

**EXHIBIT A**



Office of the Director of Licensing  
Intellectual Property & Licensing

North Castle Drive  
Armonk, NY 10504

April 26, 1999

David C. McCourt  
Chairman and CEO  
RCN Corporation  
105 Carnegie Center  
Princeton, NJ 08540

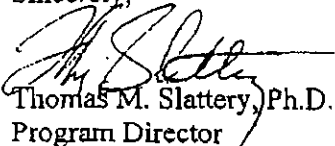
Dear Mr. McCourt:

IBM has recently completed an analysis of RCN Corporation's Internet Service Offerings and concluded that RCN Corporation requires a license to several IBM patents. IBM is the owner of a large patent portfolio comprising nearly a thousand U.S. patents relating to a broad range of networking technologies including the Internet, Network I/O Interfaces, Network Management, ISDN, ATM, Compression, E-Commerce, Media Streaming, E-Mail and Online Service. Attachment "A" provides a list of exemplary IBM patents and the subject areas they address in your business.

IBM is generally willing to license its patents under reasonable terms and conditions. I suggest a meeting be held within the next 30 days to discuss the steps necessary to resolve this matter. At such meeting IBM will be prepared to present to RCN Corporation detailed information concerning the infringement of IBM patents by RCN offerings.

I can be reached by phone at (914) 765-4351 or e-mail [tmslatt@us.ibm.com](mailto:tmslatt@us.ibm.com).

Sincerely,

  
Thomas M. Slattery, Ph.D.  
Program Director  
Licensing

TMS:cs

Attachment "A"

U.S. patent number 5,442,771 to Filepp et al., covers establishing data stores for selective data retention throughout an ISP network, and is used for the provision of data such as World Wide Web pages over EROLS Internet network.

U.S. patent number 5,758,072 to Filepp et al., covers the provision of requested data over a distribution network from a host system to a reception system, and is used for the provision of World Wide Web pages over EROLS Internet network.

U.S. patent number 5,347,632 to Filepp et al., covers the provision of partitioned applications over a distribution network from a host system to a reception system wherein an application partition includes commands for permitting movement between applications, and is used for the provision of the Web pages of the World Wide Web site located at <http://www.erols.com> over EROLS Internet network.

U.S. patent number 4,805,134 to Calo et al., covers a system for providing user access to, and interaction with graphical and textual information in the form of linked pages situated in databases, and is used for the provision of the various EROLS Web pages located at <http://www.erols.com> and <http://store.erols.com> over EROLS Internet network.

U.S. patent number 5,319,542 to King et al., covers providing a user with an electronic catalog including facilities for generating electronic requisitions, and is used by the TUCOWS mirror site offered on the Web pages of the EROLS Internet service.