

Taiwan's HTC pleased with UK court victory over Apple

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A man walks past a billboard displaying a handset of Taiwan smartphone maker HTC in Taipei. Taiwan's leading smartphone maker HTC Thursday hailed as a victory a British court ruling that it did not infringe on a patent owned by the US technology giant Apple.

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The high court in London Wednesday found HTC did not infringe on Apple Inc's photo management patent while deeming three other Apple patents -- for slide-to-unlock, multi-touch and multilingual keyboard capability -- invalid.

The court ruled that Apple's "multi-touch" patent was invalid partly due to "obviousness over common [general knowledge](#)" in a 81-page ruling. Multi-touch refers to the ability to touch a screen with for example two fingers at a time.

"HTC is pleased with the ruling, which provides further confirmation that Apple's claims against HTC are without merit," the company said in a statement.

"We remain disappointed that Apple continues to favour competition in the [courtroom](#) over competition in the marketplace."

HTC touts its own brand of smartphones and also makes handsets for a number of leading US companies, including [Google](#)'s Nexus One.

An Apple spokesman declined to comment on a specific case, but added "we think competition is healthy, but competitors should create their own original technology, not steal ours".

Patent lawsuits are a regular occurrence among technology giants and Wednesday's ruling was among a string of legal defeats for Apple in recent months.

A Dutch court last month ruled that Apple has infringed on a patent held by South Korean rival Samsung and ordered the US firm to pay an unspecified amount of damages.

In April, Motorola scored a victory when a German court found that Apple's iCloud and MobileMe services breached its patents and ordered Apple to pay damages.

-- [Dow Jones](#) Newswires contributed to this story --

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