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19 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
20 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
21 **OAKLAND DIVISION**

22 ELASTICSEARCH, INC., a Delaware  
23 corporation, ELASTICSEARCH B.V., a Dutch  
24 corporation,

25 Plaintiffs,

26 v.

27 FLORAGUNN GmbH, a German corporation,

28 Defendant.

Case No. 4:19-cv-05553-YGR

**ANSWER TO FIRST  
AMENDED  
COMPLAINT WITH  
COUNTERCLAIMS**

29 Defendant floragunn GmbH (“floragunn”) answers the Amended Complaint of  
30 Elasticsearch, Inc. and Elasticsearch B.V. (together “Elastic”) filed on November 26, 2019, as  
31 follows:  
32  
33  
34

**PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

1  
2 This case is about a large public company, Elastic (NYSE: ESTC), seeking to critically  
3 damage a small competitor, florigunn, by making false accusations of copyright infringement  
4 related to florigunn's only product -- a security "plugin" that florigunn developed for use with  
5 Elastic's popular Elasticsearch search engine and Kibana software. Elasticsearch is a search and  
6 analytics engine that allows users to build upon it and search out their own data. Elasticsearch  
7 may be accessed through various programming languages, including Java, Python, JavaScript, a  
8 REST API and others. Kibana is Elastic's user interface designed to manage and configure  
9 Elasticsearch and other Elastic products and to produce data visualizations including diagrams  
10 and dashboards. Elastic does not allege that florigunn's plugin infringes either Elasticsearch or  
11 Kibana. Indeed, Elastic encourages programmers to develop plugins to enhance the core  
12 functionality of Elasticsearch and Kibana. Rather, Elastic alleges that florigunn's security plugin  
13 infringes Elastic's own security plugin for Elasticsearch and Kibana.  
14  
15

16 Elastic's allegations of infringement are meritless. florigunn's security plugin for  
17 Elasticsearch (called "Search Guard") was developed before Elastic created its own security  
18 plugin product called Elastic Shield ("Shield"). When Elastic released Shield in 2015, Elastic  
19 and florigunn became competitors in the security plugin market. Rather than compete fairly  
20 with florigunn's product, Elastic commenced this action as part of its ongoing scheme to cause  
21 fear, uncertainty, and doubt among florigunn's customers and potential customers, irrespective  
22 of the lack of truth to its claims of infringement.  
23

24 Elastic has also contacted florigunn's existing customers directly to tell them, falsely,  
25 that they face legal exposure if they continued using florigunn's product, and offering Elastic's  
26 own security plugin as a "safe" substitute. Elastic has also posted false statements on Elastic's  
27 blog and elsewhere. In addition, Elastic's sales representatives have made false statements to  
28

1 floragunn’s clients and prospective clients about the origins of floragunn’s funding, and falsely  
2 claiming that former Elastic employees stole Elastic’s code and gave it to floragunn.

3           Unfortunately for floragunn, Elastic’s scheme has already begun to work. Several of  
4 floragunn’s customers have chosen not to renew their existing licenses from floragunn at a rate  
5 that is substantially higher than at any time in the floragunn’s history, floragunn’s revenues have  
6 begun to decline, and an unusually high number of floragunn’s customers are debating whether  
7 to renew their licenses.  
8

9           Yet as further set out in floragunn’s defenses below, floragunn’s source code was  
10 independently created. floragunn did not copy Elastic’s source code for its security plugin.  
11 Moreover, Elasticsearch and Kibana are themselves based on code not original to Elastic,  
12 including but not limited to Lucene, Netty, AngularJS, Lodash, and Node.js. Many aspects of an  
13 Elasticsearch or Kibana plugin are constrained by choices made by the programmers who wrote  
14 that code, by the need to function as a plugin to Elasticsearch or Kibana, or by other factors that  
15 limit the scope of copyright protection. Like Elasticsearch and Kibana, aspects of Shield are  
16 based on code not original to Elastic, including but not limited to open source libraries or code  
17 such as Lucene, Netty, AngularJS, Lodash, and Node.js., and therefore are not Elastic’s original  
18 expression or are otherwise not entitled to copyright protection.  
19

20           Other aspects of the code at issue concern standard, common, or stock programming  
21 practices. floragunn denies copying of any protectable expression original to Elastic.  
22

23           **ANSWERS TO SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS IN THE AMENDED COMPLAINT**

24           floragunn answers each of Elastic’s specific allegations in the Amended Complaint as  
25 follows:

26           **Paragraph 1**

27           Allegation: Elasticsearch, Inc. and elasticsearch B.V. (collectively “Elastic”)  
28 bring this action to remedy floragunn GmbH’s (“floragunn”) knowing and

1 willful infringement of Elastic’s copyright in the source code for Elastic’s X-  
2 Pack software.

3 Response: florigunn denies Elastic’s allegations set forth in paragraph 1 of the Amended  
4 Complaint, and further states that it has not infringed any of plaintiff’s source code.

5 **Paragraph 2**

6 Allegation: Elastic is the creator of the Elastic Stack suite of products that is  
7 centered on the popular and powerful Elasticsearch search and analytics engine.  
8 Leading companies and organizations like Cisco Systems, Facebook, and  
9 NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology use  
and depend upon Elasticsearch.

10 Response: florigunn denies having specific knowledge of whether Elastic is the “creator” of the  
11 “Elastic Stack” or whether Elasticsearch and whether the companies cited “use and depend” on  
12 Elasticsearch, and therefore denies knowledge or information sufficient to respond to Elastic’s  
13 allegations set forth in paragraph 2 of the amended complaint, and therefore denies such  
14 allegations.

15 **Paragraph 3**

16 Allegation: Elastic offers a set of features, known as X-Pack, that enhance and  
17 extend the Elastic Stack suite of products. In keeping with its longstanding  
18 commitment to openness, Elastic made the source code for X-Pack publicly  
19 available in 2018 subject to certain restrictions. Among other rights, Elastic  
clearly reserved commercial rights in X-Pack and its derivative works.

20 Response: (1) florigunn admits the allegations in the first sentence of paragraph 3 of the amended  
21 complaint. (2) As to the second sentence of paragraph 3, as described in more detail in response  
22 to the allegations, florigunn denies that Elastic has a “longstanding commitment to openness,”  
23 since the source code of the commercial parts of the Elastic Stack (formerly known as Shield,  
24 Watcher, and X-Pack among other names) were closed to the public from their initial release in  
25 January 2015 until April 2018. (3) As to the third sentence of paragraph 3, florigunn denies that  
26 “Elastic clearly reserved commercial rights in X-pack and its derivative works,” and refers the  
27 Court to its response to the allegations to paragraph 20 of the amended complaint below.  
28

1 **Paragraph 4**

2 Allegation: floragunn markets and distributes Search Guard, a plug-in for  
3 Elasticsearch that is intended to compete with the security features of X-Pack.  
4 Yet instead of fairly competing with Elastic and developing Search Guard with  
5 its own resources, floragunn copied multiple and critical portions of Elastic’s X-  
6 Pack proprietary security source code into its Search Guard product.

7 Response: (1) floragunn denies Elastic’s allegations in the first sentence of paragraph 4 of the  
8 amended complaint, and specifically notes that floragunn’s security plugin products (Search  
9 Guard and its predecessors ESP and Defender), were created and made available to the public as  
10 open code as early as 2013, years before Elastic’s security solution was ever made available.  
11 (2) floragunn denies Elastic’s allegations in the second sentence of paragraph 4 of the amended  
12 complaint, and specifically avers that at no time did floragunn “cop[y] multiple critical portions  
13 of Elastic’s X-Pack proprietary security” source code into Search Guard or any other product.

14  
15 **Paragraph 5**

16 Allegation: One particularly large incident of copying occurred just one month  
17 after Elastic publicly opened X-Pack’s source code. Elastic’s examination of  
18 floragunn’s then-publicly available code on GitHub demonstrates that, at that  
19 time, floragunn made dramatic alterations to Search Guard in a single, massive  
20 effort that it released—contrary to common programming practice and  
21 floragunn’s own past practices—without any substantive explanation.

22 Response: floragunn denies that it “copied” or “infringed” Elastic’s code and therefore denies  
23 Elastic’s allegations in paragraph 5 of the amended complaint. floragunn further states that the  
24 alterations to floragunn’s code were neither dramatic, nor contrary to common practices, and  
25 were driven by a client’s request, which is fully documented.

26  
27 **Paragraph 6**

28 Allegation: But this was not the beginning or the end of floragunn’s  
infringement. Elastic has now discovered evidence that floragunn’s copying and  
creation of derivative works from Elastic’s code extends back to at least 2015.  
Because Elastic had released that code only in binary form, moreover, it was  
necessary for floragunn to intentionally decompile that code to enable the copying  
and creation of derivative works. Furthermore, Elastic has now determined that

1 floragunn copied and created derivative works not only from Elastic’s X-Pack  
2 code containing security features for its Elasticsearch software—floragunn also  
3 copied and created derivative works from Elastic’s X-Pack code containing  
4 security features for its Kibana software.

4 Response: floragunn denies Elastic’s allegations in paragraph 6 of the amended complaint.

5 Furthermore, Elastic’s claim that it “has now discovered evidence” (emphasis added) that  
6 floragunn’s alleged copying of Elastic’s code “extends back to at least 2015” is particularly  
7 disingenuous since floragunn’s source code has been available and open for public inspection,  
8 including inspection by Elastic, continuously since 2015, and Shay Banon, the founder of  
9 Elastic, has previously (as early as 2016) made unsubstantiated assertions to floragunn that  
10 Search Guard somehow violated Elastic’s IP, but when pressed for specifics, Elastic never  
11 provided any. The fact that Elastic has been analyzing the source code for Search Guard for over  
12 four years, but has only been able to identify approximately 100 lines out of more than 60,000  
13 lines of code that allegedly have some similarity speaks volumes about the Elastic’s true  
14 intention in commencing this lawsuit.

16 **Paragraph 7**

17 Allegation: Once floragunn copied Elastic’s code, it then licensed its infringing  
18 Search Guard software to corporations and institutions, including a significant  
19 number that are located in the Northern District of California. These acts by  
20 floragunn induced further infringements of Elastic’s copyrights by those third  
21 parties, including through products and services offered by those third parties.  
22 For example, Elastic has now determined that the Amazon Elasticsearch Service  
23 and Open Distro for Elasticsearch from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), Inc. and Amazon Web  
24 Services, Inc., as well as Rackspace US, Inc.’s ObjectRocket for Elasticsearch  
25 and IBM Corporation’s Cloud Databases for Elasticsearch include and/or  
26 recently included infringing code.

24 Response: floragunn denies that it “copied” or “infringed” Elastic’s code, and that a  
25 significant number of its clients are located in this District, and therefore denies Elastic’s  
26 allegations in paragraph 7 of the amended complaint.

**Paragraph 8**

Allegation: floragunn’s response to Elastic’s infringement claims is also consistent with copyright infringement by floragunn. After the commencement of this lawsuit, Elastic issued takedown notices under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (“DMCA”) to websites that were hosting floragunn’s infringing code. Those websites removed floragunn’s code in response to Elastic’s notices. floragunn had the right to issue counter notifications to those websites to assert that floragunn was, contrary to Elastic’s notices, the owner of the copyright to the code in question. But Elastic has seen no such notices from floragunn because, on information and belief, floragunn issued no such notices. But what floragunn did do is telling: it moved hosting for downloads of its infringing code to a hosting provider that expressly advertises that it will not comply with the DMCA. The hosting provider’s website states: “Purchasing USA-based hosting for a site that is not legal to be run in America is not a sensible thing to do. Offshore hosting can be helpful for less scrupulous businesses who wish to bypass local laws or regulations, particularly for issues like copyright law, which is also known as no DMCA hosting.”

Response: floragunn denies that it has engaged in any copyright infringement and therefore denies Elastic’s allegations in paragraph 8 of the amended complaint. floragunn further states that Elastic mischaracterizes what the DMCA process is, and why floragunn moved its source code to an off-shore host after GitHub was served with a DMCA notice, and refers the Court to floragunn’s response to paragraph 76 of the amended complaint, below.

**Paragraph 9**

Allegation: floragunn’s unauthorized reproduction, creation of derivative works, and distribution of Elastic’s copyrighted software code constitutes copyright infringement under 17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.* floragunn is further liable for contributory copyright infringement because it intentionally induced Search Guard users and third parties that integrate Search Guard code into their own products and services to infringe Elastic’s copyrights. Elastic seeks injunctive and monetary relief to the maximum extent permitted by law.

Response: floragunn denies that it has engaged in any copyright infringement and therefore denies Elastic’s allegations in paragraph 9 of the amended complaint.

**Paragraph 10**

Allegation: Plaintiff Elasticsearch, Inc. is incorporated in Delaware; it has its principal place of business in Mountain View, California. Plaintiff elasticsearch B.V. is incorporated in the Netherlands.

1 Response: floragunn denies having knowledge or information sufficient to respond to Elastic’s  
2 allegations set forth in paragraph 10 of the amended complaint, and therefore denies such  
3 allegations.

4 **Paragraph 11**

5 Allegation: Defendant floragunn is a German company with a principal place  
6 of business in Berlin, Germany.

7 Response: floragunn admits the allegations in paragraph 11 of the amended complaint.  
8

9 **Paragraph 12**

10 Allegation: Elastic is aware that there are third party users and adopters of  
11 floragunn’s infringing Search Guard product and code. Elastic may seek leave to  
12 amend to add those third parties as defendants following discovery from  
13 floragunn.

14 Response: floragunn denies that Search Guard is an “infringing product” and therefore denies  
15 Elastic’s allegations in paragraph 12 of the amended complaint.

16 **Paragraph 13**

17 Allegation: Elastic’s claims for copyright infringement arise under the  
18 Copyright Act of 1976, 17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.*

19 Response: floragunn denies that it has engaged in any copyright infringement and therefore  
20 denies Elastic’s allegations in paragraph 13 of the amended complaint.

21 **Paragraph 14**

22 Allegation: This Court has original subject matter jurisdiction of this action  
23 under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338.

24 Response: floragunn admits that this Court has subject matter jurisdiction concerning the claims  
25 made by Elastic in this case, but denies that it has engaged in any action in violation of the  
26 Copyright Act of 1976.

27 **Paragraph 15**

28 Allegation: This Court has specific personal jurisdiction over floragunn  
because, among other reasons, floragunn has extensively offered and distributed



1 its infringing product containing Elastic’s copyrighted material to companies in  
2 California and purposefully committed within California the acts upon which  
3 Elastic’s claims arise. Additionally, to the extent floragunn has committed the  
4 illegal acts described herein outside of California, it did so knowing and intending  
that such acts would cause injury to Elastic at its principal place of business  
within California.

5 Response: floragunn denies Elastic’s allegations in paragraph 15 of the amended complaint, but  
6 does not challenge the Court’s personal jurisdiction over floragunn in connection with this  
7 litigation.

8 **Paragraph 16**

9 Allegation: Venue is proper in the Northern District of California under 28  
10 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) and 1391(c)(3) because a substantial part of the events or  
11 omissions giving rise to the claims alleged in this complaint occurred in this  
judicial district.

12 Response: floragunn denies that it has engaged in any acts or omissions “giving rise to the claims  
13 alleged in the complaint” but does not challenge that venue is proper in this judicial district.

14 **Paragraph 17**

15 Allegation: Because this action arises from Elastic’s assertion of its intellectual  
16 property rights, Northern District of California Local Rule 3.2(c) excludes this  
17 action from the division-specific venue rule and subjects this action to  
18 assignment on a district-wide basis.

19 Response: floragunn admits the allegation in paragraph 17.

20 **Paragraph 18**

21 Allegation: Elastic produces a core suite of search and analytics products  
22 known as Elastic Stack (formerly known as ELK Stack). The Elastic Stack  
23 consists of Elasticsearch, Logstash, Kibana, and Beats. Elasticsearch is a search  
24 and analytics engine. Logstash is a server-side data processing pipeline that  
25 ingests data from multiple sources simultaneously, transforms it, and then sends  
26 it to a “stash” like Elasticsearch. Kibana lets users visualize data with charts and  
graphs in Elasticsearch. Beats is a family of “data shipper” software that collects  
and centralizes data that feeds into the other products in Elastic Stack.

27 Response: floragunn admits the allegations in paragraph 18 of the amended complaint.  
28

1 **Paragraph 19**

2  
3 Allegation: X-Pack is a set of add-on features to Elastic's core Elastic Stack  
4 suite of products. X-Pack includes security, alerting, monitoring, reporting, and  
5 other add-ons to Elasticsearch, Kibana, and other products in the Elastic Stack.  
6 The predecessor to much of X-Pack was known as Shield. Elastic refers to Shield  
7 and X-Pack collectively herein as "X-Pack."

8 Response: (1) floragunn admits the allegations in the first sentence of paragraph 18, (2) but  
9 denies Elastic's allegations in the second sentence in paragraph 19 that the "predecessor of much  
10 of X-Pack was known as Shield." Shield was only one part of X-Pack (the security part).  
11 According to Elastic's own description, in addition to security X-Pack included "alerting,  
12 monitoring, reporting, graphic analytics, dedicated APM UI's and machine learning."

13 **Paragraph 20**

14 Allegation: Elastic has a longstanding commitment to opening the source code  
15 underlying many of its products in order to facilitate building a community that  
16 helps improve and advance Elastic's products to produce the best software  
17 possible. When Elastic releases the source code for its software, it does so under  
18 clearly delineated conditions.

19 Response: (1) floragunn denies the allegations in paragraph 20 of the amended complaint.  
20 Specifically, Elastic misleads when it claims that "it has a longstanding commitment to opening  
21 source code underlying many of its products," since it has no "longstanding" commitment to  
22 opening source in the case of X-Pack (including Shield) because the code for X-Pack was closed  
23 source software from the time it was first released in 2015 until Elastic finally opened the source  
24 code to the public in 2018. Before April 2018, it was impossible for third-party developers to  
25 contribute anything to the proprietary and closed-source X-Pack code. Search Guard, on the  
26 other hand, has been publicly available open code since it was first released in 2015, and its  
27 predecessor ESP since 2013. (2) Second, it is false that "When Elastic releases the source code  
28 for its software, it does so under clearly delineated conditions." For example, Elastic released

1 both its Apache 2 licensed code and its own Elastic licensed code in the same GitHub repository,  
2 causing significant confusion as to which license applied to which files. This practice is  
3 commonly referred to as “code mingling” and is highly discouraged by the Open Source  
4 community because it leads to situations where a single commit by a developer could contain  
5 both Apache2 and Elastics licensed code. Such commits are called “toxic” for obvious reasons.  
6

7 **Paragraph 21**

8 Allegation: In late April 2018, Elastic opened the source code for version 6.2.x  
9 of X-Pack. Elastic made the code available on Elastic’s public GitHub code  
10 repository for users to inspect, contribute, create issues, and open pull requests,  
11 all pursuant to the “Elastic License.” Elastic has released the source code for  
12 subsequent versions of X-Pack on GitHub, also under the “Elastic License.”

13 Response: floragunn admits Elastic’s allegation in the first sentence of paragraph 21 of the  
14 amended complaint that Elastic opened the source for version 6.2x of X-Pack in April 2018, but  
15 denies that Elastic made the code available solely pursuant to the “Elastic License.” floragunn  
16 denies all other allegations in paragraph 21 of the amended complaint.

17 **Paragraph 22**

18 Allegation: The Elastic License did not grant to floragunn or any other party the  
19 right to create copies or prepare derivative works for use in any production  
20 capacity. And to the extent floragunn acquired any rights pursuant to the Elastic  
21 License, those rights terminated immediately and automatically by virtue of  
22 floragunn’s breaches as described herein. Nor did any license applicable to  
23 earlier versions of X-Pack and/or Shield provide floragunn the right to create  
24 copies or prepare derivative works for use in any production capacity.

25 Response: floragunn denies the allegations of paragraph 22 of the amended complaint because  
26 the allegation implies that floragunn copied or prepared derivative works of X-Pack or Shield,  
27 which it did not. As for the legal interpretation of Elastic’s licenses, floragunn respectfully refers  
28 the Court to Elastic’s license to ascertain its terms.

29 **Paragraph 23**

30 Allegation: floragunn markets and distributes Search Guard, a plug-in for  
31 Elasticsearch that offers features similar to the security features that Elastic  
32 offers in X-Pack. floragunn makes the source code for Search Guard available

1 for review and inspection on its GitLab repositories under several different  
2 license agreements. (Before the commencement of this lawsuit, floragunn made  
3 the source code for Search Guard available through GitHub repositories.)

4 Response: floragunn denies Elastic’s allegations in the first sentence of paragraph 23 that  
5 floragunn’s “*Search Guard, a plug-in for Elasticsearch . . . offers features similar to the security*  
6 *features that Elastic offers in X-Pack.*” In fact, Search Guard always has, and continues to, offer  
7 more and different features than the X-Pack security plugin, although some features are similar.

8 **Paragraph 24**

9 Allegation: Search Guard is available as a “Community Edition” for free for  
10 certain uses, but floragunn charges customers for Enterprise and Compliance  
11 editions of Search Guard. floragunn prohibits users from, among other things,  
12 taking features from the Enterprise or Compliance editions of Search Guard into  
13 production without purchasing a license. In fact, floragunn explicitly warns its  
14 users that doing so “is illegal” and “can lead to serious legal consequences,  
15 which can bring more harm and costs to a company . . . .”

16 Response: floragunn admits the allegations in paragraph 24 of the amended complaint. Search  
17 Guard community edition is available free of charge, and the Enterprise and Compliance editions  
18 are available for a fee under different licenses. floragunn further states that it did not violate the  
19 terms of any Elastic license.

20 **Paragraph 25**

21 Allegation: Elastic is informed and believes, and, on that basis, alleges that  
22 after Elastic made the source code for X-Pack version 6.2.x publicly available,  
23 floragunn accessed significant portions of at least the version 6.2.x code, copied  
24 and/or created derivative works from that code, and reproduced and distributed it  
25 in the code for Search Guard.

26 Response: floragunn denies Elastic’s allegations in paragraph 25 of the amended complaint.

27 **Paragraph 26**

28 Allegation: On June 7, 2018, just over one month after Elastic made the source  
code for X-Pack version 6.2.x publicly available under the Elastic License,  
floragunn made a sudden and very large change to the Search Guard code. This  
change comprised 244 additions and 145 deletions of code. Many of these

1 changes involved the wholesale copying of the X-Pack code that Elastic opened  
2 little over a month before.

3 Response: floragunn denies that it had engaged in any copyright infringement and therefore  
4 denies Elastic's allegations in paragraph 26 of the amended complaint. floragunn denies that the  
5 commit referred to in paragraph 26 of the amended complaint was sudden, very large, or  
6 precipitated by the release of X-Pack version 6.2.x. floragunn denies that the changes the  
7 referenced commit involved wholesale copying of X-Pack code.

8 **Paragraph 27**

9 Allegation: A significant portion of floragunn's copying centered on the  
10 Document Level Security ("DLS") features in Elastic's X-Pack code. As the  
11 name would suggest, DLS allows an X-Pack customer to apply security settings  
12 to particular documents in the database.

13 Response: floragunn denies that it has engaged in any copyright infringement and therefore  
14 denies Elastic's allegations in paragraph 27 of the amended complaint. floragunn further states  
15 that, contrary to Elastic's assertions in the original complaint, which Elastic has removed from its  
16 amended complaint, the code "for computing the number of documents for DLS" is not  
17 "unique."

18 **Paragraph 28**

19 Allegation: As part of its June 7, 2018, changes, floragunn copied the  
20 implementations of at least two methods from the X-Pack code, getLiveDocs and  
21 numDocs, from the file DocumentSubsetReader.java.

22 Response: floragunn denies that it has engaged in any copyright infringement or that it copied  
23 any implementation of Elastic's code, and therefore denies Elastic's allegations in paragraph 28  
24 of the amended complaint.

25 **Paragraph 29**

26 Allegation: A comparison of Elastic's implementation of getLiveDocs in X-  
27 Pack and floragunn's implementation of method getLiveDocs in Search Guard  
28 shows that floragunn's implementation is substantively identical to Elastic's  
implementation:

```

1      Elastic's Implementation of getLiveDocs:
2          @Override
3          public Bits getLiveDocs() {
4              final Bits actualLiveDocs = in.getLiveDocs();
5              if (roleQueryBits == null) {
6                  // If we would a <code>null</code> liveDocs then that would mean that no
7                  docs are marked as deleted,
8                  // but that isn't the case. No docs match with the role query and therefor all
9                  docs are marked as deleted
10                 return new Bits.MatchNoBits(in.maxDoc());
11             } else if (actualLiveDocs == null) {
12                 return roleQueryBits;
13             } else {
14                 // apply deletes when needed:
15                 return new Bits() {
16                     @Override
17                     public boolean get(int index) {
18                         return roleQueryBits.get(index) && actualLiveDocs.get(index);
19                     }
20                     @Override
21                     public int length() {
22                         return roleQueryBits.length();
23                     }
24                 };
25             }
26         }

```

```

17     floragunn's Implementation of getLiveDocs:
18         @Override
19         public Bits getLiveDocs() {
20             if(dlsEnabled) {
21                 final Bits currentLiveDocs = in.getLiveDocs();
22                 if(bs == null) {
23                     return new Bits.MatchNoBits(in.maxDoc());
24                 } else if (currentLiveDocs == null) {
25                     return bs;
26                 } else {
27                     return new Bits() {
28                         @Override
29                         public boolean get(int index) {
30                             return bs.get(index) && currentLiveDocs.get(index);
31                         }
32                         @Override
33                         public int length() {
34                             return bs.length();
35                         }
36                     };
37                 }
38             }

```

```

    }
    return in.getLiveDocs(); //no dls
}

```

Response: floragunn denies that it has engaged in any copyright infringement and therefore denies Elastic’s allegations in paragraph 29 of the amended complaint. floragunn further denies that its implementation is substantively identical to Elastic’s implementation. In addition, floragunn further specifically denies that any similarities are due to copying of any protectable expression original to Elastic.

**Paragraph 30**

Allegation: By removing comments and superfluous blank lines, and by making variable names consistent, it becomes apparent that the Search Guard code is copied from or is, at least, a derivative work of Elastic’s code. (Elastic’s code is on the left; floragunn’s is on the right.) A larger version of this graphic is attached to this Complaint as Exhibit A.

<pre> @Override public Bits getLiveDocs() {     final Bits actualLiveDocs = in.getLiveDocs();     if (roleQueryBits == null) {         return new Bits.MatchNoBits(in.maxDoc());     } else if (actualLiveDocs == null) {         return roleQueryBits;     } else {         return new Bits() {             @Override             public boolean get(int index) {                 return roleQueryBits.get(index) &amp;&amp; actualLiveDocs.get(index);             }             @Override             public int length() {                 return roleQueryBits.length();             }         };     } } </pre>	<pre> @Override public Bits getLiveDocs() {     if(dlsEnabled) {         final Bits actualLiveDocs = in.getLiveDocs();         if(roleQueryBits == null) {             return new Bits.MatchNoBits(in.maxDoc());         } else if (actualLiveDocs == null) {             return roleQueryBits;         } else {             return new Bits() {                 @Override                 public boolean get(int index) {                     return roleQueryBits.get(index) &amp;&amp; actualLiveDocs.get(index);                 }                 @Override                 public int length() {                     return roleQueryBits.length();                 }             };         }     }     return in.getLiveDocs(); //no dls } </pre>
---	---

Response: floragunn denies that it has engaged in any copyright infringement and therefore denies Elastic’s allegations in paragraph 30 of the amended complaint. floragunn further denies that the changes Elastic proposes in paragraph 30 render anything “apparent.” floragunn specifically denies that the side-by-side comparison in paragraph 30, which Elastic created by deleting code text that appears in floragunn’s code and inserting code text that does not appear in floragunn’s code, as well as re-formatting floragunn’s source code text, supports the conclusions Elastic purports to make. floragunn notes that Elastic’s changes to floragunn’s actual code include:

- 1 a. Changed this: final Bits currentLiveDocs = in.getLiveDocs()  
 2 To this: final Bits actualLiveDocs = in.getLiveDocs()  
 3 b. Changed this: if(bs == null) }  
 4 To this: if(roleQueryBits == null) {  
 5 c. Changed this: } else if (currentLiveDocs == null {  
 6 return bs;  
 7 To this: } else if (actualLiveDocs == null) {  
 8 return roleQueryBits;  
 9 d. Changed this: return bs.get(index) && currentLiveDocs.get(index);  
 10 To this: return roleQueryBits.get(index) && actualLiveDocs.get(index);  
 11 e. Changed this: return bs.length();  
 12 To this: return roleQueryBits.length();  
 13

14 In short, the code on the “floragunn” side of the side-by-side comparison in paragraph 30 doesn’t  
 15 actually exist.

### 16 **Paragraph 31**

17 Allegation: Similarly, floragunn’s June 7, 2018 commit changed Search  
 18 Guard’s implementation of the method numDocs to be essentially identical to  
 19 Elastic’s implementation in X-Pack. Here is Elastic’s implementation, again  
 from the file DocumentSubsetReader.java:

```

20 @Override
21 public int numDocs() {
22     // The reason the implement this method is that numDocs should be
23     // equal to the number of set bits in liveDocs. (would be weird otherwise)
24     // for the Shield DSL use case this get invoked in the QueryPhase
25     // class (in core ES) if match_all query is used as main query
26     // and this is also invoked in tests.
27     if (numDocs == -1) {
28         final Bits liveDocs = in.getLiveDocs();
29         if (roleQueryBits == null) {
30             numDocs = 0;
31         } else if (liveDocs == null) {
32             numDocs = roleQueryBits.cardinality();
33         } else {
34             // this is slow, but necessary in order to be correct:
35             try {

```



```

1         DocIdSetIterator iterator = new FilteredDocIdSetIterator(new
2         BitSetIterator(roleQueryBits, roleQueryBits.approximateCardinality())) {
3             @Override
4             protected boolean match(int doc) {
5                 return liveDocs.get(doc);
6             }
7         };
8         int counter = 0;
9         for (int docId = iterator.nextDoc(); docId <
10        DocIdSetIterator.NO_MORE_DOCS; docId = iterator.nextDoc()) {
11            counter++;
12        }
13        numDocs = counter;
14    } catch (IOException e) {
15        throw ExceptionsHelper.convertToElastic(e);
16    }
17    }
18    }
19    return numDocs;
20    }

```

21 Response: floragunn denies that it has engaged in any copyright infringement and therefore
22 denies Elastic’s allegations in paragraph 31 of the amended complaint. floragunn further denies
23 that its implementation of numDocs is “essentially identical” to Elastic’s implementation.
24 floragunn specifically denies that any similarities are due to copying of any protectable
25 expression original to Elastic.

### 26 Paragraph 32

27 Allegation: Again, floragunn’s June 7, 2018, changes altered Search Guard’s
28 implementation of the method numDocs to be substantively identical to Elastic’s
29 implementation in X-Pack:

```

30     @Override
31     public int numDocs() {
32         if (dlsEnabled) {
33             if (this.numDocs == -1) {
34                 final Bits currentLiveDocs = in.getLiveDocs();
35                 if (bs == null) {
36                     this.numDocs = 0;
37                 } else if (currentLiveDocs == null) {
38                     this.numDocs = bs.cardinality();
39                 } else {
40                     try {

```

```

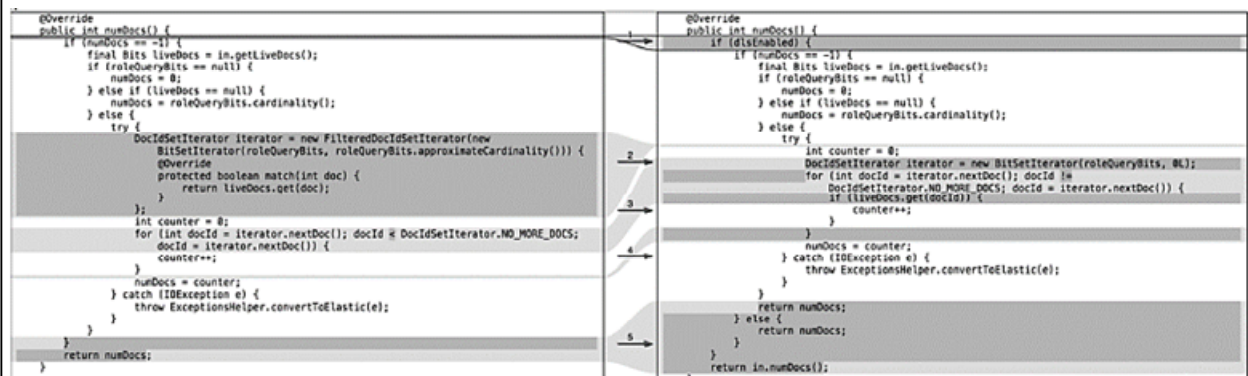
1         int localNumDocs = 0;
2         DocIdSetIterator it = new BitSetIterator(bs, 0L);
3         for (int doc = it.nextDoc(); doc !=
4         DocIdSetIterator.NO_MORE_DOCS; doc = it.nextDoc()) {
5             if (currentLiveDocs.get(doc)) {
6                 localNumDocs++;
7             }
8         }
9         this.numDocs = localNumDocs;
10        } catch (IOException e) {
11            throw ExceptionsHelper.convertToElastic(e);
12        }
13        return this.numDocs;
14    } else {
15        return this.numDocs; // cached
16    }
17 }
18 }
19 return in.numDocs();

```

Response: floragunn denies that it has engaged in any copyright infringement and therefore denies Elastic’s allegations in paragraph 32 of the amended complaint. floragunn further denies that its implementation of numDocs is “substantively identical” to Elastic’s implementation. floragunn specifically denies that any similarities are due to copying of any protectable expression original to Elastic.

**Paragraph 33**

Allegation: Ignoring non-substantive differences in the code (*i.e.*, removing blank lines, conforming variable names, and removing the superfluous “this.” in front of certain variables), it is clear that the floragunn code (on the right) is copied from or, at least, a derivative work of the Elastic code (on the left). A larger version of this graphic is attached to this Complaint as Exhibit B.



1 Response: floragunn denies that it has engaged in any copyright infringement and therefore  
 2 denies Elastic's allegations in paragraph 33 of the amended complaint. floragunn further denies  
 3 that the changes Elastic proposes in paragraph 33 render anything "apparent." floragunn  
 4 specifically denies that the side-by-side comparison in paragraph 33, which Elastic created by  
 5 deleting code text that appears in floragunn's code and inserting code text that does not appear in  
 6 floragunn's code, as well as re-formatting floragunn's source code text, supports the conclusions  
 7 Elastic purports to make. floragunn notes that Elastic's changes to floragunn's actual code  
 8 include:  
 9

- 10 a. Changed this: if (this.numDocs == -1) {  
 11 to this: if (numDocs == -1) {
- 12 b. Changed this: final Bits currentLiveDocs = in.getLiveDocs();  
 13 to this: final Bits liveDocs = in.getLiveDocs();
- 14 c. Changed this: if (bs == null) {  
 15 to this: if (roleQueryBits == null) {
- 16 d. Changed this: this.numDocs = 0;  
 17 to this: numDocs = 0;
- 18 e. Changed this: } else if (currentLiveDocs == null) {  
 19 to this: } else if (liveDocs == null) {
- 20 f. Changed this: this.numDocs = bs.cardinality();  
 21 to this: numDocs = roleQueryBits.cardinality();
- 22 g. Changed this: int localNumDocs = 0;  
 23 to this: int counter = 0;
- 24 h. Changed this: DocIdSetIterator it = new BitSetIterator(bs, 0L);  
 25 to this: DocIdSetIterator iterator = new BitSetIterator(roleQueryBits, 0L);
- 26 i. Changed this: for (int doc = it.nextDoc(); doc !=  
 27 to this: for (int docId = iterator.nextDoc(); docId !=
- 28 j. Changed this: DocIdSetIterator.NO\_MORE\_DOCS; doc = it.nextDoc()) {  
 to this: DocIdSetIterator.NO\_MORE\_DOCS; docId = iterator.nextDoc()) {
- k. Changed this: if (currentLiveDocs.get(doc)) {  
 to this: if (liveDocs.get(docId)) {
- l. Changed this: localNumDocs++;  
 to this: counter++;

- 1           m. Changed this: `this.numDocs = localNumDocs;`  
             to this:        `numDocs = counter;`
- 2
- 3           n. Changed this: `return this.numDocs;`  
             to this:        `return numDocs;`
- 4
- 5           o. Changed this: `return this.numDocs; // cached`  
             to this:        `return numDocs;`

6 In short, the code on the “floragunn” side of the side-by-side comparison in paragraph 33 doesn’t  
 7 actually exist.

8

9 **Paragraph 34**

10 Allegation: floragunn’s June 7, 2018, changes also included several other  
 11 alterations to Search Guard that mimic X-Pack, including, at least: (1) changing  
 12 the computation of Search Guard’s BitSet from an inferior IndexSearcher to  
 align itself with how X-Pack computes the BitSet; and (2) changing computation  
 of live documents to match the X-Pack implementation.

13 Response: floragunn denies that it has engaged in any copyright infringement and  
 14 therefore denies Elastic’s allegations in paragraph 34 of the amended complaint.  
 15 floragunn further specifically denies that it made changes to “mimic” X-Pack.

16 **Paragraph 35**

17 Allegation: floragunn took efforts to keep its misconduct concealed. For  
 18 example, the only explanation floragunn provided for the changes it made on  
 19 June 7 was “Improve dls/fls.” This is a strikingly brief explanation in light of the  
 20 significant changes floragunn had committed to its code base. And such minimal  
 21 explanation is inconsistent not only with standard computer programming  
 practices but is also inconsistent with floragunn’s explanations accompanying its  
 commits of other code.

22 Response: floragunn denies the allegations in paragraph 35 and likewise denies that it  
 23 engaged in any misconduct or kept any changes to its code “concealed.” floragunn  
 24 further denies that the comment accompanying its commit is inconsistent with its past  
 25 practices, which have often included commits with substantial changes and minimal  
 26 comments, such as:

27

28

Repository	Commit ID	Changes	Comment
searchguard	c04d1cc71d5bbb6d7045fc519fcaee8278d1e8a2	603 additions and 210 deletions	"Fix CCS dnfof"
searchguard	dba296587fb1d828d70295478dbf0736492149ed	30 additions and 1 deletion	"Fix ITT-1386"
searchguard	4b5cb3fa077740923863e3a24c1de5fd91996c85	3 additions and 2 deletions	"fix ITT-1383"
searchguard-enterprise-modules	62b094177484c544a22134fcaaf8fce1b5e5e34c	299 additions and 4 deletions.	"Make LDAP work with Java 11"
searchguard-enterprise-modules	2b5305cc4de75a814e00a21ccc95683171035552	411 additions and 12 deletions	Fix ITT-1563
searchguard-enterprise-modules	bfd8511bc0a360ed7a967b787dd349a889986f4	1,861 additions and 222 deletions	Landed SAML support
searchguard-enterprise-modules	a2bc973f890da4f3b06e7a64b6a4f4318dbeaaa2	224 additions and 13 deletions	Fix ITT-1269 and ITT-1268
searchguard-enterprise-modules	8be1c2c3a12114c1659e9111a13fc792a276a4e2	46 additions and 52 deletions.	fix dls perf regression
searchguard-enterprise-modules	08cb5d512b353d94b5214ce958bd2c94d7906415	140 additions and 101 deletions.	Fix ITT-1245 and ITT-1244
searchguard-enterprise-modules	14daed88dbd0de01d90c0dc20de85cefb87edc9b	324 additions and 53 deletions	bug fixes, more test cases
searchguard-enterprise-modules	700c1e1fa84f754c2855416bf5137d445dc50aa2	106 additions and 53 deletions	json patch diffs
searchguard-enterprise-modules	379cdab523f07563db56afeac7826ad4f02c4323	100 additions and 520 deletions.	Fix mt interceptor
search-guard-rest-api	d0232a4b11b88d62ed8317e558c8341a5f8b0d38	139 additions and 11 deletions	added roles
new-proxy-module	f314ac612b43d916d8d2534923d06d3a2f2987ce	158 additions and 137 deletions	Bug fixes & renaming

### **Paragraph 36**

Allegation: floragunn's June 7, 2018, changes also lack evidence that floragunn undertook unit testing of the code—yet another absence that is inconsistent with common programming practice and different from floragunn's other public code. This too strongly suggests that floragunn simply copied Elastic's code.

Response: floragunn denies the allegations in paragraph 36 of the amended complaint. floragunn specifically denies that new unit tests were required by the commit, which did not add new functionality to the code, but rather addressed execution speed and performance. floragunn

1 denies that the commit was inconsistent with common programming practice, and denies that it  
2 was different from its past practice. floragunn further denies that anything “suggests” copying.

3 **Paragraph 37**

4 Allegation: Examination of floragunn’s Search Guard code reveals that its  
5 recent acts of infringement are consistent with a larger and longstanding pattern  
6 of misconduct.

7 Response: floragunn denies the allegations set out in paragraph 37 of the amended complaint.

8 floragunn denies that there are any “acts of infringement” and denies that there was any  
9 “misconduct.”

10 **Paragraph 38**

11 Allegation: Code released by floragunn as part of Search Guard in 2016  
12 contains the following commented out—that is, non-functional—code:

13 // "internal:\*",  
14 // "indices:monitor/\*",  
15 // "cluster:monitor/\*",  
16 // "cluster:admin/reroute",  
17 // "indices:admin/mapping/put"

18 Response: floragunn admits the allegations in paragraph 38, but specifically denies that these  
19 comments are due to any copying of Elastic code. Instead, these five lines document the “action  
20 names” generated by Elasticsearch while it runs.

21 **Paragraph 39**

22 Allegation: That code was copied verbatim from the following functional  
23 Elastic code in Shield (Elastic’s security product that preceded X-Pack) that was  
24 released in or before 2015:

25 protected static final Predicate<String> PREDICATE =  
26 new AutomatonPredicate(patterns(  
27 "internal:\*",  
28 "indices:monitor/\*", // added for marvel  
"cluster:monitor/\*", // added for marvel  
"cluster:admin/reroute", // added for DiskThresholdDecider.DiskListener  
"indices:admin/mapping/put" // ES 2.0  
MappingUpdatedAction -  
updateMappingOnMasterSynchronously  
));

1 Response: floragunn denies the allegations in paragraph 39, and incorporates by reference its  
2 response to paragraph 38.

3 **Paragraph 40**

4 Allegation: Elastic had not publicly released this source code for Shield at the  
5 time of floragunn's copying and/or creation of derivative works from that code.  
6 Elastic is informed and believes and, on that basis, alleges that floragunn  
7 decompiled Elastic's binaries or otherwise gained access to Elastic's source code  
8 to create the copies and/or derivative works referenced in Paragraph 38.

9 Response: floragunn denies that it copied or created derivative works, and on that basis denies  
10 the first sentence. floragunn denies that it decompiled Elastic's binaries, or that it otherwise  
11 gained access to Elastic's source code to copy the lines referenced in paragraph 38, and on that  
12 basis denies the second sentence. floragunn further incorporates by reference its response to  
13 paragraph 38.

14 **Paragraph 41**

15 Allegation: Code released by floragunn on June 6, 2016, into the search-guard-  
16 module-dlsfls repository for Search Guard contains the following:

```
17     @Override
18     public void binaryField(final FieldInfo, final byte[] value) throws IOException {
19
20         if (fieldInfo.name.equals("_source")) {
21             final BytesReference bytesRef = new ByteArray(value);
22             final Tuple<XContentType, Map<String, Object>> bytesRefTuple =
23                 XContentHelper.convertToMap(bytesRef, false);
24             final Map<String, Object> filteredSource =
25                 XContentMapValues.filter(bytesRefTuple.v2(), includes, null);
26             final XContentBuilder xBuilder =
27                 XContentBuilder.builder(bytesRefTuple.v1().xContent()).map(filteredSource);
28                 delegate.binaryField(fieldInfo, xBuilder.bytes().toBytes());
29         } else {
30             delegate.binaryField(fieldInfo, value);
31         }
32     }
```

26 Response: floragunn admits the allegations in paragraph 41, but specifically denies that the code  
27 is the result of copying of Elastic code.  
28

**Paragraph 42**

Allegation: That code is substantively identical to the following Elastic code that had previously been included in Shield:

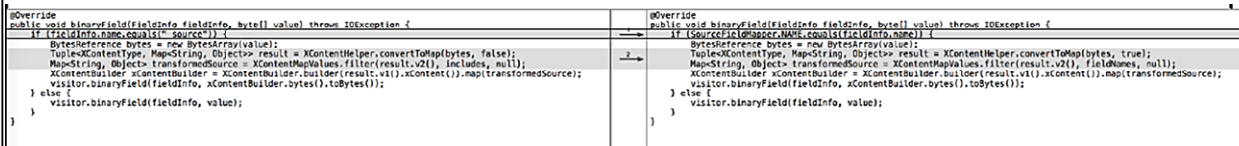
```

@Override
public void binaryField(FieldInfo, byte[] value) throws IOException {
    if (SourceFieldMapper.NAME.equals(fieldInfo.name)) {
        // for _source, parse, filter out the fields we care about, and serialize back
        // downstream
        BytesReference bytes = new BytesArray(value);
        Tuple<XContentType, Map<String, Object>> result =
            XContentHelper.convertToMap(bytes, true);
        Map<String, Object> transformedSource = XContentMapValues.filter(result.v2(),
            fieldNames, null);
        XContentBuilder =
            XContentBuilder.builder(result.v1().xContent()).map(transformedSource);
        visitor.binaryField(fieldInfo, xContentBuilder.bytes().toBytes());
    } else {
        visitor.binaryField(fieldInfo, value);
    }
}
    
```

Response: florigunn denies the allegations in paragraph 42. florigunn further denies that its code is “substantively identical” to Elastic’s code that had previously been included in Shield. florigunn specifically denies that any similarities are due to copying of any protectable expression original to Elastic.

**Paragraph 43**

Allegation: Ignoring non-substantive differences in the code, it is clear that the florigunn code (on the left) is copied from or, at least, a derivative work of the Elastic code (on the right). A larger version of this graphic is attached to this Complaint as Exhibit C.



Response: florigunn denies that it has engaged in any copyright infringement and therefore denies Elastic’s allegations in paragraph 43 of the amended complaint. florigunn further denies that the changes Elastic proposes in paragraph 43 render anything “clear.” florigunn specifically



1 denies that the side-by-side comparison in paragraph 43, which Elastic created by deleting code  
 2 text that appears in floragunn's code and inserting code text that does not appear in floragunn's  
 3 code, as well as re-formatting floragunn's source code text, supports the conclusions Elastic  
 4 purports to make. floragunn notes that Elastic's changes to floragunn's actual code include:

5 a. Changed this:

6 `public void binaryField(final FieldInfo, final byte[] value) throws IOException {`  
 7

8 to this:

9 `public void binaryField(FieldInfo fieldInfo, byte[] value) throws IOException {`

10 b. Changed this: `final BytesReference bytesRef = new ByteArray(value);`  
 11 to this: `BytesReference bytes = new ByteArray(value);`

12 c. Changed this: `final Tuple<XContentType, Map<String, Object>> bytesRefTuple=`  
 13 to this: `Tuple<XContentType, Map<String, Object>> result =`

14 d. Changed this: `XContentHelper.convertToMap(bytesRef, false);`  
 15 to this: `XContentHelper.convertToMap(bytes, false);`

16 e. Changed this: `final Map<String, Object> filteredSource =`  
 17 to this: `Map<String, Object> transformedSource =`

18 f. Changed this: `XContentMapValues.filter(bytesRefTuple.v2(), includes, null);`  
 19 to this: `XContentMapValues.filter(result.v2(), includes, null);`

20 g. Changed this: `final XContentBuilder xBuilder =`  
 21 to this: `XContentBuilder xContentBuilder =`

22 h. Changed this:  
 23 `XContentBuilder.builder(bytesRefTuple.v1().xContent()).`  
 24 `map(filteredSource);`

25 to this:

26 `XContentBuilder.builder(result.v1().xContent()).`  
 27 `map(transformedSource);`

28 i. Changed this: `delegate.binaryField(fieldInfo, xBuilder.bytes().toBytes());`  
 to this: `visitor.binaryField(fieldInfo, xContentBuilder.bytes().toBytes());`

j. Changed this: `delegate.binaryField(fieldInfo, value);`  
 to this: `visitor.binaryField(fieldInfo, value);`

**Paragraph 44**

Allegation: Elastic had not publicly released this source code for Shield at the time of floragunn's copying and/or creation of derivative works from that code. Elastic is informed and believes and, on that basis, alleges that floragunn decompiled Elastic's binaries or otherwise gained access to Elastic's source code to create the copies and/or derivative works referenced in Paragraph 41.

Response: floragunn denies that it copied or created derivative works, and on that basis denies the first sentence. floragunn denies that it decompiled Elastic's binaries, or that it otherwise gained access to Elastic's source code to copy the material referenced in paragraph 41, and on that basis denies the second sentence.

**Paragraph 45**

Allegation: Infringement by floragunn is evident in additional code in the ShieldNettyHttpServerTransport file. Code released by floragunn on December 10, 2016 as part of the Search Guard SearchGuardSSLNettyHttpServerTransport file contains the following content:

```
@Override
protected void exceptionCaught(ChannelHandlerContext ctx, ExceptionEvent e) throws
Exception {
    if(this.lifecycle.started()) {
        final Throwable cause = e.getCause();
        if(cause instanceof NotSslRecordException) {
            logger.warn("Someone speaks plaintext instead of ssl, will close the channel");
            ctx.getChannel().close();
            return;
        } else if (cause instanceof SSLException) {
            logger.error("SSL Problem "+cause.getMessage(),cause);
            ctx.getChannel().close();
            return;
        } else if (cause instanceof SSLHandshakeException) {
            logger.error("Problem during handshake "+cause.getMessage());
            ctx.getChannel().close();
            return;
        }
    }
    super.exceptionCaught(ctx, e);
}
```

1 Response: floragunn denies that it has engaged in any copyright infringement, admits that  
 2 floragunn released the code in paragraph 45, but denies that the code was released on December  
 3 10, 2016.

4 **Paragraph 46**

5  
 6 Allegation: That code is substantively identical to the following Elastic code  
 7 included in the binary of Elastic Shield released June 24, 2015:

```

8  @Override
9  protected void exceptionCaught(ChannelHandlerContext ctx, ExceptionEvent e)
10 throws
11 Exception {
12 if (!lifecycle.started()) {
13 return;
14 }
15 Throwable t = e.getCause();
16 if (isNotSslRecordException(t)) {
17 if (logger.isTraceEnabled()) {
18 logger.trace("received plaintext http traffic on a https channel, closing
19 connection
20 {}", t, ctx.getChannel());
21 } else {
22 logger.warn("received plaintext http traffic on a https channel, closing
23 connection
24 {}", ctx.getChannel());
25 }
26 ctx.getChannel().close();
27 } else if (isCloseDuringHandshakeException(t)) {
28 if (logger.isTraceEnabled()) {
29 logger.trace("connection {} closed during handshake", t, ctx.getChannel());
30 } else {
31 logger.warn("connection {} closed during handshake", ctx.getChannel());
32 }
33 ctx.getChannel().close();
34 } else {
35 super.exceptionCaught(ctx, e);
36 }
37 }

```

26 Response: floragunn denies that it has engaged in any copyright infringement and therefore  
 27 denies Elastic's allegations in paragraph 46. floragunn further denies that its code is  
 28 "substantively identical" to code in the binary of Elastic Shield released on June 25, 2015.

floragunn specifically denies that any similarities are due to copying of any protectable expression original to Elastic.

**Paragraph 47**

Allegation: Ignoring non-substantive differences in the code, it is clear that the floragunn code (on the left) is copied from or, at least, a derivative work of the Elastic code (on the right). A larger version of this graphic is attached to this Complaint as Exhibit D.

Response: floragunn denies that it has engaged in any copyright infringement and therefore denies Elastic’s allegations in paragraph 47 of the amended complaint. floragunn further denies that the changes Elastic proposes in paragraph 47 render anything “clear.” floragunn specifically denies that the side-by-side comparison in paragraph 47, which Elastic created by deleting code text that appears in floragunn’s code and inserting code text that does not appear in floragunn’s code, as well as re-formatting floragunn’s source code text, supports the conclusions Elastic purports to make. floragunn notes that Elastic’s changes to

floragunn’s actual code include:

- a. Changed this: if(this.lifecycle.started()) {  
to this: if(!lifecycle.started()) {
- b. Added this: super.exceptionCaught(ctx, e);  
return;  
}
- c. Changed this: final Throwable cause = e.getCause();  
to this: Throwable t = e.getCause();
- d. Changed this: if(cause instanceof NotSslRecordException) {  
to this: if(t instanceof NotSslRecordException) {

1 e. Changed this: return;  
2 to this: } else if (cause instanceof SSLException) {  
3 } else if (t instanceof SSLException) {

3 f. Changed this: logger.error("SSL Problem "+cause.getMessage(),cause);  
4 to this: logger.error("SSL Problem "+t.getMessage(),t);

5 g. Changed this: return;  
6 to this: } else if (cause instanceof SSLHandshakeException) {  
7 } else if (t instanceof SSLHandshakeException) {

7 h. Changed this: logger.error("Problem during handshake "+cause.getMessage());  
8 to this: logger.error("Problem during handshake "+t.getMessage());

8 i. Changed this: return;  
9 }  
10 }  
11 super.exceptionCaught(ctx, e);  
12 }

12 to this: } else {  
13 super.exceptionCaught(ctx, e);  
14 }

**Paragraph 48**

15 Allegation: Elastic had not publicly released this source code for Shield at the  
16 time of florigunn's copying and/or creation of derivative works from that code.  
17 Elastic is informed and believes and, on that basis, alleges that florigunn  
18 decompiled Elastic's binaries or otherwise gained access to Elastic's source code  
19 to create the copies and/or derivative works referenced in Paragraph 45.

19 Response: florigunn denies that it copied or created derivative works, and on that basis  
20 denies the first sentence. florigunn denies that it decompiled Elastic's binaries, or that it  
21 otherwise gained access to Elastic's source code to copy the material referenced in  
22 paragraph 45, and on that basis denies the second sentence.

**Paragraph 49**

24 Allegation: Subsequent investigation has also revealed florigunn's copying  
25 and/or creation of derivative works from code from the X-Pack plugin for  
26 Elastic's Kibana product. The infringed code that Elastic has identified comes  
27 from the X-Pack Kibana elements Get Next URL, Saved Objects Client,  
28 AngularJS Management Screens, callWithRequestFactory, and  
fetchAllFromScroll. In addition to the examples below, Elastic has identified  
copying and/or creation of derivative works in April 5, 2017, August 6, 2017,  
and June 4, 2019 commits to Search Guard.

1 Response: floragunn denies that it has copied or created derivative works from code  
 2 from the X-Pack plugin for Elastic's Kibana product, and therefore denies the  
 3 allegations of paragraph 49 of the amended complaint.

4 **Paragraph 50:**

5 Allegation: As one example, Search Guard code released by floragunn on  
 6 March 31, 2018 in get\_next\_url.js contains the following code:

```
7     const { query, hash } = parse(currentUrl, true);
8     if (!query.nextUrl) {
9         return `${basePath}/`;
10    }
11    const { protocol, hostname, port, pathname } = parse(query.nextUrl);
12    if (protocol || hostname || port) {
13        return `${basePath}/`;
14    }
15    if (!String(pathname).startsWith(basePath)) {
16        return `${basePath}/`;
17    }
18    return query.nextUrl + (hash || "");
```

15 Response: floragunn admits that the Search Guard code released on March 31, 2018  
 16 contained that code, but denies that the code is “one example” of anything.

17 **Paragraph 51:**

18 Allegation: That code closely mirrors the following code that Elastic included  
 19 in a bug fix to the X-Pack Kibana plugin in parse\_next.js on April 4, 2017:

```
20    const { query, hash } = parse(href, true);
21    if (!query.next) {
22        return `${basePath}/`;
23    }
24    const { protocol, hostname, port, pathname } = parse(query.next);
25    if (protocol || hostname || port) {
26        return `${basePath}/`;
27    }
28    if (!String(pathname).startsWith(basePath)) {
29        return `${basePath}/`;
30    }
31    return query.next + (hash || "");
```

28 Response: floragunn denies that it has engaged in any copyright infringement and

1 therefore denies Elastic's allegations in paragraph 51 of the amended complaint.

2 florigunn further denies its code "closely mirrors" Elastic's code. florigunn specifically  
3 denies that any similarities are due to copying of any protectable expression original to  
4 Elastic.

5 **Paragraph 52:**

6 Allegation: Ignoring non-substantive differences in the code, it is clear that the  
7 florigunn code in Paragraph 50 is copied from, or at least a derivative work of,  
8 the Elastic code in Paragraph 51.

9 Response: florigunn denies that it has engaged in any copyright infringement and

10 therefore denies Elastic's allegations in paragraph 52 of the amended complaint.

11 florigunn denies that it is "clear that" the florigunn code in paragraph 50 is copied from  
12 or at least a derivative work of, the Elastic code in paragraph 51, and specifically denies  
13 that any similarities are due to copying of any protectable expression original to Elastic.  
14

15 **Paragraph 53:**

16 Allegation: As another example, Search Guard code released by florigunn on  
17 October 28, 2018 in get\_next\_url.js contains the following code:

```
18     const {query, hash} = parse(currentUrl, true, true);
19     if (!query.nextUrl) {
20         return `${basePath}/`;
21     }
22     const { protocol, hostname, port, pathname } = parse(query.nextUrl, false, true);
23     if (protocol !== null || hostname !== null || port !== null) {
24         return `${basePath}/`;
25     }
26     if (!String(pathname).startsWith(basePath)) {
27         return `${basePath}/`;
28     }
29     return query.nextUrl + (hash || "");
```

30 Response: florigunn admits that the Search Guard code released on October 28, 2018  
31 contained that code, but denies that the code is "another example" of anything.

**Paragraph 54:**

Allegation: That code is nearly identical to the following code that Elastic included in a bug fix to the X-Pack Kibana plugin in parse\_next.js on January 28, 2018:

```

const {query, hash} = parse(href, true);
if (!query.next) {
  return `${basePath}/`;
}
const { protocol, hostname, port, pathname } = parse(
  query.next,
  false,
  true
);
if (protocol !== null || hostname !== null || port !== null) {
  return `${basePath}/`;
}
if (!String(pathname).startsWith(basePath)) {
  return `${basePath}/`;
}
return query.next + (hash || "");
}

```

Response: floragunn denies that it has engaged in any copyright infringement and therefore denies Elastic's allegations in paragraph 54 of the amended complaint. floragunn further denies its code is "nearly identical" to Elastic's code. floragunn specifically denies that any similarities are due to copying of any protectable expression original to Elastic.

**Paragraph 55:**

Allegation: Ignoring non-substantive differences in the code, it is clear that the floragunn code in Paragraph 53 is copied from, or at least a derivative work of, the Elastic code in Paragraph 54.

Response: floragunn denies that it has engaged in any copyright infringement and therefore denies Elastic's allegations in paragraph 55 of the amended complaint. floragunn denies that it is "clear" that the floragunn code in paragraph 53 is copied from, or at least a derivative work of, the Elastic code in paragraph 54.



**Paragraph 56:**

Allegation: As another example, Search Guard code released by floragunn on October 28, 2018 in `get_next_url.js` contains the following code:

```
import { once } from 'lodash';
import { elasticsearchSignalsPlugin } from '../elasticsearch_signals_plugin';
import { CLUSTER } from '../../utils/signals/constants';
const callWithRequest = once((server) => {
  const { callWithRequest } =
  server.plugins.elasticsearch.createCluster(CLUSTER.ALERTING, {
    plugins: [elasticsearchSignalsPlugin]
  });
  return callWithRequest;
});
export const callWithRequestFactory = (server, request) =>
  (...rest) => callWithRequest(server)(request, ...rest)
```

Response: floragunn admits that the Search Guard code released on October 28, 2018 contained that code, but denies that the code is “another example” of anything.

**Paragraph 57:**

Allegation: That code is nearly identical to the following Elastic code that occurs multiple places within the X-Pack Kibana plugin, including in a February 28, 2019 commit to `call_with_request_factory.js` reproduced here:

```
import { once } from 'lodash';
import { elasticsearchJsPlugin } from '../elasticsearch_js_plugin';
const callWithRequest = once((server) => {
  const config = { plugins: [ elasticsearchJsPlugin ] };
  const cluster = server.plugins.elasticsearch.createCluster('watcher', config);

  return cluster.callWithRequest;
});
export const callWithRequestFactory = (server, request) => {
  return (...args) => {
    return callWithRequest(server)(request, ...args);
  };
};
```

Response: floragunn denies that it has engaged in any copyright infringement and therefore denies Elastic’s allegations in paragraph 57 of the amended complaint. floragunn further denies its code is “nearly identical” to Elastic’s code. floragunn specifically denies that any similarities are due to copying of any protectable expression original to Elastic.

**Paragraph 58:**

Allegation: Ignoring non-substantive differences in the code, it is clear that the florigunn code in Paragraph 56 is copied from, or at least a derivative work of, the Elastic code in Paragraph 57.

Response: florigunn denies that it has engaged in any copyright infringement and therefore denies Elastic's allegations in paragraph 58 of the amended complaint. florigunn denies that it is "clear that" the florigunn code in paragraph 56 is copied from or at least a derivative work of, the Elastic code in paragraph 57, and specifically denies that any similarities are due to copying of any protectable expression original to Elastic.

**Paragraph 59:**

Allegation: As one more example, Search Guard code released by florigunn also on August 30, 2019 in `fetch_all_from_scroll.js` contains the following code:

```
import { ES_SCROLL_SETTINGS } from '.././.././././utils/signals/constants';
export function fetchAllFromScroll(response, callWithRequest, allHits = []) {
  const { _scroll_id: scrollId, hits: { hits = [] } } = response;
  if (hits.length) {
    allHits.push(...hits);
    return callWithRequest('scroll', {
      body: {
        scroll: ES_SCROLL_SETTINGS.KEEPALIVE,
        scroll_id: scrollId
      }
    }).then(_response => fetchAllFromScroll(_response, callWithRequest, allHits));
  }
  return Promise.resolve(allHits);
}
```

Response: florigunn admits that the Search Guard code released on August 30, 2019 contained that code, but denies that the code is "one more example" of anything.

**Paragraph 60:**

Allegation: That code very closely mirrors the following Elastic code included in an April 6, 2017 commit to `fetch_all_from_scroll.js` reproduced here:

```

1     import { get } from 'lodash';
2     import { ES_SCROLL_SETTINGS } from '.././../common/constants';
3     export function fetchAllFromScroll(response, callWithRequest, hits = []) {
4         const newHits = get(response, 'hits.hits', []);
5         const scrollId = get(response, '_scroll_id');
6         if (newHits.length > 0) {
7             hits.push(...newHits);
8             return callWithRequest('scroll', {
9                 body: {
10                    scroll: ES_SCROLL_SETTINGS.KEEPALIVE,
11                    scroll_id: scrollId
12                }
13            })
14            .then(innerResponse => {
15                return fetchAllFromScroll(innerResponse, callWithRequest, hits);
16            });
17        }
18        return Promise.resolve(hits);
19    }

```

Response: florigunn denies that it has engaged in any copyright infringement and therefore denies Elastic's allegations in paragraph 60 of the amended complaint. florigunn further denies its code "very closely mirrors" Elastic's code. florigunn specifically denies that any similarities are due to copying of any protectable expression original to Elastic.

**Paragraph 61:**

Allegation: Ignoring non-substantive differences in the code, it is clear that the florigunn code in Paragraph 59 is copied from, or at least a derivative work of, the Elastic code in Paragraph 60.

Response: florigunn denies that it has engaged in any copyright infringement and therefore denies Elastic's allegations in paragraph 61 of the amended complaint. florigunn denies that it is "clear" that the florigunn code in paragraph 59 is copied from, or at least a derivative work of, the Elastic code in paragraph 60, and specifically denies that any similarities are due to copying of any protectable expression original to Elastic

1 **Paragraph 62:**

2 Allegation: A comment made by a floragunn programmer in a June 4, 2019  
3 Search Guard commit provides further proof of copying because it indicates that  
4 the programmer did not understand the reason that a variable in the source code  
5 was formatted in a particular way. Programmers must choose the format or  
6 formats for the names of variables in their source code. This choice is often more  
7 than stylistic, because it can affect compatibility with other programs and  
8 operating systems. One such format is “snake case” where a programmer  
9 replaces all spaces with “\_.” Accordingly, a variable named “first variable”  
10 would be written in snake case as “first\_variable.”

11 **Response:** floragunn denies that the comment provides “further proof of copying” and  
12 therefore denies allegations in the first sentence of paragraph 62. floragunn admits the  
13 allegations in the remaining sentences of paragraph 62.

14 **Paragraph 63:**

15 Allegation: Elastic’s X-Pack Kibana plugin formats variables in “snake case” to  
16 remain compatible with the X-Pack plugin for Elasticsearch—but, on  
17 information and belief, that reason for formatting variables in “snake case” is not  
18 present for the infringing Search Guard code. Although the reason for use of  
19 “snake case” is absent, floragunn’s infringing code also uses  
20 “snake case” for the “bulk\_create” variable. But a floragunn programmer left a  
21 comment in the infringing Search Guard code noting that s/he could not  
22 determine why the code used “snake case” for the “bulk\_create” variable,  
23 writing: “@todo Why the snake case here? What do our permissions look like.”

24 **Response:** floragunn denies having sufficient information to respond to the allegations in the  
25 first sentence of paragraph 63 regarding Elastic’s X-Pack variables, and therefore denies such  
26 allegations. floragunn denies that it has “infringing code” and on that basis denies allegations in  
27 the remainder of the first sentence of paragraph 63. floragunn denies that it has “infringing  
28 code” and on that basis denies allegations in the second sentence of paragraph 63. floragunn  
admits that the comment alleged in the third sentence of paragraph 63 was in its code, but  
denies the remainder of the allegations in the third sentence of paragraph 63.

29 **Paragraph 64**

30 Allegation: floragunn’s Search Guard product directly competes with the  
security features in Elastic’s X-Pack and X-Pack Kibana plugin.

1 Response: florigunn admits the allegations in paragraph 64 of the amended complaint.

2  
3 **Paragraph 65**

4 Allegation: Elastic is informed and believes, and, on that basis alleges that  
5 florigunn knew that Elastic had its principal place of business in the Northern  
6 District of California.

7 Response: florigunn admits the allegations in paragraph 65 of the amended complaint,  
8 except that it is florigunn’s understanding that elasticsearch B.V.’s principal place of  
9 business is in the Netherlands.

10 **Paragraph 66**

11 Allegation: florigunn maintains significant and ongoing commercial ties to the  
12 Northern District of California. The industry that provides security features for  
13 Elastic Stack is very small, and, Elastic is informed and believes, is composed of  
14 at most six companies. Despite the small number of companies providing  
15 security features for Elastic Stack, the customer base for Elastic Stack security  
16 features is broad. florigunn boasts of a “global customer base,” including “many  
17 of the tech giants.” Due to the prominence of the technology industry in the  
18 Northern District of California, many of these companies are headquartered in,  
19 maintain offices in, or do significant business in the Northern District of  
20 California.

21 Response: florigunn denies having sufficient information to respond to the allegations in  
22 paragraph 66 of the amended complaint, and therefore denies such allegations.

23 **Paragraph 67**

24 Allegation: Before Elastic commenced this lawsuit, florigunn hosted its  
25 infringing source code on a website run by GitHub, Inc. GitHub, Inc. is  
26 headquartered and maintains its principal place of business in San Francisco,  
27 California, within the Northern District of California. florigunn currently hosts  
28 infringing source code through GitLab Inc., a company also headquartered in  
San Francisco, California, within the Northern District of California.

Response: florigunn denies the allegations in paragraph 67 of the amended complaint,  
because as explained in florigunn’s answers to Elastic’s allegations above, florigunn

1 has never hosted “infringing code.” In addition, floragunn does not host its source code  
2 through GitLab, Inc.

3 **Paragraph 68**

4  
5 Allegation: Further, Elastic is informed and believes, and, on that basis, alleges  
6 that, floragunn made commercial use of its infringing Search Guard product by  
7 purposefully marketing and licensing that product to customers in the Northern  
8 District of California. By way of example, Elastic is informed and believes, and,  
9 on that basis, alleges that floragunn licensed its Search Guard software to: (1)  
10 PayPal Holdings, Inc., a company that, on information and belief, has its principal  
11 place of business in San Jose, California; (2) AppsCode, a company that, on  
12 information and belief, has its principal place of business in San Leandro,  
13 California, for use in AppsCode’s CubeDB software; (3) NVIDIA, a company  
14 that, on information and belief, has its principal place of business in Santa Clara,  
15 California; (4) Zuora, a company that, on information and belief, has its principal  
16 place of business in San Mateo, California; and (5) OpenTable, Inc., a company  
17 that, on information and belief, has its principal place of business in San  
18 Francisco, California.

13 Response: floragunn denies the allegations in paragraph 68 of the amended complaint,  
14 because as explained in floragunn’s answers to Elastic’s allegations above, Search  
15 Guard is not an “infringing product.”

17 **Paragraph 69**

18 Allegation: Additionally, over a span of several days in March 2019, floragunn  
19 actively promoted Search Guard to California entities and individuals while  
20 hosting a booth at a data security conference at the Moscone Center in San  
21 Francisco, California.

21 Response: floragunn admits that it hosted a booth at a data security conference in San  
22 Francisco in March 2019 to promote Search Guard. floragunn denies having knowledge  
23 and information as to whether it promoted Search Guard to “California entities and  
24 individuals,” and therefore denies such allegations.

27 **Paragraph 70**

28 Allegation: floragunn’s marketing and commercial licensing of a directly  
competing product that infringes Elastic’s copyright demonstrates an intent

1 knowingly to harm Elasticsearch, Inc. a company with its principal place of  
2 business in Mountain View, California. It further shows that floragunn directed  
its infringing activities at the Northern District of California.

3 Response: floragunn denies the allegations in paragraph 70 of the amended complaint  
4 because it has not engaged in any “infringing activities” in this District or any other.

5 **Paragraph 71**

6  
7 Allegation: floragunn’s infringement of Elastic’s copyright has caused and  
8 continues to cause Elastic injury in the Northern District of California.

9 Response: floragunn denies the allegations in paragraph 71 of the amended complaint,  
10 because as explained in floragunn’s answers to Elastic’s allegations above, floragunn  
11 has not infringed any of Elastic’s copyrights.

12 **Paragraph 72**

13  
14 Allegation: floragunn’s marketing and distribution of infringing Search Guard  
15 software causes third party Search Guard users to incorporate code that infringes  
16 Elastic’s copyrights in X-Pack and the X-Pack Kibana plugin. Those third parties  
17 therefore necessarily reproduce and use Elastic’s proprietary X-Pack and/or X-  
Pack Kibana plugin code when they incorporate Search Guard into their  
adoptions of Elasticsearch, thereby infringing Elastic’s copyrights.

18 Response: floragunn denies the allegations in paragraph 72 of the amended complaint,  
19 because as explained in floragunn’s answers to Elastic’s allegations above, floragunn has not  
20 infringed any of Elastic’s copyrights.

21 **Paragraph 73**

22  
23 Allegation: Additional third parties have incorporated floragunn’s infringing  
24 code into products and services they offer publicly. Elastic has investigated to  
25 identify third parties who have incorporated floragunn’s infringing code into  
their products and services.

26 Response: floragunn denies the allegations in paragraph 73 of the amended complaint,  
27 because as explained in floragunn’s answers to Elastic’s allegations above, floragunn  
28 has not infringed any of Elastic’s copyrights.

1 **Paragraph 74**

2 Allegation: Among other infringing third party products and services that  
3 Elastic has identified, [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), Inc.'s and Amazon Web Services Inc.'s  
4 Open Distro for Elasticsearch ("Open Distro") and Amazon Elasticsearch  
5 Service ("AESS") offerings both contain and/or contained infringing code that  
6 originated with floragunn. Open Distro contains and/or contained infringing code  
7 related to floragunn's infringement of Elastic's copyrights in X-Pack and the X-  
8 Pack Kibana plugin. AESS contains or contained infringing code related to  
9 floragunn's infringement of Elastic's copyrights in X-Pack. Rackspace US, Inc.'s  
10 ObjectRocket for Elasticsearch contains or contained infringing code related to  
11 infringement of Elastic's copyrights in X-Pack and the X-Pack Kibana plugin.  
12 And IBM Corporation's IBM Cloud Databases for Elasticsearch contains or  
13 contained infringing code related to infringement of Elastic's copyrights in X-  
14 Pack.

15 Response: floragunn denies the allegations in paragraph 74 of the amended complaint,  
16 because as explained in floragunn's answers to Elastic's allegations above, floragunn  
17 has not infringed any of Elastic's copyrights, and therefore users of Search Guard do not  
18 use infringing code.

19 **Paragraph 75**

20 Allegation: floragunn is undoubtedly aware that its conduct is unlawful. On the  
21 website for Search Guard, floragunn states that, just because "the source code of  
22 a piece of software is available for anyone to view and inspect," that "does not  
23 necessarily mean that the product is available at no cost, and it does not mean  
24 that it is solely a community product." floragunn goes on to warn "it is illegal to  
25 take our enterprise features into production without purchasing a license. ***This  
26 can lead to serious legal consequences, which can bring more harm and costs  
27 to a company . . .***" (emphasis added).

28 Response: floragunn denies the allegations in paragraph 75 of the amended complaint because  
it has done nothing "unlawful," and further respectfully directs the Court to floragunn's  
response to paragraph 76 of the amended complaint, below.

29 **Paragraph 76**

30 Allegation: floragunn actively sought to avoid United States copyright law. On  
31 September 4, 2019, Elastic submitted Notices of Copyright Infringements under  
32 the DMCA to two websites that hosted floragunn's infringing code, GitHub, Inc.



1 and Sonatype Inc. On or about September 11, 2019, GitHub and Sonatype  
2 removed floragunn’s infringing code from their websites. Pursuant to the  
3 DMCA, floragunn then had the opportunity to submit counter notifications  
4 stating that Elastic’s assertion that their content infringed Elastic’s copyrights  
5 was mistaken. Submitting a counter notification could potentially have led to  
6 GitHub and Sonatype restoring floragunn’s content to their websites. Elastic is  
7 not aware of any such counter notification by floragunn, and, on information and  
8 belief, floragunn did not take this opportunity to assert that its code did not  
9 infringe Elastic’s copyright.

10 Response: floragunn denies the allegations in paragraph 76 of the amended complaint and  
11 further states that the allegations in the entire section of Elastic’s amended complaint titled  
12 “Floragunn Attempts to Avoid Enforcement of United States Copyright Law” (paragraphs 75-  
13 80) are gratuitous attempts to smear floragunn. Elastic makes no legal claims in its pleadings  
14 against floragunn based any of floragunn’s alleged actions related to DMCA. For example,  
15 Elastic’s statement that “floragunn actively sought to avoid United States copyright law” is  
16 false. Nothing floragunn has done in response to the DMCA notice can reasonably be described  
17 as “avoiding” the law. Elastic mischaracterizes what the DMCA process is, and why floragunn  
18 moved its source code to an offshore host after GitHub took down floragunn’s content after  
19 being served with a DMCA notice. Likewise, Elastic’s claim that it had an opportunity to  
20 submit counter notifications omits that the DMCA provides that a counter notification will have  
21 no effect if “the person who submitted the notification . . . has filed an action . . . .” 17 U.S.C. §  
22 512(g)(2)(B). Because Elastic filed its original complaint in this action on September 4, 2019, a  
23 counter notification would have had no effect. On September 12, 2019, floragunn moved its  
24 source code to a repository hosted by AWS (Amazon). Elastic followed up immediately with  
25 another DMCA notice to Amazon, which resulted in floragunn voluntarily removing the content  
26 from the AWS site. At that point, floragunn’s only practical recourse to protect its code from  
27 being wrongfully taken down by Elastic was to use a host that would not seek to avail itself of  
28 the safe harbor protection of DMCA.

1 **Paragraph 77**

2 Allegation: What floragunn did do, however, was switch the hosting of its  
3 infringing content to a different provider: Amazon Web Services, Inc. Amazon  
4 Web Services, Inc. maintains multiple offices in the Northern District of  
California.

5 Response: floragunn denies the allegations in paragraph 77 of the amended complaint  
6 because it has never sought to host “infringing content,” and respectfully directs the  
7 Court to floragunn’s response to Paragraph 76 above.

8 **Paragraph 78**

9  
10 Allegation: On September 12, 2019, Elastic sent a Notice of Copyright  
11 Infringements under the DMCA to Amazon Web Services, Inc., and Amazon  
12 Web Services, Inc. removed floragunn’s infringing code from its website on  
13 September 13, 2019. On information and belief, floragunn again did not take the  
14 opportunity to submit a counter notification and assert that its content did not  
infringe Elastic’s copyrights. Once again, however, floragunn switched the  
hosting of its infringing content to a different provider.

15 Response: floragunn denies the allegations in paragraph 78 of the amended complaint  
16 because it has never sought to host “infringing code,” and respectfully directs the Court  
17 to floragunn’s response to Paragraph 76 above.

18 **Paragraph 79**

19  
20 Allegation: It appears that floragunn’s choice of the new host for its downloads  
21 was driven by a desire by floragunn to avoid takedowns required by the law of  
22 the United States. floragunn began hosting its infringing downloads through  
BlueAngelHost PVT. LTD. BlueAngelHost PVT. LTD. advertises “DMCA  
23 Ignored Hosting.” It boasts that “*Purchasing USA-based hosting for a site that  
is not legal to be run in America is not a sensible thing to do. Offshore hosting*

24 *can be helpful for less scrupulous businesses who wish to bypass local laws or  
25 regulations, particularly for issues like copyright law, which is also known as  
no DMCA hosting*” (emphasis added). BlueAngelHost PVT. LTD. lists a postal  
26 address in Serbia on its website and advertises data centers in Bulgaria, Russia,  
and the Netherlands.

1 Response: florigunn denies the allegations in paragraph 79 of the amended complaint  
2 because it has never sought to host “infringing code,” or hosted “infringing downloads”  
3 and because it is false that DMCA “takedowns are required by the law of the United  
4 States.” Elastic’s statement in paragraph that 79 of the amended complaint that DMCA  
5 “takedowns [are] required by the law of the United States” is false; instead, the DMCA  
6 provides certain safe harbor protections for hosts that take down material in response to  
7 a DMCA notice, *even if* the claim of infringement is incorrect. Likewise, florigunn’s  
8 decision to use a host that would not remove content simply based on an *accusation* of  
9 infringement is not an attempt to “avoid” copyright law. florigunn further respectfully  
10 directs the Court to florigunn’s response to Paragraph 76 above.

### 11 **Paragraph 80**

12  
13  
14 Allegation: Months after this lawsuit was filed, florigunn continues to include  
15 infringing code in Search Guard. In early October 2019, florigunn released new  
16 versions of its Search Guard products through web services run by GitLab Inc.,  
17 Sonatype Inc., and florigunn’s own website. These new versions purport to  
18 remove the infringing code that Elastic identified in its initial complaint.  
19 However, florigunn did not remove all instances of copying. The new versions  
20 of Search Guard continue to, at least, contain code that infringes Elastic’s  
21 copyrights in its X-Pack Kibana plugin, as identified in this First Amended  
22 Complaint. Elastic continues to investigate florigunn’s Search Guard code for  
23 instances of infringement and may identify further infringement.

24  
25 Response: florigunn denies the allegations in paragraph 80 of the amended complaint because  
26 Search Guard has never contained “infringing code” nor did florigunn remove “all instances of  
27 copying,” from its code since florigunn never copied anything from X-Pack in the first place.  
28 florigunn further notes that Elastic has had four years to “investigate” florigunn’s publicly  
available code for instances of infringement, and has only been able to point to about 100 lines  
out of more than 60,000 lines of Search Guard code to make its allegations of infringement -- all  
of which are meritless and rebutted above. Elastic’s threat to further “investigate florigunn’s

1 Search Guard code for instances of infringement” speaks more to Elastic’s true intentions of  
2 harassing and injuring floragunn’s business that it does about pursuing meritorious claims of  
3 infringement, which do not exist.

4 **Paragraph 81**

5  
6 Allegation: Elastic incorporates by reference each of the allegations in the  
7 preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth here.

8 Response: floragunn restates and realleges each of its responses in the above paragraphs  
9 of this Answer.

10 **Paragraph 82**

11 Allegation: Before initiating this action, Elastic registered, effective August 14,  
12 2019, versions 1.0.0 and 2.0.0 of Elasticsearch Shield (the predecessor name for  
13 X-Pack) and versions 5.0.0, 6.0.0, 6.2.0, 6.2.x, and 6.3.0 of X-Pack under  
14 Registration Numbers TX 8-762-996, TX 8-762994, TX 8-762-975, TX 8-762-  
15 985, TX 8-762-987, TX 8-762-988, and TX 8-762-991, respectively. Elastic  
16 further registered, effective September 9, 2019, versions 1.1.1, 1.3.0, 2.0.0-beta1,  
17 and 2.0.0-beta2 of Elasticsearch Shield under Registration Numbers TX 8-773-  
18 254, TX 8773-258, TX 8-773-261, and TX 8-773-263, respectively. Elastic  
19 additionally registered version 2.3.2 of the Kibana Shield plugin and versions  
20 5.2.0, 5.3.1, 5.6.7, and 6.4.0 of the X-Pack Kibana plugin under Registration  
21 Numbers TX 8-796-945, TX 8-777-406, TX 8-777-412, TX 8-778-023, and TX  
22 8-778-024, respectively, effective September 19, 2019; version 5.4.0 of the X-  
23 Pack Kibana plugin under Registration Number TX 8-796-010, effective  
24 November 4, 2019; and version 7.2.0 of the X-Pack Kibana plugin under  
25 Registration Number TX 8-796-013, effective October 31, 2019. Copies of those  
26 Certificates of Registration are attached as Exhibits E through V to this First  
27 Amended Complaint.

28 Response: floragunn denies that it has information sufficient to respond to the allegations in  
paragraph 82 of the amended complaint, and therefore denies such allegations.

**Paragraph 83**

Allegation: These works contain copyrightable subject matter for which  
copyright protection exists under the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 101, *et seq.*  
elasticsearch B.V. is the exclusive owner of all rights in these copyrighted works.  
Elasticsearch, Inc. holds the exclusive license from elasticsearch B.V. to enforce  
the copyright in and distribute copies of these works in, among other territories,  
the United States.

1 Response: florigunn denies that it has information sufficient to respond to the  
2 allegations in paragraph 83 of the amended complaint, and therefore denies such  
3 allegations.

4 **Paragraph 84**

5  
6 Allegation: Through the actions described herein, florigunn has infringed and  
7 will continue to infringe Elastic's copyrights in the X-Pack and X-Pack Kibana  
8 plugin code by, at least, reproducing, preparing derivative works from, and  
9 distributing copies of those copyrighted works.

10 Response: florigunn denies the allegations in paragraph 84 of the amended complaint  
11 for the reasons set forth above in this Answer.

12 **Paragraph 85**

13 Allegation: florigunn's infringing conduct alleged herein was and continues to  
14 be willful and with full knowledge of Elastic's rights in the copyrighted works,  
15 and that conduct has enabled florigunn to profit illegally from infringement.

16 Response: florigunn denies the allegations in paragraph 85 of the amended complaint  
17 for the reasons set forth above in this Answer.

18 **Paragraph 86**

19 Allegation: Elastic is entitled to an injunction restraining florigunn, its officers,  
20 agents, employees, assigns, and all persons acting in concert with them from  
21 engaging in further infringement of Elastic's copyrights.

22 Response: florigunn denies the allegations in paragraph 86 of the amended complaint  
23 for the reasons set forth above in this Answer.

24 **Paragraph 87**

25 Allegation: Elastic is entitled to recover from florigunn the damages it has  
26 sustained and will sustain as a result of florigunn's wrongful acts as alleged  
27 herein. Elastic is further entitled to recover from florigunn the gains, profits, and  
28 advantages it has obtained as a result of florigunn's wrongful acts. The full  
extent of Elastic's damages and the gains, profits, and advantages florigunn has  
obtained by reason of its aforesaid acts of copyright infringement cannot be  
determined at this time, but will be proven at trial. Further, Elastic is entitled to

1 recover costs and reasonable attorneys' fees from floragunn as a result of the  
2 wrongful acts alleged herein.

3 Response: floragunn denies the allegations in paragraph 87 of the amended complaint  
4 for the reasons set forth above in this Answer.

5 **Paragraph 88**

6 Allegation: Elastic incorporates by reference each of the allegations in the  
7 preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth here.

8 Response: floragunn restates and realleges each of its responses in the above paragraphs  
9 of this Answer.

10 **Paragraph 89**

11 Allegation: floragunn's distribution of infringing Search Guard software  
12 induces, causes, encourages, and materially contributes to Search Guard users  
13 and third parties that incorporate Search Guard code into their products and  
14 services infringing Elastic's copyrights in the X-Pack and/or X-Pack Kibana  
15 plugin code by engaging in unauthorized reproduction and distribution of works  
containing Elastic's copyrighted material.

16 Response: floragunn denies the allegations in paragraph 89 of the amended complaint  
17 for the reasons set forth above in this Answer.

18 **Paragraph 90**

19 Allegation: Elastic is informed and believes, and, on that basis, alleges that  
20 floragunn derived substantial financial benefit from Search Guard users' and  
21 third parties' infringement of Elastic's copyrights in X-Pack and/or the X-Pack  
22 Kibana plugin.

23 Response: floragunn denies the allegations in paragraph 90 of the amended complaint  
24 for the reasons set forth above in this Answer.

25 **Paragraph 91**

26 Allegation: floragunn's marketing, commercial distribution of, licensing of, and  
27 profit from infringing Search Guard software shows that it knowingly,  
28 intentionally, willfully, and purposefully induced, caused, encouraged, and  
materially contributed to, and continues to knowingly, intentionally, willfully,  
and purposefully induce, cause, encourage, and materially contributes to, Search

1 Guard users' and third parties' infringement of Elastic's copyrights in X-Pack  
2 and/or the X-Pack Kibana plugin.

3 Response: floragunn denies the allegations in paragraph 91 of the amended complaint  
4 for the reasons set forth above in this Answer.

5 **Paragraph 92**

6 Allegation: floragunn has the ability to prevent Search Guard users and third  
7 parties from infringing Elastic's copyrights in the X-Pack and X-Pack Kibana  
8 plugin code by omitting the infringing code from its Search Guard software  
9 product. However, floragunn has not prevented Search Guard users and third  
10 parties from infringing Elastic's copyrights in the X-Pack and X-Pack Kibana  
11 plugin code.

12 Response: floragunn denies the allegations in paragraph 92 of the amended complaint  
13 for the reasons set forth above in this Answer, and because Search Guard does not  
14 infringe Elastic's code.

15 **Paragraph 93**

16 Allegation: floragunn, through its knowing and intentional inducement,  
17 causation, encouragement, and material contribution to the infringement of  
18 Elastic's copyrights in the X-Pack and X-Pack Kibana plugin code by Search  
19 Guard users and third parties, is committing and/or is contributorily and  
20 vicariously liable for the acts of infringement by Search Guard users and third  
21 parties. Each act of infringement that floragunn knowingly and intentionally  
22 induced, caused, encouraged, and materially contributed to is a separate and  
23 distinct act of infringement.

24 Response: floragunn denies the allegations in paragraph 93 of the amended complaint  
25 for the reasons set forth above in this Answer.

26 **Paragraph 94**

27 Allegation: Elastic is entitled to an injunction restraining floragunn, its officers,  
28 agents, employees, assigns, and all persons acting in concert with them from  
actions inducing, causing, encouraging, or materially contributing to Search  
Guard users' and third parties' infringement of Elastic's copyrights.

Response: floragunn denies the allegations in paragraph 94 of the amended complaint  
for the reasons set forth above in this Answer.

**Paragraph 95**

Allegation: Elastic is entitled to recover from floragunn the damages it has sustained and will sustain as a result of floragunn's acts inducing, causing, encouraging, or materially contributing to Search Guard users' and third parties' infringement of Elastic's copyrights. Elastic is further entitled to recover from floragunn the gains, profits, and advantages it has obtained as a result of its acts inducing, causing, encouraging, or materially contributing to Search Guard users' and third parties' infringement of Elastic's copyrights. The full extent of Elastic's damages and the gains, profits, and advantages floragunn has obtained by reason of its aforesaid acts of copyright infringement by Search Guard users and third parties cannot be determined at this time but will be proven at trial. Further, Elastic is entitled to recover costs and reasonable attorneys' fees from floragunn as a result of the acts inducing, causing, encouraging, or materially contributing to Search Guard users' and third parties' infringement of Elastic's copyrights alleged herein.

Response: floragunn denies the allegations in paragraph 95 of the amended complaint for the reasons set forth above in this Answer.

**DEFENSES**

Elastic's claims of copyright infringement concern a total of only about 100 out of more than 60,000 lines of source code that makes up the totality of floragunn's Search Guard security plugin. floragunn denies that any similarities are due to copying of any protectable expression original to Elastic, for at least the reasons stated below.

floragunn alleges and asserts the following defenses in response to the allegations contained in the amended complaint, undertaking the burden of proof only to the extent that they are deemed affirmative defenses by law. floragunn specifically reserves all rights to allege additional defenses and counterclaims that become known through its investigation into Elastic's allegations in the course of discovery.

**First Defense – Independent Creation**

1. The Search Guard security plugin was created independently.
2. floragunn's security plugin Search Guard traces its roots to October 2013, when Hendrik Saly, then an independent programmer, but now floragunn's Chief Technology Officer,



1 developed the first complete security plugin solution for the Elasticsearch search engine,  
2 appropriately called “Elasticsearch Security Plugin” (“ESP”). ESP was and is open code and has  
3 been publicly visible for all since 2013.

4 3. At the time, Elastic had not developed and was not offering a security plugin for  
5 its Elasticsearch search engine.

6 4. In January 2015, Mr. Saly began work on “Elastic Defender” (“Defender”), an  
7 advanced security plugin based on ESP.

8 5. In January 2015, Elastic finally released its own security plugin for Elasticsearch  
9 called “Shield.” The source code for Shield was not open to the public, and Shield lacked many  
10 of the features that had been included in Defender, such as Kerberos, Field Level Security,  
11 Document Level Security, Index based output for audit events, Native Realm for storing users,  
12 and PKI authentication. In short, Shield was an objectively inferior security product when  
13 compared to ESP and its successor Defender.  
14

15 6. That same month, January 2015, Shay Banon, the founder of Elastic, emailed  
16 Hendrik Saly, writing that he:

17 *Just came across your Elasticsearch security plugin and we are looking for security and*  
18 *generally talented engineers with elastic knowledge to joining our company. Interested?*  
19 *Up for a quick chat?*

20 A period of interviewing ensued. As part of those discussions, in April 2015, Mr. Saly provided  
21 the source code for Defender to Mr. Banon and therefore to Elastic. Defender’s source code had  
22 not been made publicly available at that point. Ultimately, Elastic did not offer Mr. Saly  
23 employment.  
24

25 7. In May 2015, floragunn acquired an exclusive license from Mr. Saly for the  
26 Defender security plugin and set out to improve the code for the product before formally launching  
27 Defender rebranded as “Search Guard.” floragunn made the source code for Defender / Search  
28 Guard available to the public on May 25, 2015.

1           8.       In June 2015, two months after Mr. Saly provided the source code for Defender to  
2 Elastic, and a month after floragunn made the source code for Search Guard public, Elastic released  
3 Shield version 1.3.0, which for the first time contained a PKI authentication feature and an Index  
4 Output for audit event feature. These features had never been part of Shield before, but both had  
5 previously been included in Defender (the predecessor to floragunn's Search Guard). In October  
6 2015, Elastic released Shield version 2.0, which for the first time, contained the features Field  
7 Level Security and Document Level Security features. These features had not been part of Shield  
8 in any previous release, but had previously been included in Defender.

9  
10           9.       There can be no doubt that Hendrik Saly and floragunn were the security plugin  
11 innovators, and Elastic the follower. Considering floragunn's expertise, and Elastic's late start in  
12 the security plugins, there was never any need for floragunn to copy Elastic's code since its security  
13 plugin development capabilities already exceeded Elastic's. Moreover, the idea that floragunn  
14 would copy code from Elastic as alleged in its amended complaint, and then publicly post that  
15 code for all to see, and therefore jeopardize its entire business and reputation defies logic. All of  
16 floragunn's code was independently created, and therefore does not infringe Elastic's code.

17  
18 **Second Defense – No Copyright Infringement**

19           10.       floragunn does not infringe, has not infringed (directly, contributorily, or  
20 by inducement), and is therefore not liable for infringement of any valid copyright or copyrights  
21 of Elastic, including, without limitations, any copyright rights in the works that are the subject of  
22 Plaintiff's Amended Complaint, including but not limited to the registered copyrights identified  
23 in paragraph 82 of the amended complaint.

24  
25  
26           11.       Among other things, the Elasticsearch search engine and Kibana for which both  
27 the Shield (later X-Pack) and Search Guard plugins are created are based on open source code  
28 authored by others, such as Lucene, Netty, AngularJS and Node.js. Elasticsearch and Kibana

1 necessarily rely on a variety of code and syntax that was created by others. This means that  
2 substantial portions of the Elasticsearch and Kibana computer code are not original to Elastic.

3 12. Like Elasticsearch and Kibana, aspects of Shield and X-Pack are based on code not  
4 original to Elastic, including but not limited to open source libraries or code such as Lucene, Netty,  
5 AngularJS, Lodash, and Node.js, and since such aspects are not Elastic's original expression, they  
6 are not entitled to copyright protection.  
7

8 **Third Defense -- Elements Not Protected by Copyright**

9 13. Elasticsearch is designed specifically to allow the creation of plugins like Shield  
10 and Search Guard to extend its functionality. Elastic has long documented the specific means  
11 that developers should follow when creating Elasticsearch plugins. The requirements for a plugin  
12 to operate necessarily constrain the choices made by plugin developers. This is analogous to  
13 third-party upgrade kits for physical appliances; for example, a turbocharger for a car necessarily  
14 will need to physically mate with the engine of the car, and thus the design choices for a  
15 turbocharger for a Corvette will necessarily be constrained by the physical design of a Corvette.  
16 Search Guard likewise must behave in certain ways in order for it to operate with Elasticsearch.  
17

18 14. Elastic's own Shield product likewise is a plugin for Elasticsearch, and thus the  
19 design choices for Shield were also constrained by the need to operate with Elasticsearch. Just as  
20 two turbochargers designed to work with a Corvette will share certain similarities because both  
21 must attach to the same engine, Search Guard and Shield likewise must share some similarities  
22 because both are plugins for the same Elasticsearch product.  
23

24 15. Furthermore, Search Guard and Shield (X-Pack) both provide similar  
25 functionality for certain features (though the Search Guard product offers more functionality than  
26 Elastic's security plugin). That similarity in functionality acts as a further constraint on the  
27 design choices that floragunn and Elastic respectively made in designing their products.  
28

1 Returning to the turbocharger analogy, any turbocharger necessarily will include a turbine—that  
2 is because turbochargers use turbines, not because one turbocharger is a copy of another.

3           16. In addition, there are many “tools of the trade” that are known to many in the  
4 developer community, and that draw on tropes common to computer programming. These tropes  
5 can result in superficial similarities between independently developed code, especially when the  
6 code is reviewed by a lay observer who is not familiar with the common programming  
7 conventions that are known to software engineers.  
8

9           17. Elastic’s copyright claims are barred to the extent that Elastic claims rights to  
10 elements of Elastic’s software or other works that are functional, are not original, or are  
11 otherwise not protectable by copyright or are otherwise not protected by the registered  
12 copyrights identified in paragraph 82 of the Amended Complaint.  
13

#### 14 **Fourth Defense – Fair Use**

15           18. Elastic’s claims for copyright infringement are barred in whole or part by the  
16 doctrine of fair use pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 107 in view of the nature of works asserted by Elastic  
17 and covered by the copyrights identified in paragraph 82 of the Amended Complaint, the amount  
18 (if any) and substantiality of the portions of such works used by floragunn (if any), in relations to  
19 the works as a whole, the purpose and character of any use thereof by floragunn, and the effect,  
20 if any, of such use on the potential market for the works.  
21

#### 22 **Fifth Defense – De Minimis Copying**

23           19. Elastic’s claims for copyright infringement are barred by the doctrine of de  
24 minimis copying, as any alleged copying of protectable portions of the work that are the subject  
25 of the claimed copyrights was *de minimis*.  
26  
27  
28

1 **Sixth Defense – No Intent to Induce Copyright Infringement**

2 20. floragunn has not engaged in purposeful, culpable expression or conduct designed  
3 or intended to result in others infringing Elastic’s alleged copyrights and thus is not liable under  
4 Elastic’s inducement claims.

5 **Seventh Defense -- No Injunctive Relief**

6 21. Elastic has not suffered any irreparable injury, and has an adequate remedy at law,  
7 and injunctive relief is unwarranted because it would be contrary to the public interest.

8 **Eighth Defense – Statute of Limitations**

9 22. Elastic’s claims for damages are barred in part by the applicable statute of limitations.  
10

11 **COUNTERCLAIMS**

12 As and for its counterclaims against plaintiff Elastic, floragunn alleges as follows:

13 **Parties**

14 1. floragunn GmbH (“floragunn”) is a corporation organized and existing under the  
15 laws of Germany with its principal place of business in Germany. Upon information and belief,  
16 Elasticsearch, Inc. is incorporated in Delaware with a principal place of business in Mountain  
17 View, California. Plaintiff elasticsearch B.V. is incorporated in the Netherlands, with a principal  
18 place of business in the Netherlands. (Elasticsearch, Inc. and elasticsearch B.V. are hereinafter  
19 “Elastic”.)  
20

21 **Jurisdiction and Venue**

22 2. Subject to floragunn’s defenses and denials, floragunn alleges that this Court has  
23 jurisdiction over the subject matter of these Counterclaims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331,  
24 1338(a), 1367, 2201, and 2202, and venue for these Counterclaims is proper in this district.

25 3. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Elastic.  
26  
27  
28

**Factual Background**

1  
2 4. Elasticsearch is a search and analytics engine owned and operated by Elastic that  
3 allows users to build upon it and search out their own data.

4 5. Elasticsearch is designed specifically to allow the creation of plugins to extend its  
5 functionality.

6 6. Elastic has long documented the specific means that developers should follow when  
7 creating Elasticsearch plugins.

8 7. Kibana is Elastic’s user interface designed to manage and configure Elasticsearch  
9 and other Elastic products and to produce data visualizations including diagrams and dashboards.

10 8. Kibana is designed specifically to allow the creation of plugins to extend its  
11 functionality.

12 9. Elastic has long referred interested plugin authors to publicly available posts for  
13 the specific means that developers should follow when creating Kibana plugins.

14 10. Elasticsearch and Kibana are themselves based on code not original to Elastic,  
15 including but not limited to Lucene, Netty, AngularJS, Lodash, and Node.js.

16 11. floragunn’s Search Guard is a security plugin for Elasticsearch and Kibana.

17 12. Elastic does not claim that floragunn’s Search Guard infringes the Elasticsearch  
18 search engine.

19 13. Elastic does not claim that floragunn’s Search Guard infringes Kibana.

20 14. Elastic claims that Search Guard infringes Shield (later the security plugin for  
21 Elastic’s X-Pack).

22 15. Elastic’s Shield is Elastic’s security plugin for Elasticsearch and Kibana.

23 16. Like Elasticsearch and Kibana, Shield is based on code not original to Elastic,  
24 including but not limited to open source libraries or code such as Lucene, Netty, AngularJS,  
25 Lodash, and Node.js.  
26  
27  
28

1           17.     Shield and Search Guard are competitive plugin products for Elasticsearch and  
2 Kibana.

3           18.     Many aspects of Shield and Search Guard source code are constrained by choices  
4 made by the programmers who wrote code that is not original to Elastic, such as Lucene, Netty,  
5 AngularJS, Lodash, and Node.js. Many aspects of Shield and Search Guard source code are  
6 constrained by the need for each of Shield and Search Guard to function as a plugin to  
7 Elasticsearch and/or Kibana.  
8

9           19.     Design choices made by Elastic for Shield are constrained by the need to operate  
10 with Elasticsearch and with Kibana.

11           20.     Design choices made by florigunn for Search Guard are constrained by the need to  
12 operate with Elasticsearch and with Kibana.

13           21.     The source code for Search Guard and Shield share similarities because both are  
14 plugins for the same Elastic products (Elasticsearch and Kibana).  
15

16           22.     Aspects of Elastic’s source code in Shield that Elastic claims was infringed are not  
17 original to Elastic but are derived from open source libraries or licenses.

18           23.     Aspects of florigunn’s code alleged by Elastic to infringe Shield or X-Pack concern  
19 standard, common, or stock programming practices.

20           24.     There are many “tools of the trade” that are known to many in the developer  
21 community, and that draw on tropes common to computer programming. These tropes can result  
22 in superficial similarities between independently developed code, especially when the code is  
23 reviewed by a lay observer who is not familiar with the common programming conventions that  
24 are known to software engineers.  
25

26           25.     Certain similarities in the Shield and Search Guard source code identified in the  
27 complaint are superficial similarities between independently created code.  
28

1 26. floragunn’s Search Guard does not infringe Elastic’s source code for Shield because  
2 Search Guard was independently created, because portions of the alleged infringed code are not  
3 Elastic’s original expression, because portions of the alleged infringing code are designed  
4 specifically to extend Elasticsearch’s functionality and the choices made by floragunn in the  
5 creation of Search Guard were constrained by requirements of operating as a plugin to  
6 Elasticsearch and Kibana; because portions of the alleged infringing code are common tropes well  
7 known and used in the software developer community; or because the alleged infringed code is  
8 not otherwise protected by copyright.  
9

10 **COUNT ONE**

11 **Declaratory Judgment of Non-Infringement of Asserted Copyrights**

12 27. floragunn restates and incorporates by reference its allegations in paragraphs 1 to  
13 26 of its Counterclaims.  
14

15 28. An actual case or controversy exists between floragunn and Elastic as to whether  
16 the Asserted Copyrights are infringed by floragunn.

17 29. A judicial declaration is necessary and appropriate so that floragunn may  
18 ascertain its rights regarding the Asserted Copyrights.

19 30. floragunn has not infringed and does not infringe, directly or indirectly, the  
20 Asserted Copyrights, nor has floragunn contributed to any infringement by any third parties of  
21 Elastic’s copyrights.  
22

23 **COUNT TWO**

24 **17 U.S.C. § 512(f) Misrepresentation**

25 31. floragunn restates and incorporates by reference its allegations in paragraphs 1 to  
26 30 of its Counterclaims.

27 32. floragunn’s security plugin Search Guard traces its roots to October 2013, when  
28 Hendrik Saly, then an independent programmer, but now floragunn’s Chief Technology Officer,



1 developed the first complete security plugin solution for the Elasticsearch search engine,  
2 appropriately called “Elasticsearch Security Plug-in” (“ESP”).

3 33. ESP was and is open source and its source code has been publicly visible for all  
4 since 2013.

5 34. In 2013, Elastic had not developed and was not offering a security plugin for its  
6 Elasticsearch search engine.

7 35. In January 2015, Mr. Saly began work on “Elastic Defender” (“Defender”), an  
8 advanced security plugin based on ESP.

9 36. In January 2015, Elastic for the first time released its own security plugin for  
10 Elasticsearch called “Shield.”

11 37. The source code for Shield was not open to the public when it was released.

12 38. Shield lacked many of the features that had been included in Defender, such as  
13 Kerberos, Field Level Security, Document Level Security, Index based output for audit events,  
14 Native Realm for storing users, and PKI authentication.

15 39. In January 2015 Shield was an objectively inferior security product when compared  
16 to ESP and its successor Defender.

17 40. That same month, January 2015, Shay Banon, the founder of Elastic, emailed  
18 Hendrik Saly, writing that he:

19 *Just came across your Elasticsearch security plugin and we are looking for security and*  
20 *generally talented engineers with elastic knowledge to joining our company. Interested?*  
21 *Up for a quick chat?*

22 41. A period of interviewing ensued.

23 42. As part of those discussions, in April, 2015, Mr. Saly provided the source code for  
24 Defender to Mr. Banon and therefore to Elastic.

25 43. Defender’s source code had not been made publicly available at that point.

26 44. Elastic ultimately did not offer Mr. Saly employment.

1 45. Upon information and belief, one or more of Elastic’s agents or employees  
2 reviewed the Defender Source Code provided to Mr. Banon by Mr. Saly.

3 46. Prior to commencing this action in September 2019, at no time did Elasticsearch  
4 notify Mr. Saly that the code he provided to Elastic infringed any code of Elastic.

5 47. Prior to the date on which it commenced this action in September 2019, at no time  
6 did Elastic send a takedown notice to any host of Mr. Saly’s code pursuant to the Digital  
7 Millennium Copyright Act (“DMCA”) or otherwise.

8 48. In May 2015, florigunn acquired an exclusive license from Mr. Saly for the  
9 Defender security plugin and set out to improve the code for the product before formally launching  
10 Defender rebranded as “Search Guard.”

11 49. florigunn made the source code for Defender / Search Guard available to the public  
12 on or about May 25, 2015.

13 50. Upon information and belief, Elastic was aware as early as 2015 that florigunn  
14 acquired the exclusive rights to Defender.

15 51. In June 2015, two months after Mr. Saly provided the source code for Defender to  
16 Elastic, and a month after florigunn made the source code for Search Guard public, Elastic released  
17 Shield version 1.3.0, which for the first time contained a PKI authentication feature and an Index  
18 Output for audit event feature.

19 52. The PKI authentication feature and Index Output feature had never been part of  
20 Shield prior to version 1.3.0, but both had previously been included in Defender (the predecessor  
21 to florigunn’s Search Guard).

22 53. In October 2015, Elastic released Shield version 2.0, which for the first time,  
23 contained the features Field Level Security and Document Level Security.  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

1           54.     These features (Field Level Security and Document Level Security) had not been  
2 part of Shield in any previous release, but had previously been included in Defender (the  
3 predecessor to Search Guard).

4           55.     Upon information and belief, by October 2015, Elastic had access to and in fact  
5 reviewed floragunn’s Search Guard source code which was available and open to the public.  
6

7           56.     November 2016, Elastic’s founder Shay Banon personally sent an email to  
8 floragunn’s founders stating to “express [his] deep concerns” and claiming that “Search Guard  
9 appears to be based upon Elastic’s ‘Shield.’”

10          57.     Mr. Banon did not provide floragunn with any examples of allegedly infringing  
11 code that he claimed was “based on Elastic’s ‘Shield’” but demanded that floragunn “stop  
12 distributing Search Guard and providing any support for it to those end users that already have it”  
13 and threatened litigation if floragunn did not do what he asked.  
14

15          58.     Thus, by November 2016, Elastic had reviewed floragunn’s Search Guard source  
16 code to ascertain whether it contained infringing code.

17          59.     Notwithstanding its allegations of infringement, at no time prior to the date on  
18 which it commenced this action in September 2019 did Elastic send a DMCA takedown notice to  
19 the host of floragunn’s code, nor did Elastic file any legal action against floragunn before then or  
20 seek any injunctive relief related to any alleged copyright infringement.  
21

22          60.     In January 2017, Elastic’s German counsel, Osborne Clarke, sent a letter to  
23 floragunn making unspecified claims to floragunn stating that “you use in your software ‘Search  
24 Guard’ part of Elasticsearch-Software,” further demanded that that floragunn “assure us that your  
25 company is not using our client’s software codes, or if you are using them why you feel that your  
26 company has the right to do so.”  
27

28          61.     In its January 2017 letter, Osborne Clarke gave no specifics about what source code  
it claims was infringing or was being infringed.

1           62.     In February 2017, floragunn’s German counsel responded to the Osborne Clarke  
2 letter, writing that that they did not elaborate on which program parts were involved and that they  
3 did not take into account the fact that essential parts of the software at issues are licensed under  
4 open source.

5           63.     Elastic’s German Counsel did not respond to floragunn’s invitation to provide  
6 specific information concerning of what exactly Elastic was claiming floragunn was infringing.  
7

8           64.     Upon information and belief, by the time the instant action was commenced on  
9 September 4, 2019, Elastic had been reviewing floragunn’s source code for Search Guard available  
10 on GitHub and Sonatype for more than four years.

11           65.     All of the Search Guard source code, including modification, additions, fixes and  
12 commits, was available for public view continuously since May, 2015 in repositories hosted on  
13 GitHub and Sonatype.  
14

15           66.     On or about September 10, 2019, Elastic sent DMCA takedown notices to GitHub  
16 and to Sonatype stating that it had a good faith belief that use of the material in the manner  
17 complained of is not authorized by the copyright owner, its agent, or the law.

18           67.     On information and belief, having had four years to review floragunn’s source for  
19 Search Guard on GitHub and Sonatype, and having reviewed the Search Guard publicly available  
20 code in fine detail for the  
21 purpose of commencing the instant action, Elastic was aware that a substantial portion of the  
22 content in the repositories hosted on GitHub and Sonatype did not contain materials that infringed  
23 Elastic’s code.  
24

25           68.     Elastic had access to and on information and belief in fact, inspected all of  
26 floragunn’s open code posted on Sonatype and GitHub prior to sending out a DMCA takedown  
27 notices to Sonatype and GitHub.  
28

1           69. As part of its DMCA notice to Sonatype, Elastic included in its 73-page long list of  
2 claimed “Infringing Content to Be Removed” files that did not contain any content that Elastic  
3 claims to be infringing.

4           70. Annexed hereto as Exhibit A is a list of files that were taken down by Sonatype  
5 because they were specifically identified in Elastic’s DMCA takedown notice to Sonatype as  
6 “infringing content”. None of the files listed in Exhibit A contain content alleged to infringe  
7 Elastic’s copyrights.  
8

9           71. Similarly, as part of its DMCA take down notice to GitHub, Elastic specifically  
10 identified the repository located at <https://github.com/floragunncom/search-guard-ssl> as  
11 containing infringing content, which resulted in DMCA taking down all content in that  
12 repository.  
13

14           72. Annexed hereto as Exhibit B is a list of files that were taken down by GitHub  
15 because they were included in the repository identified in DMCA takedown notice to GitHub as  
16 containing infringing material. None of the files listed in Exhibit B contain content alleged to  
17 infringe Elastic’s copyrights.

18           73. On information and belief, Elastic knew that at least some of the content included  
19 identified or covered by its DMCA takedown notices to GitHub and Sonatype did not infringe  
20 any Elastic copyright.  
21

22           74. On information and belief, Elastic at a minimum knew that there was a high  
23 probability that at least some of the content and material listed in Exhibits A and B did not  
24 infringe any Elastic copyright, and took deliberate actions to avoid learning that at least some of  
25 such content did not infringe any Elastic copyright.

26           75. On information and belief, at the time Elastic sent the takedown notices, Elastic  
27 knew that at least some of the material covered by its DMCA notices to Sonatype and GitHub  
28 did not contain infringing material, and therefore knowingly misrepresented in the DMCA

1 notices it sent that the material it sought to take down did not violate Elastic’s copyrights. On  
2 information and belief, Elastic’s misrepresentations were material to the decision by GitHub  
3 and/or Sonatype to remove or disable access to at least some of the content and material listed in  
4 Exhibits A and B.

5 76. Congress imposed liability on a copyright owner who “knowingly materially  
6 misrepresents” that the material that it requests to be taken down is infringing.  
7

8 77. Section 512(f) of the DMCA provides in pertinent part that:

9 Any person who knowingly materially misrepresents under this section— (1) that  
10 material or activity is infringing, or (2) that material or activity was removed or disabled  
11 by mistake or misidentification, shall be liable for any damages, including costs and  
12 attorneys’ fees, incurred by the alleged infringer, by any copyright owner or copyright  
13 owner’s authorized licensee, or by a service provider, who is injured by such  
14 misrepresentation, as the result of the service provider relying upon such  
15 misrepresentation in removing or disabling access to the material or activity claimed to  
16 be infringing, or in replacing the removed material or ceasing to disable access to it.

17 78. On information and belief, Elastic knew that at least some of the content and  
18 materials listed in Exhibits A and B did not infringe any of Elastic’s copyrights on the dates that  
19 they sent GitHub and Sonatype takedown notices under the DMCA.  
20

21 79. In addition, upon information and belief, the fact that Elastic had full access to  
22 floragunn’s source code on GitHub and Sonatype for more than four years, but delayed sending  
23 DMCA takedown notices concerning any such material despite having sent non-specific  
24 correspondence to floragunn alleging infringement, evidences the fact that Elastic did not believe  
25 that any of floragunn’s material hosted by GitHub and Sonatype was infringing material.  
26

27 80. Accordingly, Elastic violated 17 U.S.C. §512(f) by knowingly and materially  
28 misrepresenting that the content and material listed in Exhibits A and B infringed Elastic’s  
rights.

1           81.     As a direct and proximate result of Elastic's actions, floragunn has been injured,  
 2 including but not limited to the interruption of floragunn's business and the expenses, as well as  
 3 costs and attorneys' fees.  
 4

5  
 6 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

7           WHEREFORE, having fully responded to Elastic's Amended Complaint and asserted its  
 8 Counterclaims against Elastic, floragunn prays for judgment as follows:

- 9           a. A judgment dismissing Elastic's Amended Complaint against floragunn with  
 10 prejudice;  
 11           b. A judgment in favor of floragunn on all its Counterclaims;  
 12           c. A declaration that floragunn has not infringed, contributed to the infringement of, or  
 13 induced others to infringe, either directly or indirectly, any of Elastic's claimed  
 14 copyrights.  
 15           d. A declaration that Elastic's claims are barred because Elastic's claimed rights to  
 16 elements of Elastic's software or other works not protected by copyright because they  
 17 are not original, or are otherwise not protectable by copyright or are not otherwise  
 18 protected by the registered copyright identified in paragraph 82 of the Amended  
 19 Complaint.  
 20           e. An award to floragunn of its reasonable costs and expenses of litigation, including  
 21 attorneys' fees; and  
 22           f. Such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.  
 23  
 24  
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 26  
 27  
 28

1 DATED: December 24, 2019

**WUERSCH & GERING LLP**

2  
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12 Attorneys for Defendant  
13 FLORAGUNN GmbH  
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**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

In accordance with Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Civil L.R. 3-6(a),  
floragunn GmbH respectfully demands a jury trial of all issues triable to a jury in this action.

DATED: December 24, 2019

**WUERSCH & GERING LLP**

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Attorneys for Defendant  
FLORAGUNN GmbH

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I am an attorney at Wuersch & Gering LLP, counsel for Defendant, in the above-captioned proceeding. I hereby certify that on December 24, 2019, I caused the foregoing **Answer to First Amended Complaint with Counterclaims** to be served electronically via CM/ECF upon Plaintiffs Elasticsearch, Inc. and elasticsearch, B.V.

*/s/ John A. Smitten /s/*  
John A. Smitten

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