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10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
 11 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
 12 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

13 CRAIGSLIST, INC., a Delaware  
 14 corporation,

15 Plaintiff,

16 v.

17 3TAPS, INC., a Delaware corporation;  
 PADMAPPER, INC., a Delaware  
 18 corporation; DISCOVER HOME  
 NETWORK, INC., a Delaware corporation  
 19 d/b/a LOVELY; BRIAN R. NIESSEN, an  
 individual, and Does 1 through 25,  
 20 inclusive,

21 Defendants.

Case No. CV 12-03816 CRB

**CRAIGSLIST, INC.’S OPPOSITION TO  
 3TAPS, INC.’S AND DISCOVERY HOME  
 NETWORK, INC.’S LIMITED MOTION TO  
 DISMISS CAUSES OF ACTION 4, 5, 13 AND  
 14**

**DATE:** March 29, 2013  
**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.  
**COURTROOM:** 6, 17th Floor  
**JUDGE:** Hon. Charles R. Breyer

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**SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT****craigslist’s Claims Under the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (“CFAA”) and California Penal Code Section 502 (Claims 13 and 14):**

Plaintiff craigslist, Inc. (“craigslist”) has properly pleaded claims under both the CFAA and Penal Code Section 502, which require only that Defendants *improperly access* craigslist’s computers. *See United States v. Nosal*, 676 F.3d 854 (9th Cir. 2012); *Weingand v. Harland Fin. Solutions, Inc.*, No. CV-11-3109 (EMC), 2012 WL 2327660 (N.D. Cal. June 19, 2012); *Facebook, Inc. v. ConnectU LLC*, 489 F. Supp. 2d 1087, 1091 (N.D. Cal. 2007). Even if the statutes do require a physical or technological “break-in” as Defendants contend—which they do not—craigslist has alleged facts establishing that Defendants have in fact circumvented craigslist’s technological measures to block them from accessing craigslist’s computers. *See Facebook, Inc. v. Power Ventures, Inc.*, 844 F. Supp. 2d 1025 (N.D. Cal. 2012).

**craigslist’s Copyright Claims (Claims 4 and 5):**

The content on craigslist’s website—both the individual postings themselves, and the compilation of the postings as a whole—is copyrightable. *See Feist Publ’ns, Inc. v. Rural Tel. Servs. Co.*, 499 U.S. 340 (1991). As the author of the unique and original compilation of postings displayed on its website, and the exclusive licensee of the rights to the individual postings, craigslist has standing to enforce the copyrights protecting this content against Defendants. *See, e.g., Metro. Reg’l Info. Sys., Inc. v. Am. Home Realty Network, Inc.*, Civ. Action No. 12-CV-00954-AW, 2012 WL 3711513 (D. Md. Aug. 24, 2012).

1 Plaintiff craigslist, Inc. (“craigslist”) respectfully submits this opposition to Defendants  
 2 3Taps, Inc.’s (“3Taps”) and Discover Home Network, Inc.’s (d/b/a “Lovely”) limited motion to  
 3 dismiss Claims 4, 5, 13 and 14 of the First Amended Complaint.<sup>1</sup>

#### 4 INTRODUCTION

5 craigslist operates a useful and popular website, [www.craigslist.org](http://www.craigslist.org), that provides local,  
 6 on-line classified advertisements organized into unique subject and area categories. More than 60  
 7 million users in the United States visit craigslist monthly to either post their own ads or view the  
 8 ads displayed there, making craigslist one of the most popular websites in the country.

9 At its core, this case concerns 3Taps’ *unauthorized* mass-harvesting of all of the content  
 10 on craigslist’s website—the millions of user-created classifieds that are posted on the craigslist  
 11 website each day—and its redistribution of that content to others, including Lovely.

12 As alleged in detail in craigslist’s First Amended Complaint (“FAC”), 3Taps engages in a  
 13 process called “scraping” to automatically access and obtain—through the use of computer  
 14 programs sometimes known as web “crawlers,” “spiders, or “robots” (“bots” for short)—  
 15 enormous amounts of data from craigslist’s computers that support its website. FAC ¶ 79; *see*  
 16 *eBay, Inc. v. Bidder’s Edge, Inc.*, 100 F. Supp. 2d 1058, 1060-61 (N.D. Cal. 2000) (“A software  
 17 robot is a computer program which operates across the Internet to perform searching, copying and  
 18 retrieving functions on the web sites of others. A software robot is capable of executing  
 19 thousands of instructions per minute, far in excess of what a human can accomplish.”).

20 Despite 3Taps’ repeated public statements to the contrary before and after the filing of this  
 21 litigation, 3Taps now *admits* that since at least August 2012 (and craigslist believes, long before  
 22 then) it “*has used third parties that scrape data from the craigslist website to obtain the content*  
 23 *that 3taps needs to create indexed data for downstream specialized search engines.*” Am.  
 24 Countercl. ¶ 92 (emphasis added). 3Taps has in fact boasted that it obtains data from craigslist in  
 25 “real time,” meaning that 3Taps is literally scraping craigslist on a constant and incessant basis to  
 26 obtain postings as they are made to the craigslist website. FAC ¶ 3.

27 \_\_\_\_\_  
 28 <sup>1</sup> The caption of Defendants’ Motion states that it is directed at Claims 4, 5, 6, 13 and 14, but the  
 Motion itself presents arguments only as to Claims 4, 5, 13 and 14. See Defs.’ Mot. at 1.

1 This is in stark contrast to the Answer 3Taps filed with the Court on September 24, 2012  
2 in response to craigslist’s original Complaint. In that pleading, 3Taps averred that “3taps *does*  
3 *not use scraping* to collect raw data from craigslist to create its indexing product.” Answer ¶ 50  
4 (emphasis added); *see also* ¶ 57 (“3Taps denies that it is accessing craigslist’s website and  
5 ‘scraping’ content.”).

6 3Taps’ conduct is prohibited by law, and despite craigslist’s express instructions to 3Taps  
7 to cease and desist, 3Taps has continued brazenly to scrape craigslist. Indeed, each time craigslist  
8 has identified and blocked a specific IP address (a unique number identifying a specific computer  
9 or network-connected device) used by 3Taps to scrape its website, 3Taps has responded by  
10 simply using different IP addresses, and by using “proxy servers” that hide the IP address of the  
11 computer being used to scrape. FAC ¶ 84. craigslist commenced this action to put an end to this  
12 unlawful conduct.

13 In their limited motion to dismiss, Defendants grasp at straws to evade the consequence of  
14 their actions. Even a cursory review of the allegations in the FAC establish that craigslist has  
15 properly stated claims for (1) violation of the federal Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (“CFAA”)  
16 (Claim 13) and Section 502 of the California Penal Code (Claim 14), and (2) for copyright  
17 infringement (Claims 4 and 5).

18 As an initial matter, Defendants’ arguments in support of their motion to dismiss Claims  
19 13 and 14 are based on mischaracterizations of craigslist’s allegations in the FAC, and  
20 misstatements of the applicable law. (*See infra* Section I.)

21 The CFAA and Penal Code Section 502 make it unlawful for a defendant to *improperly*  
22 *access* computers belonging to another party. That is precisely what 3Taps is doing, and what  
23 craigslist has alleged in the FAC. Although craigslist allows the public to access its website using  
24 a web browser to create or review postings, it does *not* authorize access by automated web  
25 crawlers to obtain content from craigslist’s computers. FAC ¶ 76. craigslist’s Terms of Use  
26 (“TOU”) prohibit users from copying content from the website “directly or through  
27 intermediaries (including but not limited to by means of spiders, robots, crawlers, scrapers,  
28 framing, iframes or RSS feeds).” FAC ¶ 44. Moreover, after learning of 3Taps’ unauthorized



1 scraping, craigslist sent a letter to 3Taps notifying it explicitly that “you and your agents,  
2 employees, affiliates, and/or anyone acting on your behalf *are no longer authorized to access,*  
3 *and are prohibited from accessing craigslist’s website or services for any reason.*” FAC ¶ 132;  
4 Ex. A to the Declaration of Christopher Kao (“Kao Decl.”). (*See infra* Section I.A.)

5 The CFAA and Penal Code Section 502 do not require a physical or technological “break-  
6 in” as Defendants contend. Defs.’ Mot. at 8. But even if they did, craigslist has pleaded facts  
7 showing that 3Taps has implemented a sophisticated scheme to evade all of craigslist’s targeted  
8 efforts to prevent 3Taps from scraping its computers, including by constantly changing the IP  
9 addresses that it uses for scraping and using proxy servers to mask the IP addresses of their  
10 scraping systems from craigslist’s view. FAC ¶¶ 83-84. This very conduct has been held by this  
11 Court to violate the CFAA and Section 502. *See Facebook, Inc. v. Power Ventures, Inc.*, 844 F.  
12 Supp. 2d 1025, 1036 (N.D. Cal. 2012) (granting summary judgment on CFAA and Section 502  
13 claims based on similar conduct). (*See infra* Section I.B.)

14 Likewise, there is also no basis for Defendants’ motion to dismiss craigslist’s copyright  
15 claims, Claims 4 and 5. (*See infra* Section II.)

16 *First*, the content on craigslist’s website is protected by copyright. Despite Defendants’  
17 attempt to belittle the content on craigslist’s website (content that it yet persists in furiously  
18 scraping from craigslist on a continuous basis), it can hardly be questioned that craigslist’s  
19 content—both the individual postings themselves, and the compilation of the postings as a  
20 whole—is copyrightable. Contrary to Defendants’ repeated assertions, both publicly and in this  
21 litigation, craigslist does not simply take bare “facts” and arrange them in an unoriginal way, like  
22 the white pages of a phonebook lists names and phone numbers in simple alphabetical order.  
23 Instead, craigslist carefully curates and organizes the highly original and creative postings of its  
24 users for the benefit of the entire craigslist community. (*See infra* Section II.A.)

25 *Second*, craigslist has standing to enforce the copyrights protecting its content. With  
26 respect to the electronic compilation of user postings created by craigslist, craigslist is not  
27 required to own any copyrights in the underlying postings themselves in order to possess valid  
28 copyrights. craigslist has *independent* copyrights in its *compilation* of the postings that can be

1 separately enforced against Defendants. With respect to the individual postings themselves,  
2 craigslist has in any case been validly assigned the exclusive rights to the postings and can  
3 therefore properly enforce those copyrights against Defendants. (*See infra* Section II.B.)

4 Accordingly, the Court should deny Defendants' motion to dismiss in its entirety.

### 5 **LEGAL STANDARD**

6 In reviewing a motion to dismiss, this Court "must presume all factual allegations of the  
7 complaint to be true and draw all reasonable inferences in favor of the nonmoving party." *Rezner*  
8 *v. Bayerische Hypo-Und Vereinsbank AG*, No. C 06-02064 JW, 2011 WL 6329854, at \*2 (N. D.  
9 Cal. Nov. 8, 2011) (quoting *Usher v. City of Los Angeles*, 828 F.2d 556, 561 (9th Cir. 1987)); *see*  
10 *also In re Apple In-App Purchase Litig.*, 855 F. Supp. 2d 1030, 1036 (N.D. Cal. 2012). "The  
11 question presented by a motion to dismiss is not whether the plaintiff will prevail in the action,  
12 but whether the plaintiff is entitled to offer evidence in support of the claim." *Geist v. OneWest*  
13 *Bank*, No. C 10-1879 SI, 2010 WL 3155841, at \*2 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 9, 2010).

### 14 **FACTS ALLEGED IN THE FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT**

#### 15 **A. The craigslist Classified Ad Service.**

16 Founded in San Francisco in 1995 by Craig Newmark, craigslist began as an e-mail list  
17 for friends and co-workers to share information about events in and around the Bay Area. It grew  
18 over time in size and scope, and became the world's largest online forum for local classified  
19 advertising and community discussions. FAC ¶ 24.

20 craigslist enables authorized users to post localized classified advertising on its website.  
21 FAC ¶ 28. This classified ad service is organized first by geographic area, and then by subject  
22 category of product or service within that geographic area. The myriad subject categories and  
23 sub-categories provided by craigslist include everything from job postings, buying and selling of  
24 used goods, housing opportunities (sale, buy, rent, etc.), personals ads for friendship and  
25 romance, and a wealth of community-centric information and advice. It is literally a "one stop  
26 shop" for every sort of local classified listing and associated communication that a user may want  
27 or need. FAC ¶ 29.

28

1 Users post ads on craigslist by first navigating the craigslist website to the homepage for  
 2 the geographic area or region in which they wish to post, which is generally the geographic area  
 3 in which they reside. From that homepage, a user seeking to post an ad must click a link titled  
 4 “post to classifieds.” FAC ¶ 30.

5 Users choose the type of posting they want to place from a list designed and presented by  
 6 craigslist for that geographic area (for example, job offered, housing offered, housing wanted, for  
 7 sale, item wanted, personal/romance, or community). FAC ¶ 31. After selecting the type of  
 8 posting, the user is presented with a list of categories for posting ads in that geographic area (for  
 9 example, categories under “for sale” ads include, without limitation, auto parts, bicycles, boats,  
 10 collectibles, electronics, jewelry, musical instruments, and tools), and must select the appropriate  
 11 category for his or her ad. FAC ¶ 32.

12 Before a posting can be made to the craigslist website, the user is required affirmatively to  
 13 accept craigslist’s TOU. FAC ¶ 36. If the user chooses not to accept the TOU, the ad is not  
 14 posted. FAC ¶ 37.

15 **B. The craigslist Terms of Use.**

16 craigslist’s TOU explain that users are granted a limited and revocable license to access  
 17 and use craigslist in accordance with its terms. The TOU identify specific types and examples of  
 18 access and use that are unauthorized. FAC ¶ 43. Specifically, the TOU provide that:

19 To maintain the integrity and functionality of craigslist for its users,  
 20 access to craigslist and/or activities related to craigslist that are  
 21 harmful to, inconsistent with or disruptive of craigslist and/or its  
 22 users’ beneficial use and enjoyment of craigslist are expressly  
 23 unauthorized and prohibited. For example, without limitation:

24 Any copying, aggregation, display, distribution, performance or  
 25 derivative use of craigslist or any content posted on craigslist  
 26 whether done directly or through intermediaries (including but not  
 27 limited to by means of spiders, robots, crawlers, scrapers, framing,  
 28 iframes or RSS feeds) is prohibited.

...

If you access craigslist or copy, display, distribute, perform or  
 create derivative works from craigslist webpages or other CL  
 intellectual property in violation of the TOU or for purposes  
 inconsistent with the TOU, your access, copying, display,  
 distribution, performance or derivative work is unauthorized.

1 Circumvention of any technological restriction or security measure  
2 on craigslist or any provision of the TOU that restricts content,  
conduct, accounts or access is expressly prohibited.

3 TOU § 5 (emphasis added) (Kao Decl. Ex. B).

4 Although craigslist allows a very limited exception to these prohibitions for general  
5 purpose Internet search engines and noncommercial public archives, the exception applies only if  
6 (a) they provide a direct hyperlink to the relevant craigslist website, service, forum or content; (b)  
7 they access craigslist from a stable IP address using an easily identifiable agent; and (c) they  
8 comply with craigslist’s robots.txt file. FAC ¶ 44.

9 The TOU also provide, among other things, that:

10 You automatically grant and assign to CL, and you represent and  
11 warrant that you have the right to grant and assign to CL, a  
12 perpetual, irrevocable, unlimited, fully paid, fully sub-licensable  
13 (through multiple tiers), worldwide license to copy, perform,  
14 display, distribute, prepare derivative works from (including,  
15 without limitation, incorporating into other works) and otherwise  
16 use any content that you post. You also expressly grant and assign  
to CL all rights and causes of action to prohibit and enforce against  
any unauthorized copying, performance, display, distribution, use  
or exploitation of, or creation of derivative works from, any content  
that you post (including but not limited to any unauthorized  
downloading, extraction, harvesting, collection or aggregation of  
content that you post).

17 TOU § 3.a (Kao Decl. Ex. B).

18 For the period starting July 16, 2012—before craigslist commenced this action—through  
19 August 8, 2012, users confirmed that craigslist was the exclusive licensee for all of the copyrights  
20 in their ads before completing the posting process.

21 Specifically, craigslist users affirmatively agreed that:

22 Clicking “Continue” confirms that craigslist is the exclusive  
23 licensee of this content, with the exclusive right to enforce  
24 copyrights against anyone copying, republishing, distributing or  
preparing derivative works without its consent.

25 Posting Confirmation (Kao Decl. Ex. C).

26 **C. 3Taps’ Unlawful Scraping of craigslist Data.**

27 3Taps copies all of the content posted on craigslist’s website—including time stamps and  
28 unique craigslist user ID numbers—stores it in a database copied from craigslist, and makes it

1 available to third parties for use in competing websites or, for whatever other purpose they wish.  
2 FAC ¶ 63.

3 Although 3Taps has gone to great lengths to deceive the public regarding the manner in  
4 which it harvests craigslist's content, craigslist's investigation shows that 3Taps is not obtaining  
5 craigslist content from publicly-available sources, such as the Google and Bing search engines, as  
6 3Taps has consistently claimed. FAC ¶ 78. Instead, 3Taps has misappropriated craigslist's  
7 content by unlawfully scraping it directly from craigslist on a massive scale. FAC ¶ 78; *see also*  
8 FAC ¶¶ 75-80 (detailing 3Taps' scraping activities).

9 Indeed, in its Amended Counterclaims against craigslist, 3Taps now admits—contrary to  
10 its prior denials to the public, and in its Answer filed with this Court—that “*3taps also has used*  
11 *third parties that scrape data from the craigslist website to obtain the content that 3taps needs to*  
12 *create indexed data for downstream specialized search engines.*” Am. Countercl. ¶ 92 (emphasis  
13 added).

14 The web crawlers that 3Taps, its agents, affiliates, and/or other co-conspirators use to  
15 scrape content from craigslist's website operate by accessing, entering, and searching the  
16 craigslist website on craigslist's servers and then extracting the content—craigslist postings—and  
17 copying that content into the 3Taps database. FAC ¶ 80.

18 For example, some of 3Taps' unlawful scraping is conducted by an individual named  
19 Brian R. Niessen. FAC ¶ 87. Among other things, Mr. Niessen is the founder and chairman of a  
20 company named Startup Stock Exchange, in which Mr. Greg Kidd, 3Taps' founder and CEO, is  
21 an investor. FAC ¶ 89.

22 One of the many websites Mr. Niessen appears to operate, qatro.com, is prominently  
23 linked to from the 3Taps website and contains a log that details 3Taps' scraping activities. FAC ¶  
24 90. The log uses telling phrases like “Deciding what to scrape,” “Waiting for scrape,” and  
25 “Scraping.” It also lists the URLs and/or IP addresses from which the scraping occurs and notes  
26 when the “Last Good” scrape occurred from each of them:  
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3taps-stats.qatro.com/show\_stats.php

**QUEUES: 12/08/15 13:58:35**

Item	Count
Deciding what to scrape	0
Waiting for scrape	1
Scraping	164
Waiting to go O.T.W.	21
In Transit O.T.W.	12
Waiting for Stats	65
Waiting for Archive	0
Waiting for Purge	0
Scrape Failed	148

**PROXIES: 12/08/15 14:02:12**

Num	Lat	Last Good	URL
14	1	2012/08/15 14:04:07	http://districtgold.com/l1.php?url=
4	0	2012/08/15 14:04:07	http://64.31.49.104/l1.php?url=
2	0	2012/08/15 14:04:06	http://fb-app.spril.com/l1.php?url=
6	1	2012/08/15 14:04:06	http://www.startupstockexchange.net/l1.php?url=
8	0	2012/08/15 14:04:05	http://companies.startupstockexchange.net/l1.php?url=
9	1	2012/08/14 10:43:12	http://www.islandlifeproperties.com/l1.php?url=
7	0		http://investors.startupstockexchange.net/l1.php?url=
5	0		http://www.gmodules.com/igiproxy?url=
3	0		http://www.carambolaexplorations.com/l1.php?url=
1	0		http://vip-api.com/l1.php?url=
10	90	2012/08/15 12:42:31	http://www.icravecave.com/l1.php?url=
13	90	2012/08/14 11:54:58	http://64.31.49.107/l1.php?url=

**PROGRAMS: 12/08/15 14:01:38**

Item	Last Run (Age/Sec)
	12/08/15 14:04:10 (28648)
cc1_events.pl	12/08/15 13:30:44 (30654)
cc1_multibottom.pl	12/08/15 14:04:14 (28644)
cc1_multibottom2.pl	12/08/15 14:03:54 (28664)
cc1_multimiddle.pl	12/08/15 14:04:10 (28648)
cc1_multi_CLS9.pl	12/08/15 14:04:13 (28645)
cctop50.pl	12/08/15 12:48:33 (33185)
mm325-602.pl	12/08/15 14:04:13 (28645)
mm50-325.pl	12/08/15 14:04:08 (28650)
Deduper	12/08/15 14:02:44 (28734)
Detail Scraper	12/08/15 14:04:14 (28644)
Over the Wall	12/08/15 14:04:13 (28645)
Archiver	12/08/15 14:04:09 (28649)
Stats to 3taps	12/08/15 14:04:01 (28657)
craig_inbound_clear.pl	12/08/15 14:04:13 (28645)
Immortal Image	11/12/15 10:11:45 (21120593)
v3_reporting.pl	12/08/15 14:01:31 (28807)
Archive Expiry Checker	12/05/10 19:21:10 (8390428)
Processor Optimizer	11/12/18 23:00:01 (20815297)

FAC ¶ 97 (Fig 11).

As part of its investigation into 3Taps' improper conduct, craigslist identified various IP addresses from which these web crawlers operated. Once craigslist identified such an IP address, craigslist blocked that IP address from accessing craigslist's servers. FAC ¶ 81. Every time craigslist blocked an IP address from which one of 3Taps' web crawlers was operating, however, the crawlers were moved to another IP address. Indeed, craigslist's investigation revealed that 3Taps' web crawlers often operated from multiple IP addresses simultaneously. FAC ¶ 82.

3Taps, either directly or through its agents, affiliates, and/or other co-conspirators, eventually discovered that craigslist was able to identify and block the IP addresses from which its scraping web crawlers were operating. FAC ¶ 83. Thereafter, 3Taps, either directly, or through its agents, affiliates, and/or other co-conspirators, began using anonymous proxies to hide the true origination address of its scraping web crawlers. FAC ¶ 84.

1 3Taps affirmatively accepted and agreed to be bound by craigslist's TOU by creating  
2 accounts and/or posting ads to craigslist. FAC ¶ 130.

3 In addition, on March 7, 2012, craigslist sent 3Taps a letter demanding that it cease and  
4 desist all of its craigslist-related activities. A copy of craigslist's TOU was enclosed with that  
5 letter. FAC ¶ 132. In the letter, craigslist explicitly stated that:

6 This letter notifies you that you and your agents, employees,  
7 affiliates, and/or anyone acting on your behalf are no longer  
8 authorized to access, and are prohibited from accessing craigslist's  
website or services for any reason.

9 Kao Decl. Ex. A, at 2.

10 3Taps' illegal scraping activities continue, notwithstanding craigslist's express request to  
11 3Taps that it stop its unlawful activities and craigslist's time consuming and burdensome efforts  
12 to develop technological means to stop it. FAC ¶ 86.

13 **D. Lovely's Unauthorized Use of craigslist Data Obtained From 3Taps.**

14 Lovely is a competitor to craigslist's real estate listings services. FAC ¶ 111. It operates  
15 a website at livelovely.com, as well as a mobile iPhone application, that provide searchable real  
16 estate rental listings for cities all over the United States. FAC ¶ 112.

17 The majority of Lovely's content is misappropriated from craigslist by 3Taps' unlawful  
18 scrapers and distributed to Lovely via 3Taps' illegitimate "craigslist API." FAC ¶ 112. The  
19 Lovely website allows users to review craigslist postings on its site, view the craigslist user's  
20 contact information, and directly e-mail or telephone the craigslist user, all without leaving the  
21 Lovely site. FAC ¶ 113.

22 On June 29, 2012, craigslist sent Lovely a letter demanding that it cease and desist all of  
23 its craigslist-related activities. FAC ¶ 115; Kao Decl. Ex. D.

24 **E. craigslist's copyrights.**

25 craigslist either owns or has exclusive rights in its website and all portions thereof,  
26 including, but not limited to, the database underlying the website and the user-generated postings  
27 on its website. FAC ¶ 50. Each user-generated posting on the craigslist website is itself an  
28 original work of creative expression, as it includes unique written descriptions of the goods or

1 services offered for sale, for example, and often include photographs or other creative works.  
2 FAC ¶ 49.

3 craigslist’s U.S. copyright registrations include Reg. Nos., TX0006866657,  
4 TX0006866658, TX0006866660, TX0006866661, and TX0006866662. FAC ¶ 51; *see* Kao Decl.  
5 Exs. E1-E5. On July 19 and 20, 2012, craigslist submitted additional applications to the  
6 Copyright Office for copyright registration. FAC ¶ 52; *see* Kao Decl. F1-F6.

## 7 ARGUMENT

### 8 I. CRAIGSLIST HAS ALLEGED FACTS SUFFICIENT TO ESTABLISH 9 VIOLATIONS OF THE COMPUTER FRAUD AND ABUSE ACT AND 10 CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE SECTION 502.

11 Defendants’ argument that craigslist has failed to adequately plead claims under the  
12 CFAA and Penal Code Section 502 misses the mark. As an initial matter, both statutes explicitly  
13 prohibit the unauthorized *access* of computers, and that is precisely what craigslist has alleged in  
14 the FAC.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, even if craigslist were required to allege a “break in,” as Defendants assert,  
15 the FAC sets forth in great detail 3Taps’ efforts to circumvent craigslist’s attempts to bar 3Taps  
16 from accessing its computers.

#### 17 A. Defendants Improperly Access craigslist’s Website Without Authorization.

18 The CFAA makes it unlawful to “intentionally access[] a computer” and “obtain[]  
19 information,” either without authorization or by exceeding authorized access. 18 U.S.C. §  
20 1030(a)(2)(C); *see LVRC Holdings LLC v. Brekka*, 581 F.3d 1127, 1131 (9th Cir. 2009) (“The  
21 CFAA prohibits a number of different computer crimes, the majority of which involve *accessing*  
22 *computers without authorization or in excess of authorization*, and then taking specified  
23 forbidden actions, ranging from obtaining information to damaging a computer or computer  
24 data.”) (emphasis added). “[T]o bring an action successfully under 18 U.S.C. § 1030(g) based on  
25 a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1030(a)(2), [plaintiff] must show that [defendant]: (1) intentionally  
26 accessed a computer, (2) without authorization or exceeding authorized access, and that he (3)

27 <sup>2</sup> As Defendants set forth in their Motion, courts apply the CFAA and Penal Code Section 502  
28 consistently. *See, e.g., Multiven, Inc. v. Cisco Sys., Inc.*, 725 F. Supp. 2d 887, 895 (N.D. Cal. 2010)  
(noting that the necessary elements of Section 502 do not differ materially from the necessary elements of  
the CFAA).



1 thereby obtained information (4) from any protected computer ... and that (5) there was loss to  
 2 one or more persons during any one-year period aggregating at least \$5,000 in value.” *Brekka*,  
 3 581 F. 3d at 1132.

4 Here, craigslist has alleged facts establishing that Defendants are accessing craigslist’s  
 5 computers either without authorization or by exceeding their authorization. *See, e.g.*, FAC ¶ 214  
 6 (“On information and belief, Defendants knowingly and intentionally accessed craigslist’s  
 7 computers without authorization or in excess of authorization as defined by craigslist’s TOU.”); ¶  
 8 222 (“Defendants have violated California Penal Code §502(c)(3) by knowingly, fraudulently,  
 9 and without permission accessing and using craigslist’s computers and servers.”).<sup>3</sup> Specifically,  
 10 craigslist alleges that Defendants, to the extent they had limited rights to access the craigslist  
 11 website (as any member of the public does), *exceeded their authorization* by using web crawlers  
 12 to access craigslist and obtain data from the website, which craigslist does not permit. FAC ¶¶  
 13 75-98. In addition, craigslist further alleges that Defendants have been notified expressly that  
 14 they are “*no longer authorized to access, and are prohibited from accessing craigslist’s website*  
 15 *or services for any reason.*” FAC ¶¶ 132-134; Kao Decl. Ex. A (emphasis added). This is more  
 16 than sufficient to state a claim under both the CFAA and Section 502.

17 To be sure, craigslist *also* alleges in the FAC that 3Taps is misusing the data unlawfully  
 18 obtained from craigslist in support of other causes of action asserted against Defendants,  
 19 including for common law misappropriation and breach of contract. *See, e.g.*, FAC ¶¶ 135-148.  
 20 But the basis of craigslist’s claims for violation of the CFAA and Penal Code Section 502 is  
 21 3Taps’ unauthorized *access* of craigslist’s website, and that is plainly set forth in the FAC.

22 Defendants’ reliance on *United States v. Nosal*, 676 F.3d 854 (9th Cir. 2012)—and its  
 23 suggestion that craigslist has somehow ignored its holding—is therefore misplaced. *Nosal*  
 24 considered whether current employees of a company violated the CFAA by misusing company  
 25 data they were *authorized* to access. 676 F.3d at 856. Under those circumstances—which are

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
 27 <sup>3</sup> In their Motion, Defendants focus almost exclusively on a single paragraph in the FAC, ¶ 215,  
 28 which states allegations specifically directed to violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1030(a)(4). Defs.’ Mot. at 11-12.  
 Not only do the remainder of craigslist’s allegations in the FAC adequately support a claim under  
 §1030(a)(4), see FAC ¶¶ 75-98, they also expressly state a claim under §1030(a)(2).

1 quite different than the facts here, where 3Taps, a third party with no connection to craigslist, is  
 2 using automated web crawlers to infiltrate the craigslist website—the Ninth Circuit held that  
 3 violations of internal policies on the *use* of company data could not support a claim under the  
 4 CFAA. *See id.* at 863 (“[W]e hold that the phrase “exceeds authorized access” in the CFAA does  
 5 not extend to violations of use restrictions.”).

6 *Nosal* did *not* hold, as Defendants misleadingly suggest, that a CFAA claim can never be  
 7 based on violations of contractual restrictions. Rather, *Nosal* clarified that claims under the  
 8 CFAA are limited to “violations of restrictions on *access* to information, and not restrictions on  
 9 its *use*.” *Id.* at 864 (emphasis in original); *see Weingand v. Harland Fin. Solutions, Inc.*, No. C-  
 10 11-3109 (EMC), 2012 WL 2327660 (N.D. Cal. June 19, 2012), at \*3 (“Thus, although *Nosal*  
 11 clearly precluded applying the CFAA to violating restrictions on *use*, it did not preclude applying  
 12 the CFAA to rules regarding *access*.”). Indeed, the Ninth Circuit *confirmed* in *Nosal* that the  
 13 CFAA is intended to prohibit the “unauthorized procurement” of information. *See Nosal*, 676  
 14 F.3d at 863 (quoting *Shamrock Foods Co. v. Gast*, 535 F. Supp. 2d 962, 965 (D. Ariz. 2008)).<sup>4</sup>

15 Accordingly, if anything, *Nosal* supports the conclusion that craigslist’s CFAA and  
 16 Section 502 claims should survive a motion to dismiss, because Defendants’ access to craigslist’s  
 17 website was, and is, *unauthorized*. *See, e.g., Facebook, Inc. v. ConnectU LLC*, 489 F. Supp. 2d  
 18 1087, 1091 (N.D. Cal. 2007) (denying motion to dismiss Section 502 claim where Facebook  
 19 alleged “facts showing that [defendant] ConnectU knowingly accessed Facebook’s website to  
 20 collect, copy, and use data found thereon *in a manner not authorized or permitted by Facebook*”)  
 21 (emphasis added); *Sw. Airlines Co. v. Farechase, Inc.*, 318 F. Supp. 2d 435, 439-440 (N.D. Tex.  
 22 2004) (denying motion to dismiss CFAA claims where plaintiff Southwest had alleged that its  
 23 terms of use prohibited scraping, and that it had directly informed defendants that their access to  
 24 and scraping of Southwest’s website was *unauthorized*); *Register.com, Inc. v. Verio, Inc.*, 126 F.

25 <sup>4</sup> *United States v. Drew*, 259 F.R.D. 449 (C.D. Cal. 2009), which was decided *before* the Ninth  
 26 Circuit’s ruling in *Nosal*, is therefore also distinguishable. In that case, the conduct at issue was not  
 27 defendant’s *access* to the MySpace website—the defendant had created an account with MySpace and was  
 28 therefore authorized to use the website—but rather defendant’s *use* of the website to inflict emotional  
 distress on a minor. 259 F.R.D. at 452-53, 461 (basis for CFAA violation was defendant’s use of  
 MySpace to “creat[e] the false ... profile, post[] a photograph of a juvenile without his permission and  
 pretend[] to be a sixteen year old....”).

1 Supp. 2d 238, 249-51 (S.D.N.Y. 2000) (granting preliminary injunction where defendant’s “use  
2 of search robots . . . represent an unauthorized access to the WHOIS database”).<sup>5</sup>

3 **B. Defendants Use Rotating IP Addresses and Proxies To Evade craigslist’s**  
4 **Measures to Block Scraping.**

5 Defendants further misconstrue *Nosal* to contend that the CFAA and Penal Code Section  
6 502 require that 3Taps “break into” craigslist’s website. Defs.’ Mot. at 8. *Nosal* does not say  
7 anything of the sort.

8 Both the CFAA and Section 502 have been described in *Nosal*, and elsewhere, as “anti-  
9 hacking” statutes. *See Nosal*, 676 F.3d at 857. But as the Ninth Circuit very clearly recites in  
10 *Nosal*, the use of the term “hacking” does not mean a physical or technological break-in—it  
11 means simply that the defendant accessed computers without authorization. *See id.* at 858. What  
12 is paramount is whether the defendant has *permission* to access the data, not the means in which  
13 the defendant accesses the information. *See, e.g., Weingand*, at \*3 (rejecting defendant’s  
14 argument that the CFAA requires the circumvention of “code” barriers, “*i.e.*, whether someone is  
15 literally blocked from certain files by some security measure such as a password,” and noting that  
16 *Nosal* “was concerned only with the distinction between access and use”) (citation omitted).

17 For example, as reviewed in *Nosal*, an employee could be liable under the CFAA if she is  
18 “authorized to access only certain data or files but accesses unauthorized data or files—what is  
19 colloquially known as ‘hacking.’” *Nosal*, 676 F.3d at 856-57. The employee is not “breaking  
20 into” the computers, she is simply accessing information she does not have authorization to view.  
21 *See id.* at 858 (“But it is possible to read both prohibitions as applying to hackers: ‘[W]ithout  
22 authorization’ would apply to *outside* hackers (individuals who have no authorized access to the

23 \_\_\_\_\_  
24 <sup>5</sup> *See also EF Cultural Travel BV v. Explorica, Inc.*, 274 F.3d 577, 585 (1st Cir. 2001) (affirming  
25 grant of preliminary injunction on CFAA claim based on defendant’s development and use of a tool to  
26 scrape his prior employer’s website in violation of his employment agreement with the employer); *EF*  
27 *Cultural Travel BV v. Zefer Corp.*, 318 F.3d 58, 62 (1st Cir. 2003) (noting that “[a] lack of authorization  
28 [under the CFAA] could be established by an explicit statement on the website restricting access”); *Snap-*  
*on Bus. Solutions Inc. v. O’Neil & Assocs., Inc.*, 708 F. Supp. 2d 669, 678 (N.D. Ohio 2010) (denying  
summary judgment on CFAA claim because fact issue existed regarding whether defendant’s access to  
database was authorized based on the terms of a web hosting agreement); *Am. Online, Inc. v. LCGM, Inc.*,  
46 F. Supp. 2d 444, 450 (E.D. Va. 1998) (finding CFAA violation where “Defendants’ actions violated  
AOL’s Terms of Service, and as such was unauthorized).

1 computer at all) and ‘exceeds authorized access’ would apply to *inside* hackers (individuals  
2 whose initial access to a computer is authorized but who access unauthorized information or  
3 files.’) (emphasis in original). There is nothing in the language of the relevant statutes  
4 themselves, or in precedent applying the statutes, that limits CFAA or Penal Code Section 502 to  
5 claims against “those individuals who obtain access . . . through breaking through some kind of  
6 security system.” See *Weingand*, 2012 WL 2327600, at \*3-4 (“[T]he fact that *Nosal* uses the  
7 word “authorization” interchangeably with “permission,” suggests that one need not engage in  
8 such rigorous technological measures to block someone from accessing files in order to limit their  
9 “authorization.”).

10 In any event, even if the CFAA and Penal Code Section 502 do require some attempt to  
11 physically or technologically circumvent barriers to access—which they do not—craigslist has set  
12 forth detailed allegations in the FAC concerning 3Taps’ extensive and continuous attempts to  
13 evade craigslist’s targeted efforts to prevent 3Taps from scraping its site. In particular, as part of  
14 its investigation into 3Taps’ improper conduct, craigslist identified the IP addresses from which  
15 these web crawlers operated, and blocked those IP addresses from accessing craigslist’s servers.  
16 FAC ¶ 81. However, every time craigslist blocked an IP address from which one of 3Taps’ web  
17 crawlers was operating, the crawlers were moved to another IP address. Indeed, craigslist’s  
18 investigation revealed that 3Taps’ web crawlers often operated from multiple IP addresses  
19 simultaneously. FAC ¶ 82. Moreover, 3Taps also began using anonymous proxies to hide the  
20 true origination address of its scraping web crawlers, to further circumvent craigslist’s efforts to  
21 stop 3Taps’ unauthorized access to its servers. FAC ¶ 84.

22 In *Facebook, Inc. v. Power Ventures, Inc.*, 844 F. Supp. 2d 1025 (N.D. Cal. 2012), this  
23 Court found this exact conduct to violate the CFAA and Penal Code Section 502. In *Power*  
24 *Ventures*, defendant Power Ventures, among other things, circumvented Facebook’s “attempt[ ]to  
25 block Power’s access to the site by blocking what appeared to be its primary IP address . . . by  
26 using other IP addresses,” and changing IP addresses as they were blocked “in a game of cat and  
27 mouse.” *Id.* at 1037. In addition, Power Ventures “used a number of routines to avoid being  
28 blocked by websites like Facebook, including the use of proxy servers . . . .” *Id.* On these facts,

1 the Court granted summary judgment in Facebook’s favor, finding that Power Ventures had  
 2 violated the CFAA and Section 502, concluding that there was “no reason to distinguish between  
 3 methods of circumvention built into a software system to render barriers ineffective and those  
 4 which respond to barriers after they have been imposed.” *Id.* at 1038.<sup>6</sup>

5 Here, as in the *Power Ventures* case, 3Taps’ organized and determined efforts to  
 6 circumvent craigslist’s repeated efforts to block 3Taps from accessing craigslist’s computers and  
 7 scraping data are more than sufficient to state a claim for violation of the CFAA and Section 502  
 8 at the pleading stage.

9 **II. DEFENDANTS ARE INFRINGING CRAIGSLIST’S VALID AND**  
 10 **ENFORCEABLE COPYRIGHTS.**

11 Defendants’ argument that craigslist does not, as a matter of law, have valid and  
 12 enforceable copyrights is also without merit. *First*, it is incontrovertible that the content  
 13 displayed on craigslist’s website—both the individual postings themselves and craigslist’s unique  
 14 and original compilation of those postings—is protected by copyright law. *Second*, craigslist has  
 15 standing to enforce the copyrights protecting this content against Defendants in this case.

16 **A. The Content on craigslist’s Website Constitutes Original Works of**  
 17 **Authorship and Are Protected By Copyright Law.**

18 Defendants do not appear to contend in their Motion (as 3Taps has publicly argued time  
 19 and time again) that the individual postings displayed on the craigslist site are mere “public facts”  
 20 that are not copyrightable, nor could they credibly make such an argument. Instead, Defendants  
 21 appear to argue that craigslist’s *compilation* of user postings is not independently protectable,  
 22 because craigslist does not compile the postings in an original way. Defendants are wrong. Both  
 23 the individual postings themselves *and* craigslist’s selection and arrangement of those postings  
 24 are protected by copyright law.

25 \_\_\_\_\_  
 26 <sup>6</sup> In an earlier opinion, decided before *Nosal*, the court in *Power Ventures* disagreed with the  
 27 holding in *Facebook, Inc. v. ConnectU LLC*, cited above, and which craigslist contends was correctly  
 28 decided. *Facebook, Inc. v. Power Ventures, Inc.*, No. C 08-05780 JW, 2010 WL 3291750, at\*8-\*11 (N.D.  
 Cal. July 20, 2010). In the *Power Ventures* case, moreover, before Facebook began blocking Power  
 Ventures from accessing its site, Power Ventures had been accessing Facebook “with the permission of a  
 Facebook account holder and at that account holder’s behest.” *Id.* at \*7.

1                   **1. Individual User-Created Postings Can Be Copyrighted.**

2                   As an initial matter, the user-created classified ads on craigslist are plainly original works  
3 of authorship eligible for protection under 17 U.S.C. § 102. They consist of words, and  
4 sometimes photographs or other visual art, that convey the users’ creative expression, whether it  
5 be for the purpose of selling goods and services, offering housing, seeking employees, meeting  
6 new acquaintances, or commenting on social and political issues. This is the essence of what  
7 copyright law is intended to protect.

8                   3Taps’ repeated assertions, both publicly and in their filed pleadings in this case, that a  
9 user posting “is factual data that cannot be not subject to copyright protection” (Am. Countercl. ¶  
10 14; *see also* ¶¶ 110, 121) is therefore baseless, and borders on frivolous. It is of no moment that  
11 craigslist postings can sometimes be short (although many postings are quite long), and are often  
12 directed to commercial activity. Copyright law protects all original works, however humble. *See*  
13 *Feist Publ’ns, Inc. v. Rural Tel. Servs. Co.*, 499 U.S. 340, 345 (1991) (“Original, as the term is  
14 used in copyright, means only that the work was independently created by the author (as opposed  
15 to copied from other works), and that it possesses at least some minimal degree of creativity. To  
16 be sure, the requisite level of creativity is extremely low; even a slight amount will suffice. The  
17 vast majority of works make the grade quite easily, as they possess some creative spark, ‘no  
18 matter how crude, humble or obvious’ it might be.”) (internal citation omitted).

19                   **2. craigslist’s Compilation of User Postings Can Independently Be**  
20 **Copyrighted.**

21                   Likewise, craigslist’s compilation of user postings is *independently* eligible for copyright  
22 protection. The Copyright Act expressly provides that a “compilation”—“a work formed by the  
23 collection and assembling of preexisting materials or of data that are selected, coordinated, or  
24 arranged in such a way that the resulting work as a whole constitutes an original work of  
25 authorship”—can be copyrighted. 17 U.S.C. §§ 101, 103. “Compilations” include “collective  
26 works,” “in which a number of contributions, constituting separate and independent works in  
27 themselves, are assembled into a collective whole.” 17 U.S.C. § 101; *see also* 1 Melville B.  
28 Nimmer & David Nimmer, *Nimmer on Copyright* §2.04[B] (1996), at 2-46 (“That form of

1 compilation which consists of individual items that themselves are copyrightable is termed a  
2 ‘collective work.’”).

3 Even a compilation of *non-copyrightable* facts can possess the requisite originality to  
4 qualify for copyright protection. *See Feist*, 499 U.S. at 348; *Jacobsen v. Katzer*, No. C 06-01905  
5 JSW, 2009 WL 4823021, at \*2-\*3 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 10, 2009); *see also* U.S. Copyright Office,  
6 Circular 65: Copyright Registration for Automated Databases, (“Copyright protection extends to  
7 the compilation of facts if the compilation represents original authorship.”) (June 2002) (Kao  
8 Decl. Ex. G). “The compilation author typically chooses which facts to include, in what order to  
9 place them, and how to arrange the collected data so that they may be used effectively by readers.  
10 These choices as to selection and arrangement, so long as they are made independently by the  
11 compiler and entail a minimal degree of creativity, are sufficiently original that Congress may  
12 protect such compilations through the copyright laws.” *Feist*, 499 U.S. at 348 (citations omitted).

13 Defendants argue that craigslist’s compilation of user postings should not be  
14 copyrightable because craigslist “merely accepts what is posted, or deletes what is flagged by  
15 users as abuse.” Defs.’ Mot. at 12. But, as a factual matter, this is not true.<sup>7</sup> craigslist has the  
16 right to, and does, take voluntary efforts to restrict the posting of offensive or otherwise  
17 objectionable content on its website. *See, e.g.*, TOU § 3 (Kao Decl. Ex. A) (“Content prohibited  
18 from craigslist includes but is not limited to . . . offensive content (including, without limitation,  
19 defamatory, threatening, hateful or pornographic content).”). craigslist also exercises judgment in  
20 choosing the duration that postings appear on its website, based on the type of posting it is (*e.g.*,  
21 whether it is a “For Sale” posting or a “Resumes” or “Gigs” posting) and depending on the local  
22 community where the posting appears (*e.g.*, whether it is in the “SF Bay Area” community, or in  
23 some other locale). *See* posting lifespans, [http://www.craigslist.org/about/help/posting\\_lifespans](http://www.craigslist.org/about/help/posting_lifespans).  
24 Through these and other methods, craigslist curates the postings that appear on its website.

25 In addition, this ignores craigslist’s original arrangement of the postings on its website.  
26 Although Defendants contend there is nothing creative about the way craigslist’s postings are

27 <sup>7</sup> For this reason alone, Defendants’ Motion should be denied, as Defendants are relying on  
28 completely unsupported facts outside of the FAC, which require the Court to resolve disputed issues of  
fact before any discovery has even occurred.

1 arranged because “every classified section of every newspaper has similarly categorized classified  
2 ad listings going back decades,” Defs.’ Mot. at 13, that is demonstrably false. craigslist’s website  
3 arranges its postings first into hundreds of geographical communities (for example, the “SF Bay  
4 Area,” “Inland Empire,” “Gold Country” in California), and then into dozens of different  
5 categories and sub-categories, all of which were specifically named or chosen by craigslist. For  
6 example, the home page for the “SF Bay Area” community reflects that the millions of postings  
7 for that geographic area are arranged in no less than 9 different top-level categories and 201 sub-  
8 categories of postings. *See* Kao Decl. Ex. H.

9 This original arrangement of postings is unique to craigslist and sufficiently creative to  
10 qualify for copyright protection. craigslist, therefore, is not like the “garden-variety white pages  
11 directory” at issue in *Feist*, which simply “takes the data provided by its subscribers and lists it  
12 alphabetically by surname.” *Feist*, 499 U.S. at 362. craigslist postings are arranged into literally  
13 thousands of different, and specifically chosen, geographical areas and subject categories “that go  
14 beyond the mere mechanical grouping of data as such, for example, the alphabetical,  
15 chronological, or sequential listings of data.” *Key Publ’ns, Inc. v. Chinatown Today Pub.*  
16 *Enter.’s, Inc.*, 945 F.2d 509, 513-14 (2nd Cir. 1991) (holding that a yellow pages directory that  
17 had more than 9,000 listings organized into approximately 260 different categories was  
18 copyrightable, and stating that the “arrangement [of the directory] is in no sense mechanical, but  
19 involved creativity . . . in deciding which categories to include and under what name.”).

20 craigslist’s selection and arrangement of postings is more akin to the real estate listings  
21 service at issue *Metropolitan Regional Information Systems, Inc. v. American Home Realty*  
22 *Network, Inc.*, Civ. Action No. 12-CV-00954-AW, 2012 WL 3711513 (D. Md. Aug. 24, 2012)  
23 (“*MRIS*”). In that case, the facts of which are strikingly similar to this one, plaintiff *MRIS*, which  
24 operates a regional Multiple Listings Service (“*MLS*”) for the greater Washington, D.C.  
25 metropolitan area, brought claims for copyright infringement against defendant *AHRN* based on  
26 *AHRN*’s copying and display of property listings from *MRIS*’ automated database of listings.

27 In *MRIS*, the court *rejected* *AHRN*’s argument that *MRIS* “added no written expression”  
28 and “does not make any selections” of the texts and photographs contained in its database because



1 “they are provided on automatic pilot through uploading by the subscribers”—which is *precisely*  
 2 what Defendants contend here. *See MRIS*, 2012 WL 3711513, at \*14. Based on MRIS’ active  
 3 efforts to “oversee[] and control[] the quality and accuracy of the content in the MRIS Database,”  
 4 and to maintain a database of more than 70,000 property listings, the *MRIS* court concluded that  
 5 “the MRIS Database exhibits the requisite originality for copyright protection.” *Id.* at \*15 (citing  
 6 *Montgomery Cnty. Ass’n of Realtors, Inc. v. Realty Photo Master Corp.*, 878 F. Supp. 804, 810  
 7 (D.Md. 1995) (holding that arrangement of information in MLS database “possesses at least some  
 8 minimal degree of creativity”)).

9 **B. craigslist Has Standing To Enforce The Copyrights Protecting Its Content.**

10 **1. craigslist Created and Owns the Compilation of User Postings**  
 11 **Displayed on its Website, and Can Separately Enforce the Copyrights**  
 12 **in the Compilation.**

13 As craigslist’s compilation of postings—in the form of an electronic database—is  
 14 independently protected by copyright, Defendants’ contention in its Motion that because “all of  
 15 craigslist’s copyright claims fully derive from these ads, they must be dismissed in their entirety,”  
 16 is wrong as a matter of law. Defs.’ Mot. at 14. However, craigslist may assert copyright claims  
 17 for the infringement of its *compilation* of postings, separate and apart from the claims regarding  
 18 the postings themselves. Accordingly, even if the Court concludes that craigslist cannot enforce  
 19 any copyrights in the underlying works, Defendants’ Motion to dismiss Claims 4 and 5 should be  
 20 denied, as craigslist can still prevail on its copyright claims based on the Defendants’  
 21 infringement of craigslist’s compiled work.

22 **2. craigslist Can Enforce Copyrights in the Underlying Postings.**

23 In this case, however, since craigslist also has rights in the underlying postings  
 24 themselves, craigslist can enforce the copyrights protecting those postings as well.

25 **a. craigslist has an exclusive license to postings displayed on its**  
 26 **website.**

27 craigslist’s TOU, which all users accept before submitting their postings to the craigslist  
 28 website, unmistakably conveys an exclusive license to the postings to craigslist under 17 U.S.C. §

1 204(a). The present version of craigslist’s TOU, which was revised on February 12, 2012, and  
 2 has not been modified since, provides in relevant part that:

3 You automatically grant and assign to CL . . . a perpetual,  
 4 irrevocable, unlimited, fully paid, fully sub-licensable (through  
 5 multiple tiers), worldwide license to copy, perform, display,  
 6 distribute, prepare derivative works from (including, without  
 7 limitation, incorporating into other works) and otherwise use any  
 8 content that you post. You also expressly grant and assign to CL  
 9 all rights and causes of action to prohibit and enforce against any  
 unauthorized copying, performance, display, distribution, use or  
 exploitation of, or creation of derivative works from, any content  
 that you post (including but not limited to any unauthorized  
 downloading, extraction, harvesting, collection or aggregation of  
 content that you post).

10 TOU § 3.a (emphasis added); see Kao Decl. Ex. B. Each user electronically accepts the TOU  
 11 before submitting a posting to craigslist—what is known as a “clickwrap” agreement. FAC ¶ 36.  
 12 This version of the TOU stands in contrast to the prior version of the TOU, which stated  
 13 expressly that users assigned only a “non-exclusive license” to craigslist. See Kao Decl. Ex. I  
 14 (“[B]y posting Content to any public area of the Service, you automatically grant . . . an  
 15 irrevocable, perpetual, non-exclusive, fully paid, worldwide license . . .”) (emphasis added).

16 The absence of the term “exclusive” in the TOU is not determinative. As all the cases  
 17 cited by Defendants agree, there is no magic language sufficient to evince an intent to grant an  
 18 exclusive license to a copyrighted work. See, e.g., *Radio Television Espanola S.A. v. New World*  
 19 *Entm’t, Ltd.*, 183 F.3d 922, 927 (9th Cir. 1999) (“No magic words must be included in a  
 20 document to satisfy § 204(a). Rather, the parties’ intent as evidenced by the writing must  
 21 demonstrate a transfer of the copyright.”) (citation omitted); accord *Schiller & Schmidt, Inc. v.*  
 22 *Nordisco Corp.*, 969 F.2d 410, 413 (7th Cir. 1992); *Thomsen v. Famous Dave’s of Am., Inc.*, 606  
 23 F.3d 905, 908 (8th Cir. 2010). The writing “doesn’t have to be the Magna Charta; a one line pro  
 24 forma statement will do.” *Effects Assocs., Inc. v. Cohen*, 908 F.2d 555, 557 (9th Cir. 1990).

25 Rather, the Court must look to the totality of the relevant agreement to determine the  
 26 parties’ intent. See *Radio Television Espanola*, 183 F.3d at 927 (“[T]he parties’ intent as  
 27 evidenced by the writing must demonstrate a transfer of the copyright.”) (citation omitted); *Nafal*  
 28 *v. Carter*, 540 F. Supp. 2d 1128, 1141-42 (C.D. Cal. 2007) (“Whether an agreement transfers

1 rights that are exclusive or nonexclusive is governed by the substance of what was given to the  
 2 licensee and not the label that the parties put on the agreement.”). In this case, since craigslist’s  
 3 users have granted to craigslist *all* the exclusive rights a copyright owner is entitled to under 17  
 4 U.S.C. § 106,<sup>8</sup> on a “*fully sub-licensable*” basis, as well as “*all rights* and causes of action to  
 5 prohibit and enforce against any unauthorized copying, performance, display, distribution, use or  
 6 exploitation of, or creation of derivative works from, any content that you post” (which  
 7 Defendants conveniently omit from their discussion), the only proper interpretation is that  
 8 craigslist has an exclusive license to the postings and can enforce the copyrights protecting the  
 9 postings against third parties like Defendants.

10 craigslist’s TOU is far more definite and clear than the alleged agreements at issue in the  
 11 cases relied upon by Defendants. In *Effects Associates*, there was only an *oral* agreement  
 12 between the parties, without any writing at all. 908 F.2d at 556. This plainly falls short of what  
 13 is required by § 204. In *Weinstein Co. v. Smokewood Entertainment Group*, 664 F. Supp. 2d 332,  
 14 337 (S.D.N.Y. 2009), the only alleged written agreement was an exchange of e-mails between the  
 15 parties, the last of which indicated that no agreement had been reached: “Guys, I’m explaining  
 16 every detail to the producers and financiers and taking comments and will call you when this  
 17 conversation is over.” The alleged agreement in *Radio Television Espanola* was likewise only  
 18 preliminary; the last communication between the parties indicated that the defendant was still  
 19 “awaiting the contracts.” 183 F.3d at 927. In contrast, craigslist’s TOU is indisputably a formal  
 20 agreement that grants craigslist exclusive rights to the postings submitted to the craigslist website.  
 21 *Cf. MRIS*, 2012 WL 3711513, at \*14 (“In this case, however, the MRIS TOU is between MRIS  
 22 (the purported assignee) and its subscribers (the purported assignors), its terms are clear, and  
 23 MRIS has a credible claim that the subscribers, in submitting the images, intended to assign their  
 24 rights to MRIS.”).

25  
 26 <sup>8</sup> Section 106 of the Copyright Act provides that the owner of a copyright on a written work “has  
 27 the *exclusive rights* to do and authorize any of the following: (1) to *reproduce* the copyrighted work . . . ;  
 28 (2) to *prepare derivative works* based upon the copyrighted work; (3) to *distribute* copies . . . of the  
 copyrighted work to the public; (4) . . . to *perform* the copyrighted work publicly; [and] (5) . . . to *display*  
 the copyrighted work publicly.” 17 U.S.C. § 106 (emphasis added).

1 The fact that craigslist, for a short period of time, required users to *further* confirm their  
 2 understanding of the TOU does not change this result.<sup>9</sup> craigslist’s TOU on its own was, and is,  
 3 sufficient to grant an exclusive license for the reasons reviewed above.

4 At the very least, however, if the Court concludes that the TOU is not sufficiently clear to  
 5 assign rights to craigslist, then *during the period* that users agreed to this additional confirmation,  
 6 they validly granted craigslist an exclusive license to their postings. The additional affirmation  
 7 by craigslist users provides as follows:

8 Clicking “Continue” confirms that craigslist is the *exclusive*  
 9 *licensee* of this content, with the *exclusive right to enforce*  
 10 *copyrights* against anyone copying, republishing, distributing or  
 preparing derivative works without its consent.

11 Kao Decl. Ex. C (emphasis added).<sup>10</sup> Defendants’ contention that this written confirmation fails  
 12 because it does not incorporate the TOU by reference is beside the point—this writing *standing*  
 13 *on its own* evinces that craigslist has an exclusive license to the postings. Defendants’ argument  
 14 that this writing fails because it does contain the word “grant” is scarcely credible. As set forth  
 15 above, there are no “magic words” needed to satisfy § 204(a), and the plain meaning of this  
 16 writing, given the context, is abundantly clear—that craigslist is “the *exclusive licensee* of this  
 17 content,” *i.e.*, the content being concurrently submitted by the user for display on craigslist.

18 **b. Since craigslist has exclusive rights in postings, craigslist can**  
 19 **register and enforce copyrights covering the postings as well.**

20 Defendants also argue that craigslist’s copyright registrations are improper because (1) a  
 21 registration for a compilation does not extend to any underlying copyrightable works and (2)

24 <sup>9</sup> craigslist required this additional step in the posting process from July 16, 2012—before  
 25 craigslist commenced this action—through August 8, 2012. craigslist decided to remove this additional  
 step from the process, but its TOU remains the same as it has since February 2012.

26 <sup>10</sup> Defendants’ reliance on *Windsor Mills, Inc. v. Collins & Aikman Corp.*, 25 Cal. App. 3d 987  
 27 (1972) is likewise misguided. In *Windsor Mills*, the court refused to enforce an arbitration clause  
 28 contained in “inconspicuous” print on the back of a purchase order, which the plaintiff did not read and  
 could not be expected to read under the circumstances. *Id.* at 996. Here, the writing at issue was  
 presented to users as part of the posting process, and users could not proceed to make a submission to  
 craigslist without clicking the “Continue” button.

1 craigslist’s registration must identify, among other things, the author and title of every single  
2 posting in its registration for its electronic database.<sup>11</sup> Defendants are wrong on both counts.

3 *First*, courts have consistently held in similar contexts that “an owner and registrant of a  
4 compilation may bring an infringement action on the underlying parts where it also owns  
5 copyrights in the underlying parts, even where those parts have not been individually registered.”  
6 *MRIS*, 2012 WL 3711513, at \*10 (citing *Xoom v. Imageline*, 323 F.3d 279, 283-84 (4th Cir.  
7 2003)); *see also Morris v. Business Concepts, Inc.*, 259 F.3d 65, 68 (2d Cir. 2001) *abrogated on*  
8 *other grounds by Reed Elsevier, Inc. v. Muchnick*, 559 U.S. 154 (2010) (“Under the law of this  
9 Circuit, where the owner of a copyright for a collective work also owns the copyright for a  
10 constituent part of that work, registration of the collective work is sufficient to permit an  
11 infringement action under § 411(a) for the constituent part.”); *Masterfile Corp. v. Gale*, No. 2:09-  
12 cv-966, 2011 WL 4702862, at \*2 (D. Utah Oct. 4, 2011) (“Because Masterfile owns the  
13 constituent parts of the collection the registration of the collection extends copyright protection to  
14 the constituent parts.”).

15 These holdings are consistent with the longstanding official guidance of the U.S.  
16 Copyright Office. *See* Compendium of Copyright Office Practices II § 615.06 (1984) (Kao Decl.  
17 Ex. J) (“The registration [for a “collective work”] may cover (a) the collective work authorship,  
18 (b) any contribution created by the employee or other party commissioned by the author of a  
19 work made for hire, and (c) *any other contributions that the claimant of the collective work*  
20 *obtained by transfer.*”) (emphasis added); U.S. Copyright Office, Circular 62: Copyright  
21 Registration for Single Serial Issues (“A claim in the ‘collective work’ extends to all  
22 copyrightable authorship created by employees of the author, as well as any independent  
23 contributions in which the claimant has acquired ownership of the copyright.”) (August 2011)

24 <sup>11</sup> Defendants also appear to argue that craigslist does not have standing because its registrations  
25 do not properly claim rights in the individual postings. *See* Defs. Mot. at 20-21. Defendants cite only to  
26 the presently issued registrations, however, which craigslist agrees do not extend to individual postings or  
27 the compilation of those postings. As alleged in the FAC, craigslist filed *additional* applications for  
28 registration prior to filing this lawsuit, one of which expressly claims craigslist’s rights in the postings and  
the compilation. FAC ¶ 52; *see* Kao Decl. Ex. F1. Although this application remains pending in the  
Copyright Office, that does not affect craigslist’s standing. *See, e.g., Cosmetic Ideas, Inc. v.*  
*IAC/Interactive Corp.*, 606 F.3d 612, 619-21 (9th Cir. 2010) (“We therefore hold that receipt by the  
Copyright Office of a complete application satisfies the registration requirement of § 411(a).”).

1 (Kao Decl. Ex. K); Circular 65 (“Where all, or a substantial portion, of the material in the  
2 database represents copyrightable expression and it is being published or registered for the first  
3 time, the claim could also extend to ‘text’ . . . .”) (Kao Decl. Ex. G).

4 As the *MRIS* court explained, Section 103(b) of the Copyright Act is not to the contrary.  
5 Although “Section 103(b) provides that ‘[t]he copyright in a compilation or derivative work  
6 extends only to the material contributed by the author of such work, as distinguished from the  
7 preexisting material employed in the work, and does not imply any exclusive right in the  
8 preexisting material,” that provision “covers the subject matter of copyrights, not registrations.”  
9 *MRIS*, 2012 WL 3711513, at \*12. In other words, it “prevents a compilation copyright holder  
10 from acquiring rights to other authors’ works simply by including them in the compilation.” *Id.*  
11 It does not preclude the copyright holder from claiming rights in “the underlying or preexisting  
12 works of the compilation that are also owned by the registrant.” *Id.*

13 *Second*, craigslist is not required to identify the author and title of every single posting in  
14 its registration for its electronic database. Although Section 409 of the Copyright Act provides  
15 that a copyright application must include, among other things, the author and the title of the work  
16 to be registered, 17 U.S.C. § 409, it does not specify that a registration of a compilation must  
17 identify the author and title of each underlying, preexisting work.

18 The defendant in the *MRIS* case raised this exact argument, and the court rejected it,  
19 concluding that 17 U.S.C. § 409 does not “require every application for a compilation to include  
20 the author and title of each underlying work”:

21 The Court disagrees with Defendants’ reading of Section 409. The  
22 statute does not unambiguously require every application for a  
23 compilation to include the author and title of each underlying work.  
In fact, the statute could easily be read to require only the listing of  
the author and title of the compilation itself.

24 *MRIS*, 2012 WL 3711513, at \*11. As the *MRIS* court noted, this reading of Section 409 is  
25 consistent with the Copyright Office’s own practice manual: “Where a collective work is being  
26 registered, the application should name the author of the collective work. The names of the  
27 individual authors of separate contributions being registered as part of the claim *need not be given*  
28 *on the application.*” *Id.* (citing Compendium of Copyright Office Practices II § 615.06 (1984)).



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January 31, 2013

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I, Brian Hennessy, hereby attest, pursuant to N.D. Cal. Local Rule 5-1(i)(3), that the concurrence to the filing of this document has been obtained from each signatory hereto.

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