



British blogger faces critical Australian court date

Crucial hearing in complex case that could change the landscape for libel law

The case of British blogger Bruce Everiss - [who is being sued for libel in Australia by an American games company](#) - is due to take another step forward later, as a court hears arguments over jurisdiction.

On Tuesday morning in Sydney, the court of New South Wales will hear arguments over whether it should be involved in the defamation case being brought by Evony - an online gaming firm registered in the US state of Delaware - against Everiss, a British [games](#) industry veteran who lives in Coventry.

While Evony, which also threatened action against the Guardian for claims made in an article published last year, argues that the Australian court is an appropriate forum for the case to be heard because its reputation was damaged there, Everiss has accused the company and its anonymous owners of libel tourism.

In December, ahead of a previous preliminary hearing on the subject, Everiss's lawyer, Damian Sturzaker from the high profile firm Marque, told me that it would create an "extraordinary precedent" if the local court decided it was an appropriate forum for the larger case.

More to come once the hearing has taken place.

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[Icannottototheocean](#)

29 Mar 2010, 9:54PM

Oh well, the games industry really doesn't stand for any nonsense if you dare to criticize them. That's for sure.

I wish him the best of luck.

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EdwardNigma

30 Mar 2010, 11:35AM

Evony LLC isn't like other developers though.

From their use of quasi-pornographic advertising to the alleged use of paying Chinese police to use strong-arm tactics to prevent ex-employees from divulging information about the company, they are definitely something...different.

Even EA would probably consider that a bit over the top.

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