

Russian Tech Giant Sues Amazon's Twitch for Record \$3Bln

December 16, 2019



The case against Twitch marks the second online dispute between Rambler and a U.S. tech giant in the past week. **Public Domain**

Russia's third-largest internet company Rambler wants a record 180 billion rubles (\$2.87 billion) in compensation from Amazon's streaming giant Twitch over illegal streams, the Kommersant business daily [reported](#) Monday, the second high-profile action Rambler has taken against a U.S. tech company in less than a week.

The lawsuit follows [raids](#) on popular web hosting software Nginx's Moscow office after Rambler claimed ownership rights of its open-source code last week. The raids and brief detentions at Nginx, which was sold to a U.S. company this spring, sparked outrage in Russia's tech world and [renewed concerns](#) of resorting to law enforcement in corporate disputes.

Related article: [Russian Police Raid U.S.-Owned Web Server Nginx's Moscow Office](#)

Rambler wants to ban Twitch and seek damages over what it says are “pirated broadcasts” of English football matches, Kommersant reported. Rambler [bought](#) exclusive rights to air English Premier League (EPL) matches in Russia for a reported 7 million euros earlier this year.

“We had to go to court against Twitch Interactive because we uncovered a significant number of illegal broadcasts,” Mikhail Gershkovich, the head of sports projects at Rambler Group, [told](#) Kommersant.

The Moscow City Court ordered a temporary suspension of EPL streams on Twitch after the lawsuit came to light, the Ekho Moskvyy radio station reported Monday. It is scheduled to hear Rambler’s case against Twitch this Friday, according to the court [database](#), which says the lawsuit was registered in August.

Twitch’s lawyer Yuliana Tabastayeva called Rambler’s case unfounded.

Twitch “only provides users with access to the platform, doesn’t post its own content, can’t change content posted by users or monitor possible violations,” Kommersant quoted Tabastayeva as saying.

The 180-billion-ruble lawsuit likely sets a record in Russia in terms of damages sought in online disputes, intellectual property expert Anatoly Semyonov told Kommersant.

“Rambler’s latest actions are directed against American companies and are in a sense, paternalistic,” Semyonov said.

The two sides are currently negotiating a settlement agreement, Interfax [quoted](#) Gershkovich as saying, but a representative for Twitch later [denied](#) this.

U.S. developer F5 Servers [bought](#) Nginx, one of the world’s most popular open-source web servers [used](#) by nearly 38% of all websites, for \$670 million in March.

Russia is the third-largest [user](#) of Twitch worldwide.

“If they block Twitch, we’re one step from blocking YouTube,” Sports.ru website co-founder Dmitry Navosha told the publication.

Sberbank, Russia’s largest lender, [bought](#) 46.5% of Rambler Group from billionaire Alexander Mamut in April.

Russia previously [blocked](#) the popular streaming platform DailyMotion over copyright claims in 2017.

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