

1 SARAH E. SPIRES (SBN 252917)
sspires@skiermontderby.com
2 PAUL J. SKIERMONT
(*pro hac vice* pending)
3 pskiermont@skiermontderby.com
CHRISTOPHER HODGE
4 (*pro hac vice* pending)
chodge@skiermontderby.com
5 SKIERMONT DERBY LLP
1601 Elm Street, Suite 4400
6 Dallas, Texas 75201
Telephone: (214) 978-6600
7 Facsimile: (214) 978-6601

MIEKE K. MALMBERG (SBN
209992)
mmalmberg@skiermontderby.com
SKIERMONT DERBY LLP
800 Wilshire Boulevard,
Suite 1450
Los Angeles, California 90017
Telephone: (213) 788-4500
Facsimile: (213) 788-4545

8 *Attorneys for Plaintiff Swarmify, Inc.*

9 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
10 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
11 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

12 SWARMIFY, INC., a Delaware
13 corporation,

14 Plaintiff,

15 v.

16 CLOUDFLARE, INC., a Delaware
17 corporation,

18 Defendants.

CASE NO.
3:17-cv-06957

**ORIGINAL COMPLAINT OF
SWARMIFY, INC. FOR**

1. MISAPPROPRIATION OF
TRADE SECRETS UNDER
18 U.S.C. § 1836;
2. MISAPPROPRIATION OF
TRADE SECRETS UNDER
CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE
§§ 3426, *ET SEQ.*;
3. BREACH OF WRITTEN
CONTRACT;
4. BREACH OF IMPLIED
COVENANT OF GOOD
FAITH AND FAIR
DEALING;
5. UNJUST ENRICHMENT;
6. FRAUD IN THE
INDUCEMENT;
7. ACCOUNTING; AND
8. UNFAIR COMPETITION
UNDER CALIFORNIA
BUSINESS AND
PROFESSIONS CODE §§
17200 *ET SEQ.*

21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28 DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

1 Plaintiff Swarmify, Inc. (“Swarmify” or “Plaintiff”) complains against
2 Cloudflare, Inc. (“Cloudflare” or “Defendant”) and alleges as follows:

3 **INTRODUCTION**

4 1. This is a straightforward case in which a large company—Cloudflare—
5 took advantage of confidential acquisition talks with a small start-up company—
6 Swarmify—to gain access to the smaller company’s proprietary technology, and then
7 wrongfully misappropriated that technology for its own use and profit.

8 2. Swarmify is an innovator in the field of video streaming technology. It
9 has pioneered a technique for improving delivery of internet video streaming—thus
10 solving a problem that has plagued internet content delivery providers, and finally
11 making faster streaming video a profitable business venture.

12 3. In 2016, Swarmify was preparing to bring its technology to market, when
13 it entered into discussions with internet content-delivery giant Cloudflare. During
14 negotiations in 2016 and 2017, Swarmify thought it was setting itself up for a
15 profitable business relationship with, and acquisition by, Cloudflare. Unknown to
16 Swarmify at the time, though, Cloudflare intended to use these discussions to take
17 Swarmify’s video streaming technology for itself—and thus profit from technology
18 that it had never been able to develop on its own, and for which it had never paid a fair
19 price.

20 4. That is precisely what Cloudflare did. Cloudflare ignored the
21 nondisclosure agreement between the parties designed to protect the information
22 revealed during their negotiations. Instead, Cloudflare used Swarmify’s proprietary
23 technology to develop its own video streaming product and, behind Swarmify’s back,
24 to market that product to its customers.

25 5. Cloudflare’s wrongful actions are in flagrant breach of the parties’ non-
26 disclosure agreement, are a willful misappropriation of Swarmify’s trade secrets, and
27 constitute unfair competition, fraud in the inducement, and breach of Cloudflare’s
28 implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing under California law. Cloudflare has

1 refused to remedy its wrongdoings, and so Swarmify is forced to turn to this Court for
2 redress.

3 **THE PARTIES**

4 6. Plaintiff Swarmify, Inc. is a Delaware corporation with its principal place
5 of business at 927 East Haven Avenue, Suite 208, Melbourne, Florida 32901.

6 7. Defendant Cloudflare, Inc. is a Delaware corporation with its principal
7 place of business at 101 Townsend Street, San Francisco, California 94107, and it can
8 be served at that address.

9 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

10 8. The Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the federal claims asserted
11 herein pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 18 U.S.C. § 1836(c). The Court has
12 supplemental jurisdiction over the state law claims asserted herein pursuant to 28
13 U.S.C. § 1367, because those claims arise from the same nucleus of operative facts,
14 and form part of the same case and controversy, as Swarmify's federal claims.

15 9. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1)
16 because Cloudflare is a resident of this District.

17 **INTRADISTRICT ASSIGNMENT**

18 10. Assignment of this case to the San Francisco Division is proper pursuant
19 to Local Rule 3-2(c) because a substantial part of the events or omissions which give
20 rise to the claim occurred in San Francisco County.

21 **FACTS COMMON TO ALL CLAIMS**

22 **Swarmify Develops its Technology**

23 11. Swarmify is a small start-up founded in 2013 with one simple purpose in
24 mind—to figure out how to reliably and affordably stream internet video. Swarmify's
25 research showed that video comprises approximately 73% of internet usage and is on
26 pace to quickly grow to over 90%. Yet, even with vastly improved data speed, Wi-Fi
27 architecture, and internet availability, streaming video continues to be notoriously
28 unreliable.

1 12. Over the next several years, Swarmify spent thousands of hours and
2 millions of dollars researching and developing technology to vastly improve streaming
3 video reliability. Swarmify eventually developed its own proprietary method for video
4 streaming, and particularly for accelerating video delivery (the “Technology”).
5 Swarmify’s Technology makes internet video vastly more reliable and affordable, and
6 nearly eliminates the problem of video buffering.

7 13. Swarmify developed its Technology with the intention of
8 commercializing it and competing in the market for video streaming products and
9 services, and it brought its Technology to market in late 2015 after more than two
10 years of development. This development included countless hours of research,
11 development, debug, and production by the entire Swarmify team, not only to create
12 Swarmify’s proprietary video streaming solution, but also to solve for various video
13 problems on the Internet, such as the significant variance between browsers and
14 generating non-obvious solutions to various browser bugs.

15 14. Recognizing the value and the novelty of its proprietary Technology,
16 Swarmify submitted U.S. Patent Application No. 14/851,978 (the “Patent
17 Application”) on September 11, 2015, which covered a substantial portion of
18 Swarmify’s Technology. Swarmify filed its Patent Application subject to a
19 nonpublication request in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 122 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.213; the
20 Patent Application is pending and remains unpublished pursuant to Swarmify’s
21 request.

22 15. Further recognizing the importance and value of its proprietary
23 Technology, and the competitive advantage the Technology would give Swarmify in
24 the marketplace, Swarmify treated its research into and development of the
25 Technology, as well as the actual methods used in the Technology, as confidential.
26 Swarmify therefore took, and continues to take, numerous steps to protect the
27 Technology and the information used in its development (the “Confidential
28 Information”) and to maintain its secrecy.

1 16. By way of example, Swarmify requires its employees to sign
2 confidentiality agreements that prohibit them from disclosing the Technology or
3 Confidential Information. Swarmify also has implemented and enforced policies that
4 require confidentiality and it has limited disclosure of its Technology and Confidential
5 Information on a “need-to-know” basis. Moreover, Swarmify has limited the extent to
6 which it discloses its Technology and Confidential Information to external business
7 partners, ensuring that only necessary information is disclosed, and even then, only
8 pursuant to non-disclosure agreements with those parties—as exemplified below. And,
9 as noted above, Swarmify filed its Patent Application subject to a nonpublication
10 request in order to prevent its competitors from practicing its Technology before the
11 patent is granted.

12 **Swarmify and Cloudflare Enter Negotiations and Sign the NDA**

13 17. In or about April 2016, Cloudflare approached Swarmify and stated that it
14 was interested in acquiring or licensing Swarmify’s Technology. Cloudflare, which
15 provides networking products and services, such as website optimization, was not at
16 that time developing video streaming technology. These conversations turned into
17 discussions regarding a potential acquisition of Swarmify by Cloudflare after
18 Cloudflare expressed an interest in such an acquisition.

19 18. This first round of acquisition discussions fell through in or about May
20 2016. However, in April through June of 2017, Cloudflare and Swarmify entered into a
21 second round of acquisition discussions.

22 19. Both Cloudflare and Swarmify possessed highly confidential information
23 regarding their respective proprietary technologies that they desired to protect, but that
24 was necessary to reveal during acquisition discussions. In order to maintain the secrecy
25 of such information—including Swarmify’s Technology and other Confidential
26 Information—Cloudflare and Swarmify entered into a Mutual Non-Disclosure
27 Agreement (“NDA”) effective April 22, 2016. A true and correct copy of this NDA is
28 attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

1 20. The NDA, which was drafted by Cloudflare or at its behest, defines
2 “confidential information” as “any and all technical and non-technical information”
3 disclosed by one party to the other:

4 which may include without limitation: (a) patent and patent applications,
5 (b) trade secrets, and (c) proprietary and confidential information, ideas,
6 techniques, sketches, drawings, works of authorship, models, inventions,
7 know-how, processes, apparatuses, equipment, algorithms, software
8 programs, software source documents, and formulae related to the current,
9 future, and proposed products and services of each of the Parties, such as
10 information concerning research, experimental work, development, design
11 details and specifications, engineering, financial information, procurement
12 requirements, purchasing, manufacturing, customer lists, investors,
13 employees, business and contractual relationships, business forecasts,
14 sales and merchandising, and marketing plans.

15 21. The definition of “confidential information” in the NDA encompasses
16 Swarmify’s Technology and its Confidential Information.

17 22. The NDA states that the parties may disclose each other’s confidential
18 information (as defined in the NDA) only to “those of the Receiving Party’s employees
19 or authorized representatives having a need to know and who have signed
20 confidentiality agreements containing, or are otherwise bound by, confidentiality
21 obligations at least as restrictive as those contained” in the NDA.

22 23. The NDA also states that the parties “will not modify, reverse engineer,
23 decompile, create other works from, or disassemble any software programs contained
24 in the Confidential Information of the other Party without the prior written consent of
25 the other Party.”

26 24. The NDA further requires that a party that wishes information to be
27 treated as confidential must label or identify it as such at the time of disclosure.
28

1 25. Cloudflare and Swarmify agreed in the NDA that a breach of the NDA
2 would cause irreparable damage to the injured party, and that injunctive relief would
3 be an appropriate remedy.

4 26. The NDA is effective until five years after its effective date, or until
5 termination by either party upon thirty days' written notice. The obligations under the
6 NDA survive its termination.

7 27. Pursuant to the NDA, Swarmify disclosed to Cloudflare significant
8 amounts of its Confidential Information and its proprietary trade secrets, including the
9 Technology.

10 28. At all times, Swarmify's disclosure of its Confidential Information and
11 Technology complied with the requirements of the NDA. Swarmify made clear that it
12 considered the information it disclosed to be confidential. It marked relevant
13 documents as confidential—for example, in an April 24, 2016 email, Swarmify's
14 representative stated "Attached is the requested confidential info," and attached a zip
15 file with the file name *SwarmifyConfidentialInfo.zip*. Similarly, when discussing
16 Swarmify's non-published patent relating to the Technology, on May 8, 2017,
17 Swarmify sent Cloudflare an email with the subject line *Swarmify Patent Info-*
18 *Confidential*, and attaching another zip file with the file name *SwarmifyPatentInfo-*
19 *Confidential.zip*. Again, in a June 12, 2017 email, Swarmify's representative labeled
20 Swarmify's assets as "Confidential Info," and as including "Proprietary know-how,
21 processes, and information relating to the business." And in a June 17, 2017 email,
22 Swarmify's representative recounted how he "presented our proprietary Swarmify
23 video solution to your team over a year ago and explained how it encompassed
24 encoding, playback, and delivery all while optimizing network and compute resources.
25 The software to enable this groundbreaking improvement to video streaming required
26 the prior two years of time in research, development, debug, and production testing."
27 In a June 23, 2017 email, Swarmify's representative again discussed that Swarmify's
28 value lay primarily in its "various proprietary business processes" including "a good

1 deal of innovations we created to solve for video problems on the web.” Additionally,
2 representatives of both companies had numerous conversations in which they indicated
3 that the information being discussed—including Swarmify’s Confidential Information
4 and its Technology—was confidential under the NDA.

5 29. Discussions between the parties made it clear that Cloudflare had not
6 considered nor begun to develop or market the methods contemplated by Swarmify’s
7 Technology and its Confidential Information, and that Cloudflare had been unable to
8 make video streaming adequately profitable. During the parties’ discussions,
9 Cloudflare representatives informed Swarmify that Cloudflare had no developers
10 working on a video streaming solution, and that Swarmify’s team would be the ones to
11 create such a solution for Cloudflare following acquisition of Swarmify.

12 30. Cloudflare indicated that acquisition and implementation of Swarmify’s
13 Technology would create a very valuable business for Cloudflare.

14 31. Cloudflare also disclosed its own confidential and proprietary information
15 to Swarmify. Swarmify has not disclosed any of Cloudflare’s confidential information
16 except to those persons permitted by the NDA.

17 **Cloudflare Violates the NDA and Misappropriates Swarmify’s Trade Secrets**

18 32. Prior to the second round of acquisition talks between the parties in 2017,
19 Swarmify had secured sufficient commitments from investors to continue
20 commercializing video streaming products based on its Technology, and to market
21 those products. Swarmify put this round of capital funding—that was scheduled to
22 close on May 11, 2017—on hold in order to negotiate acquisition by Cloudflare, which
23 Cloudflare represented as the purpose for Swarmify’s disclosures to Cloudflare
24 pursuant to the NDA. Additionally, Swarmify froze review of its Technology in the
25 Cloudflare App Marketplace in order to negotiate acquisition by Cloudflare.

26 33. During this second round of discussions between the parties, Cloudflare
27 repeatedly indicated its desire to acquire and implement Swarmify’s Technology into
28 its own platform.

1 34. For example, on May 8, 2017, Cloudflare representatives spoke with
2 Swarmify's senior developer of the Technology. Cloudflare's representatives focused
3 on the details of Swarmify's Technology, and the details of how Swarmify made its
4 video streaming solution possible. Upon information and belief, Cloudflare used this
5 and similar discussions (all of which took place under the NDA) to learn how to
6 implement Swarmify's technology for itself.

7 35. In or about June 2017, the second round of acquisition discussions ended
8 without bearing fruit. Swarmify continued its development of its Technology, working
9 toward increasing the market share for its Technology, and waiting for approval of its
10 patent application.

11 36. Upon information and belief, Cloudflare employed no developers working
12 on a video streaming solution prior to June 2017.

13 37. Yet in less than three months - on or about September 27, 2017 -
14 Cloudflare introduced a video streaming solution into the market. In conjunction with
15 this, Cloudflare authored two blog articles on its website detailing this video streaming
16 solution: "Introducing Cloudflare Stream" and "How Cloudflare Streams."

17 38. The blog articles discuss, among other things, the method by which
18 Cloudflare purports to more efficiently stream video, including accelerating video
19 delivery. Shockingly, these articles reveal that Cloudflare is now commercially using
20 *Swarmify's* Technology, derived from the Confidential Information that Swarmify
21 disclosed pursuant to the NDA.

22 39. Cloudflare's blog, including the September 27 articles, is geared toward
23 potential consumers or buyers of Cloudflare's products, and may be seen by the
24 general public. As a result, Cloudflare has flagrantly disregarded the NDA by posting
25 information about Swarmify's Confidential Information and Technology to this public
26 website.

27 40. Upon information and belief, and as admitted in Cloudflare's own blog
28 posts, Cloudflare has incorporated Swarmify's Technology and its Confidential

1 Information into its own commercially-available products and services and is profiting
2 from it. Upon further information and belief, Cloudflare has also shared some or all of
3 Swarmify's Technology and Confidential Information with an outside vendor(s) in
4 order to incorporate Swarmify's Technology and Confidential Information into
5 Cloudflare's own commercially-available products and services. In doing so,
6 Cloudflare is further misappropriating and wrongfully disclosing Swarmify's
7 Technology and Confidential Information, as well as other information subject to
8 protection under the NDA. Through these actions, Cloudflare is unfairly competing
9 with Swarmify in the video streaming market.

10 41. Upon information and belief, Cloudflare never intended to acquire or
11 license Swarmify's Technology, nor to acquire Swarmify; rather, it initiated
12 discussions, and induced Swarmify to enter the NDA and disclose the Technology to
13 Cloudflare, in an attempt to gain access to the Technology without paying for it.

14 42. On learning of Cloudflare's violation of the NDA and its misappropriation
15 of Swarmify's Technology and Confidential Information, Swarmify contacted
16 Cloudflare on October 3, 2017 to notify it of the violation and request removal of the
17 blog posts. Cloudflare has refused to remedy its violation and Swarmify therefore turns
18 to this Court for relief.

19 **FIRST COUNT**

20 **Violation of Defend Trade Secrets Act (18 U.S.C. § 1836)**

21 43. Swarmify incorporates each of the above paragraphs as though fully set
22 forth herein.

23 44. Swarmify's Technology and its Confidential Information constitute
24 protectable trade secrets as defined at 18 U.S.C. § 1839(3). Swarmify's trade secrets—
25 protected under the NDA and disclosed to Cloudflare—comprised all of the pertinent
26 and protectable details of Swarmify's Technology, without which implementation of
27 Swarmify's Technology would be impossible. Swarmify's trade secrets disclosed to
28 Cloudflare under the NDA included implementations of Swarmify's Technology as

1 well as highly proprietary and protectable software code, processes, and methods, all
2 of which, collectively, provided the level of detail necessary to implement Swarmify’s
3 Technology. At all times Swarmify regarded the information it disclosed as protectable
4 trade secrets and went to great lengths to ensure the information remained secret. In
5 fact, Swarmify marked relevant documents as confidential—for example, in an April
6 24, 2016 email, Swarmify’s representative stated “Attached is the requested
7 confidential info,” and attached a zip file with the file name
8 *SwarmifyConfidentialInfo.zip*. Similarly, when discussing Swarmify’s confidential,
9 non-published patent relating to the Technology, Swarmify sent Cloudflare an email
10 with the subject line *Swarmify Patent Info-Confidential*, and attaching another zip file
11 with the file name *SwarmifyPatentInfo-Confidential.zip*. Again, in a June 12, 2017
12 email, Swarmify’s representative labeled Swarmify’s assets as “Confidential Info,” and
13 as including “Proprietary know-how, processes, and information relating to the
14 business.” And in a June 17, 2017 email, Swarmify’s representative recounted how he
15 “presented our proprietary Swarmify video solution to your team over a year ago and
16 explained how it encompassed encoding, playback, and delivery all while optimizing
17 network and compute resources. The software to enable this groundbreaking
18 improvement to video streaming required the prior two years of time in research,
19 development, debug, and production testing.” In a June 23, 2017 email, Swarmify’s
20 representative again discussed that Swarmify’s value lay primarily in its “various
21 proprietary business processes” including “a good deal of innovations we created to
22 solve for video problems on the web.” Additionally, representatives of both companies
23 had numerous conversations in which they separately and specifically indicated that
24 the information being discussed—including Swarmify’s Confidential Information and
25 its Technology—was confidential under the NDA. In fact, one such discussion took
26 place on May 8, 2017 between Cloudflare representatives and Swarmify’s senior
27 developer of Technology. During this discussion Swarmify explicitly confirmed
28 Cloudflare’s understanding that the information was highly proprietary and sensitive

1 and was being disclosed only pursuant to the NDA. Cloudflare representatives heavily
2 focused their questions on requesting highly detailed information concerning
3 Swarmify's Technology and the specific details of how Swarmify made its video
4 streaming solution possible. Believing that the discussions were under the NDA and
5 were meant to further the acquisition discussion, Swarmify's senior developer
6 disclosed the information, never suspecting that Cloudflare would take the information
7 and exploit it for its own benefit.

8 45. As detailed above, Swarmify has taken reasonable measures to keep this
9 information secret, including, but not limited to: restricting the distribution of its
10 Confidential Information to those only having need-to-know, filing its patent
11 application relating to a portion of its Technology subject to a nonpublication request,
12 and requiring its employees and business partners—like Cloudflare—to sign
13 nondisclosure agreements before disseminating the information to them. Swarmify
14 does not and has not consented to the use of any of its trade secrets by anyone other
15 than authorized employees or affiliates for Swarmify's business or in cooperation with
16 Swarmify.

17 46. Swarmify's Technology and Confidential Information derive independent
18 economic value from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable
19 through proper means by, another person who can obtain economic value from the
20 disclosure of the information. This value is reflected by other companies' inability to
21 develop the same video streaming solutions in a profitable manner, and is exemplified
22 by Cloudflare's inability to do so until it wrongfully appropriated Swarmify's trade
23 secrets, at which point it promptly brought them to market.

24 47. Cloudflare wrongfully misappropriated Swarmify's trade secrets in the
25 manner alleged above, by using improper means to acquire and use those trade secrets,
26 and in breach of its duty to maintain the secrecy and limit the use of those trade
27 secrets, including by knowingly violating the NDA. Cloudflare's misappropriation was
28 intentional, willful, and malicious.

1 48. Cloudflare did not acquire knowledge of Swarmify's Technology through
2 independent derivation, or any other lawful means of acquisition.

3 49. Cloudflare's misappropriation of Swarmify's trade secrets caused
4 Cloudflare to receive a benefit that it otherwise would not have achieved—namely, the
5 ability to rapidly commercialize and market its own video streaming product.
6 Cloudflare was unjustly enriched by this benefit.

7 50. Swarmify's Technology—and now Cloudflare's misappropriated
8 application of that Technology—is used in interstate commerce. The Technology is
9 used to carry video streaming network traffic throughout the United States, including
10 across state lines.

11 51. Swarmify seeks injunctive relief, as set forth below in its Request for
12 Preliminary and Permanent Injunction. Swarmify also seeks compensatory damages,
13 including but not limited to the unjust enrichment accruing to Cloudflare as a result of
14 its misappropriation, or, in the alternative, payment of a reasonable royalty. Because
15 Cloudflare's misappropriation was willful and malicious, Swarmify further seeks
16 exemplary damages of two times the amount of its compensatory damages, pursuant to
17 18 U.S.C. § 1836(b)(3)(C), and its reasonable attorneys' fees, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §
18 1836(b)(3)(D).

19 **SECOND COUNT**

20 **Violation of California Uniform Trade Secrets Act (Cal. Civ. Code §§ 3426 et** 21 **seq.)**

22 52. Swarmify incorporates each of the above paragraphs as though fully set
23 forth herein.

24 53. Swarmify's Technology and its Confidential Information constitute
25 protectable trade secrets as defined at Cal. Civ. Code § 3426.1(d). Swarmify's trade
26 secrets—protected under the NDA and disclosed to Cloudflare—comprised all of the
27 pertinent and protectable details of Swarmify's Technology, without which
28 implementation of Swarmify's Technology would be impossible. Swarmify's trade

1 secrets disclosed to Cloudflare under the NDA included implementations of
2 Swarmify’s Technology as well as highly proprietary and protectable software code,
3 processes, and methods, all of which, collectively, provided the level of detail
4 necessary to implement Swarmify’s Technology. At all times Swarmify regarded the
5 information it disclosed as protectable trade secrets and went to great lengths to ensure
6 the information remained secret. In fact, Swarmify marked relevant documents as
7 confidential—for example, in an April 24, 2016 email, Swarmify’s representative
8 stated “Attached is the requested confidential info,” and attached a zip file with the file
9 name *SwarmifyConfidentialInfo.zip*. Similarly, when discussing Swarmify’s
10 confidential, non-published patent relating to the Technology, Swarmify sent
11 Cloudflare an email with the subject line *Swarmify Patent Info-Confidential*, and
12 attaching another zip file with the file name *SwarmifyPatentInfo-Confidential.zip*.
13 Again, in a June 12, 2017 email, Swarmify’s representative labeled Swarmify’s assets
14 as “Confidential Info,” and as including “Proprietary know-how, processes, and
15 information relating to the business.” And in a June 17, 2017 email, Swarmify’s
16 representative recounted how he “presented our proprietary Swarmify video solution to
17 your team over a year ago and explained how it encompassed encoding, playback, and
18 delivery all while optimizing network and compute resources. The software to enable
19 this groundbreaking improvement to video streaming required the prior two years of
20 time in research, development, debug, and production testing.” In a June 23, 2017
21 email, Swarmify’s representative again discussed that Swarmify’s value lay primarily
22 in its “various proprietary business processes” including “a good deal of innovations
23 we created to solve for video problems on the web.” Additionally, representatives of
24 both companies had numerous conversations in which they separately and specifically
25 indicated that the information being discussed—including Swarmify’s Confidential
26 Information and its Technology—was confidential under the NDA. In fact, one such
27 discussion took place on May 8, 2017 between Cloudflare representatives and
28 Swarmify’s senior developer of Technology. During this discussion Swarmify

1 explicitly confirmed Cloudflare’s understanding that the information was highly
2 proprietary and sensitive and was being disclosed only pursuant to the NDA.
3 Cloudflare representatives heavily focused their questions on requesting highly
4 detailed information concerning Swarmify’s Technology and the specific details of
5 how Swarmify made its video streaming solution possible. Believing that the
6 discussions were under the NDA and were meant to further the acquisition discussion,
7 Swarmify’s senior developer disclosed the information, never suspecting that
8 Cloudflare would take the information and exploit it for its own benefit.

9 54.Swarmify’s Technology and Confidential Information derive independent
10 economic value from not being generally known to the public or to other persons who
11 can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use. This value is reflected by other
12 companies’ inability to develop the same video streaming solutions in a profitable
13 manner, and is exemplified by Cloudflare’s inability to do so until it wrongfully
14 appropriated Swarmify’s trade secrets, at which point it promptly brought them to
15 market.

16 55.As detailed above, Swarmify has taken reasonable efforts under the
17 circumstances to keep this information secret, including, but not limited to: restricting
18 the distribution of its Confidential Information to those only having need-to-know,
19 filing its patent application relating to a portion of its Technology subject to a
20 nonpublication request, and requiring its employees and business partners—like
21 Cloudflare—to sign nondisclosure agreements before disseminating the information to
22 them. Swarmify does not and has not consented to the use of any of its trade secrets by
23 anyone other than authorized employees or affiliates for Swarmify’s business or in
24 cooperation with Swarmify.

25 56.Cloudflare wrongfully misappropriated Swarmify’s trade secrets in the
26 manner alleged above, by using improper means to acquire and use those trade secrets,
27 and in breach of its duty to maintain the secrecy and limit the use of those trade
28 secrets, including by knowingly violating the NDA. Swarmify did not expressly nor

1 impliedly consent to Cloudflare’s use or disclosure of its trade secrets. Cloudflare’s
2 misappropriation was intentional, willful, and malicious.

3 57.Cloudflare did not acquire knowledge of Swarmify’s Technology through
4 reverse engineering, independent derivation, or any other lawful means of acquisition.

5 58.Cloudflare’s misappropriation of Swarmify’s trade secrets caused
6 Cloudflare to receive a benefit that it otherwise would not have achieved—namely, the
7 ability to rapidly commercialize and market its own video streaming product.

8 Cloudflare was unjustly enriched by this benefit.

9 59.Swarmify seeks injunctive relief, as set forth below in its Request for
10 Preliminary and Permanent Injunction. Swarmify also seeks compensatory damages,
11 including but not limited to the unjust enrichment accruing to Cloudflare as a result of
12 its misappropriation, or, in the alternative, payment of a reasonable royalty until
13 Cloudflare’s use can be prohibited. Because Cloudflare’s misappropriation was willful
14 and malicious, Swarmify further seeks exemplary damages of two times the amount of
15 its compensatory damages, pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 3426.3(c), and its reasonable
16 costs and attorneys’ fees, pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 3426.4.

17 **THIRD COUNT**

18 **Breach of Written Contract**

19 60.Swarmify incorporates each of the above paragraphs as though fully set
20 forth herein.

21 61.As set forth above, the parties entered into the NDA to protect the
22 confidentiality of their respective proprietary information, including Swarmify’s
23 Technology and its Confidential Information. The NDA constitutes a valid written
24 contract between the parties.

25 62.Among other things, the NDA clearly set forth Cloudflare’s obligations to
26 protect the secrecy of Swarmify’s proprietary and confidential information, including
27 its Technology and Confidential Information, as described above.
28

1 63. Cloudflare materially breached its obligations under the NDA when it
2 took Swarmify's Technology and Confidential Information for its use in its own
3 commercial products, and when Cloudflare further disclosed a portion of that
4 information in blog posts on its website.

5 64. Swarmify has performed all promises, obligations, and conditions
6 precedent imposed on it by the NDA, or is otherwise excused from performance.

7 65. Cloudflare's material breach has caused significant damage to Swarmify.
8 Swarmify therefore seeks compensatory damages as a result of Cloudflare's breach.
9 Moreover, because Cloudflare's breach has caused, and continues to cause, irreparable
10 harm for which damages would not be an adequate remedy, Swarmify seeks injunctive
11 relief as set forth below in its Request for Preliminary and Permanent Injunction.
12 Cloudflare, as a signatory to the NDA, has admitted that a breach of the NDA results
13 in irreparable harm and that injunctive relief is appropriate for such breach.

14 **FOURTH COUNT**

15 **Breach of Implied Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing**

16 66. Swarmify incorporates each of the above paragraphs as though fully set
17 forth herein.

18 67. As set forth above, Swarmify and Cloudflare entered into the NDA, which
19 was a valid contract between the parties.

20 68. Pursuant to California law, the NDA is a written contract and thus
21 imposes on each party a duty to deal fairly and in good faith with each other, and to
22 refrain from doing anything that unduly interferes with the purpose of the contract.

23 69. Swarmify has performed all promises, obligations, and conditions
24 precedent imposed on it by the NDA, or is otherwise excused from performance.

25 70. Cloudflare breached the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing
26 by, among other things, inducing Swarmify to provide its Trade Secrets and
27 Confidential Information to Cloudflare, when Cloudflare intended only to use that
28 information to its own benefit rather than in connection with a partnership with, or

1 acquisition of, Swarmify. Not only did Cloudflare reveal Swarmify’s Technology and
2 Confidential Information, but Cloudflare’s use of Swarmify’s confidential and
3 proprietary information for itself also kept Swarmify from reaping the full benefits of
4 that information.

5 71. Cloudflare’s bad faith acts and its unfair dealing have damaged Swarmify.
6 Among other things, Cloudflare’s improper use of Swarmify’s Technology and
7 Confidential Information has prevented Swarmify from being the only one to market
8 its own revolutionary technology—whether on its own or through license to or
9 acquisition by another company—and thus has deprived Swarmify of market share and
10 the opportunity to attract investment.

11 **FIFTH COUNT**

12 **Unjust Enrichment**

13 72. Swarmify incorporates each of the above paragraphs as though fully set
14 forth herein.

15 73. As a result of its receipt and improper use of Swarmify’s Technology and
16 Confidential Information, Cloudflare has received a significant benefit at Swarmify’s
17 expense, as set forth above. Rather than spending time and money to research and
18 develop effective video streaming methods on its own, or paying a fair price for their
19 licensing or acquisition, Cloudflare has received the free benefit of Swarmify’s efforts
20 and experience.

21 74. The benefit to Cloudflare came at significant expense to Swarmify, which,
22 as noted above, invested substantial time, money, and effort developing its
23 Technology.

24 75. Cloudflare’s wrongful acts entitle Swarmify to restitution in the amount
25 by which Cloudflare has been unjustly enriched.
26
27
28

SIXTH COUNT

Fraud in the Inducement

1
2
3 76.Swarmify incorporates each of the above paragraphs as though fully set
4 forth herein.

5 77.As discussed above, Cloudflare made a material representation to
6 Swarmify that it desired to partner with Swarmify in marketing Swarmify’s
7 Technology—whether by licensing or purchasing the Technology, or by acquiring
8 Swarmify.

9 78.That representation was false when made, as, upon information and belief,
10 Cloudflare did not intend to partner with Swarmify but only sought to gain access to its
11 Technology and its Confidential Information.

12 79.Upon information and belief, Cloudflare made the representation with the
13 express intention of inducing Swarmify to enter into the NDA and to reveal its
14 Technology and its Confidential Information to Cloudflare.

15 80.In entering into the NDA and sharing its Technology and its Confidential
16 Information with Cloudflare, Swarmify reasonably relied on Cloudflare’s
17 representation that it intended to either pay for the Technology or acquire Swarmify.
18 For example, Swarmify had no reason to doubt Cloudflare’s representation, as
19 discussions between the parties made it clear that Cloudflare had not considered nor
20 begun to develop or market the methods contemplated by Swarmify’s Technology and
21 its Confidential Information, and that Cloudflare had been unable to make video
22 streaming adequately profitable. Additionally, Cloudflare representatives informed
23 Swarmify that Cloudflare had no developers working on a video streaming solution,
24 and that Swarmify’s team would be the ones to create such a solution for Cloudflare
25 following acquisition of Swarmify. Moreover, during the second round of acquisition
26 discussions, Swarmify informed Cloudflare that it was about to close on a round of
27 investment funding, and Cloudflare encouraged Swarmify to postpone this funding
28 closing in order to pursue discussions with Cloudflare.

1 81. As discussed above, Cloudflare’s fraudulent misrepresentations have
2 damaged Swarmify.

3 82. Moreover, Cloudflare made its misrepresentations with malice and
4 oppression, and with actual and specific intent to harm and to defraud Swarmify. In
5 particular, upon information and belief, Cloudflare knew, prior to the execution of the
6 NDA and Swarmify’s disclosure of its Technology and Confidential Information, that
7 it had no intention to partner with Swarmify or to pay for Swarmify’s Technology.
8 Swarmify therefore seeks compensatory damages as a result of Cloudflare’s breach, as
9 well as exemplary and punitive damages pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 3294.

10 **SEVENTH COUNT**

11 **Accounting**

12 83. Swarmify incorporates each of the above paragraphs as though fully set
13 forth herein.

14 84. As set forth above, Swarmify is entitled to damages and restitution for
15 Cloudflare’s wrongful acts. This includes amounts that can only be ascertained by an
16 accounting, including but not limited to Cloudflare’s earnings from its use of
17 Swarmify’s Technology and Confidential Information.

18 85. Swarmify therefore demands an accounting of such sums.

19 **EIGHTH COUNT**

20 **Unfair Competition (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 et seq.)**

21 86. Swarmify incorporates each of the above paragraphs as though fully set
22 forth herein.

23 87. Cloudflare was obligated to protect not only Swarmify’s trade secrets, but
24 also any non-trade-secret information from Swarmify that became “confidential
25 information” under the NDA, regardless of its status as a trade secret.

26 88. As set forth above, in addition to information categorized as trade secrets,
27 Cloudflare has also used and disclosed Swarmify’s non-trade-secret information
28 furnished under the NDA for its own benefit, including to commercialize and market

1 its own video streaming product, and in violation of its duty to maintain the secrecy of
2 that information.

3 89. Through its conduct described above, Cloudflare has engaged in unlawful,
4 unfair, and misleading business practices that have caused Swarmify to suffer harm
5 and lose business and money. Cloudflare's unfair competition includes, but is not
6 limited to, its unlawful breach of the NDA, its misappropriation of Swarmify's
7 proprietary information, and its use of Swarmify's proprietary information to
8 commercialize and market video streaming products to the detriment of Swarmify.

9 90. As a result of Cloudflare's unfair competition, Swarmify has suffered
10 monetary damages and has suffered harm to its relationships, goodwill, and reputation.
11 Swarmify therefore requests injunctive relief as set forth below in its Request for
12 Preliminary and Permanent Injunction, as well as its attorneys' fees pursuant to Cal.
13 Civ. Code § 1021.5.

14 **REQUEST FOR PRELIMINARY AND PERMANENT INJUNCTION**

15 91. Swarmify incorporates each of the above paragraphs as though fully set
16 forth herein.

17 92. As the result of Cloudflare's misconduct, Swarmify has suffered, and will
18 continue to suffer, competitive harm, irreparable injury, and significant damages. To
19 prevent continued trade secret misappropriation and continued breach of the NDA, and
20 because Swarmify's remedy at law is inadequate, Swarmify seeks, in addition to
21 damages, preliminary and permanent injunctive relief pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §
22 1836(b)(3)(A), as well as Cal. Civ. Code § 3426.2, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203,
23 and this Court's equitable powers, to recover and protect its Technology and
24 Confidential Information and to protect its legitimate business interests.

25 93. Upon information and belief, if Cloudflare is not enjoined, it will continue
26 to misappropriate and use Swarmify's Technology and Confidential Information for its
27 own commercial gain and to Swarmify's detriment, and it will continue to disseminate
28 that information to the broader marketplace. An injunction is therefore necessary to

1 prevent Cloudflare’s actual and threatened misappropriation of Swarmify’s trade
2 secrets.

3 94.Swarmify requests that the Court take affirmative steps to protect
4 Swarmify’s trade secrets, including by ordering Cloudflare to: cease and desist from
5 using Swarmify’s Technology and Confidential Information; return or destroy all of
6 Swarmify’s Technology and Confidential Information remaining in Cloudflare’s
7 possession; remove the blog posts mentioned above; take measures sufficient to ensure
8 that any indexed or archived versions of the blog posts are removed from internet
9 search engines, such as Google, Yahoo, and Bing; and coordinate with vendors or
10 other third parties to notify them that they may not disclose or use Swarmify’s
11 Technology or Confidential Information, and to retrieve any such information from
12 those third parties.

13 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

14 WHEREFORE, Swarmify respectfully requests the following relief from the
15 Court:

16 95.Enter a Judgment and Order in Swarmify’s favor and against Cloudflare
17 as to all claims in this Complaint;

18 96.Award Swarmify damages as described in each of the above claims, to
19 include Swarmify’s actual damages and any unjust enrichment gained by Cloudflare
20 due to its wrongful actions;

21 97.In the alternative, award Swarmify a reasonable royalty for Cloudflare’s
22 wrongful appropriation and use of its trade secrets;

23 98.Award exemplary damages to Swarmify in the amount of two times its
24 compensatory damages;

25 99.Award punitive damages to Swarmify in an amount sufficient to deter
26 Cloudflare and others from future similar conduct;

27 100. Enter a preliminary and permanent injunction ordering Cloudflare
28 to:

- a. Cease and desist from further use of Swarmify’s Technology and Confidential information;
- b. Return or destroy all of Swarmify’s Technology and Confidential Information remaining in Cloudflare’s possession;
- c. Remove the September 27, 2017 blog posts titled “Introducing Cloudflare Stream,” and “How Cloudflare Streams,” as well as any other posts containing Swarmify’s Technology and Confidential Information, from its website;
- d. Take measures sufficient to ensure that any indexed or archived versions of the blog posts are removed from internet search engines, such as Google, Yahoo, and Bing; and
- e. Coordinate with vendors or other third parties to notify them that they may not disclose or use Swarmify’s Technology or Confidential Information, and to retrieve any such information from those third parties;

101. Award Swarmify its costs and reasonable attorneys’ fees; and

102. Grant Swarmify such other and further relief to which it may be

justly entitled.

1 Dated: December 6, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

2
3 SKIERMONT DERBY LLP

4
5
6
7 By:  _____

8 Sarah E. Spires

9 Attorney for Swarmify, Inc.

10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Swarmify respectfully demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Dated: December 6, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

SKIERMONT DERBY LLP

By: _____



Sarah E. Spires
Attorney for Swarmify, Inc.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28