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                                  UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
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                 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, WESTERN DIVISION
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        JERRY LEIBER individually and
                                                         Case No. CV 01-09923-SVW (RNBx)
        d/b/a JERRY LEIBER MUSIC,
MIKE STOLLER individually and
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        d/b/a MIKE STOLLER MUSIC,
                                                         [Related to Case No. CV 01-8541-
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        PEER INTERNATIONAL
                                                         SVW (PJWx)]
        CORPORATION, CRITERION MUSIC CORPORATION, and
17
        FAMOUS MUSIC CORPORATION,
                                                         <u>LEIBER PLAINTIFFS'</u>
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                                                         OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANTS'
        on behalf of themselves and all others
        similarly situated,
                                                         MOTION FOR PARTIAL
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                                                         SUMMARY JUDGMENT
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                                   Plaintiffs.
                                                         Date:
                                                                        March 4, 2002
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               v.
                                                         Time:
                                                                        1:30 p.m.
                                                        Crim:
       CONSUMER EMPOWERMENT BV)
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       a/k/a FASTTRACK,
       MUSICCITY.COM, INC.,
MUSICCITY NETWORKS, INC.,
23
                                                        Statement Of Genuine Issues Of Material Fact, Evidentiary
       and GROKSTER, LTD...
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                                                        Objections, Declarations Of Carey R. Ramos, Theodore K. Cheng And Andrew J. Thomas filed
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                                   Defendants.
                                                        concurrently.l
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Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56 and Local Rule 56-2, Plaintiffs Jerry Leiber individually and d/b/a Jerry Leiber Music, Mike Stoller individually and d/b/a Mike Stoller Music, Peer International Corporation, Criterion Music Corporation, and Famous Music Corporation, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated ("Plaintiffs" or "Leiber plaintiffs") submit this opposition to Defendants' motion for partial summary judgment.

This opposition is based on the attached Memorandum of Points and Authorities in Opposition to Defendants' Motion For Partial Summary; the concurrently-filed Declaration of Theodore K. Cheng with Exhibits A to C; the concurrently-filed Declaration of Carey R. Ramos with Exhibits A to EE; the concurrently-filed Plaintiffs' Statement of Genuine Issues; the concurrently-filed Plaintiffs' Evidentiary Objections to Defendants' Declarations and Exhibits in Support of Motion for Partial Summary Judgment; and the concurrently-filed Declaration of Andrew J. Thomas with Exhibit A.

Dated: February 15, 2002

PAUL, WEISS, RIFKIND, WHARTON & GARRISON CAREY R. RAMOS AIDAN SYNNOTT THEODORE K. CHENG MATTHEW KALMANSON

DAVIS WRIGHT TREMAINE LLP KELLI L. SAGER ANDREW J. THOMAS EDWARD ANDERSON

By:______Kalli L. Sager/ A-17

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MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

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SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

- Steve Griffin, CEO of Defendants MusicCity: "I'm like William Wallace. We've got 32 million people standing behind us. Instead of sticks and rocks, we've got CD burners and PCs . . . "
 - Michael Weiss, former CEO of Defendant MusicCity: "The industry needs to listen to consumers: Free and easy file sharing is what they want. "2
- Niklas Zennstrom, Chief Executive, of Defendant Kazaa: "We see ourselves as powering the next Napster."3
- "In the span of one evening, we found all top 20 Billboard singles; several movies in current cinematic release, including 'Rush Hour 2' and 'Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back'. If you're looking for the next Napster, [Morpheus] is it."

This case is not about enjoining Defendants' distribution of software or an attempt by Plaintiffs to stifle "new technology." It is about Defendants' operation of commercial businesses that actively encourage the wholesale infringement of Plaintiffs' copyrighted musical compositions ("Systems and Services").

Defendants portray themselves alternatively as pugnacious revolutionaries ("I'm like William Wallace...") or public-spirited altruists championing the so-called "right" of millions of people to steal copyrighted music. In this fantasy world, Defendants go so far as to claim that their 32 million users are using their services to exchange classic works of literature from Project Gutenberg, rather than copyrighted material. But in reality, Defendants are operating a commercial business - a business

Declaration of Carey R. Ramos ["Ramos Dec."], Exh. O, Brian Grow, Can Morpheus Prevail Where Napster Failed, BusinessWeek Online, November 15, 2001.

² Ramos Dec., Exh. FF, Chris Taylor, The Next Napsters, Time Magazine, September 15, 2001.

³ Ramos Dec., Exh. AA, Tom Spring, Napster Fans Find Lively Alternative, CNN.com, July 16, 2001.

⁴ Ramos Dec., Exh. L, San Jose Mercury News, <u>Bootleg Bonanza Free Music</u> Alternatives Rise From Napster's Ashes, September 6, 2001.

whose profitability depends on the ability of its users to infringe Plaintiffs' copyrights. Defendants earn advertising revenue by attracting millions of users to their websites by offering users a treasure trove of copyrighted works - for free and without any compensation to the copyright owners. In a cynical attempt at hairsplitting, Defendants disclaim any knowledge of "future" infringement by specific users, but notably avoid mentioning the pink elephant in the room - the massive copyright infringement taking place on their online services, of which they unquestionably have knowledge.

Yet, prior to any depositions of Defendants' principals or any response to Plaintiffs' outstanding document requests, Defendants' motion for partial summary judgment seeks dismissal of Plaintiffs' contributory infringement claims "with respect to distribution to the general public of the Morpheus software program," based on the so-called "Sony defense." (See MusicCity's Notice of Motion and Motion for Partial Summary Judgment at 2.)

Defendants' motion is spurious on its face because it seeks summary judgment on a straw man claim - i.e., that Defendants are liable solely for the distribution of software. Plaintiffs have never asserted such a "claim." Defendants' distribution of software that enables infringement of copyrighted works is only one part of Defendants' elaborate, illegal scheme. In effect, Defendants seek partial summary judgment on a piece of evidence that is unquestionably relevant to plaintiffs' contributory and vicarious infringement claims. This is not a proper use of Rule 56.

More fundamentally, Defendants completely misconstrue Sony and its progeny. Defendants' assertion that, to survive summary judgment, Plaintiffs must "provide evidence that the Morpheus program is incapable of substantial noninfringing uses," is simply false. (See MusicCity's Memorandum of Points and Authorities ["Def. Br."] at 16.) Defendants couple their willful misreading of the Sony case with a purported list of twenty "uncontroverted facts," virtually all of which Plaintiffs emphatically dispute, and most of which are irrelevant.

As a matter of law, the <u>Sony</u> defense is not available to Defendants. Among other things, the <u>Sony</u> defense does <u>not</u> apply to persons, like Defendants, who deliberately design a system to infringe, have knowledge of the infringement, and actively influence and encourage its users to infringe.

Summary judgment may well be appropriate in this case – in <u>Plaintiffs'</u> favor, as Plaintiffs expect to show after they have had the opportunity to conduct full discovery into Defendants' unlawful schemes.

THE UNDERLYING DISPUTE

The <u>Leiber</u> plaintiffs are songwriters and music publishers that own and/or control copyrights in some of the most recognizable musical compositions recorded in the Twentieth Century, including "Jailhouse Rock" by Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, "These Boots Are Made For Walking" by Lee Hazlewood, and "Moon River" by Henry Mancini and Johnny Mercer. (Ramos Dec., Exh. A, ¶ 2.)

Plaintiffs in a related action are motion picture studios and record labels, including Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, Inc., Columbia Pictures Industries, Inc., Disney Enterprises, Inc., Time Warner Entertainment Company, L.P., Arista Records, Inc., Atlantic Recording Corporation, Capitol Records, Inc. and Interscope Records ("MGM Plaintiffs"). (Ramos Dec., Exh. B, ¶¶ 1, 4-35.)

Both lawsuits allege that defendants Consumer Empowerment BV, now known as Kazaa BV ("Kazaa"), MusicCity Networks, Inc. and MusicCity.com, Inc. (collectively "MusicCity"), and Grokster, Ltd. ("Grokster") (collectively "Defendants") are facilitating, contributing to, benefiting from, and encouraging infringement of the world's most popular songs and movies by operating Napster "copycat" services. (Id. Exh. A, ¶ 3; Exh. B, ¶ 1.) Plaintiffs further allege that Defendants' Systems and Services were created and offered by Defendants with the intention to siphon users of the Napster "peer-to-peer" service who, in the wake of the federal court rulings ordering Napster to remove infringing content, see, e.g., A &

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M Records, Inc. v. Napster, 239 F.3d 1004, 1019 (9th Cir. 2001), are seeking a new haven for music piracy. (Id. Exh. A, \P 3-4; Exh. B, \P 1.)

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PROCEDURAL SUMMARY

Both the MGM and Leiber actions are in their early stages. The MGM plaintiffs filed their complaint on October 2, 2001. (Id. ¶ 3.) The MGM parties held their initial Rule 26(f) conference in December 2001. (Id. ¶ 4.) Since then, the MGM plaintiffs have pursued discovery, exchanging initial disclosures; propounding several document requests and interrogatories against Defendants; serving numerous subpoenas for documents from third-parties; and noticing and taking the deposition of Michael Weiss, MusicCity's former CEO. (Id. ¶¶ 4, 7.)

The <u>Leiber</u> plaintiffs filed their Complaint on November 19, 2001. (<u>Id.</u> ¶ 4.) The parties in the Leiber action held their initial Rule 26(f) conference less than three weeks ago, on January 28, 2002. (Id. ¶ 4.) Since then, the Leiber plaintiffs have begun to pursue discovery diligently, including noticing the deposition of Michael Weiss, serving document requests and exchanging initial disclosures. (Id. ¶¶ 6, 7.)⁵

The parties in both actions have recently stipulated to a joint status conference before this Court on March 4, 2002, where the parties hope that this Court will set a schedule for the orderly prosecution of these actions.⁶ Despite this impending date

Although Kelli L. Sager, counsel for the Leiber plaintiffs, took part in the Weiss deposition, counsel for MusicCity and for Mr. Weiss stated on the record MusicCity's position that Ms. Sager was not permitted to conduct any examination of Mr. Weiss in this action because counsel for the MGM plaintiffs already had questioned Mr. Weiss for seven hours that day. (Thomas Dec. ¶ 8; Exh. A, February 7, 2002 Michael Weiss Deposition Transcript ["Weiss Dep."], at 222-23, 360-62.) Consequently, Ms. Sager was unable to ask even a single question.

Additionally, certain portions of Mr. Weiss' deposition transcript may become designated "confidential – attorneys' eyes only." Because those portions have yet to be identified, plaintiffs, in good faith, have filed relevant excerpts under seal as Exhibit A to the Declaration of Andrew J. Thomas.

⁶ On February 7, 2002, the <u>Leiber</u> plaintiffs, with the consent of the <u>MGM</u> plaintiffs, also filed a motion to consolidate the two actions for all discovery and pretrial purposes. This motion is noticed for March 4, 2002 as well.

 and in the face of numerous outstanding discovery requests, MusicCity filed a motion in \underline{MGM} on January 22, 2002, requesting "partial summary judgment in their favor on the issue of contributory copyright infringement liability with respect to distribution to the general public of the Morpheus software program, up to and including Morpheus version 1.3." (\underline{Id} . ¶ 4.) Defendants Grokster and Kazaa joined in this motion shortly thereafter. (\underline{Id} . ¶ 4.)

At the January 28 <u>Leiber</u> Rule 26(f) conference, MusicCity requested that the <u>Leiber</u> plaintiffs waive the 20-day meet-and-confer so that an identical motion could be filed in this action. (<u>Id.</u> ¶ 4.) The <u>Leiber</u> plaintiffs consented, and accordingly, MusicCity filed its motion in <u>Leiber</u> on February 11, 2002. (<u>Id.</u> ¶ 4.) Defendants Grokster and Kazaa joined in this motion as well. (<u>Id.</u> ¶ 4.)

SUMMARY JUDGMENT SHOULD BE DENIED AS A MATTER OF LAW

For the reasons demonstrated below, this Court should deny Defendants' illadvised and premature partial summary judgment motion. In addition, Plaintiffs join in and incorporate by reference the <u>MGM</u> plaintiffs' opposition to Defendants' motion, including all declarations and exhibits.⁸

A. Defendants May Not Use A Summary Judgment Motion To Suppress Relevant Evidence Of Their Wrongdoing.

This is a highly unusual and fundamentally flawed motion. Under the guise of a summary judgment motion, Defendants improperly invoke Rule 56 in an attempt to

⁷ This Court should deny the requests of Grokster and Kazaa to join in MusicCity's motion. These joinders fail to meet the requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 56 and Local Rule 56-1 in two critical ways. First, neither joinder includes any evidence concerning the facts pertaining to these two defendants that are material to the legal basis on which MusicCity claims an entitlement to partial summary judgment. Second, neither provides a separate proposed statement of uncontroverted facts. In any event, even if Grokster and Kazaa had complied with these requirements, their motions would still fail for the reasons set forth in this memorandum.

⁸ Plaintiffs in this case will be submitting all declarations and exhibits submitted by the MGM plaintiffs under separate cover on Tuesday, February 19, 2002.

preclude a piece of evidence unquestionably relevant to Plaintiffs' contributory and vicarious infringement claims. Defendants ostensibly purport to request for summary judgment "on the issue of contributory copyright infringement liability with respect to distribution to the general public of the Morpheus software program." But Plaintiffs did not allege such a claim. The distribution of software is only one piece of evidence with respect to Defendants' unlawful scheme.

Plaintiffs allege that Defendants are operating and profiting from integrated Systems and Services – a multifaceted scheme – that facilitates, materially contributes to, and encourages the wholesale infringement of Plaintiffs' copyrighted works. Accordingly, Plaintiffs alleged in their complaint that Defendants:

- "provide their respective users with the infrastructure, facilities, technological means, and ongoing support and services to infringe copyrighted musical compositions," (<u>Id.</u> Exh. A, ¶ 24);
- provide an encryption service, in order to keep "their services anonymous"
 and allow their users to infringe in secrecy, (<u>Id.</u>);
- connect the user to a Supernode, a service "specifically designed for . . . sharing a large number of files," (<u>Id.</u> ¶ 32);
- create "the connection between the user who has selected a music file for copying and the user who is offering the selected file," (Id. ¶ 48);
- "monitor [their] thousands of users to keep track of when they log on and off," (<u>Id.</u> ¶ 34);
- "update [their] database thousands of times daily," (Id.);
- assist "users in circumventing 'firewalls,' which are maintained by computer networks to prevent the importation of unknown, unlawful, or suspect data," (<u>Id.</u> ¶ 48);
- provide their users with "a host of other features and services, including a
 discussion 'forum' that permits users to exchange information about the
 location of infringing files," (Id. ¶ 50); and

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 "display extensive paid advertising on their network and charge fees for such advertising," (<u>Id.</u> ¶ 68).

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Because Defendants are offening a broad array of services to the general public, they cannot unilaterally and arbitrarily parse them into individual components of their liking in hopes of suppressing them from further adjudication. And yet, this kind of piecemeal litigation is precisely what they propose to do here. Defendants have chosen just one piece of relevant evidence among many about their Systems and Services – the distribution of software – and seek to have it precluded under the guise of a Rule 56 motion. This Court should not condone such a transparent attempt to subvert the Federal Rules.

B. Defendants Are Not Entitled To The Sony Defense As A Matter of Law.

Defendants willfully misconstrue the applicable law. Defendants rest their argument in favor of partial summary judgment solely on Sony Corp. of America v. Universal City Studios, Inc., 464 U.S. 417, 104 S. Ct. 774, 78 L Ed.2d 574 (1984) ("Sony"). But Defendants have selectively quoted from the Supreme Court's opinion and failed to address key legal issues necessary to establish the defense.

The <u>Sony</u> case involved a lawsuit by copyright holders in a great number of television shows and motion pictures, against manufacturers of the "Betamax," an early generation video cassette recorder (VCR). The plaintiffs argued that, because the Betamax was being used to copy copyrighted works without authorization, the defendants were liable for contributory copyright infringement.

The Supreme Court disagreed, reasoning that, although the defendants knew that the Betamax was capable of infringing uses, the defendant's only contact with an infringer was at the point of sale, and thus, the defendant had no actual knowledge of any infringements. See Sony, 464 U.S. at 437-438, 104 S. Ct. at 787. The Court concluded that the defendant could only have had constructive knowledge of primary infringement. The Court, however, refused to impute constructive knowledge to the

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defendants solely because the Betamax could be used to infringe the plaintiffs' copyrights. Rather, the Court analogized to patent law, noting that, when "a charge of contributory infringement is predicated entirely on the sale of an article of commerce that is used by the purchaser to infringe a patent, the public interest in access to that article of commerce is necessarily implicated." <u>Id.</u> at 440. With that in mind, the Court held that it would not impute constructive knowledge to the defendants from the mere fact that the Betamax could be used to infringe copyrights, if the Betamax was also "capable of substantial noninfringing uses" that were "commercially significant." <u>Id.</u> at 442, 104 S. Ct. at 789.

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The Court found the predominant use of the Betamax — "private non-commercial time-shifting in the home" — satisfied this standard. <u>Id.</u> The Court defined "time-shifting" as "the practice of recording a program to view it once at a later time, and thereafter erasing it." <u>Id.</u> at 423, 104 S. Ct. at 779. The Court noted that a large number of copyright owners, including sports leagues (<u>e.g.</u>, Major League Baseball) and religious and educational broadcasters (<u>e.g.</u>, the company that owned *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*), <u>authorized</u> the practice of time-shifting. <u>Id.</u> at 443-46, 104 S. Ct. at 789-91. Furthermore, the Court held, time-shifting by home users of the Betamax — as opposed to collecting copies of copyrighted works — was protected by the fair use defense. <u>Id.</u> at 454-54, 104 S. Ct. at 795.

Significantly, the Sony Court also rested its holding on the fact that the defendant was not "in a position to control" the infringing conduct and had not "influenced or encouraged" any direct infringing conduct. Id. at 437-38, 104 S. Ct. at 787. Indeed, the Court described a finding of liability as "manifestly just" in cases "involving an ongoing relationship between the direct infringer and the contributory infringer at the time the infringing conduct occurred." Id. at 437, 104 S. Ct. at 787 (emphasis added).

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 In contributory copyright infringement cases decided since Sony, courts have narrowly construed the applicability of the defense. The Ninth Circuit in Fonovisa, Inc. v. Cherry Auction, Inc., for example, held that a defendant may be liable for contributory copyright infringement if it knowingly provides the site and facilities for infringing activity. 76 F.3d 259, 264 (9th Cir. 1996). Fonovisa involved a swap meet operated by the defendant. Vendors paid a daily fee to have booths at the swap meet and shoppers paid an entrance fee. Additionally, defendant "supplie[d] parking, conduct[ed] advertising and retain[ed] the right to exclude any vendor for any reason, at any time." Id. at 261. Some vendors at the swap meet sold counterfeit copyrighted musical recordings, and the local sheriff's office had put the defendant on notice of this fact. The plaintiff, whose copyrights had been infringed by virtue of the sale of counterfeit recordings at the swap meet, sued the defendant for contributory copyright infringement.

The defendant filed a motion to dismiss, which the district court granted. <u>Id.</u> at 260. The Ninth Circuit reversed, however, holding that the defendant could be found liable for contributory copyright infringement under the facts alleged. The court noted that the defendant not only had knowledge of the infringing activity, but the defendant also provided "the environment and the market for counterfeit recording sales to thrive." <u>Id.</u> at 264. "Indeed," the court further observed, "it would be difficult for the infringing activities to take place in the massive quantities alleged without the support services provided by the swap meet." <u>Id.</u> Although the <u>Fonovisa</u>

See, e.g., A&M Records, Inc. v. General Audio Video Cassettes, Inc., 948 F. Supp. 1449, 1456-57 (C.D. Cal. 1996) (holding that Sony is not valid defense to contributory infringement where defendant did not merely sell products with infringing uses, but also engaged in other activities to assist primary infringement); see also RCA Records v. All-Fast Sys., Inc., 594 F. Supp. 335, 339 (S.D.N.Y. 1984) (holding that Sony does not provide defense where contributory infringer is in position to control primary infringement); Columbia Pictures Indus., Inc. v. Aveco, Inc., 800 F.2d 59, 62 & n.3 (3d Cir. 1986) (holding business that controlled access to infringing material was liable as contributory infringer, even though it did not supply infringing material).

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court cited Sony, thus evincing its awareness of the precedent, it notably did not hold that the defendant qualified for the defense, strongly implying that, when a defendant has actual knowledge of infringement and actively provides the site and facilities for such infringement to occur, the defense is simply unavailable.

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The Ninth Circuit further refined the Sony defense in A&M Records, Inc. v. Napster, Inc., 239 F.3d 1004 (9th Cir. 2001) ("Napster"). Napster concerned an integrated system and service that encouraged the wholesale piracy of copyrighted musical recordings. Like Defendants' Systems and Services, the Napster system facilitated "peer-to-peer" file transferring; that is, Napster provided the site and facilities, including software, so that users could download pirated copies of copyrighted musical works from each other. The defendants in Napster, like Defendants here, argued that they qualified for the Sony defense.

The Ninth Circuit disagreed. First, it ruled that the district had not erred when it held that the users of Napster's system did not have a fair use defense. Id. at 1019. The court also noted that the users were not entitled to the defense because, unlike the users in Sony, they were distributing copyrighted material to the general public. Id. Second, the court held that, "Napster's actual, specific knowledge of direct infringement renders Sony's holding of limited assistance to Napster." Id. at 1020. That is, if "a computer system operator learns of specific infringing material available on his system and fails to purge such material from the system, the operator knows of and contributes to direct infringement." Napster, 239 F.3d at 1021.

Similarly, in RCA Records v. All-Fast Systems, Inc., 594 F. Supp. 335 (S.D.N.Y. 1984), the court held that, where an operator of a cassette copying machine had control over its use, contributory infringement was appropriate even if the machine was capable of non-infringing uses. The court observed that the Sony Court:

recognized that contributory infringer status had traditionally been given to those who were "in a position to control the use of copyrighted works

by others and had authorized the use without permission from the copyright owner." It did not purport to alter this long-standing rule. The manufacturer of the machine does not fit this definition since it has no such control once the machine is sold. Defendant, in contrast, is in position to exercise complete control over the use of the . . . machine.

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<u>Id.</u> at 339 (internal citations omitted). The court also noted that the defendant could easily prevent infringing uses of its product while permitting alleged non-infringing uses to continue. <u>Id.</u>

In General Audio Video, supra, this Court held that the Sony defense also does not apply where defendants specifically manufactured their products for infringing use. 948 F. Supp. at 1456. There, the defendants had manufactured special "time loaded" blank audio cassettes that ran for a specific amount of time, specified by the customer buying the cassettes. The defendants' customers ordered tapes of a certain length in order to record and sell copyrighted musical recordings. The court rejected the defendants' argument that they were protected from liability by the Sony doctrine, holding that "protection would not extend to products specifically manufactured for counterfeiting activity, even if such products have substantial noninfringing uses." Id. at 1456; see also Cable/Home Comm. Corp. v. Network Productions. Inc., 902 F.2d 829, 846 (11th Cir. 1990) (holding that, even though "other uses" existed, defendants were liable where they "utilized and advertised these devices primarily as infringement aids and not for legitimate, noninfringing uses").

Given the foregoing authority, the <u>Sony</u> defense is unavailable whenever any of the following exists: (1) there is an ongoing relationship between the defendant and the infringer; (2) the defendant has actual knowledge of infringement; (3) the defendant provides the site and facilities for infringement; (4) the defendant can control or prevent the infringing conduct; (5) the defendant manufactured the products specifically for infringing use; (6) the defendant actively encourages the

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infringing conduct; (7) the product is not capable of substantial non-infringing uses: and/or (8) the substantial non-infringing uses are not commercially significant.

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Under this proper understanding of Sony and its progeny, Defendants are foreclosed from invoking the Sony defense. To take just one example, in Sony, the defendant's role in any infringement ended at the point of sale of a product. Here, Defendants maintain an ongoing relationship with their users – which is essential for Defendants to commercialize, and profit from, their schemes. Defendants' Systems and Services are a virtual version of the swap meet in Fonovisa, which the Ninth Circuit held is not covered by Sony defense. Like the swap meet owners, Defendants provide "the environment and the market for" infringement to thrive. Fonovisa, 76 F.3d at 261. The Ninth Circuit's reasoning in that case could not be more apropos: "Indeed, it would be difficult for the infringing activities to take place in the massive quantities alleged without the support services provided" by Defendants.

Defendants Are Not Entitled To The Sony Defense As A C. Matter Of Fact.

As detailed below, the evidence adduced to date precludes summary judgment in Defendants' favor on their purported Sony defense. At a minimum, in any event, there exist numerous disputed issues of material fact relevant to that defense. 10

The evidence shows that Defendants have specific knowledge that Plaintiffs' copyrighted works are being infringed on their Systems and Services, and yet, have failed to "purge" such material. Upon service of the Leiber Complaint, Defendants were put on explicit notice that the specific musical compositions named in the Complaint were being infringed through Defendants' Systems and Services. (Id. ¶¶ 19, 21; Exh. A, ¶¶ 18-21.) Several searches performed during this past week, however, revealed that those very same musical compositions were still available in large numbers for distribution and copying. (Cheng Dec. ¶ 2; Exhs. A-D.)

Pursuant to Local Rule 56-2, Plaintiffs concurrently are filing a "Statement of Genuine Issues.

Whether Defendants obtained notice specifically from Plaintiffs is beside the point, for such instances of infringement are practically common knowledge. The San Jose Mercury News reported, for example, that "it took [them] less that a minute to download Alicia Keys' single "Fallin'," a copyrighted work. While the Saint Paul Pioneer Press noted how college students can "now downloads scores of songs in minutes" using Morpheus. Another article stated the obvious, "[1]ike the old Napster, Kazaa lets people find just about any piece of popular music" for download. Morpheus is the program that Napster refugees have been waiting for," another article reported. One Morpheus user, named Matt Bellamy, interviewed by the Guardian, meekly admitted "[p]erhaps I shouldn't be saying this, but I've got AI and all these films that haven't come out yet downloaded on my computer.

Indeed, the one deposition that has been taken in this case – that of the former CEO of MusicCity, Michael Weiss – unqualifiedly demonstrates MusicCity's actual knowledge that infringements were occurring on its Systems and Services and its efforts to destroy such evidence. (Weiss Dep. at 331-32, 335.) Mr. Weiss made several significant admissions, many of which were directly relevant to the issue of actual, personal knowledge of infringement, as well as to MusicCity's ability to monitor and control the infringing activity. (Weiss Dep. at 216-19, 229-30, 258, 261, 266).

Ramos Dec., Exh. L, Dawn C. Chimelski, <u>Bootleg Bonanza: Free Music Alternatives Rise From Napster's Ashes</u>, San Jose Mercury News, September 6, 2001.

Paul Pioneer Press, October 29, 2001. Who Needs Napster?, Saint

Ramos Dec., Exh. N, Tim Barmann, <u>Cybertalk – This File-Share Plan Won'r Be Caught Napping</u>, The Providence Journal Bulletin, August 6, 2001.

New Boss (Morpheus) Same as the Old Boss (Napster), September 3, 2001.

Ramos Dec., Exh. K, Will Hodgkinson, <u>Interview with Matt Bellamy</u>, The Guardian, August 17, 2001.

Additionally, MusicCity's own Legal Notice and Terms of Service – which until recently was found on its website 16 – establishes genuine issues of material fact as to its ability to monitor and control infringement. The Terms of Service stated to potential users that "MusicCity Networks shall have the right to terminate the account of any MusicCity Networks users who repeat copyright infringements." (Ramos Dec., Exh. W.) The Terms of Service further stated that MusicCity has the ability to "permanently ban [users and their] computers from accessing MusicCity Networks and other MusicCity Network services" if they are using Defendants' "products and services" to distribute child pornography or other obscene material. Id. The terms of service for Kazaa and Grokster similarly state that they have the right to terminate users' access to the Systems and Services, without prior notice, for copyright infringement, distribution of child pornography, or, notably, users' infringement of the copyright on Defendants' own proprietary software. 17

Plaintiffs believe that, based on the evidence adduced to date, summary judgment would be warranted in <u>Plaintiffs</u>' favor as to Defendants' actual knowledge of copyright infringement by users of their Systems and Services. Plaintiffs believe that discovery will uncover additional evidence of Defendants' actual knowledge. In any event, there is certainly no basis for rendering summary judgment for Defendants.

Further disputed issues regarding Defendants' ability to monitor and control infringement and its ongoing relationship with users are shown by MusicCity's own

Apparently, MusicCity modified its Terms of Service after the commencement of this lawsuit, most likely realizing that its then Terms of Service undermined its efforts to establish a viable Sony defense. The current Terms of Service simply states that, "[d]ue to the nature of peer-to-peer software, StreamCast Networks is unable to monitor or control the types of files shared within the Morpheus community. If you locate a file being shared by a user who you believe may be in violation of copyright law, please report your concerns to the user directly." (Ramos Dec., Exh. X.)

¹⁷ Ramos Dec., Exh. U; Exh. V.

admissions: (1) that it maintains ongoing and contact with its users through a user interface which "give[s] MusicCity the chance to broadcast messages to Morpheus software users, and permit[s] advertising", (Darell Smith Declaration in Support of Defendants' Motion for Partial Summary Judgment ("Smith Dec.") ¶ 16); (2) that users log-in and register with Defendants' central servers before users download any content, (id. ¶ 11); (3) that users view advertisements from Defendants' central servers as they search for and download content, (id. ¶ 16); (4) that Defendants provide their users with updated versions of their software, (Ramos Dec., Exh. EE); and (5) that Defendants provide their users with a list of supernodes, (see Def. Br. at 5; Smith Dec. ¶¶ 10).

Finally, Defendants have made several public statements that contradict many of the assertions presented before this Court. For the Court's convenience, examples of these statements are set forth in Appendix A to this memorandum. At a minimum, these admissions raise numerous genuine issues of material fact precluding the entry of summary judgment.

IN THE ALTERNATIVE, DEFENDANTS' MOTION SHOULD BE DENIED UNDER RULE 56(F) BECAUSE PLAINTIFFS HAVE NOT CONDUCTED DISCOVERY

In the alternative, Defendants' motion should be denied under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56(f).

A. Standards for Relief Under Rule 56(f).

Rule 56(f) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure "provides a mechanism whereby a party opposing a motion for summary judgment may, by affidavit, state valid reasons why he is temporarily unable to present 'facts essential to justify the party's opposition' to such a motion." Weinberg v. Whatcom County, 241 F.3d 746, 750-51 (9th Cir. 2001). ¹⁸ To obtain relief under this provision, the party opposing

¹⁸ Rule 56(f) provides: "Should it appear from the affidavits of a party opposing the motion that the party cannot for reasons stated present by affidavit facts

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summary judgment must establish "(1) that they have set forth in affidavit form the specific facts that they hope to elicit from further discovery, (2) that the facts sought exist, and (3) that these sought-after facts are 'essential' to resist the summary judgment motion." <u>California v. Campbell</u>, 138 F.3d 772, 779 (9th Cir. 1998).

The decision to grant Rule 56(f) relief is within the sound discretion of the district court. Maliack Prods., Inc. v. Goodtimes Home Video Corp., 81 F.3d 881, 887 (9th Cir. 1996). The Ninth Circuit has instructed that "a district court should continue a summary judgment motion upon a good faith showing by affidavit that the continuance is needed to obtain facts essential to preclude summary judgment." Campbell, 138 F.3d at 779. Put differently, "the denial of a Rule 56(f) application is generally disfavored where the party opposing summary judgment makes (a) a timely application which (b) specifically identifies (c) relevant information, (d) where there is some basis for believing that the information sought actually exists." Visa International Serv. Ass'n v. Bankcard Holders of Am., 784 F.2d 1472, 1475 (9th Cir. 1986). Denial of a Rule 56(f) motion is "especially inappropriate where [like here] the material sought is also the subject of outstanding discovery requests" (Everett Assocs., Inc. v. Transcontintental Ins. Co., 57 F. Supp. 2d 874, 887 (N.D. Cal. 1999)), or where the "facts are in possession of the moving party." Rogers v. Home Shopping Network, Inc., 57 F. Supp. 2d 973, 985 (C.D. Cal. 1999); see also Rustin v. City of Seaside, No. C-95-2384, 1995 WL 492629, *2 (N.D. Cal. 1995) ("[a] grant of summary judgment is improper when basic discovery is not yet completed. particularly when the moving party has exclusive access to the evidence necessary to support the nonmoving party's claims").

<u>Visa International</u> illustrates the application of Rule 56(f). That case concerned whether the enforcement of a stipulated judgment involving a trademark

essential to justify the party's opposition, the court may refuse the application for judgment or may order a continuance to permit affidavits to be obtained or depositions to be taken or discovery to be had or may make such other order as is just."

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27 28 would result in public confusion. After the defendant moved for summary judgment, the plaintiff moved to stay the motion pursuant to Rule 56(f) and to compel responses to outstanding interrogatory and document requests. The district court granted the summary judgment motion and concomitantly denied the Rule 56(f) motion. In reversing the district court, the Ninth Circuit held that, because the plaintiff's ability to establish its case relied upon its ability to "probe the facts and circumstances relating to public confusion," and the plaintiff had requested and identified, in its 56(f) motion, "probative evidence of such confusion," denial of the stay constituted an abuse of discretion. Id., 784 F.2d at 1474-76; see also Everett Assocs., 57 F. Supp. 2d at 888 (denying summary judgment on damages claim because party opposing summary judgment "had made an adequate showing that discovery disputes regarding documents relevant to this issue hampered its efforts to ascertain the reasonableness" of damages claim).

As demonstrated below, whether the Defendants' Systems and Services qualify under the <u>Sony</u> defense is a fact-laden inquiry, as to which discovery is necessary. Because Defendants have moved for summary judgment in such an early stage of the litigation, Plaintiffs request dismissal of the motion.

B. Plaintiffs Are Entitled to Rule 56(f) Relief.

Plaintiffs have complied with all of the requirements for Rule 56(f) relief.

Plaintiffs timely brought this motion, as the hearing before this Court on Defendants' partial summary judgment motion is still more than two weeks away. See Ashton-Tate Corp. v. Ross, 916 F.2d 516, 519-20 (9th Cir. 1990) (holding that motion for Rule 56(f) relief must be filed before summary judgment hearing).

Plaintiffs also have diligently pursued their discovery opportunities as soon as feasible after the parties' Rule 26(f) conference on January 28, 2002. ¹⁹ (Id. ¶ 6.) On

¹⁹ Before this date, no discovery is permitted to occur. <u>See</u> Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(d).

February 4, 2002, Plaintiffs noticed the deposition of the former CEO of MusicCity, Michael Weiss, to take place on February 7, 2002, the date previously noticed for the deposition by the MGM plaintiffs. (Ramos Dec. ¶ 7.)²⁰ Counsel for the Leiber Plaintiffs appeared for the deposition on February 7. The next day, Plaintiffs served Grokster with a request for the production of documents and things. (Id. ¶ 6.) On February 11, 2002, all the parties exchanged their initial disclosures pursuant to Rule 26(a). (Id. ¶ 4.) On February 12 and 13, Plaintiffs served Kazaa and MusicCity, respectively, with requests for production of documents and things. (Id. ¶ 6.)

Plaintiffs' diligent pursuit of discovery underscores the premature nature of Defendants' motion for partial summary judgment and their attempt to stifle meaningful discovery from occurring at all. Indeed, at the Weiss deposition, counsel for Defendants instructed Mr. Weiss not to answer questions concerning the very subjects at issue in Defendants' motion, such as Defendants' knowledge of infringing activity. (Weiss Dep. at 266, 319, 324.)²¹

C. Plaintiffs Have Made A Good Faith Showing By Affidavit That Relevant Issues Of Fact Will Be Ascertained In Discovery.

As Plaintiffs' Rule 56(f) affidavit and Defendants' motion papers themselves demonstrate, Plaintiffs need discovery on a number of facts relevant and material to their claims of contributory copyright infringement and the <u>Sony</u> defense. Those facts are all the subject of outstanding discovery requests, and Plaintiffs have a good faith basis that the following facts may be elicited from further discovery, categorized by the issue to which they are relevant.

²⁰ The concurrent notice was undertaken at the request of Mr. Weiss' counsel. (<u>Id.</u>)

²¹ For example, Mr. Weiss was instructed not to answer whether there was "any discussion [at board meetings] about whether users of the Morpheus software were engaged in copyright infringement by using that software." (Weiss Dep. at 324.)

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There Is An Ongoing Relationship Between Defendants And The Users Of Their Services. l.

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Plaintiffs believe that there is an ongoing relationship between Defendants and the users of their Systems and Services. Among other things, Plaintiffs believe that Defendants: (1) maintain and supervise that rooms and bulletin boards;²² (2) provide support to ensure that users have access to all of Defendants' Systems and Services: (3) assist users in circumventing "firewalls," which are designed to prevent the downloading of suspect materials; (4) register, identify, and log-in the user before the user can begin their infringing activities; (5) provide users with new versions and upgrades (or "fixes") of the software to ensure the continued viability of Defendants' Systems and Services; (6) provide users with new versions of the software to ensure that "spyware" software continues to operate on the users' computers: (7) provide users with updated lists of supernodes where additional copyrighted material can be found; (8) supervise and maintain the communications and information exchange between the supernodes, the users, and their central servers; and (9) update the advertisement banners that users are forced to view on their computer screens. (Ramos Dec. ¶ 14.) Plaintiffs believe that evidence of these facts will be further confirmed through the depositions of Defendants' principals, employees, and others with knowledge of these matters. (Id. ¶ 15; Exhs. C-F.)

²² Smith Dec. ¶ 21; Weiss Dep. at 330-338.

²³ Installed "spyware" software permits Defendants to monitor the usage of their users, thus presenting yet another issue of fact relevant to Defendants' ongoing relationship with their users and control over the systems. (Id., Exh. Z, Salon.Com, The Parasite Economy, August 2, 2001). Kazaa, for instance, requires its users to download several plug-ins, one of which is called "Cydoor." Those plugs-ins "automatically 'phone home' to outside servers on the Net (to upgrade themselves, or retrieve ads)." (Id.) One privacy consultant remarked: "When you're skulking around the hidden recessed of someone's system, placing hidden software that captures activity and sends it home to the mothership, you have the capability to do anything." (Id.) anything." (Id.)

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Plaintiffs also believe that evidence will be further confirmed in the technical documents used to develop Defendants' Systems and Services; documents that describe the nature, use, function, and purpose of all of Defendants' Systems and Services; documents that describe why Defendants update their software and other services; Defendants' internal memoranda, correspondence, and e-mail; communications between Defendants themselves; communications between Defendants and the individuals described above; and Defendants' business plans. (Id. ¶ 15; Exhs. C-F.) An inspection of Defendants' Systems and Services also will uncover substantial evidence of an ongoing relationship between Defendants and the users of their infringing Systems and Services. (Id. ¶ 15.)

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2. Defendants Have Actual Knowledge Of Direct Infringement.

Plaintiffs further believe that Defendants have actual knowledge of direct infringement. Among other things, Plaintiffs believe that Defendants: (1) designed their Systems and Services with the goal of generating revenues based upon the nature and extent of their users' infringing conduct; (2) designed their Systems and Services to be the next "Napster"; (3) supervise and monitor chat rooms and bulletin boards where users make clear their intent to download and copy copyrighted musical compositions; (4) allow their officers, directors, employees, investors, shareholders, and representatives to download and copy copyrighted material; (5) operate a supernode, which indexes a list of copyrighted content; (6) provide users with an updated list of supernodes; (7) sell advertising based upon rates correlated to the millions of users who infringe copyrighted material on their Systems and Services; and (8) sell space within their software to embed other software based upon rates correlated to the millions of users who infringe copyrighted material on their Systems and Services. (Ramos Dec. ¶ 18.)

The depositions and discovery requests referenced above are expected to uncover ample additional evidence of these facts. (<u>Id.</u>)

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Defendants Provide The Sites And Facilities That Enable Copyright Infringement To Occur. 3.

As noted, the Sony defense applies only to articles of commerce, not businesses like Defendants' that provide the sites and facilities that enable copyright infringement to occur. Among other things, Plaintiffs believe that Defendants provide: (1) chat rooms and bulletin boards; (2) a "help" page to ensure that users have access to all of Defendants' Systems and Services; (3) a log-in server where users are registered, where updates of the software can be downloaded, and where Defendants can broadcast messages to users; (4) supernodes where copyrighted material can be found; and (5) an advertisement server where users can become aware of other businesses and services. (Id. ¶ 40.)

Plaintiffs believe that more evidence of the nature of the Defendants' Systems and Services will be ascertained in discovery through the depositions and discovery requests described above. (Id.)

Defendants Can Control And Prevent The Infringing Activity.

Plaintiffs also believe that Defendants can control and prevent the infringing activity of their users. Indeed, on their website, Defendants assert the right to "terminate" the account of any "repeat copyright offenders," as well as the accounts of individuals who are using Defendants' Systems and Services to distribute child pornography. (Id. ¶ 52; Exh. W.) Among other things, discovery is necessary to explore: (1) whether Defendants have terminated users from their Systems and Services; (2) whether Defendants' Systems and Services permit them to control or monitor their users' activities; (3) how Defendants provide users with new versions of their software; (4) Defendants' response to the efforts of third parties to access their closed network; (5) what types of "spyware" programs are Defendants bundling with their software; (6) whether these "spyware" programs permit Defendants to monitor and control their users' activities; (7) what information Defendants collect regarding their users' activities from the use of spyware; (8) whether Defendants

keep a list of supernodes that they provide their users; (9) what information Defendants collect from the chat rooms and bulletin boards they operate; and (10) what communications and information have been exchanged between Defendants, their users, and the supernodes. (\underline{Id} . ¶ 42.)

Further discovery also is needed to determine how Defendants' Systems and Services can foreclose the possibility of infringement taking place, such as, through the use of filtering technology. (Ramos Dec. ¶ 43.)²⁴ Plaintiffs believe that the deposition and discovery requests described above will establish ample additional evidence of Defendants' ability to prevent infringing activity. (<u>Id.</u>)

5. Defendants' Systems And Services Were Specifically Designed For Infringing Use.

Plaintiffs further believe that Defendants' systems were and are specifically designed for infringing use. Among other thing, Plaintiffs believe that Defendants: (1) designed their services to be the next "Napster"; (2) provide encryption to ensure that their users may infringe anonymously; (3) provide chat rooms and bulletin boards so that users can find copyrighted content more easily; (4) sell advertising based upon rates correlated to the millions of users who infringe copyrighted material on their Systems and Services; and (5) sell space within their software to embed other software based upon rates correlated to the millions of users who infringe copyrighted material on their Systems and Services. (Id. ¶ 51.)

Plaintiffs already have adduced ample evidence of Defendants' actual knowledge. Plaintiffs believe the depositions and discovery requests referenced above will uncover further evidence to confirm Defendants' knowledge. (Id. ¶ 58.)

6. Defendants Actively Encourage Direct Copyright Infringement.

For instance, a recent "security update" to Morpheus "allow[ed] users to filter out file names that use sexually explicit language." (Id. Exh. Y, Webnoize, Showing Signs of Network Control, FastTrack Thwarts Open-Source Clones, October 3, 2001.)

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Even if Defendants' Systems and Services are capable of non-infringing uses, Defendants would not be entitled to summary judgment on Plaintiffs' contributory copyright infringement claims if, as Plaintiffs believe and the available evidence indicates, Defendants actively encourage and facilitate direct infringement. See General Audio Video, 948 F. Supp. at 1456. Among other things, Plaintiffs believe that Defendants: (1) designed their Systems and Services to be a "Napster copycat"; (2) maintain and supervise chat rooms and bulletin boards so that users can easily find copyrighted material; (3) provide support to ensure that users have access to all of Defendants' Systems and Services; (4) assist users in circumventing "firewalls," which are designed to prevent the download of suspect materials; (5) provide users with new versions and upgrades (or "fixes") of the software to ensure the continued viability of Defendants' Systems and Services; (6) promulgated a business plan where their revenue streams are directly correlated to the millions of users who participate in their Systems and Services to infringe copyrighted material; (7) encrypt their Systems and Services so that users can infringe copyrights anonymously; (8) provide users with updated lists of supernodes where copyrighted material can be found; (9) encourage users to become supernodes; and (10) encourage users to register other individuals for Defendants' Systems and Services. (Id. ¶ 62.) Plaintiffs believe the depositions and discovery requests referenced above will uncover ample evidence of these facts.

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Defendants' Systems And Services Are Not Capable Of Substantial Non-Infringing Uses. 7.

Plaintiffs also dispute Defendants' unsupported claim that their Systems and Services are capable of substantial non-infringing uses. Defendants have attached to their motion declarations from individuals who assert that their Systems and Services are capable of non-infringing uses. Much of the evidence that Defendants introduce on that issue (and others), however, is inadmissible. (See Plaintiffs' concurrently filed Evidentiary Objections.) Plaintiffs request that the portions of the declarations

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27 28 attempting to introduce inadmissible evidence should not be considered by this Court in deciding Defendants' motion. 45

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In contrast to Defendants' inadmissible and self-serving declarations, Plaintiffs believe that the overwhelming majority of the content on Defendants' Systems and Services is copyrighted and is being downloaded and copied without permission. (Id. ¶ 65.) Indeed, some of the materials that Defendants claim that they found on their Systems and Services, specifically, the audio and video recordings of speeches given by Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and George W. Bush, likely are copyrighted.²⁶ (Id. ¶¶ 21-28; see Declaration of M. Tally George Declaration in Support of Defendants' Motion for Partial Summary Judgment ("George Dec.") ¶¶ 3-4 (admitting to downloading of audio and video recordings, but failing to acknowledge that, while the underlying speech may be in public domain, the recordings themselves - of broadcasts by network or cable news organizations almost certainly are copyrighted)).²⁷

Plaintiffs believe that their discovery requests, listed previously, will disprove Defendants' assertion that their services are capable of substantial non-infringing uses.

²⁵ Rule 56(e) requires that the declarations "shall be made on personal knowledge, shall set forth such facts as would be admissible in evidence, and shall show affirmatively that the affiant is competent to testify to the matters stated therein." Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(e).

²⁶ Plaintiffs have asked for, and are waiting to receive, all documents concerning any communications between Defendants and the various declarants, as well as all document concerning any searches promulgated to find noninfringing uses. (Id., Exh. C.)

²⁷ Ironically, the screenshot Mr. George attaches to his declaration showing the availability of President's Roosevelt's "A Date Which Will Live in Infamy Speech" also contains a link to download a copyrighted song from the album "Infamy" by the rap group "Mobb Deep." (See George Dec., Exh. A; Ramos Dec. ¶ 28, Exh. J.)
Moreover, one of the screenshots Mr. George attaches showing the availability of President Bush's speeches suggests that the source for those speeches is the cable news channel CNN. (See George Dec., Exh. B; Ramos Dec. ¶ 27.)

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8. Any Alleged Non-infringing Uses Are Not Commercially Significant.

Finally, even if Defendants' Systems and Services could be used for any non-infringing uses, <u>Sony</u> requires that those used be commercially significant. <u>See Sony</u>, 464 U.S. at 442, 104 S. Ct. at 789 (defense applies only where product is "capable of substantial noninfringing uses" that are "commercially significant"). Defendants admit that millions of individuals are using their services. It is preposterous for Defendants to suggest that millions of people are going to their services to find Project Gutenberg eBooks, Prelinger Films, or the writings of John Perry Barlow. (<u>See Declaration of George Newby in Support of Defendants' Motion for Partial Summary Judgment ¶ 12; Declaration of Richard Prelinger in Support of Defendants' Motion for Partial Summary Judgment ¶ 18; Declaration of John Perry Barlow in Support of Defendants' Motion for Partial Summary Judgment ¶ 9.) Plaintiffs believe that evidence of this fact will be further confirmed through the depositions and document requests described above.</u>

VI. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Defendants' motion should be denied as a matter of law, or, in the alternative, pursuant to Rule 56(f).

DATED: February 15, 2002

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