

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
BEFORE THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION**

**COMMISSIONERS:**     **Edith Ramirez, Chairwoman**  
                              **Julie Brill**  
                              **Maureen K. Ohlhausen**  
                              **Joshua D. Wright**  
                              **Terrell McSweeny**

**In the Matter of:**

**Network Solutions, LLC, a limited  
liability company.**

**Docket No.**

**COMPLAINT**

The Federal Trade Commission, having reason to believe that Network Solutions, LLC, a limited liability company (“Respondent”) has violated the provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act, and it appearing to the Commission that this proceeding is in the public interest, alleges:


1. Respondent is a Delaware limited liability company with its principal office or place of business at 12808 Gran Bay Parkway West, Jacksonville, Florida 32258.
2. Respondent has advertised, offered for sale, and sold web hosting services.
3. The acts and practices of Respondent alleged in this complaint have been in or affecting commerce, as “commerce” is defined in Section 4 of the Federal Trade Commission Act.

**Respondent’s Business Practices**

5. Respondent sells web hosting services in monthly, annual, or multi-year terms. Respondent offers new annual and multi-year web hosting terms with a free domain registration for the term of the web hosting agreement.

6. Respondent sells web hosting services in packages that offer different features for different durations. For example, Respondent advertises a "Professional Web Hosting" package for one year of "Essential Web Hosting" at \$169.99, which includes more services than "Essential Web Hosting" and \$350 for one year of "Premium Web Hosting". Respondent advertises a "Professional Web Hosting" package for one year of "Essential Web Hosting" at \$169.99, which includes more services than "Essential Web Hosting" and \$350 for one year of "Premium Web Hosting".

7. Since approximately 2008, Respondent has offered a "Guarantee" with its web hosting services.

8. Respondent has disseminated or has caused to be disseminated advertisements for the Guarantee, including but not limited to the following: 

12. At the bottom of webpages advertising the Guarantee, Respondent noted, sometimes in a font considerably smaller than other text on the webpage: “\* See Terms and Conditions for,” followed by several hyperlinks, including one that reads: “30-Day Money Back Guarantee.” Respondent did not disclose the existence of the cancellation fee in these notes. Respondent sometimes placed the hyperlink in blue text against a black background. The placement, wording, size, and color of these hyperlinks made it unlikely that customers would notice them, as in Figure 2.

13. If customers clicked on the

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**Count I**  
**Deceptive Failure to Disclose Cancellation Fee**

15. In connection with the advertising, promotion, offering for sale or sale of web hosting services, Respondent has represented, directly or indirectly, expressly or by implication, that if Respondent's customers cancel web hosting services within thirty days of purchase, they will receive a full refund of their money.

16. In instances in which Respondent has made the representation set forth in Paragraph 15, Respondent has failed to disclose adequately that it withholds part of the refund from customers who: (1) purchase an annual or multi-year web hosting package, (2) register the included domain name, and (3) cancel within thirty days. This fact would be material to consumers in deciding whether to purchase web hosting services from Respondent.

17. Respondent's failure to disclose adequately the material information described in Paragraph 16, in light of the representation described in Paragraph 15, is a deceptive act or practice.

**Violations of Section 5**

18. The acts and practices of Respondent as alleged in this complaint constitute unfair or deceptive acts or practices in or affecting commerce in violation of Section 5(a) of the Federal Trade Commission Act.

**THEREFORE**, the Federal Trade Commission this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015, has issued this Complaint against Respondent.

By the Commission.

Donald S. Clark  
Secretary

SEAL  
ISSUED: