

[21091001]

Quickview Systems Inc. said it filed a lawsuit against Apple Computer Inc. , claiming patent infringement in an element of Apple 's popular HyperCard software program .

[21091002]

The suit , filed in Minneapolis federal court , claims that Apple violated a Quickview patent that allows computer users to display " only portions of multiple fields on a computer screen with the ability to see the entire contents of any given field . "

[21091003]

The HyperCard program allows users to design applications for Macintosh computers without having to be hardcore programmers and is distributed with every Macintosh sold .

[21091004]

It 's one of the most popular computer programs of all time , but analysts said the Quickview suit does n't appear to bode major difficulties for Apple .

[21091005]

The technology at issue " is not an underlying technology of HyperCard to my knowledge . " said Danny Goodman , a San Francisco-area HyperCard program developer .

[21091006]

Nonetheless , the suit seeks unspecified damages that an attorney for Quickview claimed could run into the millions of dollars .

[21091007]

In Cupertino , Calif. , Apple said that it believes the case has no merit , and that HyperCard does not infringe " any valid claims " of the Quickview patents .

[21091008]

It said it filed an action of its own in federal court in San Jose , Calif. , seeking a declaration that Quickview 's claims are invalid .