

Apple makes first S. Korea payout over tracking

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US technology giant Apple said Thursday it had made its first compensation payment in South Korea over a feature on its iPhone that can track the location of users.

Apple Korea said it had paid one million won (\$950) Kim Hyung-Suk, complying with a compensation order from a court in the southern city of Changwon.

Kim, a 36-year-old lawyer, filed the suit on April 26. He said the smartphone's [location](#) recording infringed on his [constitutional rights](#) to privacy and freedom and caused psychological stress.

He demanded one million won, and the court ordered [Apple](#) to pay the sum for violating his privacy. Apple Korea said it had not raised an objection to the order.

The settlement was expected to trigger an array of similar lawsuits since [South Korea](#) has about three million iPhone users.

Kim vowed to invite other iPhone users to lodge a joint suit against Apple.

"Amassing location data without iPhone users' consent constitutes an apparent legal violation," Kim told Yonhap news agency.

About 300 people have signed up to join Kim's campaign so far through

a Web site that he opened Thursday, Yonhap said.

In April 29 other iPhone users in South Korea filed a joint suit against Apple, following claims that the US company traced and stored geographical data from its mobile device users in countries including France and Germany.

British security researchers have said the position-logging feature was contained in iOS 4, the operating system for the [iPhone](#) and iPad.

They said iOS 4-equipped iPhones and iPads store latitude and longitude coordinates along with a time stamp, probably through cell-tower triangulation.

The company in May released updated software for iPhones to fix "bugs" that resulted in [location data](#) being unencrypted and stored for up to a year.

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