

Microsoft sues Motorola over smart phone patents

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Google's software platform for mobile phones entitled 'Android' in its prototype form on demonstration at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona 2008. Microsoft filed suit against Motorola on Friday, accusing the US handset maker of violating its patents in mobile phones powered by Google's Android operating system.

(AP) -- Microsoft Corp. is suing Motorola Inc. for infringing on its smart-phone patents.

The [software maker](#) on Friday said Motorola phones that use [Google](#) Inc.'s [Android](#) software step on Microsoft technology. The functions in question include synchronizing e-mail, calendars and contacts.

Microsoft filed its lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington. It also filed a claim with the International Trade

Commission.

Microsoft said Motorola licensed some of its mobile technology from 2003 to 2007, but did not renew the license even as the handset maker continued to use the technology.

This isn't the first move Microsoft has made to protect its mobile patents. In April, it announced licensing agreement with another Android phone maker, Taiwan's HTC Corp.

A spokeswoman for Schaumburg, Ill.-based Motorola said the company has not seen the lawsuit and therefore can't comment on its contents.

"[Motorola](#) has a leading intellectual property portfolio, one of the strongest in the industry, and we will vigorously defend ourself in this matter," spokeswoman Jennifer Erickson said.

Erickson declined to comment on Microsoft's assertion that the company licensed the technology in the past, but has since let the license lapse.

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