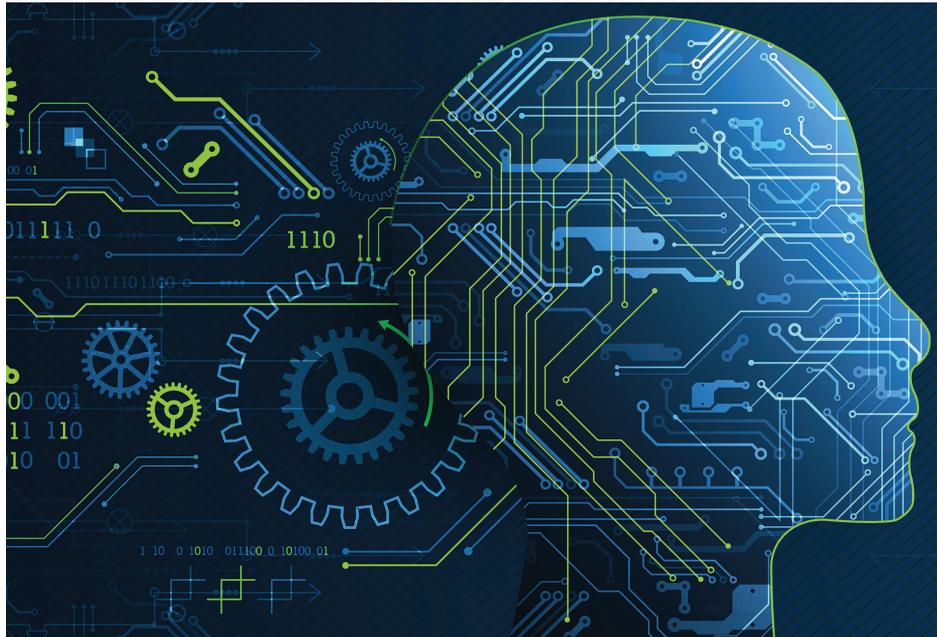


FROM THE COURTS

Microsoft to Pay Infringement Suit Tab for Its AI Customers



ADOBE STOCK

Microsoft says it doesn't want uncertainties surrounding patent infringement law for generative artificial intelligence to scare away customers from its Copilot tool.

by Greg Andrews

In a bid to prevent copyright-infringement risks from slowing adoption of its generative AI tool, Microsoft on Thursday said it would defend any commercial customers from infringement lawsuits, including covering the costs of settlements or judgments.

The move comes amid a chorus of complaints from artists, authors, publishers and others that companies' AI language models are being trained on their creative works without their knowledge or consent.

Those objections have spurred a barrage of lawsuits, with the outcome of many uncertain, given that the legal landscape surrounding generative AI is not yet fully formed.

"This move opens up the market," Ilanah Fhima, professor of intellectual property law at University College London, told The Financial Times. She said the pledge "makes that software more usable as it removes one of the obstacles for businesses if they know that they have that reassurance".

Microsoft said its commitment applies to paying customers using its generative AI assistant Copilot, which launched in March and can be used throughout the company's suite of products to automate such tasks as writing a report to creating a slideshow. It's also integrated into GitHub Copilot, which automates the writing of computer code.

"As customers ask whether they can use Microsoft's Copilot services and the output they generate without worrying about copyright claims, we are providing a straightforward answer: yes, you can, and if you are challenged on copyright grounds, we will assume responsibility for the potential legal risks involved," Microsoft President Brad Smith and Chief Legal Officer Hossein Nowbar said in a blog post.

The pair said the company is sensitive to the concerns of creatives and be-

lieves it, rather than customers, should bear the cost of addressing them.

"We believe the world needs AI to advance the spread of knowledge and help solve major societal challenges. Yet it is critical for authors to retain control of their rights under copyright law and earn a healthy return on their creations. And we should ensure that the content needed to train and ground AI models is not locked up in the hands of one or a few companies in ways that would stifle competition and innovation."

Smith and Nowbar noted that Microsoft has built "guardrails"—filters and other technologies—into Copilot to help respect authors' copyrights. They said the company's pledge only applies to customers using those guardrails.

Microsoft is the second AI developer to commit to make users whole if they're sued for copyright infringement. The first was Adobe, which in June said it would indemnify users of its Firefly generative AI tool, which launched in March and converts text into images.

Nell Watson, a prominent AI researcher and ethics scientist, praised the Redmond, Washington-based company's move, telling TheStreet.com, "This is an important move by Microsoft towards professionalizing the large language model space, and should hopefully put some fears to rest."

It's unclear what Microsoft's pledge will cost the tech giant, which generated \$168 billion in revenue and \$61 billion in profit last year.

Fhima, the university professor, told The Financial Times the tab is unlikely to be overwhelming. "There is a public interest in there being technological development, and strict rights of copyright aren't always enforced," she said. "The risk that Microsoft is taking may well be a calculated risk."

Greg Andrews is an editor/reporter for ALM Media. Contact him at gandrews@alm.com. On X: @Greg_Andr.



CITY OF DORAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

All residents, property owners and other interested parties are hereby notified of a **COUNCIL ZONING MEETING** on **September 27, 2023 beginning at 6:00 PM** to consider the proposed site plan for the property located at 8705 NW 35 Lane. The meeting will be held at the **City of Doral, Government Center, Council Chambers** located at 8401 NW 53rd Terrace, Doral, Florida, 33166.

The City of Doral proposes to adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION No. 23-

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE SITE PLAN FOR CHICK-FIL-A, INC., FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 8705 NW 35 LANE, DORAL, FLORIDA, PURSUANT TO SECTION 53-184(F) OF THE CITY'S LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

HEARING NO.: 23-09-DOR-05

APPLICANT: Chick-fil-A, Inc. (the "Applicant")

PROJECT NAME: Chick-fil-A East Doral #5069

PROPERTY OWNER: Craig Kopko, WMG Acquisitions, LLC

LOCATION: 8705 NW 35 Lane, Doral, Florida 33172

FOLIO NUMBER: 35-3028-018-0010

SIZE OF PROPERTY: ±1.08 acres

FUTURE LAND USE MAP CATEGORY: Industrial

ZONING DISTRICT: Industrial Commercial District (IC)

REQUEST: The Applicant is proposing to redevelop the existing building into a 2,656 square foot Chick-fil-A restaurant with a drive-thru.

Location Map



Inquiries regarding the item may be directed to the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL. The application file may be examined at the City of Doral Planning and Zoning Department located at 8401 NW 53 Terrace, Doral, FL 33166.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, if a person decides to appeal any decisions made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. This notice does not constitute consent by the City for introduction or admission of otherwise inadmissible or irrelevant evidence, nor does it authorize challenges or appeals not otherwise allowed by law. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person who are disabled and who need special accommodations to participate in this meeting because of that disability should contact the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL no later than three (3) business days prior to the proceeding.

Connie Diaz, MMC
City Clerk
City of Doral