

January 13, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20054

Re: Fourth Progress Report on Instant Messaging Interoperability

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to the FCC's *Memorandum Opinion and Order* granting consent to the transfer of control of licenses and Section 214 authorizations from America Online, Inc. ("AOL") and Time Warner Inc. ("Time Warner") to AOL Time Warner Inc. ("AOL Time Warner"),¹ AOL Time Warner hereby submits this progress report regarding instant messaging ("IM") interoperability.

In its most recent report, AOL Time Warner informed the Commission that, based on the state of technology development, marketplace conditions, and the significant resources that would be required to pursue server-to-server interoperability, AOL would instead focus on "hosted IM solutions" designed to enable its IM users to communicate with the users of alternative IM providers. To that end, AOL and Apple Computer ("Apple") collaborated to create iChat, an Apple developed—and AIM compatible—instant messaging client. Since the

¹ *Applications for Consent to the Transfer of Control of Licenses and Section 214 Authorizations by Time Warner Inc. and America Online, Inc., Transferors, to AOL Time Warner Inc., Transferee, Memorandum Opinion and Order, CS Docket No. 00-30, FCC 01-12, ¶ 327 (rel. Jan. 22, 2001).*

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date of the last report, the iChat instant messaging service was included with the Mac OS X released in August 2002. There have been no further developments.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven N. Teplitz
Vice President and
Associate General Counsel

cc: Chairman Michael K. Powell
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
W. Kenneth Ferree, Chief, Media Bureau