Practice Group

Troy S. Kirk
tkirk@remboltludtke.com

Andrew S. Pollock
apollock@remboltludtke.com

Alan D. Slattery
aslattery@remboltludtke.com

.....
Misty M. Cowan
IP Paralegal
mcowan@remboltludtke.com

Rembolt | Ludtke LLP Attorneys at Law

MAIN OFFICE

1201 Lincoln Mall, Suite 102
Lincoln, NE 68508
Fax: 402 / 475-5087
402 / 475-5100

BRANCH OFFICE

125 South 6th Street
Seward, NE 68434
Fax: 402 / 643-3969
402 / 643-4770

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