

ARBITRATION
AND
MEDIATION CENTER

ADMINISTRATIVE PANEL DECISION

Big Nerd Ranch, LLC v. orgi11g, eNon,LLC Case No. D2023-2832

1. The Parties

The Complainant is Big Nerd Ranch, LLC, United States of America ("U.S."), represented by Liad Whatstein & Co., Israel.

The Respondent is orgi11g, eNon,LLC, Hong Kong, China.

2. The Domain Name and Registrar

The disputed domain name

 signerdranchuk.com> is registered with Alibaba.com Singapore E-Commerce Private Limited (the "Registrar").

3. Procedural History

The Complaint was filed with the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center (the "Center") on July 3, 2023. On the same day, the Center transmitted by email to the Registrar a request for registrar verification in connection with the disputed domain name. Also on July 4, 2023, the Registrar transmitted by email to the Center its verification response disclosing registrant and contact information for the disputed domain name which differed from the named Respondent and contact information in the Complaint.

The Center sent an email communication to the Complainant on July 4, 2023 providing the registrant and contact information disclosed by the Registrar, and inviting the Complainant to submit an amendment to the Complaint. The Complainant filed an amended Complaint on July 5, 2023.

The Center verified that the Complaint together with the amended Complaint satisfied the formal requirements of the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the "Policy" or "UDRP"), the Rules for Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the "Rules"), and the WIPO Supplemental Rules for Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the "Supplemental Rules").

In accordance with the Rules, paragraphs 2 and 4, the Center formally notified the Respondent of the Complaint, and the proceedings commenced on July 7, 2023. In accordance with the Rules, paragraph 5, the due date for Response was July 27, 2023. The Respondent did not submit any response. Accordingly, the Center notified the Respondent's default on August 2, 2023.

The Center appointed Pablo A. Palazzi as the sole panelist in this matter on August 7, 2023. The Panel finds that it was properly constituted. The Panel has submitted the Statement of Acceptance and Declaration of Impartiality and Independence, as required by the Center to ensure compliance with the Rules, paragraph 7.

4. Factual Background

The Complainant Big Nerd Ranch operates a digital product development boot camp located in Atlanta, U.S. The program focuses primarily on iOS development, Android development, and front-end web development for online companies.

The Complainant is among others the owner of the following trademark registrations:

- U.S. Registration No. 6344906, registered on May 11, 2021 -- BIG NERD RANCH (Nice classes 16, 35, 41 and 42);
- European Union Registration No. 018232500, registered on November 3, 2020 -- BIG NERD RANCH (Nice classes 16, 35, 41 and 42);
- United Kingdom Registration No. UK00918232500, registered on November 3, 2020 -- BIG NERD RANCH (Nice classes 16, 35, 41 and 42); and

The Complainant operates the domain name "www.bignerdranch.com".

The disputed domain name was registered on April 25, 2023 and currently is not in use. However, the Complaint states that the disputed domain name has been used for phishing activity. The record shows that the disputed domain <u>name</u> resolves to a site that displays the Complainant's BIG NERD RANCH trademark, and it is used by the Respondent for a Phishing website pretending to be the Complainant's own site, and requesting users to input their usernames and passwords. The Phishing website contained a landing page which used Complainant's logo and was designed to defraud employees and potential employees of Complainant.

5. Parties' Contentions

A. Complainant

The Complainant contends that it has satisfied each of the elements required under the Policy for a transfer of the disputed domain name.

Notably, the Complainant contends that:

- the disputed domain name is confusingly similar to its trademarks;
- the Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in respect of the disputed domain name;
- the Respondent has registered and is using the disputed domain name in bad faith.

B. Respondent

The Respondent did not reply to the Complainant's contentions.

6. Discussion and Findings

Paragraph 4(a) of the Policy lists three elements, which a complainant must satisfy in order to succeed. The Complainant must satisfy that:

- (i) the disputed domain name is identical or confusingly similar to a trademark or service mark in which the Complainant has rights; and
- (ii) the Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in respect of the disputed domain name; and
- (iii) the disputed domain name has been registered and is being used in bad faith.

A. Identical or Confusingly Similar

It is well accepted that the first element functions primarily as a standing requirement. The standing (or threshold) test for confusing similarity involves a reasoned but relatively straightforward comparison between the Complainant's trademark and the disputed domain name. WIPO Overview of WIPO Panel Views on Selected UDRP Questions, Third Edition, ("WIPO Overview 3.0"), section 1.7.

Based on the available record, the Panel finds the Complainant has shown rights in respect of a trademark for the purposes of the Policy. <u>WIPO Overview 3.0</u>, section 1.2.1

The Panel finds the entirety of the mark is reproduced within the disputed domain name. Accordingly, the disputed domain name is confusingly similar to the mark for the purposes of the Policy. <u>WIPO Overview 3.0</u>, section 1.7.

While the addition of the term "uk" may bear on assessment of the second and third elements, the Panel finds the addition of such term does not prevent a finding of confusing similarity between the disputed domain name and the mark for the purposes of the Policy. <u>WIPO Overview 3.0</u>, section 1.8.

Based on the available record, the Panel finds the first element of the Policy has been established.

B. Rights or Legitimate Interests

Paragraph 4(c) of the Policy provides a list of circumstances in which the Respondent may demonstrate rights or legitimate interests in a disputed domain name.

While the overall burden of proof in UDRP proceedings is on the complainant, panels have recognized that proving a respondent lacks rights or legitimate interests in a domain name may result in the often impossible task of "proving a negative", requiring information that is often primarily within the knowledge or control of the respondent. As such, where a complainant makes out a *prima facie* case that the respondent lacks rights or legitimate interests, the burden of production on this element shifts to the respondent to come forward with relevant evidence demonstrating rights or legitimate interests in the domain name. If the respondent fails to come forward with such relevant evidence, the complainant is deemed to have satisfied the second element. WIPO Overview 3.0, section 2.1.

Having reviewed the record, the Panel finds the Complainant has established a *prima facie* case that the Respondent lacks rights or legitimate interests in the disputed domain name. The Respondent has not rebutted the Complainant's *prima facie* showing and has not come forward with any relevant evidence demonstrating rights or legitimate interests in the disputed domain name such as those enumerated in the Policy or otherwise.

Furthermore, the composition of the disputed domain name, comprising the Complainant's trademarks in their entirety and the addition of the geographical term "uk", together with the content of the website at the disputed domain name carries a risk of Internet user confusion.

Based on the available record, the Panel finds the second element of the Policy has been established.

C. Registered and Used in Bad Faith

The Panel notes that for the purposes of paragraph 4(a)(iii) of the Policy, paragraph 4(b) of the Policy establishes circumstances, in particular but without limitation, that if found by the Panel to be present, shall be evidence of the registration and use of a domain name in bad faith.

In the present case, the Panel is of the view that the Respondent was aware of the Complainant trademark since he registered a domain name that includes in its entirety the trademark of the Complainant and used it to impersonate the Complainant and commit fraud.

Paragraph 4(b) of the Policy sets out a list of non-exhaustive circumstances that may indicate that a domain name was registered and used in bad faith, but other circumstances may be relevant in assessing whether a respondent's registration and use of a domain name is in bad faith. <u>WIPO Overview 3.0</u>, section 3.2.1.

Panels have held that the use of a domain name for illegal activity (*e.g.*, the sale of counterfeit goods or illegal pharmaceuticals, phishing, distributing malware, unauthorized account access/hacking, impersonation/passing off, or other types of fraud) constitutes bad faith. <u>WIPO Overview 3.0</u>, section 3.4.

In the present case the disputed domain name was used for a phishing scheme as explained above.

Based on the available record, the Panel finds the third element of the Policy has been established.

7. Decision

For the foregoing reasons, in accordance with paragraphs 4(i) of the Policy and 15 of the Rules, the Panel orders that the disputed domain name,

signerdranchuk.com> be transferred to the Complainant.

/Pablo A. Palazzi/ Pablo A. Palazzi Sole Panelist

Date: August 21, 2023