1 WILLIAM BLUMENTHAL General Counsel 2 **DEBORAH MATTIES** 3 PATRICIA POSS Federal Trade Commission 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, H-286 4 Washington, DC 20580 5 (202) 326-2047, 2413 (202) 326-3395 (fax) 6 JOHN D. JACOBS 7 Cal. Bar No. 134154 Federal Trade Commission 8 10877 Wilshire Boulevard Suite 700 Los Angeles, CA 90024 9 (310) 824-4360 (310) 824-4380 (fax) 10 Attorneys for Plaintiff 11 12 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 13 FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION, 14 Plaintiff. 15 v. 16 NEOVI, INC., d/b/a NEOVI DATA 17 CORPORATION and OCHEX.COM; 18 G7 PRODUCTIVITY SYSTEMS, INC., d/b/a QCHEX.COM; 19

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JAMES M. DANFORTH, individually, and

THOMAS VILLWOCK, individually, and as

Defendants.

as an officer of Neovi, Inc. and G7

Productivity Systems, Inc.; and

an officer of Neovi, Inc.,



CIVIL NO.

06 CV 1952 JQH-RMA

[Proposed] JOINT STIPULATION AND ORDER THEREON FOR **TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER** WITH OTHER EQUITABLE **RELIEF AND ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE** 

This matter comes before the Court on stipulation of Plaintiff Federal Trade Commission ("FTC" or the "Commission") and Defendants Neovi, Inc., d/b/a Neovi Data

Corporation and Qchex.com ("Neovi"); G7 Productivity Systems, Inc., d/b/a Qchex.com ("G7"); James M. Danforth ("Danforth"); and Thomas Villwock ("Villwock") (collectively, "Defendants"). On September 19, 2006, the Commission filed a Complaint for Injunctive and Other Equitable Relief in this matter pursuant to Section 13(b) of the Federal Trade Commission Act ("FTC Act"), 15 U.S.C. § 53(b), and moved for a temporary restraining order and for an order to show cause why a preliminary injunction should not be granted pursuant to Rule 65 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The Court, having been advised that the parties have stipulated hereto and having considered the pleadings, declarations, exhibits, and memoranda of law filed in this action, finds that:

- 1. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this case, and there is good cause to believe that it has jurisdiction over all parties hereto.
- 2. Defendants, by agreeing to this Order, make no admissions as to the truth of Plaintiff's allegations. In addition, the stipulation and entry of this Order is not to be construed or deemed a waiver of any claims or defenses that may be raised in this action.
- 3. There is good cause to believe that Defendants have engaged and are likely to engage in acts and practices that violate Section 5(a) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45(a), and that Plaintiff is therefore likely to prevail on the merits of this action.
- 4. Weighing the equities and considering Plaintiff's likelihood of ultimate success on the merits, a temporary restraining order restraining Defendants' conduct and providing other equitable relief is in the public interest.
- 5. Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(c) does not require security of the United States or an agency thereof for the issuance of a restraining order.

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### <u>ORDER</u>

# **DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of this Temporary Restraining Order ("Order"), the following definitions shall apply:

- 1. "Check" shall include any negotiable instrument that can be, or purports to be, drawn on an account held at a financial institution.
- 2. "Document" is synonymous in meaning with, and equal in scope to, the usage of the term in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 34(a), and includes writings, drawings, graphs, charts, photographs, audio and video recordings, computer records, and other data compilations from which information can be obtained and translated, if necessary, into reasonably usable form through detection devices. A draft or non-identical copy is a separate document within the meaning of the term.
- 3. "Person" means any natural person, organization, or other entity, including but not limited to a corporation, partnership, proprietorship, association, cooperative, or any other group or combination acting as an entity.
- 4. "Qchex account" means any account, record, system, or mechanism offered by any Defendant that allows or purports to allow a person to create or deliver a check or to request that a check be created or delivered.
- 5. "Creation of" or "creating" or "created" a check means creating, designing, composing, drawing, or writing on paper or electronic media a check drawn on a specific financial institution.
- 6. "Delivery of" or "delivering" or "delivered" a check means mailing, faxing, e-mailing, sending or transmitting by any other method a check drawn on a specific financial institution.

- 7. "Financial institution" means any bank, trust company, savings and loan association, credit union, or stock brokerage.
- 8. "Financial account" or "account at a financial institution" means any account, including but not limited to any deposit account, checking account, savings account, money market account, transaction or asset account, credit account, or other extension of credit at a financial institution.
- 9. "Financial account information" means individually identifiable information from or about a person that is related to such person's financial account(s), including but not limited to: (a) checking account information, including the ABA routing number, account number, and check number; (b) savings account information, including the ABA routing number, account number, and check number; (c) a person's first and last name, a business name, a postal address, a telephone number, or an email address or other online contact information, from or about any person that is combined with (a) or (b) above.
- 10. The words "and" and "or" shall be understood to have both conjunctive and disjunctive meanings.

T.

#### INJUNCTION

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Defendants, their officers, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise, are temporarily restrained and enjoined from creating or delivering a check for any person without first taking reasonable steps to verify that the person requesting the creation or delivery of the check has the authority to draw funds from the financial account on which such check is to be drawn. Such verification shall include affirmative documentation (either on paper or in electronic media) sufficient to demonstrate that the person requesting the creation or delivery of the check is the account holder

or has the authority of the account holder to draw funds from the financial account on which the check is to be drawn.

**PROVIDED,** however, that, Defendants will not be in violation of this Section if Defendants, prior to creating or delivering any check for any person, perform one of these two verification procedures:

# A. <u>Perform "Micro-Deposit Verification" by:</u>

- 1. Requiring the person requesting the check to confirm access to the financial account on which the person wishes to request checks by making two deposits between \$0.01 and \$0.99 each in randomly generated amounts into such financial account;
- 2. Requiring the person to report back to Defendants, either in writing or electronically, the amount of each deposit;
- 3. Confirming that the two numbers provided by that person match the amounts of the two deposits made by Defendants into the person's financial account; and
- 4. At least ten (10) days before creating or delivering the first check drawn on a particular financial account, mailing a written statement to the mailing address provided by the person and listed on the check stating that a check will be created to be drawn on the financial account listed on the check and delivered to a payee, providing the payee's name, date, amount of the check, a working telephone number for persons to use to contact Defendants during regular business hours regarding the check; <u>or</u>

# B. <u>Perform "Financial Institution Verification" by:</u>

1. Obtaining written consent from the person requesting the creation or delivery of the check to contact the financial institution that holds the financial account on which the check is to be drawn;

- 2. Contacting that financial institution and confirming with documentation that the name, address, financial account number, and signature match the name, address, financial account number and signature that the financial institution has on file for the financial account on which the check is to be drawn; and
- 3. At least ten (10) days before creating or delivering the first check drawn on a particular financial account, mailing to the address provided by the requesting person and listed on the check a written statement stating: a) that a check drawn on the financial account listed on the check will be created and delivered to a payee; b) the payee's name; c) the date and the amount of the check; and d) a working telephone number for persons to use to contact Defendants during regular business hours regarding the check.

П.

#### RESPONDING TO CONSUMER AND BUSINESS COMPLAINTS

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, in connection with the advertising, marketing, promotion, licensing, offering for sale, or sale of any service to create or deliver checks, in or affecting commerce, Defendants, their officers, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise, are temporarily restrained and enjoined from:

- A. Failing to clearly and conspicuously disclose contact information for Defendants, including but not limited to a U.S. postal address, telephone number, and website or email address, in Defendants' advertising or marketing materials, on their Internet website(s), and on any check that they, directly or indirectly, create or deliver;
- B. Failing to provide a no-cost means for a person to notify Defendants that

  Defendants' products or services have resulted in the unauthorized use of any person's financial account information; and

- that the product or service is alleged to be involved in the unauthorized use of a person's financial account information. After suspending use of the product or service, Defendants shall conduct a reasonable investigation of the allegation that Defendants' products or services have resulted in the unauthorized use of a person's financial account information. Defendants shall permanently suspend access by the Qchex account holder to any of Defendants' products or services if such product or service was involved in the unauthorized use of a person's financial account information. Defendants shall complete their investigation of and respond to persons making such allegations within five (5) business days after Defendants have become aware of them. In responding to such allegations, Defendants shall use either the same method that the person alleging such unauthorized use used to contact Defendants or an alternate method explicitly requested by the person. Such response shall, at a minimum, inform the person of the following:
  - 1. Whether the person's financial account information was used to create or deliver one or more checks and a list of all check numbers, dates, and amounts of any checks issued;
  - 2. If any of Defendants' products or services were involved in the alleged unauthorized use of a person's financial account information, when use of such product or service was suspended;
  - 3. A telephone number and contact person that the person may call during normal business hours to discuss the matter; and
  - 4. A statement that informs the person that he or she should visit www.consumer.gov/idtheft or call 1-877-ID-THEFT if the person suspects that he or she has been a victim of identity theft and should call his or her financial institution to have

the his or her financial account suspended or closed if the person suspects unauthorized activity on his or her financial account.

#### III.

#### MAINTENANCE OF CURRENT BUSINESS RECORDS

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendants, their officers, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise, are hereby temporarily restrained and enjoined from:

- A. Failing to create and maintain documents that, in reasonable detail, accurately, fairly, and completely reflect Qchex accounts and any checks created or delivered by Defendants;
- B. Creating, operating, or exercising any control over any business entity, including any partnership, limited partnership, joint venture, sole proprietorship or corporation, without first notifying counsel for Plaintiff by written statement disclosing: (a) the name of the business entity; (b) the address and telephone number of the business entity; (c) the names of the business entity's officers, directors, principals, managers and employees; and (d) a detailed description of the business entity's intended activities; and
- C. Creating, operating, or exercising any control over any new domain name or website, without first notifying counsel for Plaintiff by written statement disclosing: (a) the name of the domain name or website; (b) the identity of the registrant or account holder, including the mailing address and telephone number; (c) the name and address of the person or entity to whom such registration was submitted; and (d) the purpose of the domain name or website.

#### MONITORING OF COMPLIANCE

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that during the pendency of this litigation, Plaintiff FTC is authorized to monitor Defendants' compliance with this Order. For purposes of the compliance monitoring authorized by this Section, the FTC may use representatives posing as members of the public to test Defendants' practices with regard to Section I and II of this Order. When posing as members of the public, the FTC's representatives are authorized to communicate directly with Defendants, Defendants' employees, any entity managed or controlled in whole or in part by any of Defendants, or any entity acting as an agent of any of Defendants, without the necessity of identification, prior notice, or authorization by Defendants or their counsel.

If the FTC should detect an alleged violation of this Order, it shall notify counsel for Defendants in writing. Defendants shall have five (5) business days from receipt of such notice to respond to the FTC in writing and state whether Defendants will cure the alleged violation or dispute that the observed condition exists or is a violation. If Defendants agree to cure, they shall have ten (10) business days from receipt of the FTC's written notice to effect such cure and, if at the end of the ten days, the FTC is dissatisfied, the FTC may move this Court for corrective action. If Defendants dispute that the observed condition exists or is a violation and the FTC is dissatisfied with Defendants' explanation, the FTC may move this Court for corrective action.

V.

#### **DISTRIBUTION OF ORDER BY DEFENDANTS**

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendants shall: (A) immediately provide a copy of this Order to each affiliate, subsidiary, division, sales entity, successor, assign, officer, director, employee, independent contractor, salesperson, agent, attorney, and representative of

any defendant; and (B) within seven (7) days from the date of entry of this Order, provide the Commission with a sworn statement detailing the manner in which Defendants have complied with this provision of the Order, which shall include the names and addresses of each such person or entity who received a copy of the Order.

#### VI.

#### **DURATION OF TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER**

#### VII.

# ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE REGARDING PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

PROVIDED that, if any party to this action intends to present the testimony of any witness at the hearing on a preliminary injunction in this matter, that party shall, at least14 days prior to the scheduled date and time of hearing, file with this Court and serve on all other parties a statement disclosing the name, address, and telephone number of any such witness, and either a summary of the witness' expected testimony, or the witness' affidavit revealing the substance of such witness' expected testimony. The parties must also file with this Court and serve on all

other parties any affidavits and other evidence upon which they intend to rely in connection with the Plaintiff's request for a preliminary injunction no later than 14 days before the time scheduled for the preliminary injunction hearing.

**PROVIDED FURTHER** that Defendants must file with the Clerk's Office and deliver to counsel for Plaintiff any brief responding to the order to show cause why a preliminary injunction should not be entered no later than 14 days before the time scheduled for the hearing.

PROVIDED FURTHER that Plaintiff shall file with the Clerk's Office and deliver to counsel for Defendants any reply brief responding to Defendants' opposition to the order to show cause why a preliminary injunction should not be entered no later than 7 days before the time scheduled for the hearing. Notwithstanding the above provisions, Plaintiff may file any additional affidavits, witness summaries, or other evidence upon which Plaintiff intends to rely to Defendants' opposition no later than 7 days before the time scheduled for the hearing.

#### VIII.

#### **SERVICE UPON PARTIES**

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, with regard to any correspondence or pleadings related to this Order, service on the parties shall be performed by overnight mail delivery or facsimile to the attention of:

For Plaintiff:
DEBORAH MATTIES
PATRICIA POSS
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, H-286
Washington, DC 20580
(202) 326-3395 (fax)

For Defendants: JAMES C. STEVENS 402 West Broadway, Suite 400 San Diego, CA 92101 (619) 934-2844 (fax)

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Deborah Matties Attorney for Plaintiff

Federal Trade Commission

# RETENTION OF JURISDICTION

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that this Court shall retain jurisdiction of this matter for all purposes.

IT IS SO ORDERED, this 22 day of \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2006 at San Diego, California.

William Q. Hayes
United States District Judge
District of Southern California

Stipulated and agreed to by:

James M. Danforth, Defendant	Dated: 9-22-06	
Thomas Villwock, Defendant	Dated: 9-22-66	
Neovi, Inc., Defendant	Dated: 9-22-66	
Thomas Villwock, Defendant	Dated: 9-22-66	
Neovi, Inc., Defendant	Dated: 9-22-66	
Thomas Stevens Attorney for Defendants	Dated: 9/22/06	
James Stevens Attorney for Defendants	Neovi, Inc., G7 Productivity Systems, Inc., James M. Danforth, and Thomas Villwock	Dated: Sept. 22, 206