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9 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
10 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
11 **SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

12 AGUSTIN CACCURI, ADRIAN  
13 CENDEJAS and ALLEN NEUMARK, on  
14 behalf of themselves and all others similarly  
15 situated,

16 Plaintiffs,

17 v.

18 SONY INTERACTIVE  
19 ENTERTAINMENT LLC,

20 Defendant.

21 Case Nos. 21-cv-03361-RS  
22 21-cv-03447-RS  
23 21-cv-05031-RS

24 **SECOND CONSOLIDATED**  
25 **AMENDED CLASS ACTION**  
26 **COMPLAINT**

27 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**  
28

1 Plaintiffs Agustin Caccuri, Adrian Cendejas, and Allen Neumark, on behalf of  
2 themselves and all others similarly situated, bring this Consolidated Amended Class Action  
3 Complaint against Sony Interactive Entertainment LLC for violation of federal antitrust and state  
4 unfair competition laws. Based upon personal knowledge, information and belief, and the  
5 investigation of counsel, Plaintiffs allege as follows:

## 6 I. INTRODUCTION

7 1. This is an antitrust and unfair competition class action seeking damages and  
8 injunctive relief for violation of Section 2 of the Sherman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. § 2, and the  
9 California Business and Professions Code § 17200, against Sony Interactive Entertainment LLC  
10 (“Sony” or “Defendant”). Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of themselves and all other  
11 similarly situated Class members who purchased digital video games on Sony’s PlayStation  
12 Store (the “Class”) between April 1, 2019 and the present (the “Class Period”).

13 2. Sony manufactures, markets, and sells the PlayStation, one of the most popular  
14 home video game systems in the world. Sony’s most recent model, the PlayStation 5, is expected  
15 to become the best-selling video game console of all time. PlayStation 5 launched on November  
16 12, 2020, and by September 3, 2021 Sony sold 13.4 million units,<sup>1</sup> making it the fastest-selling  
17 console of all time. Despite record sales numbers, Sony has been unable to supply anywhere  
18 close to enough units to meet consumer demand.<sup>2</sup> Sales are predicted to surpass 200 million units  
19 within the next five years.<sup>3</sup>

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21 <sup>1</sup> See Sony Corporation, Supplemental Information for the Consolidated Financial Results for the  
22 Second Quarter Ended September 30, 2021 (Oct. 28, 2021), [https://www.sony.com/en/SonyInfo/IR/library/presen/er/pdf/21q2\\_supplement.pdf](https://www.sony.com/en/SonyInfo/IR/library/presen/er/pdf/21q2_supplement.pdf).

23 <sup>2</sup> See N.F. Mendoza, *PlayStation rakes in \$2.6 billion in PS5 sales*, TechRepublic (Feb. 25,  
24 2021), <https://www.techrepublic.com/article/playstation-rakes-in-2-6-billion-in-ps5-sales/>.

25 <sup>3</sup> Aernout van de Velde, *PS5 Sales to Exceed 200 to 300 Million Units in 5 to 6 Years, Analyst  
26 Says; Could Terminate the Long-Running Console War*, WCCF Tech (Oct. 17, 2020),  
<https://wccfttech.com/ps5-sales-200-300-million-700-console-war/>; Lionel Sujay Vailshery,  
27 *Forecast unit sales of the PlayStation 5 worldwide from 2020 to 2024* (Apr 12, 2021),  
<https://www.statista.com/statistics/1124784/unit-sales-ps5-worldwide/>.

1           3. Sony has used the console’s popularity to build PlayStation into a multinational  
2 and multifaceted digital entertainment brand which includes an online store for purchasing and  
3 downloading digital video games directly to the console (the PlayStation Store), a unified online  
4 multiplayer gaming and digital media delivery service (the PlayStation Network), a subscription-  
5 based digital video game streaming service (PlayStation Now), and Sony’s video game  
6 development arm (PlayStation Studios).

7           4. The bulk of the profits Sony derives from the PlayStation franchise come not  
8 from sales of its consoles, but from the digital video games and other digital content sold through  
9 the PlayStation Store and the PlayStation Network, which produced over \$17 billion in revenues  
10 for Sony in the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021.<sup>4</sup>

11           5. The PlayStation Store launched in 2006 alongside the PlayStation 3 console,  
12 allowing users to purchase digital copies of PlayStation games and download them directly to the  
13 console as an alternative to buying physical disks and inserting them into the console’s disk  
14 drive. Since the launch of the original PlayStation in 1994, the games had been available only on  
15 disks. Now users can access the PlayStation Store from their console, purchase games, and  
16 download them directly to their console through the PlayStation Network. In 2020, digital  
17 downloads made up 62% of sales for PlayStation games, compared to only 43% in 2018.<sup>5</sup>

18           6. Recognizing this trend, Sony seized the opportunity to take control of the retail  
19 market for games—an area where it had previously exerted little power. Sony does not allow  
20 other applications that enable consumers to purchase or otherwise download and play video  
21 games to run on PlayStation consoles. To make games available on the PlayStation Store—the  
22 only way to sell digital copies—publishers must agree to cede control over the final price to

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23 <sup>4</sup> See Sony Corporation, Financial Statements and Consolidated Financial Results for the Fiscal  
24 Year Ended March 31, 2021 (Apr. 28, 2021), available at [https://www.sony.com/en/SonyInfo/IR/library/presen/er/pdf/20q4\\_sony.pdf](https://www.sony.com/en/SonyInfo/IR/library/presen/er/pdf/20q4_sony.pdf). Dollar figure based on the following exchange rate  
25 from April 28, 2021: 1 JPY = 0.0092 USD.

26 <sup>5</sup> Mustafa Mahmoud, *62% of all full PlayStation game sales were digital in 2020*, Kitguru (Mar.  
27 12, 202), <https://www.kitguru.net/gaming/mustafa-mahmoud/62-of-all-full-playstation-game-sales-were-digital-in-2020/>.

1 Sony.<sup>6</sup> This forecloses price competition among publishers. Finally, Sony eliminated the last  
2 vestiges of price competition when it stopped allowing outside retailers to sell digital download  
3 codes that could be redeemed on the PlayStation Store.

4 7. Until recently, consumers could purchase download codes for digital PlayStation  
5 games from the same online and brick-and-mortar retailers who sell physical games such as  
6 Amazon, GameStop, Best Buy, and Wal-Mart. The codes could be redeemed on the PlayStation  
7 Store for digital copies of PlayStation games. But on April 1, 2019, Sony eliminated retailers'  
8 ability to sell download codes for digital PlayStation games. Because delivering digital content to  
9 PlayStation consoles requires access to Sony's PlayStation Network, the new policy established  
10 the PlayStation Store as the only source from which consumers can purchase digital PlayStation  
11 games, and the only source to which video game publishers can sell digital PlayStation games.  
12 Because Sony also requires publishers who sell digital games on the PlayStation Store to  
13 relinquish full control over the retail price, the policy swiftly and effectively foreclosed any and  
14 all price competition in the retail market for digital PlayStation games.

15 8. Sony's restrictions established a monopoly over the sale of digital PlayStation  
16 games to consumers. Sony's monopoly allows it to charge supracompetitive prices for digital  
17 PlayStation games, which are significantly higher than their physical counterparts sold in a  
18 competitive retail market, and significantly higher than they would be in a competitive retail  
19 market for digital games.

20 9. A comparison of prices for the most popular digital games on the PlayStation  
21 Store with prices for the same games available on disk from an array of retailers suggests prices  
22 on the PlayStation store are, on average, about 75% percent higher than those for games on disk,  
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24 <sup>6</sup> PlayStation Global Developer & Publisher Agreement ¶ 15.2.2 (effective Mar. 23, 2017)  
25 (“Each SIE Company has the sole and exclusive right to set the retail price to Users for Digitally  
26 Delivered Products sold or otherwise made available for purchase on or through [PlayStation  
27 Network].”), available at <https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/946581/000162828017005833/ex10-48.htm>.

1 and in some cases closer to 175% higher.<sup>7</sup> There is no legitimate reason digital games should be  
2 more expensive than their physical counterparts. In fact, given the costs saved on packaging and  
3 distribution, prices for digital games in a truly competitive market would likely be lower than  
4 they are for games on disk.

5 10. Sony's ability to maintain supracompetitive prices on the PlayStation Store while  
6 consumers continue to switch from disks to digital games in ever increasing numbers, along with  
7 Sony's outsized margins on digital games, demonstrate that prices for digital games on the  
8 PlayStation store are not responsive to changes in prices for PlayStation games on disk.

9 11. Consumers face major costs to switch between PlayStation and one of the other  
10 consoles. For example, video games available on the PlayStation 4 can be played on the  
11 PlayStation 5, but cannot be played on any Xbox or any Nintendo console. Consumers that have  
12 built up a library of PlayStation 4 games worth hundreds or thousands of dollars would lose all  
13 that value by switching. Furthermore, PlayStation users are accustomed to the PlayStation  
14 controllers and gameplay, and may have developed social networks within the PlayStation  
15 ecosystem that they would lose if they switched to a new console. Finally, certain games are  
16 available only on PlayStation.

17 12. The relevant product market in this case is the market for downloadable, digitally-  
18 delivered video game content that is compatible with a PlayStation console ("digital PlayStation  
19 games").

20 13. As a direct and proximate result of Sony's unlawful acquisition and maintenance  
21 of a monopoly over the sale of digital PlayStation games, Plaintiffs and Class members have paid  
22 and will continue to pay significantly more for digital games than they would have absent Sony's  
23 monopoly. Plaintiffs seek damages for themselves and Class members equal to the amount they  
24 have already overpaid, treble damages, and injunctive relief to put an end to the overcharges they  
25 will continue to pay as long as Sony is allowed to keep its unlawful monopoly.

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27 <sup>7</sup> See ¶¶ 64-69 and Figure 6, *infra*.

**II. THE PARTIES**

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2 14. Plaintiff Agustin Caccuri is an individual residing in Santa Monica, California.  
3 Mr. Caccuri owns a PlayStation 5 Digital Edition console, has purchased digital video games on  
4 the PlayStation Store and downloaded them to his console during the Class Period, and plans to  
5 purchase and download more digital games from the PlayStation Store in the future.

6 15. Plaintiff Adrian Cendejas is an individual residing in California. Mr. Cendejas  
7 owns a PlayStation 5 Digital Edition console, has purchased digital video games on the  
8 PlayStation Store and downloaded them to his console during the Class Period, and plans to  
9 purchase and download more digital games from the PlayStation Store in the future.

10 16. Plaintiff Allen Neumark is an individual residing in Miami, Florida. Mr. Neumark  
11 owns a PlayStation 5 Digital Edition console, has purchased digital video games on the  
12 PlayStation Store and downloaded them to his console during the Class Period, and plans to  
13 purchase and download more digital games from the PlayStation Store in the future.

14 17. Defendant Sony Interactive Entertainment LLC (“Sony”) is a corporation  
15 organized and existing under the laws of California, with its headquarters and principal place of  
16 business at 2207 Bridgepointe Parkway, San Mateo, California. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary  
17 of the Japanese consumer electronics and media conglomerate Sony Corporation, and is the sole  
18 owner of the PlayStation digital entertainment brand.

19 **III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

20 18. This action arises, in part, under section 2 of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 2. The  
21 Court has federal question jurisdiction pursuant to the Clayton Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. § 15, and  
22 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1337.

23 19. The Court also has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)  
24 because this is a class action in which the aggregate amount in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000  
25 and at least one member of the putative class is a citizen of a different state than the Defendant.

26 20. The Court has personal jurisdiction over Sony because Sony is headquartered in  
27 California. The Court also has jurisdiction pursuant to Cal. Code Civ. P. § 410.10, as a result of  
28

1 Sony’s substantial, continuous and systematic contacts with the State, and because Sony has  
2 purposely availed itself of the benefits and privileges of conducting business activities within the  
3 State.

4 21. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because Class  
5 members purchased digital video games from Sony in this District, Sony has its principal place  
6 of business in this District, a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to Plaintiffs’  
7 claims occurred here, and Sony is a corporation subject to personal jurisdiction in this District  
8 and, therefore, resides here for venue purposes.

9 **IV. INTRADISTRICT ASSIGNMENT**

10 22. Pursuant to N.D. Cal. Civ. L.R. 3-2(c), (d) & 3-5(b), this action is properly  
11 assigned to the San Francisco division because a substantial part of the events and omissions  
12 which give rise to the claim emanated from California and from San Mateo County in particular.

13 **V. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

14 **A. Industry Background**

15 23. The video game market has grown substantially in recent years. Revenues in the  
16 video game industry reached \$180 billion worldwide in 2020, exceeding those from movies and  
17 from the major North American sports leagues combined.<sup>8</sup>

18 24. Video games are played on one of several different electronic platforms,  
19 including: (i) smartphones and tablets; (ii) personal computers; (iii) video game consoles; and  
20 (iv) specialized handheld devices. This case concerns video games consoles, specifically the  
21 market for downloadable, digitally-delivered video game content that is compatible with a  
22 PlayStation console (“digital PlayStation games”).

23 25. Video game consoles are specialized home computer systems that connect to a  
24 television and output a video signal to display videos games. Each game console includes

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26 <sup>8</sup> Jordan Williams, *Video game industry bigger than sports, movies combined: report*, The Hill  
27 (Dec. 23, 2020), <https://thehill.com/blogs/in-the-know/in-the-know/531479-video-game-industry-bigger-than-sports-movies-combined-report>.

1 specially designed handheld controllers that allow users to interact with games, serving a similar  
2 function to that of a keyboard and mouse on a personal computer. For the past two decades, three  
3 companies have dominated the market for video game consoles: Sony, which manufactures the  
4 PlayStation console; Microsoft, manufacturer of the Xbox; and Nintendo. All three companies  
5 periodically release new models of their consoles, with updated hardware and software and new  
6 design features.

7 26. Games are not cross-compatible on different consoles, so once a consumer  
8 purchases a console, he or she must purchase games that are designed for that particular console.  
9 The consoles are substantially differentiated, with distinctively designed controllers and other  
10 factors that lead to a different experience for the player, even where the same games are  
11 available on more than one console. Consumers, therefore, tend to prefer one console over the  
12 others, and are far more likely to continue buying the new models of one console than to switch  
13 to a different console entirely.

14 27. The historical supply chain for video games involves: (i) developers, who design  
15 and execute the creation of games and produce the software; (ii) publishers, who handle funding,  
16 marketing, and distribution to retailers; and (iii) retailers, who sell games to the console-owning  
17 public.<sup>9</sup>

18 28. The relationship between developers and publishers is akin to that between book  
19 authors and publishing houses. The author produces a manuscript and then relies on a publishing  
20 house to print and market the books, and deliver them to bookstores. Similar to the way that  
21 publishing houses often offer advances to authors who agree to write manuscripts for them,  
22 video game publishers also provide funding to developers.

23 29. The three major video game console manufacturers also develop and publish  
24 games for their consoles in-house, called “first-party games” which are often available

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26 <sup>9</sup> See *Intro to the Industry: The difference between game developers and publishers*, Gaming  
27 Street (Sept. 18, 2019), [https://gamingstreet.com/intro-to-the-industry-the-difference-between-  
game-developers-and-publishers/](https://gamingstreet.com/intro-to-the-industry-the-difference-between-game-developers-and-publishers/).

1 exclusively on that company's console. Nintendo relies heavily on first-party games, which make  
2 up about 85% of game sales for its Switch console.<sup>10</sup> Most PlayStation games, on the other hand,  
3 are developed and published by third-parties, with about 17% of game sales being developed by  
4 Sony in 2020.<sup>11</sup>

5 **B. The Sony PlayStation**

6 30. The original PlayStation launched in 1994, and the console was immediately  
7 popular among consumers. In less than a decade, it became the first video game system to ship  
8 100 million units. Sony has released four updated versions of its console to date. The most  
9 recent—the PlayStation 5—launched on November 12, 2020. As of September 3, 2021, Sony  
10 had sold 13.4 million units<sup>12</sup> making it the fastest-selling console of all time.<sup>13</sup> Sony has  
11 nevertheless been unable to meet demand for the console. Upon release, PlayStation 5 consoles  
12 were almost immediately sold out at every retailer. Today, it is still very difficult for consumers  
13 to get their hands on a PlayStation 5 gaming console, with inventory restocks at major retailers  
14 and on Sony's website selling out almost instantaneously.<sup>14</sup> PlayStation 5 sales are expected to  
15 eventually surpass 200 million units.<sup>15</sup>

16 <sup>10</sup> Ben Gilbert, *Nintendo's recent success highlights a critical risk to the gaming giant's business*,  
17 Bus. Insider (Feb. 4, 2019), <https://www.businessinsider.com/nintendo-reliance-on-first-party-games-huge-risk-to-business-2019-2>.

18 <sup>11</sup> Sony Corporation, Supplemental Information for the Consolidated Financial Results for the  
19 Fourth Quarter Ended March 31, 2021 at 9 (Apr. 28, 2021), [sony.com/en/SonyInfo/IR/library/presen/er/pdf/20q4\\_supplement.pdf](https://www.sony.com/en/SonyInfo/IR/library/presen/er/pdf/20q4_supplement.pdf)

20 <sup>12</sup> See Sony Corporation, Supplemental Information for the Consolidated Financial Results for  
21 the Second Quarter Ended September 30, 2021 (Oct. 28, 2021),  
22 [https://www.sony.com/en/SonyInfo/IR/library/presen/er/pdf/21q2\\_supplement.pdf](https://www.sony.com/en/SonyInfo/IR/library/presen/er/pdf/21q2_supplement.pdf).

23 <sup>13</sup> See Jeff Yeung, *The PlayStation 5 Overtakes Nintendo Switch as Best-Selling Console*,  
24 HypeBeast (Oct 19, 2021), <https://hypebeast.com/2021/10/sony-playstation-5-nintendo-switch-best-selling-console-september-2021>.

25 <sup>14</sup> See Kevin Webb, *Sony's PlayStation 5 remains hard to find months after its launch*, Bus.  
26 Insider (Apr. 14, 2021), <https://www.businessinsider.com/where-to-buy-ps5>.

27 <sup>15</sup> See Aernout van de Velde, *PS5 Sales to Exceed 200 to 300 Million Units in 5 to 6 Years, Analyst Says; Could Terminate the Long-Running Console War*, WCCF Tech (Oct. 17, 2020),  
28 <https://wccfttech.com/ps5-sales-200-300-million-700-console-war/>.

1           31.     The PlayStation 5 is available in two versions, the Base Model which is available  
2 for \$499 retail, and the Digital Edition which is \$100 less expensive at \$399 retail. The Base  
3 Model includes the previously-standard optical disk drive, allowing users to choose whether to  
4 purchase physical disk copies of games, available from retailers such as those mentioned above,  
5 or to buy digital copies and download directly to their console. The less expensive Digital  
6 Edition does not include a disk drive, so users can only purchase games in digital format from  
7 Sony's PlayStation Store at Sony's monopoly prices. Sony failed to provide notice to purchasers  
8 of the Digital Edition that they would be restricted to one source for purchasing games. Sony  
9 also failed to provide notice to purchasers of the PlayStation 4 and the PlayStation 5 Base Model  
10 who prefer to buy digital games that they would be limited to one source. And Sony failed to  
11 provide notice to any PlayStation owners that they would be paying monopoly prices for digital  
12 video games.

13           **C.     The Rise of Digital Video Games**

14           32.     Games for early video game consoles took the form of ROM cartridges—read-  
15 only memory chips containing the game software which were housed inside a plastic casing. The  
16 cartridges were inserted into slots on the console. ROM cartridges allowed the user to rapidly  
17 load and access the game software and were more durable than other alternatives available at the  
18 time. Game manufacturers enjoyed the advantage of the relative security of software in cartridge  
19 form, which was difficult for users to copy. ROM cartridges were expensive to manufacture,  
20 however, and offered limited storage capacity relative to optical disks. As video games became  
21 more complex, requiring more software code, manufacturers began to shift to optical disks,  
22 which offered greater storage capacity and were cheaper to manufacture.

23           33.     By the early 2000s, video game cartridges were largely replaced by optical disks  
24 (i.e., DVDs). Like cartridges before them, optical disks could be purchased or rented from a  
25 variety of online and brick-and-mortar retailers, including many that bought and sold used  
26 copies. They could also be traded and shared amongst friends. Technology continued to progress  
27 rapidly, however, and advances in internet bandwidth and home computing power introduced the  
28

1 possibility of downloadable and streaming video games. As video on demand and music  
2 streaming services began to replace DVDs and CDs, the video game industry followed suit.  
3 Console manufacturers added the capability for their consoles to connect to the internet and  
4 introduced virtual stores where digital video games could be purchased and downloaded without  
5 the need for a physical disk.

6 34. Digital downloads offered a new level of convenience. Consumers no longer had  
7 to go to a brick and mortar store to purchase a disk or wait for one to arrive in the mail. Now,  
8 video games could be purchased and played instantly with the click of a button or by entering a  
9 code into the console. Theoretically, digital downloads should also be less expensive. There is  
10 virtually no marginal cost to an additional download, unlike discs which had to be manufactured,  
11 loaded with media, packaged and transported to retail stores.

12 35. Sony, Microsoft, and Nintendo each operate their own virtual store where  
13 consumers can buy and download digital games directly on their console. Sales of digital games  
14 for the three major consoles exceeded sales of their physical counterparts for the first time in  
15 2020,<sup>16</sup> and are projected to reach 80 percent of the market by 2025.<sup>17</sup> The trend is likely to  
16 continue, with video game disks following the path taken by DVDs and CDs towards the history  
17 books.

18 36. All three digital stores operate in a similar fashion: game publishers provide the  
19 game software to the digital store, which then makes the games available for purchase. The store  
20 collects payment and facilitates digital delivery to users' consoles. For their services maintaining  
21 the platform and the necessary infrastructure for delivering digital content, Sony, Microsoft, and  
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24 <sup>16</sup> See Dylan Warman, *For the First Time, Digital Game Sales Outnumber Physical Sales*,  
25 ScreenRant (Aug. 12, 2020), <https://screenrant.com/digital-game-sales-consoles-outnumber-physical-first-time/>

26 <sup>17</sup> Leo Lewis, Kana Inagaki and Patrick McGee, *Sony gears up for ultimate round of gaming*  
27 *wars with Microsoft*, Financial Times (Sept. 17, 2020), <https://www.ft.com/content/0086ab89-06fb-4721-9e69-046f129d6f22>

1 Nintendo take a portion of every sale on their respective stores, remitting the balance to the  
2 publishers.

3 37. Sony's PlayStation Store differs from both Microsoft and Nintendo's digital  
4 stores, however, in that game developers must cede total control over the retail price to Sony.<sup>18</sup>  
5 Microsoft and Nintendo, on the other hand, allow developers who sell games through their  
6 platforms to set the retail price, and then take 30% of that price on each sale for platform fees.<sup>19</sup>  
7 Sony follows a similar revenue sharing model with some publishers, and is reported to take the  
8 same 30% cut.<sup>20</sup> With other publishers, however, Sony maintains agreements whereby it pays the  
9 publisher an agreed upon "wholesale price" for each game sold, with the full retail markup going  
10 to Sony.<sup>21</sup>

11 38. To use the PlayStation Store, a user must create a master account. A log of all  
12 previously purchased items, known as "Download List," records each PlayStation Store  
13 account's complete download activity. Each master account is associated with an online virtual  
14 "wallet" to which funds can be added. This wallet is then debited when a purchase is made from  
15 the store. Money can be added to the wallet through different systems of payment, including  
16 credit cards, debit cards, PayPal transfers and prepaid gift cards, but the wallet does not accept  
17 cash. Consumers must use the PlayStation wallet to purchase digital games through the  
18 PlayStation Store.

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19 <sup>18</sup> See PlayStation Global Developer & Publisher Agreement ¶ 15.2.2 (effective Mar. 23, 2017)  
20 ("Each SIE Company has the sole and exclusive right to set the retail price to Users for Digitally  
21 Delivered Products sold or otherwise made available for purchase on or through [PlayStation  
22 Network]."), available at <https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/946581/000162828017005833/ex10-48.htm>.

23 <sup>19</sup> See *Frequently Asked Questions*, Nintendo Developer Portal, <https://developer.nintendo.com/faq> (last visited Apr. 28, 2021); Microsoft Store App Developer Agreement, Version 8.6  
24 (effective July 10, 2020), available at <https://query.prod.cms.rt.microsoft.com/cms/api/am/binary/RE4o4bH>

25 <sup>20</sup> See Tom Marks, Report: *Steam's 30% Cut Is Actually the Industry Standard*, IGN (Jan. 13,  
26 2020), <https://www.ign.com/articles/2019/10/07/report-steams-30-cut-is-actually-the-industry-standard>.

27 <sup>21</sup> PlayStation Global Developer & Publisher Agreement ¶ 15.2.1.



1 same game is available from Amazon for \$35.00. Madden NFL 22 also costs \$69.99 on the  
 2 Microsoft store—but a download code is available from GameStop for \$34.99. Super Mario  
 3 Party for Nintendo Switch costs \$59.99 on the Nintendo eShop, but a download code is only  
 4 \$49.50 on Amazon.

5 Figure 1: December 14, 2021 Screenshot of Amazon.com



Figure 2: December 14, 2021 Screenshot of GameStop.com

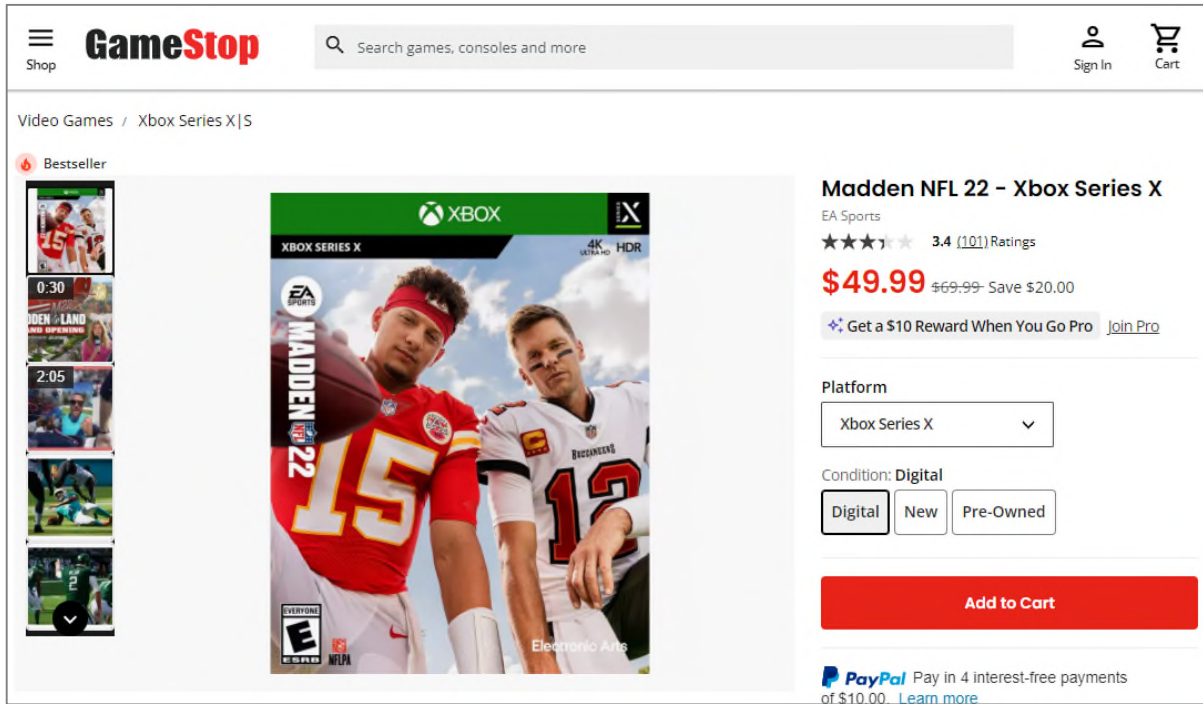
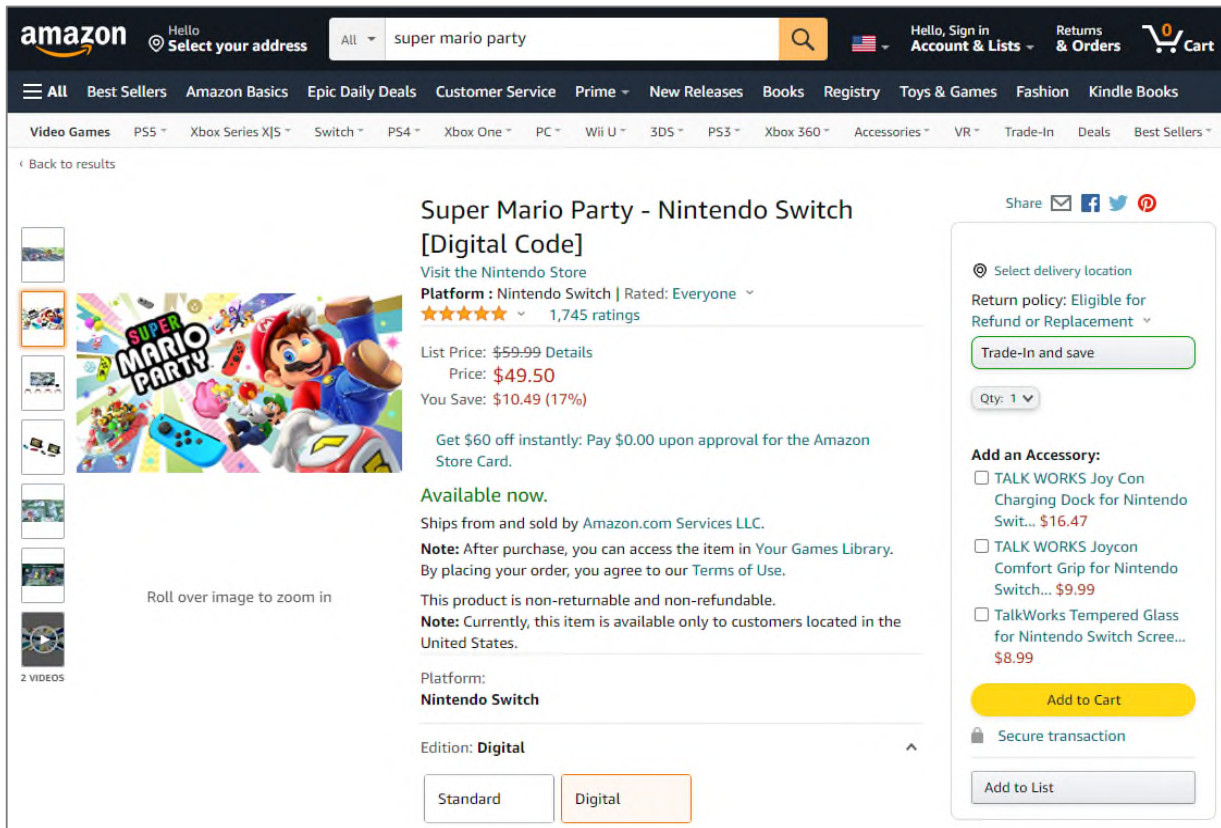


Figure 3: December 14, 2021 Screenshot of Amazon.com



1           41.     Until April 1, 2019, consumers could purchase download codes for digital  
 2 PlayStation games from the same array of retailers that also sold physical games. This allowed  
 3 PlayStation users to purchase a digital copy of a video game from their preferred retailer at the  
 4 retailer's chosen price. At brick-and-mortar stores, these codes came on printed cards that were  
 5 activated at the point of sale. Users could also purchase codes from retailers' websites and  
 6 receive them instantly without the need for any physical game product.

7  
 8                           Figure 4: Digital Game Download Card



21           42.     The financial relationship between Sony and retailers such as Amazon, Best Buy,  
 22 Game Stop and Walmart concerning digital game sales was financially lucrative to Sony and the  
 23 retailers. As a result, Sony treated its relationships with the retailers of its digital games as  
 24 mutually beneficial. Sony actively promoted sales of its digital games through *both* the  
 25 PlayStation Store and at “participating retailers” which evidences that Sony, for years, viewed  
 26 participating retailers as a strong economic source of profitable revenue. Sony promoted sales  
 27

1 through retailers by directing customers to purchase digital games from retailers because it  
2 benefited Sony financially and/or contractually.<sup>24</sup>

3 43. Sony employed multiple pricing structures in order to generate revenue through  
4 third-party sales of digital PlayStation games. For games developed in-house by PlayStation  
5 Studios, Sony generally provided download codes to retailers to sell on consignment, with the  
6 retailer taking a commission on each sale and remitting the remainder of the retail price to  
7 Sony.<sup>25</sup> Sony also sold download codes for third-party games back to the publisher in bulk and  
8 allowed the publishers to deal with retailers directly.<sup>26</sup>

9 44. Sales of digital PlayStation games from third-party retailers were substantial. As  
10 of 2016, GameStop was selling about a billion dollars per year in digital content.<sup>27</sup> Sony is  
11 GameStop's second largest vendor, with Sony products accounting for eighteen percent of new  
12  
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15 <sup>24</sup> See, e.g., Press Release, Sony Corp., PlayStation 4 Sales Surpass 60.4 Million Units  
16 Worldwide (June 13, 2017), <https://www.sie.com/en/corporate/release/2017/170613.html>; Press  
17 Release, Sony Corp., PlayStation 4 Sales Surpass 70.6 Million Units Worldwide (Dec. 7, 2017),  
18 <https://www.sie.com/en/corporate/release/2017/171207.html>; Press Release, Sony Corp., Sony  
19 Interactive Entertainment America Unveils Extraordinary Gaming Experiences for PlayStation 4  
20 And PlayStation VR at E3 2016 (June 14, 2016), Press Release, Sony Corp., PlayStation 4 Sells  
21 5.9 Million Units Worldwide During the 2017 Holiday Season (Jan. 9, 2018),  
22 <https://www.sie.com/en/corporate/release/2018/180109.html>.

23 <sup>25</sup> See Letter from GameStop COO/CFO Robert A. Lloyd to SEC (June 25, 2018),  
24 <https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/0001326380/000132638018000077/filename1.htm>  
25 (We sell a variety of digital products which generally allow consumers to purchase full game  
26 downloads, downloadable content or point of sale activated cards redeemable for digital content.  
27 . . . When purchasing these products from us, consumers pay a retail price and we earn a  
28 commission based on a percentage of the retail sale as negotiated with the product publisher. We  
recognize these commissions as revenue at the time of sale of these digital products.”).

<sup>26</sup> See Sony Interactive Ent't, PlayStation Global Developer and Publisher Agreement § 9.2.4  
(Mar. 23, 2017), <https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/946581/000162828017005833/ex10-48.htm>).

<sup>27</sup> Interview by Deloitte with Robert Lloyd, CFO, GameStop Corp. (Apr. 4, 2016),  
[https://www.wsj.com/articles/for-gamestop-cfo-robert-lloyd-complexity-is-part-of-the-game-1459742593?reflink=desktopwebshare\\_permalink](https://www.wsj.com/articles/for-gamestop-cfo-robert-lloyd-complexity-is-part-of-the-game-1459742593?reflink=desktopwebshare_permalink).

1 product sales in 2019.<sup>28</sup> GameStop is just one of several major retailers who previously sold  
2 digital PlayStation games.

3 45. On or about April 1, 2019, which is also the start of Sony's fiscal year, Sony  
4 implemented a new policy preventing retailers from selling digital download codes. This policy  
5 was only revealed to the public when an employee of GameStop leaked a confidential memo  
6 Sony sent to inform GameStop of the policy change. Sony later confirmed the authenticity of the  
7 memo, but took no other steps to make PlayStation owners and potential purchasers aware of the  
8 restriction.<sup>29</sup> Since access to Sony's PlayStation Network is required to enable digital delivery of  
9 PlayStation games, the result of this scheme is that consumers can purchase digital games only  
10 through the PlayStation Store or not at all. For owners of the PlayStation 5 Digital Edition, that  
11 means the only place they are able to purchase any video games for their console is through the  
12 PlayStation Store.

13 46. Sony's financial performance with retail partners *was not* the impetus for Sony's  
14 decision to refrain from selling digital games through retailers. The relationships Sony had with  
15 these retailers were strong, and lucrative for Sony and its retail partners. Sony's financial  
16 relationship with GameStop and Best Buy was particularly lucrative up until the policy change in  
17 2019. Sony benefited from the marketing and customer service provided by retailers. Customers  
18 who shop at retailers such as GameStop bought more games overall, and more accessories, than  
19 those who shop on the PlayStation Store.<sup>30</sup> To be sure, even after the new policy was  
20 implemented Sony continued to sell cash/gift cards through these same digital game retailers so  
21 that consumers could use the gift cards to buy the games and other digital products through the  
22

23  
24 <sup>28</sup> GameStop Corp., 2019 Annual Report (SEC Form 10-K) at 3 (Mar. 27, 2020),  
<https://news.gamestop.com/static-files/9d2139e1-31c7-498f-ad95-63db1e6d085a>.

25 <sup>29</sup> See Nick Statt, *Sony confirms it will stop letting GameStop and other retailers sell PS4*  
26 *download codes*, The Verge (Mar. 25, 2019), <https://www.theverge.com/2019/3/25/18281538/sony-playstation-4-gamestop-stop-selling-game-download-codes-retailers>.

27 <sup>30</sup> GameStop Corp., Q2 2019 Earnings Call Transcript at 5 (Sep. 10, 2019).

1 retailers.<sup>31</sup> This enabled Sony to retain the benefit of retailers' customers while avoiding  
2 competition with the retailers on digital game pricing.

3 47. By implementing this new policy, Sony elected to sacrifice short-term sales and  
4 profits in order to shift *all* digital game sales to the PlayStation Store where prices for digital  
5 games were generally higher. The following Sony Interactive Entertainment Business Data and  
6 Sales Report demonstrates that for Fiscal Year 2019 when it first implemented the new policy  
7 eliminating retailers as competitors in digital game sales, Sony sustained a substantial loss of  
8 Software Unit Sales and corresponding revenue in digital games.

9 Figure 5<sup>32</sup>

10 **Worldwide PlayStation®4 Software Unit Sales (Sell-in / Unit: millions)**

	Q1 (April - June)	Q2 (July - September)	Q3 (October - December)	Q4 (January - March)	FY (April - March)
FY2016	39.9	54.0	85.5	54.9	234.2
FY2017	45.9	76.1	92.8	59.4	274.2
FY2018	47.7	82.3	95.6	62.3	292.7
FY2019	50.5	71.6	88.7	65.3	276.1
FY2020	91.4	81.8	N/A	N/A	N/A

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18 48. Sony faced decreased revenue in its first year of implementation of eliminating  
19 third-party digital game sales. Sony's total game software sales for the first quarter of  
20 implementation, the quarter beginning on April 1, 2019, which was a year before Covid, were  
21 the third lowest of any quarter between 2016 and 2020. Game software sales for the full 2019  
22  
23

24  
25 <sup>31</sup> Chrissy Montelli, *How to gift games on a PS4 by sharing a PlayStation Store Cash Card, since you can't gift games directly*, Business Insider (Dec. 5, 2019),  
26 <https://www.businessinsider.com/how-to-gift-games-on-ps4>.

27 <sup>32</sup> Sony Interactive Ent't, *Business and Sales Data*, <https://www.sie.com/en/corporate/data.html>  
28 (last visited July 12, 2022).

1 fiscal year were also down from 2018.<sup>33</sup> By 2020, however, Sony was taking advantage of its  
2 monopoly profits, posting \$17.32 billion for the fiscal year in sales of digital games and  
3 associated content.<sup>34</sup>

4 49. Sony, at all relevant times, retained exclusive control over the design, features and  
5 operating software for PlayStation consoles, and over the necessary software for delivering  
6 digital content to PlayStation consoles. The digital PlayStation games sold by Sony to consumers  
7 through the PlayStation Store after the change in policy were largely the same game titles as  
8 those that were previously sold through retailers.

9 50. Sony specifically intended to and did eliminate price competition from other  
10 digital video game retailers. Sony entrenched its monopoly by eliminating retailers, temporarily  
11 sacrificing short-term sales and profits in order to control the Sony digital game market  
12 exclusively through the PlayStation Store. As a result, Sony has an unlawful monopoly over the  
13 market for digital PlayStation games, from which it derives supracompetitive profits.

14 51. Before the April 2019 policy change, publishers could sell both physical  
15 PlayStation games and digital games, via download codes, through a variety of retailers.  
16 Retailers profit from markups on the final purchase price, but price competition among them puts  
17 downward pressure on retail price markups. Sony also charges a Platform Royalty Fee on each  
18 game sold by retailers for use on its gaming consoles, including PlayStation 5. On information  
19 and belief, Sony's Platform Royalty Fee for physical and digital games sold at external retailers  
20 is 11.5%.

21 52. By foreclosing retail competition for digital PlayStation games, Sony effectively  
22 takes the retail markup for itself in addition to its royalty fee. Consumers, limited to a single  
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24 <sup>33</sup> See Sony Corporation, 2019 Annual Report (SEC Form 20-F) at 31, 24 (June 26, 2020),  
[https://www.sony.com/en/SonyInfo/IR/library/FY2019\\_20F\\_PDF.pdf](https://www.sony.com/en/SonyInfo/IR/library/FY2019_20F_PDF.pdf).

25 <sup>34</sup> Sony Corporation, Financial Statements and Consolidated Financial Results for the Fiscal  
26 Year Ended March 31, 2021 (Apr. 28, 2021), available at [https://www.sony.com/en/SonyInfo/IR/library/presen/er/pdf/20q4\\_sony.pdf](https://www.sony.com/en/SonyInfo/IR/library/presen/er/pdf/20q4_sony.pdf). Dollar figure based on the following exchange rate  
27 from April 28, 2021: 1 JPY = 0.0092 USD.

1 source for purchasing any digital PlayStation content, are forced to pay a higher price for digital  
2 PlayStation games than they would in a free and unrestrained competitive retail market.

3 53. Additionally, by taking complete control over retail prices for digital PlayStation  
4 games, Sony foreclosed price competition among video game publishers to a significant degree  
5 because they can no longer execute a strategy of offering lower retail prices to gain a higher  
6 share of sales. Instead, Sony sets the price to maximize its own profits, and Sony's interests in  
7 choosing a retail price strategy conflict with the interests of video game publishers. Because  
8 Sony is responsible for all the marginal costs associated with each sale, it is incentivized to set  
9 the price higher to obtain a greater margin on each sale. Publishers, who incur no additional costs  
10 with each additional game sold, would maximize their profits at a lower price point but greater  
11 sales volume, relative to Sony. As one source from an independent game publisher recently put  
12 it: "[h]aving a limited ability to discount our titles, and get featured through sales really hurts our  
13 revenue."<sup>35</sup>

14 54. Sony owns, possesses or controls 100% of the PlayStation Store, maintains and  
15 operates the PlayStation Store with Sony employees or agents, and controls all of the sales,  
16 revenue collections and other business operations.

17 55. The revenue Sony generates through sales of digital video games has been  
18 increasing sharply since it established its monopoly on digital PlayStation games, and will  
19 continue to rise as more users shift to digital games. In 2019, Sony made \$12.48 billion through  
20 sales of digital PlayStation games and associated content.<sup>36</sup> For the fiscal year ending March 31,  
21 2021, that number was \$17.32 billion.<sup>37</sup>

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25 <sup>35</sup> See, e.g., Liam Croft, *Report: How PlayStation Is Failing Indie Developers*, Push Square (July  
26 2, 2021), [https://www.pushsquare.com/news/2021/07/report\\_how\\_playstation\\_is\\_failing\\_](https://www.pushsquare.com/news/2021/07/report_how_playstation_is_failing_indie_developers)  
27 [indie\\_developers](https://www.pushsquare.com/news/2021/07/report_how_playstation_is_failing_indie_developers).





1 Store's "Best-Seller" list<sup>36</sup> as of May 4, 2021, along with the prices of the same games on disk  
 2 from four prominent retailers. As shown, Sony's prices on the PlayStation Store are between  
 3 12% and 171% higher for these games than the average prices for each across the other four  
 4 retailers.

5 **Figure 6**

6 Game	PS Store	Wal-Mart	GameStop	Best Buy	Amazon	Non-PS Store Average	Price Δ on PS Store
7 Madden NFL 21	\$59.99	\$19.98	\$27.99	\$19.99	\$29.16	\$24.28	+147%
8 Ghost of Tsushima	\$59.99	\$56.50	\$37.99	\$59.99	\$59.99	\$53.62	+12%
9 NBA 2K21	\$59.99	\$29.72	\$18.99	\$19.99	\$19.99	\$22.17	+171%
10 Watch Dogs Legion	\$59.99	\$36.49	\$49.99	\$59.99	\$30.00	\$44.12	+36%
11 Marvel's Avengers	\$39.99	\$29.00	\$22.99	\$24.99	\$24.99	\$25.49	+57%
12 MLB The Show 20	\$19.99	\$9.99	\$8.99	\$19.99	\$16.97	\$13.99	+43%
13 Resident Evil 3	\$59.99	\$27.99	\$34.99	\$39.99	\$25.50	\$32.12	+87%
14 NHL 21	\$59.99	\$28.89	\$29.99	\$19.99	\$25.00	\$25.97	+131%
<b>Average Price Δ on PS Store:</b>							<b>+74%</b>

15 66. The market for video games on disk provides a helpful benchmark for what prices  
 16 would look like in a competitive market for digital games. There is no legitimate reason digital  
 17 games should be more expensive than their physical counterparts. In fact, given the costs saved  
 18 on packaging and distribution, prices for games in a truly competitive market for digital games  
 19 would likely be lower than they are for games on disk. The only plausible explanation for the  
 20 stark price differences is Sony's monopoly power in the market for digital PlayStation games. As  
 21 video game disks go the way of CDs and DVDs before them, Sony has positioned itself to gain  
 22 an ever-increasing share of, and eventually, a monopoly in the market for *all* PlayStation games.

23 67. Sony made approximately \$17 billion in revenue from the sale of digital  
 24 PlayStation games in the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021.<sup>37</sup> If the average price difference of

25 <sup>36</sup> See *PlayStation Store: Best Sellers*, Sony Interactive Entm't, <https://store.playstation.com/en-us/category/877e5ce2-4afc-4694-9f69-4758e34e58cd/1> (last visited May 4, 2021).

26 <sup>37</sup> See Sony Corporation, *Financial Statements and Consolidated Financial Results for the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2021* (Apr. 28, 2021), available at <https://www.sony.com/en/SonyInfo>

1 +74% indicated by the above data is representative of the broader market, then overcharges  
2 resulting from Sony's monopoly could be in the range of \$7 billion *per year* as long as Sony's  
3 monopoly continues.

4 68. The lack of a truly competitive environment has also led to reduced output and  
5 supply of PlayStation video games because publishers are barred from selling these games at  
6 prices below Sony's chosen retail price. Control over prices, including the opportunity to offer  
7 discounts and promotions, is a key tool that smaller, independent publishers use to sell their  
8 games. Sources from such publishers have described how difficult it is to gain traction on the  
9 PlayStation Store in the face of Sony's restriction.<sup>38</sup> This lowers the incentive for publishers to  
10 expend the resources necessary to make their games available on the PlayStation Store. In this  
11 way, Sony's unlawful monopoly restricts output of new digital PlayStation games.

12 69. The existence of supracompetitive pricing, reduced consumer choice among  
13 market alternatives, and reduced output demonstrate that Sony's monopolistic conduct has  
14 injured competition generally in the market for digital PlayStation games, precisely the type of  
15 harm the antitrust laws were intended to prevent.

#### 16 **VIII. ANTITRUST INJURY**

17 70. Plaintiffs and Class members have been injured by Sony's anticompetitive  
18 conduct because they have been deprived the choice of purchasing digital games at lower prices  
19 from competing retailers and paid more for digital PlayStation games than they would have paid  
20 in a competitive market.

21 71. Plaintiffs and Class members have also been injured because Sony's unlawful  
22 monopolization of the relevant market extinguished Plaintiffs and Class members' freedom of  
23

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24 /IR/library/presen/er/pdf/20q4\_sony.pdf. Dollar figure based on the following exchange rate  
25 from April 28, 2021: 1 JPY = 0.0092 USD.

26 <sup>38</sup> See Liam Croft, *Report: How PlayStation Is Failing Indie Developers*, Push Square (July 2,  
27 2021), [https://www.pushsquare.com/news/2021/07/report\\_how\\_playstation\\_is\\_failing\\_indie\\_developers](https://www.pushsquare.com/news/2021/07/report_how_playstation_is_failing_indie_developers).

1 choosing between video games sold through the PlayStation Store and lower cost alternatives  
2 that would have been available had Sony not monopolized the market.

3 72. Plaintiffs and Class members have also been injured by reduced output resulting  
4 from Sony's monopolization of the relevant market by being deprived of the opportunity to  
5 purchase and play digital PlayStation games that would have been available but for Sony's  
6 anticompetitive policies.

7 **IX. EFFECT ON INTERSTATE COMMERCE**

8 73. During the relevant time period, Sony produced, marketed, sold, and delivered  
9 digital PlayStation games across state lines in an uninterrupted flow of interstate commerce.

10 74. During the relevant time period, Plaintiffs and Class members purchased digital  
11 PlayStation games, other digital content, and related services from Sony and/or its agents. As a  
12 result of Sony's illegal and anticompetitive conduct, Plaintiffs and Class members were  
13 compelled to pay, and did pay, artificially inflated prices for one or more of the aforementioned  
14 products and services.

15 75. During the relevant time period, Sony employed various instrumentalities of  
16 interstate commerce to effectuate the illegal acts alleged herein, including the United States mail,  
17 interstate and foreign travel, and interstate and foreign wire commerce.

18 76. Defendant's conduct was within the flow of and was intended to have and did  
19 have a direct, substantial, and foreseeable effect on interstate commerce.

20 77. Sony's conduct has also had substantial intrastate effects in that, among other  
21 things, consumers paid overcharges in each state. Sony's conduct materially deprived the  
22 consuming public—including of purchasers in each state—of any choice to purchase more  
23 affordable digital PlayStation games from retailers other than Sony. The absence of competition  
24 for PlayStation 5 games has, and continues to, directly and substantially affect and disrupt  
25 commerce within each state.

**X. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

78. Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated as a class action under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(a), (b)(2) and (3), seeking damages and injunctive relief on behalf of the following Class:

All persons in the United States who purchased through the PlayStation Store one or more video games for which a game specific voucher (“GSV”) was available at retail prior to April 1, 2019, for which a total of at least 200 GSV redemptions were made prior to April 1, 2019, and for which the post-discount price increased by at least fifty cents from: (a) the period between January 1, 2017 and March 31, 2019; as compared to (b) the period between April 1, 2019 and December 31, 2023. The class period shall be April 1, 2019 to December 31, 2023. Excluded from the Settlement Class are: (1) Defendant and its counsel, officers, directors, management, employees, parents, subsidiaries and affiliates; and (2) the Court and its employees.

79. Plaintiffs and the Class seek damages for the overcharges they have paid since Sony monopolized the relevant market, and permanent injunctive relief to prevent or remedy the unlawful conduct alleged herein and thereby ensure competition in the relevant market.

80. Members of the Class are so numerous and geographically dispersed that joinder of all members is impracticable. Upon information and belief, there are at least ten million Class members, who reside in and have purchased digital PlayStation games in every state and territory throughout the United States. Moreover, given the costs of complex antitrust litigation, it would be uneconomic for many class members to bring individual claims and join them together. The Class is readily identifiable from information and records in the possession of Defendant.

81. Plaintiffs are members of the Class they seek to represent, and their claims arise from the same factual and legal bases as those of the Class; they assert the same legal theories as do all Class members.

82. Plaintiffs’ claims are typical of the claims of Class members. Plaintiffs’ claims arise out of the same course of anticompetitive conduct that gives rise to the claims of the other Class members. Plaintiffs and all members of the Class were damaged by the same wrongful conduct: Sony’s monopolization of the retail market for digital PlayStation games. Plaintiffs and

1 all members of the Class paid supracompetitive prices for digital PlayStation games and were  
2 deprived of the benefits of retail competition as a result of Sony's unlawful monopoly.

3 83. Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect and represent the interests of the  
4 Class. The interests of Plaintiffs are aligned with, and not antagonistic to, those of the other  
5 members of the Class.

6 84. Plaintiffs are represented by counsel who are experienced and competent in the  
7 prosecution of antitrust class actions.

8 85. Questions of law and fact common to the members of the Class predominate over  
9 questions that may affect only individual Class members. Overcharge damages with respect the  
10 Class as a whole are appropriate because Sony acted on grounds generally applicable to the  
11 entirety of the Class. Such generally applicable conduct is inherent in Sony's unlawful creation  
12 and maintenance of a monopoly in the market for digital PlayStation games. Questions of law  
13 and fact common to the Class include, but are not limited to:

- 14 a) Whether Sony unlawfully created, maintained and continues to maintain  
15 monopoly power in the relevant market;
- 16 b) Whether Sony's unlawful monopoly has caused and continues to cause  
17 anticompetitive effects in the relevant market;
- 18 c) Whether procompetitive justifications exist, and if they do, whether there were  
19 less restrictive means of achieving them;
- 20 d) Whether Sony's unlawful monopoly has substantially affected intrastate and/or  
21 interstate commerce;
- 22 e) Whether Sony's unlawful monopoly caused antitrust injury through overcharges  
23 to the business or property of Plaintiffs and the members of the Class;
- 24 f) Whether Sony's marketing, sales and business practices with regard to  
25 PlayStation consoles and digital games constitutes unlawful, unfair,  
26 unconscionable or misleading conduct;
- 27 g) Whether injunctive relief is warranted to restore competition in the relevant  
28 market; and
- h) The quantum of overcharges paid by the Class in the aggregate.

86. The common questions of law and fact are identical for each and every member of  
the Class.



1 exclusive distributor of digital PlayStation games; and (ii) maintaining complete control over  
2 retail prices on the PlayStation Store.

3 94. Sony's unlawful acquisition of monopoly power has reduced competition in the  
4 relevant market resulting in decreased output and supracompetitive prices for digital PlayStation  
5 games.

6 95. There is and was no legitimate, non-pretextual, procompetitive business  
7 justification for Sony's conduct that outweighs its harmful effect.

8 96. Plaintiffs and Class members have been injured by Sony's unlawful  
9 monopolization because they have been: (a) deprived of lower cost alternatives for digital  
10 PlayStation games; (b) forced to pay supracompetitive prices for those games; and/or (c)  
11 subjected to a lower of those games. Plaintiffs and Class members paid more for digital  
12 PlayStation games than they otherwise would have absent Sony's unlawful monopolization of  
13 the digital PlayStation game market.

14 97. Plaintiffs and Class members have suffered economic injury to their property as a  
15 direct and proximate result of Sony's monopolization of the relevant market in violation of 15  
16 U.S.C. § 2, and are, therefore, entitled to treble damages, costs, and attorneys' fees in amounts to  
17 be proven at trial.

18 98. Plaintiffs and Class members have suffered economic injury to their property as a  
19 direct and proximate result of Sony's unlawful monopolization, and Sony is, therefore, liable for  
20 treble damages, costs, and attorneys' fees in amounts to be proven at trial.

21 **SECOND CLAIM**

22 **Attempted Monopolization Under Section 2 of The Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 2**  
23 **and Section 4 of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. 4**

24 99. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate the allegations elsewhere in the Complaint as if  
25 fully set forth herein.

26 100. Sony has engaged in exclusionary, predatory and anticompetitive conduct with a  
27 specific intent to monopolize the market digital PlayStation games. Specifically, Sony has

1 unlawfully attempted to acquire monopoly power by: (i) establishing the PlayStation Store as the  
2 exclusive distributor of digital PlayStation games; and (ii) maintaining complete control over  
3 retail prices on the PlayStation Store.

4 101. Sony's attempted acquisition of monopoly power has reduced competition in the  
5 relevant market resulting in decreased output and supracompetitive prices for digital PlayStation  
6 games.

7 102. There is and was no legitimate, non-pretextual, procompetitive business  
8 justification for Sony's conduct that outweighs its harmful effect.

9 103. Plaintiffs have been injured by Sony's unlawful attempted monopolization  
10 because they have been: (a) deprived of lower cost alternatives for digital PlayStation games; (b)  
11 forced to pay supracompetitive prices for those games; and (c) subjected to a lower output of  
12 those games. Plaintiff and Class members paid more for digital PlayStation games than they  
13 otherwise would have absent Sony's unlawful monopolization of the digital PlayStation game  
14 market.

15 104. Plaintiffs and Class members have suffered economic injury to their property as a  
16 direct and proximate result of Sony's attempted monopolization of the relevant market in  
17 violation of 15 U.S.C. § 2, and are, therefore, entitled to treble damages, costs, and attorneys'  
18 fees in amounts to be proved at trial.

19 **THIRD CLAIM**

20 **Declaratory and Injunctive Relief Under Section 2 of The Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 2**  
21 **and Sections 2 and 16 of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. § 26**

22 105. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporates the allegations elsewhere in the Complaint as  
23 if fully set forth herein.

24 106. Sony's unlawful creation and maintenance of a monopoly in the digital  
25 PlayStation game market violates Section 2 of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C § 2. Its unlawful  
26 conduct is continuing and will continue unless it is permanently enjoined. The anticompetitive  
27

1 effects of Sony’s unlawful conduct in the relevant market are continuing and will continue absent  
2 an injunction.

3 107. Plaintiffs and the Class have been injured in their business or property by reason  
4 of Sony’s antitrust violations alleged in this Count. These injuries will continue until Sony’s  
5 anticompetitive conduct ceases and competition is restored.

6 **FOURTH CLAIM**

7 **Damages Under the California Unfair Competition Law**  
8 **Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.***

9 108. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate the allegations elsewhere in the Complaint as if  
10 fully set forth herein.

11 109. Sony fails to disclose to consumers in its marketing, advertising or at the point of  
12 sale that digital edition games can only be purchased on the PlayStation Store. Consumers who  
13 purchase games have historically been accustomed to shopping for games and comparing prices  
14 or other features offered from different retailers. Sony’s departure from this traditional  
15 environment to an exclusive online store where games are available at significantly higher prices  
16 should have been disclosed to consumers prior to purchasing a PlayStation console, especially  
17 those consumers who purchase the Play Station 5 Digital Edition console who were effectively  
18 “locked-in” to purchasing digital games from the PlayStation Store.

19 110. This video game aftermarket restriction is unfair, immoral, unethical,  
20 unscrupulous, and substantially injurious to consumers and the utility of its conduct, if any, does  
21 not outweigh the gravity of the harm to its victims.

22 111. Purchasers of the PlayStation console before and after Sony’s elimination of retail  
23 competition for digital PlayStation games did not have notice that digital games would only be  
24 available from the PlayStation store or that they would be paying significantly higher prices for  
25 digital games.

26 112. On average, Sony charges significantly more for digital PlayStation games than  
27 other retailers charge for the same games on disk. Given the costs saved on manufacturing,  
28

1 packaging, and distributing video game disks, there is no legitimate business reason for this  
2 discrepancy. The unreasonably high margins Sony obtains on digital PlayStation game sales is  
3 evidence of its unfair business practices.

4 113. Sony's monopolizing conduct violates the public policy of preserving fair  
5 business competition as declared by specific constitutional, statutory or regulatory provisions,  
6 including the Sherman Act and the Cartwright Act.

7 114. Sony's monopolizing conduct is also unfair because the consumer injury is  
8 substantial, is not outweighed by benefits to consumers or competition, and is not one  
9 consumers could reasonably have avoided.

10 **FIFTH CLAIM**

11 **Unjust Enrichment**

12 115. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate the allegations elsewhere in the Complaint as if  
13 set forth in full herein.

14 116. As a result of Sony's monopolization of the digital PlayStation video game  
15 market, Sony has been unjustly enriched at the expense of Plaintiffs and Class members, who  
16 purchased digital PlayStation games from the PlayStation Store when they otherwise might not  
17 have, or spent more to purchase digital PlayStation games than they otherwise would have absent  
18 Sony's wrongful acts described herein.

19 117. It would be inequitable for Sony to retain the profits, benefits, and other  
20 compensation obtained from its wrongful conduct.

21 118. As a result, Plaintiffs seeks, on behalf of themselves and other Class Members,  
22 restitution from Sony and an Order disgorging all of Sony's inequitably-obtained revenue,  
23 profits, benefits, or other compensation.

24 119. Because the Court has broad discretion to find Sony was unjustly enriched, and  
25 because the Court has broad discretion to award appropriate relief, and because Sony may have  
26 been unjustly enriched in an amount different than the amount Plaintiffs and Class Members  
27

1 were damaged, Plaintiffs' legal remedies are inadequate to fully compensate Plaintiffs for all of  
2 Sony's challenged behavior.

3 **XII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

4 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the proposed Class, pray for  
5 judgment against Sony as to each and every claim made herein and for the following relief:

6 A. An Order determining that this action may be maintained as a class action  
7 pursuant to Rules 23(a), (b)(2) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and directing  
8 that reasonable notice of this action, as provided by Rule 23(c)(2), be given to the Class, and  
9 appointing the Plaintiffs as the named representatives of the Class;

10 C. Injunctive relief ensuring free and unrestrained competition in the market for  
11 digital PlayStation games, and preliminarily and permanently enjoining Sony from continuing  
12 the unlawful conduct alleged herein, and from engaging in similar or related conduct in the  
13 future;

14 D. Monetary relief consisting of treble damages in an amount to be determined at  
15 trial; pre- and post-judgment interest; and costs, expenses, and reasonable attorneys' fees; and

16 G. Any other and further relief the case may require and the Court may deem just  
17 and proper under the circumstances.

18 **XIII. JURY DEMAND**

19 120. Pursuant to Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiffs, on behalf  
20 of themselves and the proposed Class, demand a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

21 Dated: December 13, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

22 /s/ Michael M. Buchman

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