

**Research Paper for Online Topic:
How to Challenge Incidents of Domain Name Squatting and Copyright Infringement
Incorporating Your Name and Materials on the Internet**

Aleta Burgé

Florida State University

LIS 5008 Advanced Online Searching

Dr. Kim

November 29, 2010

*Note: Oct. 30, 2011

The names of the client, the domain name registrant company and the internet hosting company have been removed in order to preserve their privacy. They have been replaced with:

- client replaced with *YourName*
- domain name registrant company's name replaced with *domain name registrant company*
- internet hosting company's name replaced with *internet hosting company*

Correspondence concerning this paper should be addressed to: Aleta Burgé.

Contact: <mailto:ajb09m@my.fsu.edu>

How to Challenge Incidents of Domain Name Squatting and Copyright Infringement
Aleta Burgé

© 2010-2011 Aleta Burgé licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-

NoDerivs 3.0 United States License.

How to Challenge Incidents of Domain Name Squatting and Copyright Infringement

Aleta Burgé

1. Brief summary of the interview.

The original question:

Anonymous client: “A friend helped me search my name on the Internet to see what press was posted about my artwork. As a result of the search, we found a site named ‘myname.com.’ There are images of my clayworks and of myself. On one page on the website there is a picture of a man whom I have never met in his bathing suit sitting on my patio, as well as another image of a young man in his underwear on another page. There is also profane language as part of a Twitter feed on one of the pages. How did this happen and can the pictures and bad language be removed from the Internet? What can I do about his situation?”

Answer to Part One of the question: We looked at the web site together and from what I see it appears that someone has used your name to buy a domain name, most likely retrieved images from your Facebook page, then edited them using an image editing software program, such as Adobe Photoshop. A webpage has been created using those materials, including information about your artwork along with other personal information, all possibly retrieved from Facebook.

Answer to Part Two of the question: Can the material be removed from the website? Unfortunately, no. The only person who can remove the material from the site is the owner/creator of the website. Removing the webpages requires a username and password agreed upon between the user and the hosting company. The subscriber has selected and paid for privacy services. However, the hosting service (ISP) has the right to remove the entire site if they have evidence of fraud, mal intent or copyright infringement by their client.

Answer to Part Three of the question: You may be able to have the domain name released if you can show there is mal intent or trademark or brand name infringement. This is a legal gray area and litigation can become quite expensive. According to an analysis of the situation performed during the course of researching this issue, the perpetrator has committed a violation of copyright by using your images without your permission.

2. Written statement of the agreed-upon question:

How did someone access my images and information, then put it on a website on the Internet using my name?

Who is the person that did this?

What are my rights as far as the use of my name, my images and content?

Can the photos of the man in his underwear and the profane writing be removed from the website?

How can the website with my images and information be removed from the Internet?

How can I prevent this from happening in the future?

3. Search Strategies and Set-up

Each step is dependent upon previously found information. For example, if the identity of the perpetrator had been found in the first step, the process would have been streamlined and different from the strategy used since that information was not available. The next step would have been to retrieve his contact

How to Challenge Incidents of Domain Name Squatting and Copyright Infringement

Aleta Burgé

information and communicate with him directly, asking him to remove the information since it is in violation of copyright laws. But because the person who performed these actions has chosen to remain anonymous, a search for the domain name registrar is the appropriate next step and the process continues in much the same way, with an analysis of each step conducted, then the next step conducted depending upon the previous step and what has been found so far during the entire search process. Following are the steps I conducted and suggests anyone with a similar problem perform in order to initiate finding a resolution to this problem:

1. Try to identify the owner of the domain name and the website. Look for clues on the webpage such as contact information on the website and registration of the domain name and ownership of the webpage.

2. Search what do if someone buys your personal name as a domain name.

Searched Google.com: (<http://www.google.com>)

Search terms (what to do if someone buys your personal name as a domain name)

3. Research legalities regarding the subject.

Searched Google.com: (<http://www.google.com>)

Search terms ((law or legal) and (cybersquatting or domain name theft))

4. Research the name of the registrar of the domain name.

Search (identify registrar domain name) on Google.com: (<http://www.google.com>)

Search terms (yourname.com) at (<http://www.whois.net/>)

5. Research and identify the IP address of the website 'yourname.com.'

'Ping' terms (YourName.com)

6. Research for information advising what to do if someone uses your personal images, posting them on the internet without your permission.

Search terms ("copyright infringement" images internet) on Google.com.
(<http://www.google.com>)

7. Research legalities regarding copyright infringement on the Internet using Google.com:
(<http://www.google.com>)

Search terms ((legal or law) and copyright and (violation or infringement))

8. Research the identity of the host (ISP) of the website. Research the company to determine if it is a legal company and if it is reputable. Searched Google.com:

(<http://www.google.com>)

How to Challenge Incidents of Domain Name Squatting and Copyright Infringement

Aleta Burgé

Search terms (look up geographical location from IP address search)

9. Find contact info for sending cease and desist letter to domain name registrar and ISP. Find business information about ISP.

Search terms on Google.com:
 (<http://www.google.com>)
 (“ *insert ISP Name*” and hosting legal copyright)

10. Find information requirements for cease and desist request letter.

Search terms on ISP site: (“cease and desist” and (letter or request))

11. Prevent cybersquatting and copyright infringement by someone stealing images and content in the future.

Searched Google.com:
 (<http://www.google.com>)

Search terms (how to prevent and ((domain name theft) or cybersquatting))

Search terms (how to prevent and (image theft))

4. Format: The client is primarily interested in only as much information as is needed to solve her problem, that is, getting the web page that is posted as a domain under her personal name, including images and content, removed from the Internet.

In response to that, I am providing information such as the name and contact information, including mailing address and email address of the domain name registrar and the hosting provider. I have included the instructions from the ISP (internet hosting provider) regarding what information to include in the letter. This is a complex process and I do not want to overwhelm the client with what she may think is extraneous information, especially since she is not computer savvy. However, I do think it is beneficial for her to have access to the documentation of the information that I am providing to her, so I am also including linked **Titles and URLs** of supporting documentation, in case she needs it during the process of negotiating to have the materials in question removed from the internet or if she needs to document the process to an attorney or someone who provides assistance related to this matter in the future.

I have offered my services to the client if she wants additional help or needs clarification about any of the information provided by me.

5. Full Answers

(*Begin letter to client:*)

How to Challenge Incidents of Domain Name Squatting and Copyright Infringement

Aleta Burgé

Dear Anonymous,

I am sorry that you had the experience of someone creating a website using your name and content. Finding out how to properly attempt to resolve this situation has provided me with a timely and challenging question to investigate. I hope that the information I found will be helpful to you and will assist you to find a successful solution to the problem.

I have provided a summary of the information that I found regarding contact information, descriptions, legalities and related helpful information to assist you in resolving the issue. I have also provided links and URLs to complete documentation incase you would like more in depth information about the subject.

My first step was to attempt to identify the perpetrator of the action of buying a domain name titled by your personal name and using your personal images and secondly, to request that he release the domain name, and cease and desist posting of the website. However, I found that this person does not want to be identified and has taken precautions to protect his/her identity. The next way to address the situation was to find the domain registrar and the ISP (host of the website), and notify them of the situation requesting that they release the domain name and remove the website from the Internet. In most cases, this is sufficient in a situation such as yours. I am not a lawyer, and cannot advise you as to legal specifics, but copyright violation is an issue that is taken seriously by courts, and according to my research, imposes sizeable penalties. While an ISP is considered without fault if they are unaware of the fraud, they do not want to be associated with unfair practices or risk a lawsuit, so may take the course of least resistance in order to fully protect them from costly legal action.

The information retrieved from the research conducted regarding this situation leads to the following conclusion: Cybersquatting is difficult to prove, but according to the definition of 'copyright violation' in the provided materials, your situation includes a case of copyright infringement. Please read the provided research and if you feel confident that this is the situation, write letters to both Enom.com and Rackspace.com to the addresses provided, with the information described in the article, demanding that the perpetrator cease and desist his use of your photographs and content etc. by removing the website and releasing the domain name: YourName.com.

I have included a link to information about how to write a cease and desist letter for your information. You might want to consult an attorney to write a letter in proper legal terms and formatting.

Your most immediate options include writing letters to the domain name registrar and the Internet hosting service, sending copies by both email and certified postal mail, requesting that they release the domain name to you and cease and desist the hosting of the web site due to the fraudulent circumstances.

The contact information for the domain name registrar is:

Anonymous Headquarters

The contact information for the ISP (webhosting provider) is: (Example only- changed for privacy reasons)

Director of Compliance

Hosting Company Name, Inc.

How to Challenge Incidents of Domain Name Squatting and Copyright Infringement

Aleta Burgé

abuse@hostingcompany.com

I have included a link to a site that provides information to assist you in writing a sample cease and desist letter:

How to Write Cease and Desist Letters to Stop Copyright Infringement.
(http://www.ehow.com/how_5099146_write-letters-stop-copyright-infringement.html)

Hosting Company Name hosting also provides instructions as to what should be included in a Cease and Desist Request letter.

Cite the website hosting company information/copyright Hosting/DMCA Notice:
(removed for privacy reasons)

If your request is denied, you may want to consider consulting an attorney to further investigate your options, including pursuing the Arbitration process that is made available under the jurisdiction of the Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). Consider this procedure as a last resort if the party refuses to release the name or take down the site in your name in response to a Cease and Desist Letter, as it is an expensive process with a minimum cost of \$1300. The damages that you can receive are considerable. But it is quite possible that the person who has committed the copyright violation against you may not have the funds for an expensive court case or damages award.

You can read about the process at:

Domain Names Dispute Process

<http://domains.adrforum.com/main.aspx?itemID=263&hideBar=True&navID=199&news=26>

and

file a UDRP Complaint (\$1300 minimum)

(<http://domains.adrforum.com/main.aspx?itemID=530&hideBar=False&navID=235&news=26>)

I advise you to buy your name as a domain name in order to prevent anyone else buying it in the future. It is affordable and easy process. You can buy it at a number of providers such as:

GoDaddy.com.

(<http://www.GoDaddy.com> or <http://www.networksolutions.com/>)

I have provided a complete summary of the research process and links to information supporting the information I have provided to you following this letter.

Please let me know if anything is unclear or if you need any additional information or assistance regarding this issue. I am available to help you compile a letter to the domain name registrar, domain name registrar, and the ISP (Hosting provider) if you would like some help.

Sincerely,

Aleta Burgé

(End letter to client)

Research with URLs

How to Challenge Incidents of Domain Name Squatting and Copyright Infringement

Aleta Burgé

i. I reviewed the website ‘YourName.com’ to find contact information for the owner/creator of the website, but was unsuccessful.

ii. I searched: ‘what to do if someone buys your personal name as a domain name’ using Google.com (<http://www.google.com>).

I retrieved the following information:

LegalZoom: What to Do If You’re the Victim of Cybersquatting
(<http://www.legalzoom.com/intellectual-property-rights/trademarks/what-do-if-cybersquatting>)

iii. I researched legalities regarding the subject of ‘someone buying a domain name using your personal name.’

I was interested in the legalities of cybersquatting and found information in the above webpage, that explains that buying a name as a domain name that is affiliated with a trademark, to which the buyer does not have rights or is another person’s name is known by the term ‘cybersquatting.’ It is protected by the (Anticybersquatting Consumer Protection Act, ACPA).

Another web site provides additional information pertinent to this situation:

The National Legal Center for Public Interest

http://tcattorney.typepad.com/domainnamedispute/2004/12/the_anticybersq.html
(http://www.drinkerbiddle.com/files/Publication/be9a964b-3e36-4fa4-9415-6262b389950c/Presentation/PublicationAttachment/29fbe467-2792-4881-bc2b-dd5a73699cbc/Briefly_Cybersquatters.pdf)

“What Remedies Are Available under the ACPA?

Personal Names. Regarding domain names that consist of the name of another living person without that person’s consent, the ACPA authorizes injunctive relief, including forfeiture, cancellation, or transfer of an offending domain name.lxxxiv There is no provision for monetary damages, but costs and attorneys’ fees may be awarded to the prevailing party at the court’s discretion.lxxxv”

I searched for: (ICANN domain name fraud) on Google.com and retrieved information that explained that a person may dispute someone owning your name as a domain name if it infringes upon a trademark, was used for profit or purchased in bad faith. The Arbitration process is under the jurisdiction of the Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). Investigate this procedure as a last resort if the party refuses to release the name or take down the site in your name in response to a Cease and Desist Letter, as it is an expensive process starting at a minimum cost of \$1300. You can read about it at:

Domain Names Dispute Process

(<http://domains.adrforum.com/main.aspx?itemID=263&hideBar=True&navID=199&news=26>)

and

file a UDRP Complaint (\$1300 minimum)

(<http://domains.adrforum.com/main.aspx?itemID=530&hideBar=False&navID=235&news=26>)

There is no contact information for the site designer on the web-site YourName.com. I searched for the names that are on the site including Jarred Bishop, (theme designer). <http://anonymous.info/>. None of your images appear on that site. There is a link to his Twitter account. The first few times I visited YourName.com the profane language appeared on the site as a Twitter feed, but by Nov 23, that feed, thus the content, had been removed from your webpage. A visit to the linked Flickr site (removed for privacy issues) revealed no images that appeared there on the website with your name either. I visited the linked Facebook page, and found his home listed as Wellington, New Zealand. YourName is not listed as

How to Challenge Incidents of Domain Name Squatting and Copyright Infringement

Aleta Burgé

a friend, nor were any of your images on that page. Deciding that searching for the individual who created the site is futile, I then turned to find the registrar of the domain name.

iv. I researched to find the name of the registrar of the domain name ‘YourName.com.’ searching (YourName.com) on Whois.net (linked from a previous site). (<http://www.whois.net/>)

I retrieved the name of domain name registrar
(removed for privacy issues)
Referral URL: (not provided due to privacy issues)
Status: Client Transfer Prohibited
Updated Date: 26-jun-2010
Creation Date: 26-jun-2010
Expiration Date: 26-jun-2011
Purchasers name is private

I then visited the web site of DomainNameRegistrar.com domain name registrar where under contact info:

I found the corporate Headquarters address:

Corporate Name and contact information (not provided due to privacy issues)

I also found a link on the Domain Name Registrar’s website titled: legal info
(not provided due to privacy issues)
Stating ‘For all legal matters contact: (not provided due to privacy issues).

The site states that a letter needs to be written to the address provided regarding the ownership of the domain name.

* I contacted the registrar company (Name not provided due to privacy issues) by phone, then by email, but they would not release information about the owner of the domain name citing privacy issues. The following is a copy of the communication between (Name not provided due to privacy issues) and myself:

From: Aleta Burgé [mailto:atodisco@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 18, 2010 9:29 AM
To: Legal-BLV
Subject: Misuse of the domain name and copyright infringement of YourName

Hello,

A friend, who is an artist living in Miami, has asked me to help her resolve the following situation: Someone has bought the domain name, ‘YourName.com’, using her name, The perpetrator must have downloaded images of her and her artwork from the Internet, possibly her Facebook page, then edited them as he pleased, creating a website using her name and posting the changed images. The site shows a man in his underwear and a white swimsuit at YourName's house, but she has never met him and is certain he has never visited her home. There is crude language on a Twitter feed on the website.

How to Challenge Incidents of Domain Name Squatting and Copyright Infringement
Aleta Burgé

YourName is a mature woman with a reputation as an artist and art mentor to consider. She is extremely upset and wants this website removed. There is no contact information provided on the website. This is definitely a case of fraud and copyright infringement. This person is pretending to have an association with YourName is infringing on copyright by utilizing her images without her permission and has purchased a domain name that is representative of her personal name; a name associated her personal brand name of artistic clayworks and artists' communities.

Please help to release this domain name and remove the site from the web.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Aleta Burgé

(contact information removed for privacy)

YourName can be reached at

(email address removed due to privacy issues)

Received email reply:

Hello,

Thank you very much for your notification. After researching the domain, we have found that Domain Registration Company. only provides domain name registration and DNS service for this customer. We are not the webhost, internet service provider, or administrator for YourName.com. Given that we are not the webhost for the domain, the allegedly infringing material identified in your notification does not reside on Domain Registration Company's computer servers. Accordingly, we do not have the technical ability to remove or disable specific items of objectionable content.

Again, due to the limited technical sphere in which Domain Registration Company operates, we do not believe that we are the correct party to contact regarding this matter. In this instance, we suggest that you contact the party operating the website or the party hosting the website to have this matter properly resolved. A "ping" of the website you indicated often reveals the IP number of the party which probably hosts this website. You may then use (<https://ws.arin.net/whois>) or another similar tool to identify this party.

Regards,

Domain Registration Company
Contact Info

[End of reply.](#)

eNom.com suggested by phone that I "ping" the domain name in order to retrieve an IP address, find the ISP then contact them regarding copyright infringement. I did not know how to "ping" so I searched for information about how to perform a "ping."

I searched Google.com

(<http://www.google.com>) for "how to ping a website address mac" and retrieved:

(http://www.ehow.com/how_4616198_ping-ip-address-mac.html)

How to Challenge Incidents of Domain Name Squatting and Copyright Infringement

Aleta Burgé

v. Research the IP address of the website.

I followed the instructions to ping “YourName.com” retrieving IP address: (removed due to privacy issues)

vi. I researched what to do if someone posts your images on the Internet without permission. I

found many sites that explained that downloading material from another person’s or business’s Facebook account (or any web page on the Internet) then using it without permission, such as posting it on someone else’s web page is a “copyright infringement.” I retrieved quite a few informative articles explaining the legalities of copyright infringement and the penalties for copyright violation on the Internet.

I searched (“copyright infringement” images internet) on Google.com.
(<http://www.google.com>)

WebSite Legal Issues (bitlaw)

(<http://www.bitlaw.com/internet/webpage.html> - copyright)

Here are some direct quotes from the site providing information about copyright protection for information on the Internet:

"If the Internet Server Provider is unaware of the behavior of its customer, most courts seem reluctant to hold the ISP liable for that behavior. However, once the ISP becomes aware of the customer's activity, or should have become aware of the activity with reasonable diligence, courts are much more likely to hold the ISP liable for its customer's actions. "

... "Taking images from third-parties. The simple rule is, "Don't steal someone else's images." The moment an original image (or string of text) is fixed on a hard drive for the first time, it is protected by copyright. Any unauthorized copying of a protected image is an infringement of the creator's copyright, unless the use falls within one of the very limited exceptions to the copyright law, such as "fair use." In most cases, it is unlikely that the incorporation of an image into a commercial web-site would be considered a fair use."

The following statement is found on EHow.com, How to Write Cease and Desist Letters to Stop Copyright Infringement, regarding penalties associated with copyright violation.

(http://www.ehow.com/how_5099146_write-letters-stop-copyright-infringement.html)

...“Statutory damages as high as \$150,000 as set forth in Section 504(c)(2).”

vii. Researched legalities regarding copyright infringement on the Internet on Google.com:

(<http://www.google.com>)

Search terms ((legal or law) and copyright and (violation or infringement))

The following web page explains the liability of ISPs (hosting providers):

Copyright Liability Concerns for Internet Service Providers

(<http://www.bitlaw.com/internet/isp.html> - defamation)

"...however, Internet Service Providers can be found liable for copyright infringement even where they are not directly engaged in the copying of protected materials. For instance, ISPs are responsible for equipment, such as a computer operating as a server, that is capable of making copies without any direct involvement of any person. Consequently, one relevant question is: "when is an ISP liable under copyright law for the copies made by its equipment?" As one example, the newsgroup servers controlled by ISPs make thousands of copies of newsgroup files everyday. Although some of these files undoubtedly contain copyrighted materials, no ISP has yet to be found guilty of copyright infringement merely for the

How to Challenge Incidents of Domain Name Squatting and Copyright Infringement

Aleta Burgé

unknown, autonomous action of their newsgroup servers."

E-Law CyberSquatting and Trademark Infringement
(<http://www.murdoch.edu.au/elaw/issues/v7n3/kilian73.html>)

Knowing what laws are available to protect copyright rights provides you with the information needed to verify a claim and to demand this action from the owner/creator (the perpetrator) of the website (the registrar of the domain name and the hosting provider (ISP)). The next step is to identify the creator of the website, the domain name registrar, and the hosting service (ISP).

viii. I researched the identity of the host of the website.

Having read about the legalities of copyright infringement on the internet, and believing that your case meets the requirements, I performed a search in order to find the Internet Service Provider for the site YourName.com using the IP address, so that I could contact them.

Searching the following terms in Google.com:

(<http://www.google.com>)

(look up location from IP address). I retrieved the site for searching for the host of a web site:

(<http://tools.whois.net/whoisbyip/>)

I obtained the following identifying information:

(removed due to privacy issues)

ISP: (removed due to privacy issues)

Organization: (removed due to privacy issues)

Proxy: None detected

Type: Corporate

Assignment: Static IP

Blacklist:

Geolocation Information

Country: United States

State/Region: New York

City: New York

Latitude: (removed due to privacy issues)

Longitude:-(removed due to privacy issues)

Area Code (removed due to privacy issues)

Postal Code: (removed due to privacy issues)

I wanted to find additional information regarding the Hosting Provider to determine if it is a reputable company.

I searched Google.com (<http://www.google.com>)

to find Hoovers (<http://www.hoovers.com>).

(name removed due to privacy issues)

How to Challenge Incidents of Domain Name Squatting and Copyright Infringement Aleta Burgé

I found the following information:

(Company name, location and contact information removed due to privacy issues). .

This review of the company was a part of the Hoover's information available.

“Internet Hosting Provision Company may be fanatically focused on hosting services, but sometimes it has its head in the clouds. The company provides a range of Web hosting and managed network services for businesses. It primarily offers traditional hosting services with dedicated servers, but it is expanding into cloud hosting, which lets customers utilize pooled server resources on an on-demand basis. Rackspace also provides hosted collaboration, e-mail, and file backup applications. The company markets its services under the Fanatical Support brand. It has more than 90,000 enterprise customers and operates nine data centers in Hong Kong, the UK, and the Internet Hosting Provision Company gets about three-quarters of its sales in the US.”

ix. Found contact info for sending ‘cease and desist letter’ to domain name registrar and ISP.

I searched (rackspace hosting legal copyright) on

Google.com (<http://www.google.com>)to find their page regarding copyright violation procedures. I retrieved:

Internet Hosting Provider

(**website url** removed due to privacy issues))

The above page contained the following content:

Copyright Infringement Notice

If you believe your copyright is being infringed by content hosted on the Internet Hosting Provider e network, please send a written notice to:

Director of Compliance

(corporate name and address removed for privacy purposes)

Internet Hosting Provider is committed to managing copyright complaints responsibly and in compliance with applicable laws, including international treaties and the laws of the various countries from which Rackspace provides its services.

In those circumstances where the United States Digital Millennium Copyright Act ("DMCA") is applicable, it is our policy to expeditiously remove content that is the subject of a correctly prepared notice under Section 512(c). We have included the elements of a DMCA notice below, and have also prepared some sample language to assist you in preparing a correct DMCA notice. We will forward your notice to our customer. It is our policy to replace removed content if our customer submits a properly prepared counter notice under the DMCA.

We encourage you to consult a lawyer before submitting a notice of copyright infringement. Copyright laws may allow a person to use a work in certain ways without the copyright owner's permission. Please note that Section 512(f) of the DMCA states that any person who knowingly materially misrepresents in a DMCA notice that content is infringing shall be liable for damages, including costs and attorneys' fees incurred by the alleged infringer.

How to Challenge Incidents of Domain Name Squatting and Copyright Infringement

Aleta Burgé

Please call us at (800)(phone number removed for privacy purposes) if you need help understanding our procedures.

6. Client's Evaluation

The client, YourName, was extremely happy with the information that I provided in response to her question. She had been telling friends about her problem, and no one seemed to understand or to take her seriously, until I looked at the website with her and she explained that she did not approve a website and she did not know the individual shown in images of her home. She had no idea of how to begin to take care of the problem or how it happened in the first place. Now she feels confident that once she writes the letters to the appropriate sources, the website in question will be removed from the Internet.

She gave me 5 out of 5 stars and says that she would expect to have paid about \$175.00 for the information although once the website gets taken down, she may feel it is worth much more.

7. A self-report of how I found the answers, what I have learned from this assignment, etc.

If I had been able to identify the perpetrator of this activity, there would have been a fairly easy and clear-cut answer and solution. I would have simply advised the client to send an email citing copyright infringement in a cease and desist letter. But since the identity of the owner/creator is hidden, the process became more complicated and difficult. Because this is a web/Internet issue, information about the subject was fairly accessible using the search strategies I have learned at Google.com (<http://www.google.com>). As I completed each step, I moved to the next one, building on the information I had previously assembled using newly acquired skills and knowledge. Finally, I felt that I had enough information that YourName could address the problem with some authority. This included the names and contact information of the domain name registrar and the ISP, the basic legalities of cybersquatting and copyright infringement on the Internet and what to include in a cease and desist letter.

I learned a great deal from this assignment, including listening well and paying close attention to the client. Because YourName is a mature woman, a novice computer user, not savvy in technological skills, no one took her seriously for quite some time. Finally, when I sat down to address the problem with her, I realized she did have an unusual but valid problem that needed resolving.

I learned how to obtain an IP address (ping), determine who are the domain name registrar and the ISP, using only the domain name of a web site. I became informed of some of the legalities of cybersquatting and copyright infringement on the web and what to do if you believe you have become a victim of a cybercrime. I was extremely surprised to learn that the ICANN arbitration process is as expensive as it is. I learned that it is a good idea to buy as many versions as you can afford of your own name as a domain name to prevent someone else from buying it. And I now know to search my name frequently in order to keep informed of what sites are posted that contain my name and information.

I am in the process of creating a website of my own and I do plan to create a page of information to share with others who may have experienced this sort of cybertheft and are looking for information about how to proceed. I also hope to help prevent this situation from occurring to others. I looked at several pages on Facebook that addressed this topic. It was treated very lightly, even as a joke. I do not think that many Internet users realize the extent to which someone can download material, edit it, and use it as their own,

How to Challenge Incidents of Domain Name Squatting and Copyright Infringement

Aleta Burgé

wreaking havoc with a person's reputation. Others do not realize they are committing a serious crime by stealing other people's names, images and content. I am certain there may be individuals who have had this experience and have no idea of how to rectify the situation. I feel confident that I am more informed and able to assist others in finding information related to this type of cybercrime as a result of this assignment.

Follow up:

Within two weeks after sending the cease and desist letters to the Domain registration provider and the Web Hosting Service Provider, the illicit website was removed from the internet.

Aleta Burgé