

ADMINISTRATIVE PANEL DECISION

Nextone, Inc. v. Yasir Ayoub, Fiscal And Fintech
Case No. D2026-1476

1. The Parties

The Complainant is Nextone, Inc., United States of America (United States), represented by Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP, United States.

The Respondent is Yasir Ayoub, Fiscal And Fintech, United Arab Emirates.

2. The Domain Name and Registrar

The disputed domain name <palmorepublishing.com> is registered with Hostinger Operations, UAB (the “Registrar”).

3. Procedural History

The Complaint was filed with the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center (the “Center”) on April 7, 2026. On April 8, 2026, the Center transmitted by email to the Registrar a request for registrar verification in connection with the disputed domain name. On April 9, 2026, the Registrar transmitted by email to the Center its verification response disclosing registrant and contact information for the disputed domain name which differed from the named Respondent (Redacted for Privacy) and contact information in the Complaint. The Center sent an email communication to the Complainant on April 10, 2026, providing the registrant and contact information disclosed by the Registrar, and inviting the Complainant to submit an amendment to the Complaint. The Complainant filed an amended Complaint on April 14, 2026.

The Center verified that the Complaint together with the amended Complaint satisfied the formal requirements of the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the “Policy” or “UDRP”), the Rules for Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the “Rules”), and the WIPO Supplemental Rules for Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the “Supplemental Rules”).

In accordance with the Rules, paragraphs 2 and 4, the Center formally notified the Respondent of the Complaint, and the proceedings commenced on April 16, 2026. In accordance with the Rules, paragraph 5, the due date for Response was May 6, 2026. The Respondent did not submit any response. Accordingly, the Center notified the Respondent’s default on May 18, 2026.

The Center appointed Warwick A. Rothnie as the sole panelist in this matter on May 21, 2026. The Panel finds that it was properly constituted. The Panel has submitted the Statement of Acceptance and Declaration of Impartiality and Independence, as required by the Center to ensure compliance with the Rules, paragraph 7.

4. Factual Background

The Complainant is a company based in South Carolina, in the United States, which provides self-publishing services to authors under the brand “Palmetto Publishing”. These services include cover design, book editing, interior formatting, illustrating, printing and marketing. The Complainant was established in July 2015. It was awarded the 2017 Better Business Bureau TORCH Award for Marketplace Excellence and currently has an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau.

In 2019, the Complainant’s service was used for the publication of 249 books; in 2020, the number of books published increased to more than 500; in 2021, more than 800 books were published; and in 2022, more than 1,200.

The Complainant promotes and provides its services from a website at “www.palmettopublishing.com” which features prominently in the header to the landing page the logo:



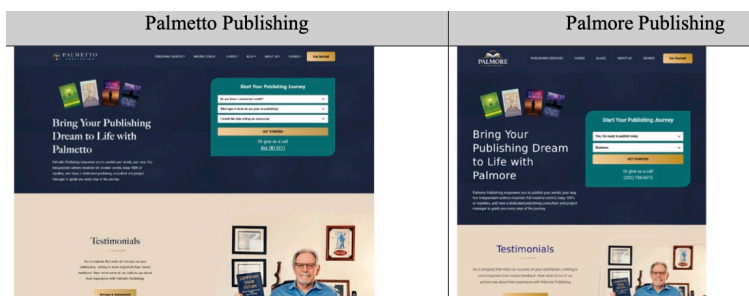
Its Facebook account has 46,000 followers; its Instagram account, 17,200 followers; its LinkedIn and TikTok accounts, 2,000 followers each.

The Complaint includes evidence that the Complainant owns a number of registered trademarks in the United States, all registered in the Principal Register. For present purposes, it is sufficient to note:

(1) United States Registered Trademark No 6,066,548, which was registered on June 2, 2020, in respect of downloadable books in International Class 9, books in International Class 16 and book publishing services in International Class 41 for a device mark including PALMETTO PUBLISHING GROUP (with a disclaimer on the term “PUBLISHING GROUP”) and a design of a palm frond-like quill to the right of the words. This trademark claims a first use in commerce in July 2015;

(2) United States Registered Trademark No 7,694,262, PALMETTO PUBLISHING, word mark, which was registered on February 18, 2025, in respect of a range of goods and services in International Classes 9, 16, 35, and 41 related to books, downloadable books and publishing, retailing and marketing services, and with a disclaimer on the term “PUBLISHING”. This registration claims first use in commerce on September 30, 2023.

The disputed domain name was created on January 8, 2026. It does not currently resolve to an active website. Prior to the Complaint being filed, however, it resolved to a website which appeared substantially to be a clone of the Complainant’s website in which for the most part the name “Palmore Publishing” had been substituted for the Complainant’s logo and name. For example, the Complaint includes a side by side comparison of (amongst other things) the two landing pages:



On a number of pages, however, the references to “Palmetto Publishing” or “Palmetto” have not been replaced. According to the Complaint, the Respondent’s website reproduced the company history of the Complainant, including the names of current employees and family members. The Respondent’s website also claimed to be located in two cities in South Carolina and Georgia including Charleston where the Complainant is located. In a Facebook exchange, the Respondent asserted that it and the Complainant were both subsidiaries of “Fiscal and Fintech”.

5. Discussion and Findings

No response has been filed. The Complaint and Written Notice have been sent, however, to the Respondent at the electronic and physical coordinates confirmed as correct by the Registrar in accordance with paragraph 2(a) of the Rules. Bearing in mind the duty of the holder of a domain name to provide and keep up to date correct Whois details, therefore, the Panel finds that the Respondent has been given a fair opportunity to present its case.

When a respondent has defaulted, paragraph 14(a) of the Rules requires the Panel to proceed to a decision on the Complaint in the absence of exceptional circumstances. Accordingly, paragraph 15(a) of the Rules requires the Panel to decide the dispute on the basis of the statements and documents that have been submitted and any rules and principles of law deemed applicable.

Paragraph 4(a) of the Policy provides that in order to divest the Respondent of the disputed domain name, the Complainant must demonstrate each of the following:

- (i) the disputed domain name is identical or confusingly similar to a trademark or service mark in which the Complainant has rights;
- (ii) the Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in respect of the disputed domain name; and
- (iii) the disputed domain name has been registered and is being used in bad faith.

A. Identical or Confusingly Similar

The first element that the Complainant must establish is that the disputed domain name is identical with, or confusingly similar to, the Complainant’s trademark rights.

It is well accepted that the first element functions primarily as a standing requirement. The standing (or threshold) test for confusing similarity involves a reasoned but relatively straightforward comparison between the Complainant’s trademark and the disputed domain name. WIPO Overview of WIPO Panel Views on Select UDRP Questions, (“[WIPO Overview 3.1](#)”), section 1.7.

The Complainant has proven ownership of PALMETTO PUBLISHING, both as a standalone word mark and as the verbal component of device marks.

In undertaking the comparison between the disputed domain name and the Complainant’s trademark, it is permissible in the present circumstances to disregard the generic Top Level Domain (gTLD) component as a functional aspect of the domain name system. [WIPO Overview 3.1](#), section 1.11. It is also usual to disregard the design elements of the Complainant’s “logo” trademark under the first element as such elements are generally incapable of representation in a domain name. See for example, [WIPO Overview 3.1](#), section 1.10. In this case, the figurative elements of the Complainant’s trademarks are not so dominating that the verbal element cannot be considered an essential or important part of the trademarks in this case. Accordingly, it is appropriate to apply the usual rule.

Disregarding the “.com” gTLD, the disputed domain name consists of the Complainant’s trademark save that the word “Palmore” has replaced “Palmetto”. It is at least arguable, therefore, that the disputed domain name is confusingly similar to the Complainant’s trademark as both feature as their first syllables the word “palm” as well as ending in “publishing”.

While the comparison is usually limited to a direct comparison of the disputed domain name and the Complainant’s trademark, in cases of doubt it is permissible to have regard to the content of the Respondent’s website or other external factors to confirm whether or not the Respondent is attempting to target the Complainant’s trademark through the disputed domain name. [WIPO Overview 3.1](#), section 1.15. Having regard to the matters set out in section 4 above, there can be no doubt that the Complainant’s trademark has been targeted in this case. To the extent there is any doubt, therefore, the Panel finds that the disputed domain name is confusingly similar to the Complainant’s trademark and the requirement under the first limb of the Policy is satisfied.

B. Rights or Legitimate Interests

The second requirement the Complainant must prove is that the Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in the disputed domain name.

Paragraph 4(c) of the Policy provides that the following circumstances can be situations in which the Respondent has rights or legitimate interests in a disputed domain name:

- (i) before any notice to [the Respondent] of the dispute, [the Respondent’s] use of, or demonstrable preparations to use, the [disputed] domain name or a name corresponding to the [disputed] domain name in connection with a bona fide offering of goods or services; or
- (ii) [the Respondent] (as an individual, business, or other organization) has been commonly known by the [disputed] domain name, even if [the Respondent] has acquired no trademark or service mark rights; or
- (iii) [the Respondent] is making a legitimate noncommercial or fair use of the [disputed] domain name, without intent for commercial gain to misleadingly divert consumers or to tarnish the trademark or service mark at issue.

These are illustrative only and are not an exhaustive listing of the situations in which a respondent can show rights or legitimate interests in a domain name.

While the overall burden of proof in UDRP proceedings is on the complainant, panels have recognized that proving a respondent lacks rights or legitimate interests in a domain name may result in the often impossible task of “proving a negative”, requiring information that is often primarily within the knowledge or control of the respondent. As such, where a complainant makes out a prima facie case that the respondent lacks rights or legitimate interests, the burden of production on this element shifts to the respondent to come forward with relevant evidence demonstrating rights or legitimate interests in the domain name. If the respondent fails to come forward with such relevant evidence, the complainant is deemed to have satisfied the second element. [WIPO Overview 3.1](#), section 2.1.

The Respondent registered the disputed domain name after the Complainant began using the trademark and also after the Complainant had registered its trademark.

The Complainant states that it has not authorised the Respondent to use the disputed domain name. Nor is the Respondent affiliated with it.

The disputed domain name is not derived from the Respondent’s name. Nor is there any suggestion of some other name by which the Respondent is commonly known from which the disputed domain name could be derived. The Complainant has also provided a trademark search and company search records from the

Secretaries of State in South Carolina, Georgia and Delaware which confirm that “Palmore Publishing” is not registered there.

Further, the content, layout and appearance of the Respondent’s website as discussed in Section 4A above appears clearly to be designed to misrepresent that the business being operated from the website either is, or is affiliated with, the Complainant. That is reinforced by the exchange on Facebook in which the Respondent apparently represented that it and the Complainant were both owned by Fiscal and Fintech. Conduct of that nature, passing off the Respondent’s business as and for the Complainant’s or associated with it, does not qualify as a good faith offering of goods or services under the Policy. [WIPO Overview 3.1](#), section 2.13.1. Nor does such conduct qualify as legitimate noncommercial or fair use.

These matters, taken together, are sufficient to establish a prima facie case under the Policy that the Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in the disputed domain name. The basis on which the Respondent has adopted the disputed domain name, therefore, calls for explanation or justification. The Respondent, however, has not sought to rebut that prima facie case or advance any claimed entitlement. Accordingly, the Panel finds the Complainant has established the second requirement under the Policy also.

C. Registered and Used in Bad Faith

Under the third requirement of the Policy, the Complainant must establish that the disputed domain name has been both registered and used in bad faith by the Respondent. These are conjunctive requirements; both must be satisfied for a successful complaint: see e.g., *Group One Holdings Pte Ltd v. Steven Hafto*, WIPO Case No. [D2017-0183](#).

Given the content of the Respondent’s website and the claim in the Facebook exchange, the Respondent plainly knew of the Complainant and the Complainant’s trademark when the Respondent registered the disputed domain name and did so with the intention of targeting the Complainant’s trademark.

Accordingly, the Panel finds that the Respondent registered the disputed domain name in bad faith. Further, having regard to the manner of use by the Respondent, the disputed domain name has been used in bad faith.

As a result, the Complainant has established all three requirements under the Policy.

6. Decision

For the foregoing reasons, in accordance with paragraphs 4(i) of the Policy and 15 of the Rules, the Panel orders that the disputed domain name <palmorepublishing.com> be transferred to the Complainant.

/Warwick A. Rothnie/

Warwick A. Rothnie

Sole Panelist

Date: June 4, 2026