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Paul Allen Sues Apple and Google over Patents

Patent litigation rarely gets any bigger than this. Billionaire Paul Allen today sued Apple, Google and nine other companies claiming they are using technology developed about a decade ago at his Silicon Valley laboratory.

[Here's](#) a report from WSJ's Dionne Searcey.

Allen didn't develop the technology at issue himself, but he owns the patents. He is aggressively going after companies, including many of Silicon Valley's biggest names, that he thinks are violating technology that was developed at his Interval Research Corp. lab.

Patent litigation is on the rise, WSJ reports, but courts and Congress have tried to rein it in.

"Paul thinks this [litigation] is important, not just to him but to the researchers at Interval who created this technology," said a spokesman for Allen.

Besides Google and Apple, Allen sued AOL, eBay, Facebook, Netflix and others.

The suit lists violations of four patents for technology that appear to be key components of the operations of the companies—and that of e-commerce and Internet search companies in general. The suit does not estimate a damage amount, WSJ reports.

[Here's](#) a copy of the complaint.

Allen was diagnosed last year with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and he recently pledged to give away the majority of his fortune, which has been estimated at \$13.5 billion.



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