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FINJAN, INC.,

v.

CISCO SYSTEMS, INC.,

Plaintiff,

Defendant.

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SAN JOSE DIVISION

Case No. 17-cv-00072-BLF

ORDER CONSTRUING CLAIMS IN U.S. PATENT NOS. 6,154,844; 6,804,780; 7,647,633; 8,141,154; 8,677,494

[Re: ECF 100, 112, 127]

Plaintiff Finjan, Inc. ("Finjan") brings this patent infringement lawsuit against Defendant Cisco Systems, Inc. ("Cisco"), alleging infringement of five of Finjan's patents directed to computer and network security: U.S. Patent Nos. 6,154,844 ("the '844 patent"); 6,804,780 ("the '780 patent"); 7,647,633 ("the '633 patent"); 8,141,154 ("the '154 patent"); and 8,677,494 ("the '494 patent") (collectively, the "Asserted Patents"). The Court held a tutorial on June 7, 2018 and a *Markman* hearing on June 15, 2018 for the purpose of construing ten disputed terms in the '844, '780, '633, '154, and '494 patents.

I. BACKGROUND

The Asserted Patents are directed to network security technologies that detect online threats from malware. Finjan asserts that Cisco's products and services infringe the Asserted Patents. *See generally* Second. Am. Compl., ECF 55. Each patent is summarized below.

A. The '844 Patent

The '844 patent is titled "System and Method for Attaching a Downloadable Security Profile to a Downloadable" and was issued on November 28, 2000. Ex. 1 to Hannah Decl. (the '844 patent), ECF 100-3. This patent claims systems and methods for inspecting Downloadables

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United States District Court Northern District of California

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for suspicious code or behavior according to a set of rules and generating a profile of the results from the inspection. *See, e.g., id.* at 1:62–3:7. In some embodiments, a content inspection engine generates a security profile and links that profile to a Downloadable. *Id.* at 2:3–11. The profile can include certificates that are later read by a protection engine to determine whether or not to trust the profile. *Id.* at 2:20–48. By providing verifiable profiles, the claimed systems and methods may efficiently protect computers from hostile Downloadables. *Id.* at 2:61–3:7.

B. The '494 Patent

The '494 patent is titled "Malicious Mobile Code Runtime Monitoring System and Methods" and was issued on March 18, 2014. Ex. 2 to Hannah Decl. (the '494 patent), ECF 100-4. The patent provides "[p]rotection systems and methods . . . for protecting one or more personal computers ("PCs") and/or other intermittently or persistently network accessible devices or processes from undesirable or otherwise malicious operations" *Id.* at 2:51–55. To achieve this goal, some embodiments utilize a protection engine in order to identify executable code. *Id.* at 11:65–12:14, 12:38–47.

C. The '780 Patent

The '780 patent is titled "System and Method for Protecting a Computer and a Network From Hostile Downloadables" and was issued on October 12, 2004. Ex. 3 to Hannah Decl. (the '780 patent), ECF 100-5. This patent teaches the generation of a re-usable ID for downloaded files so that future iterations of those files can be easily identified. For instance, the patent discloses that an ID generator can compute an ID that identifies a Downloadable by fetching components of the Downloadable and performing a hashing function on the fetched components. *See, e.g., id.* at 2:12–16.

D. The '633 Patent

The '633 patent is titled "Malicious Mobile Code Runtime Monitoring System and Methods" and was issued on January 12, 2010. Ex. 4 to Hannah Decl. (the '633 patent), ECF 100-6. The patent provides systems and methods for protecting devices on an internal network from code, applications, and/or information downloaded from the Internet that performs malicious

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resides on a network server and monitors incoming information for executable code. Id. at 2:20-3:4. Upon detection of executable code, the protection engine deploys a "mobile protection code" and protection policies to a downloadable-destination. Id. col. 3:5-21. At the destination, the Downloadable is executed, typically within a sandboxed environment, and malicious or potentially malicious operations that run or attempt to run are intercepted and neutralized by the mobile protection code according to set protection policies. See id. at 3:22-40.

E. The '154 Patent

The '154 patent is titled "System and Method for Inspecting Dynamically Generated Executable Code" and was issued on March 20, 2012. Ex. 5 to Hannah Decl. (the '154 patent), ECF 100-7. The patent concerns "new behavioral analysis technology [that] affords protection against dynamically generated malicious code," which are viruses generated at runtime. Id. at 4:32–34; see also id. at 3:32–33. In some embodiments, a gateway computer receives content from the internet, where the content includes a call to an original function and an input. Id. at 5:26–32. The gateway computer modifies the received content by replacing the call to the original function with a corresponding call to a substitute function. Id. at 5:32–35. The substitute function sends the input to a security computer, which determines whether it is safe to invoke the original function with the input at a client computer. Id. at 5:35–43. In this approach, the patent provides technology that protects computers from dynamically generated malicious code.

II. LEGAL STANDARD

General Principles A.

Claim construction is a matter of law. Markman v. Westview Instruments, Inc., 517 U.S. 370, 387 (1996). "It is a 'bedrock principle' of patent law that 'the claims of a patent define the invention to which the patentee is entitled the right to exclude," Phillips v. AWH Corp., 415 F.3d 1303, 1312 (Fed. Cir. 2005) (en banc) (internal citation omitted), and, as such, "[t]he appropriate starting point . . . is always with the language of the asserted claim itself," Comark Commc'ns, Inc. v. Harris Corp., 156 F.3d 1182, 1186 (Fed. Cir. 1998).

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Claim terms "are generally given their ordinary and customary meaning," defined as "the

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effective filing date of the patent application." *Phillips*, 415 F.3d at 1313 (internal citation omitted). The court reads claims in light of the specification, which is "the single best guide to the meaning of a disputed term." *Id.* at 1315; *see also Lighting Ballast Control LLC v. Philips Elecs. N. Am. Corp.*, 744 F.3d 1272, 1284-85 (Fed. Cir. 2014) (en banc). Furthermore, "the interpretation to be given a term can only be determined and confirmed with a full understanding of what the inventors actually invented and intended to envelop with the claim." *Phillips*, 415 F.3d at 1316 (quoting *Renishaw PLC v. Marposs Societa' per Azioni*, 158 F.3d 1243, 1250 (Fed. Cir. 1998)). The words of the claims must therefore be understood as the inventor used them, as such understanding is revealed by the patent and prosecution history. *Id.* The claim language, written description, and patent prosecution history thus form the intrinsic record that is most significant when determining the proper meaning of a disputed claim limitation. *Id.* at 1315–17; *see also Vitronics Corp. v. Conceptronic, Inc.*, 90 F.3d 1576, 1582 (Fed. Cir. 1996).

Evidence external to the patent is less significant than the intrinsic record, but the court may also consider such extrinsic evidence as expert and inventor testimony, dictionaries, and learned treatises "if the court deems it helpful in determining 'the true meaning of language used in the patent claims." *Philips*, 415 F.3d at 1318 (quoting *Markman*, 52 F.3d at 980). However, extrinsic evidence may not be used to contradict or change the meaning of claims "in derogation of the 'indisputable public records consisting of the claims, the specification and the prosecution history,' thereby undermining the public notice function of patents." *Id.* at 1319 (quoting *Southwall Techs., Inc. v. Cardinal IG Co.*, 54 F.3d 1570, 1578 (Fed. Cir. 1995)).

B. Means-Plus-Function Claims

Paragraph 6 of 35 U.S.C § 112 provides for means-plus-function claiming: "An element in a claim for a combination may be expressed as a means . . . for performing a specified function . . . and such claim shall be construed to cover the corresponding structure, material, or acts described in the specification and equivalents thereof."¹ When a claim uses the term "means" to describe a

- ¹ Paragraph 6 of 35 U.S.C. § 112 was replaced with newly designated § 112(f) when the America Invents Act ("AIA"). Pub. L. No. 112-29, took effect on September 16, 2012. Because the

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