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BODY:

A Glen Burnie game maker has filed a lawsuit in federal court in Baltimore against 10 John Does alleged to have hacked into the company's e-mail and other computer files. Games Workshop Inc. claims that the 10 people, known only from 37 Internet provider (IP) addresses listed in its complaint filed last week, gained access to the company's computers and helped themselves to the confidential information. "On June 13, 2001, Games Workshop discovered that defendants, using computers and/or other electronic devices, had 'hacked' into Games Workshop's web server computer and had attempted to gain and had gained unauthorized access to e-mail files, and possibly other computer files stored on Games Workshop's computers," the complaint alleges. "While Games Workshop has not yet been able to determine the full extent of defendants' unlawful unauthorized access to Games Workshop's computers and computer files," the complaint says, the company "alleges that the compromised files contained proprietary, trade secret and other confidential information having a value of at least \$ 5,000." The company has charged the defendants with violation of the Federal Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, the Federal Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, the Maryland Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance Act and the Maryland Uniform Trade Secrets Act, as well as trespass to chattels. It is seeking \$ 5,000 in compensatory damages and \$ 10 million in punitive damages, and has asked

the court to enjoin the defendants from further accessing its computers and email communication files. Joe Sleboda, a Games Workshop spokesman reached Friday afternoon, said the company declined to comment on the matter. According to court papers, the company intends to subpoena information from the Internet service provider that it hopes will lead to the identity of alleged hackers. However, the company, which manufactures and markets science fiction and fantasy warfare board games with names like Warhammer, Mordheim, Gorka Morka and Blood Bowl, may have its work cut out for it in seeking to identify its alleged adversaries in cyberspace, according to a lawyer familiar with Internet law. "It could be 10 people, it could be one guy using different people's computers without them even knowing he's there," said Robert L. Lombardo, a lawyer currently litigating Internet-related alleged copyright violations. Lombardo, who has no connection to the case filed last week, said the simplest way to understand how Web IP addresses are used by individuals is to compare their issuance to renting a car. "You might get the same make, model and color each time you go to rent a car, but you don't get the same car every time," he said. "Each car has a unique vehicle identification number ." So identifying the hacker could be as easy as isolating who was using the specified IP address at the time the alleged hacking occurred -- or the hacker or hackers could first have gained access to another unknowing person's computer and be working from there, Lombardo said. ""But you'd have to be really good to do that," he added. The Internet Assigned Numbers Authority, based in Marina del Rey, Calif., allocates blocks of IP address space to Regional Internet Registries, according to its Web site. The regional registries allocate blocks of IP address space to their Local Internet Registries, which then assign the addresses to end users. Currently, there are three regional Internet registries: the American Registry for Internet Numbers; Rseaux IP Europens Network Coordination Center; and the Asia-Pacific Network Information Center. According to the European database, the 37 IP

addresses listed on Games Workshop's complaint are assigned to UUNET UK, based in Cambridge, England. Games Workshop's game Warhammer started in England in the 1970s and entered the U.S. market in the early 1980s. By the end of that decade, Games Workshop had opened a headquarters in Baltimore for its North American operations, which included on-site production and shipping, a mail-order department and a company store.

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