# ORIGINAL

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staying all remaining proceedings related to the issue of preliminary injunctive relief.

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The grounds in support of AutoZone's Motion are set forth in detail in AutoZone's Memorandum of Law filed concurrently herewith.

Respectfully submitted, this 1st day of September, 2004.

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### DEFENDANT AUTOZONE, INC.'S MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN SUPPORT OF ITS EMERGENCY MOTION TO STAY

Defendant AutoZone, Inc. ("AutoZone") moves the Court for an order staying all remaining proceedings related to the issue of preliminary injunctive relief.

#### INTRODUCTION

The Court has stayed all action in this case with the exception that the Court has authorized Plaintiff The SCO Group, Inc. ("SCO") to conduct limited expedited discovery in advance of the filing of a motion for preliminary injunction on SCO's claims that AutoZone infringed SCO's copyrights when AutoZone migrated from UNIX to Linux. Nevertheless, the Court has made clear to SCO that it can only pursue such discovery if it has a right to preliminary injunctive relief and if it intends to file a motion to pursue such relief.

SCO has recently stated in writing that it does not know whether it is entitled to a preliminary injunction but that it intends to pursue expedited discovery nonetheless in order to determine whether it has grounds to file such a motion. SCO's intent to pursue discovery at this time is therefore nothing more than a fishing expedition that is directly contrary to the Court's ruling, and AutoZone requests that all further action in this case be stayed pending resolution of the previously filed IBM, Novell and Red Hat cases.

### STATEMENT OF FACTS

On March 3, 2004, SCO filed its Complaint alleging one cause of action for copyright infringement and broadly asserting that AutoZone's internal use, distribution, and copying of the Linux operating system infringes copyrights that SCO purports to own in the UNIX operating system. See generally Complaint. SCO

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did not state in its Complaint that it is entitled to, or that it intends to move for, preliminary injunctive relief on any of its claims.

On April 23, 2004, AutoZone filed two motions: (a) a Motion to Stay or, in the Alternative, for More Definite Statement, and (b) a Motion to Transfer Venue. The Court heard oral argument on AutoZone's motions on July 12, 2004.

At the July 12 hearing, the Court granted AutoZone's Motion to Stay as it relates to the code within Linux itself, but the Court noted SCO's allegations that AutoZone had independently infringed code in UNIX when AutoZone migrated from UNIX to Linux.1 Accordingly, the Court ruled that SCO could conduct limited discovery on "facts predicate to [a motion for] preliminary injunction" on the alleged migration infringements. See July 12, 2004 Hearing Transcript ("Hearing Transcript"), attached hereto as Exhibit A, 25:10. Importantly, however, the Court admonished SCO: "[i]f you don't have the right to a preliminary injunction, you shouldn't proceed with discovery at all." Hearing Transcript, 24:22-23 (emphasis 15 16 added). The Court further instructed SCO: "you shouldn't go on a free-ranging 17 discovery course preparatory to a trial." Hearing Transcript, 25:10-12. Therefore, 18 the Court authorized SCO to conduct limited discovery only if SCO had a right to 19 preliminary injunctive relief and it intended to pursue such relief. 20 21

The Court instructed AutoZone to confer with SCO and submit a proposed order on the motions. The parties conferred in good faith but were unable to reach agreement on several important issues. As a result, the parties agreed to submit separate orders to the Court. AutoZone submitted its proposed order on July 30,

The Court stated at the July 12 hearing: "The only reason for doing that is because [SCO] raised that issue in their responses that they would be harmed if the Court simply held off and did not let them proceed here one way or the other." Hearing Transcript, 24:11-14.

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2004. See Letter from David J. Stewart to Hon. Robert C. Jones, dated July 30, 2004. SCO did not submit an order. On August 6, 2004, the Court entered an Order on AutoZone's motions in substantially the same form as AutoZone had proposed. See Order, attached hereto as Exhibit B.

The Order required SCO to "serve on AutoZone a statement of the basis for its claim for preliminary injunctive relief and the nature of the relief it seeks on those claims" within fifteen (15) days from the date of the Order, or Monday, August 23, 2004. See Order, ¶ 2. On August 23rd, counsel for SCO contacted counsel for AutoZone and requested an extension until Friday, August 27th to serve the required statement. AutoZone agreed to the requested extension. On Friday, August 27th, counsel for SCO again contacted counsel for AutoZone and requested a second extension until Monday, August 30th to file the required statement. Again, AutoZone agreed to the requested extension.

On August 30th, SCO served AutoZone with SCO's Statement of Basis for Claim for Preliminary Injunctive Relief and Nature of Relief ("Injunctive Relief Statement"), a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit C. In its Injunctive Relief Statement, SCO states that "[t]he Court has permitted SCO to conduct limited expedited discovery on [AutoZone's migration from a Unix Operating System to a Linux Operating System] in order to determine whether or not to file a motion for preliminary injunctive relief." See SCO's Injunctive Relief Statement, pp. 1-2 (emphasis added). SCO's Injunctive Relief Statement further states that SCO "intends to conduct limited discovery into the above issues in order to determine whether or not, under the circumstances, an application for a Preliminary Injunction is warranted." See SCO's Injunctive Relief Statement, p. 4 (emphasis added). SCO

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therefore seeks to conduct discovery to determine whether or not it has a right to a preliminary injunction, notwithstanding the Court's ruling that the right to a preliminary injunction is prerequisite to conducting discovery. See Hearing Transcript, 24:22-23.2

## ARGUMENT AND CITATION OF AUTHORITIES

This Court possesses the inherent discretion to stay these proceedings. Clinton v. Jones, 520 U.S. 681, 706 (1997) ("The District Court has broad discretion to stay proceedings as an incident to its power to control its own docket."). As this Court has previously explained, "[e]very court has the inherent power to stay causes on its docket with a view to avoiding [the] ... waste of time and effort by itself, the litigants and counsel." Stern v. United States, 563 F. Supp. 484, 489 (D. Nev. 1983).

Here, the Court should stay the remaining proceedings related to the issue of preliminary injunctive relief because, contrary to the Court's directive, SCO has no idea at this time whether it is entitled to a preliminary injunction or whether it even intends to move for such relief. Instead, SCO has announced through its Injunctive Relief Statement that it intends to use the expedited discovery period for what amounts to a fishing expedition to determine whether or not it has any legitimate basis to file a motion for preliminary injunction on any issue. Such a fishing expedition violates the Court's ruling, and will be a waste of time, effort and money by the Court, the litigants, and third party witnesses. 23

SCO states in its Injunctive Relief Statement that it "believes that it is reasonably likely that AutoZone copied SCO's copyrighted material during the migration process ...;" however, this statement does not amount to a statement by SCO that it has a right to a preliminary injunction and can satisfy the onerous elements necessary to be entitled to such relief. See SCO's Injunctive Relief Statement, p. 2.

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SCO's Injunctive Relief Statement and its plan to conduct discovery is based entirely on SCO's erroneous statement that:

The Court has permitted SCO to conduct limited discovery on [AutoZone's migration from a Unix Operating System to a Linux Operating System] in order to determine whether or not to file a motion for preliminary injunctive relief.

SCO's Injunctive Relief Statement, pp. 1-2 (emphasis added). The Hearing Transcript clearly demonstrates that the Court never authorized SCO to conduct discovery "to determine whether or not" to file a motion for preliminary injunction. To the contrary, the Court clearly stated: "[i]f you [SCO] don't have the right to a preliminary injunction, you shouldn't proceed with discovery at all." Hearing Transcript, 24:22-23 (emphasis added).<sup>3</sup> SCO's intent to pursue expedited discovery is therefore not authorized by this Court, and AutoZone respectfully requests that all further proceedings in this case be stayed pending resolution of the previously filed IBM, Red Hat and Novell cases.

This 1st day of September, 2004.

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SCO's deliberate waffling "whether or not to" language in its Injunctive Relief Statement is not surprising. Given that SCO did not seek a preliminary injunction when it originally filed its Complaint, SCO now wants to cover itself in the event that SCO elects not to file a motion for preliminary injunction. SCO can then point to the language in its Injunctive Relief Statement after it subjects AutoZone to expedited discovery and does not file a motion, and explain to the Court that it subsequently learned that it did not have grounds for preliminary injunctive relief, notwithstanding that such grounds were a prerequisite to conducting discovery in the first place. - 5 -

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#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served a copy of the within and foregoing

DEFENDANT AUTOZONE, INC.'S MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN SUPPORT

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This 1st day of September, 2004.

An employee of Schreck Brignone