

US panel rejects Motorola bid to block Xbox imports

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A visitor tries out the Microsoft Xbox 360 at the 2012 International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas. The US International Trade Commission sided with Microsoft Thursday in a patent dispute with Google-owned Motorola Mobility that could have led to Xbox 360 videogame consoles being banned from import.

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"The investigation is terminated," the ITC said in a notice announcing it was rejecting a Motorola Mobility patent complaint dating back to late 2010.

Motorola Mobility had argued that [Xbox 360](#) consoles infringed on patent technology for wirelessly transmitting data.

If the ITC had sided with Motorola Mobility, which was acquired by [Google](#) in a \$12.5 billion deal in 2012, it could have resulted in a ban on importing [Xbox 360 consoles](#), which are manufactured in China.

"This is a win for Xbox customers and confirms our view that Google had no grounds to block our products," Microsoft said in a statement.

Motorola Mobility countered that it was "disappointed" with the ITC decision and would explore its options.

Xbox consoles are at the heart of Microsoft's push to lay claim to [Internet Age](#) living rooms.

On Tuesday, Microsoft unveiled a new-generation Xbox One console touted as a home entertainment hub that goes far beyond games.

The beefed-up hardware is powered by software that allows for instant switching between games, television, and Internet browsing. Microsoft-owned Skype was also integrated for online group video calls.

Kinect motion and sound-sensing accessories accompanying the consoles recognize users, respond instantly to commands spoken in natural language and even detect a person's pulse.

Xbox One consoles are set to hit the market later this year.

"This is the beginning of a new generation of games and entertainment and a new generation of [smart TV](#)," Microsoft entertainment unit executive Yusuf Mehdi said during an event at the technology giant's headquarters in the northwestern state of Washington.

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