ARBITRATION
AND
MEDIATION CENTER

WIPO
WORLD
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ORGANIZATION

ADMINISTRATIVE PANEL DECISION
Thoughtworks, Inc. v. John Meriwether
Case No. D2026-4121

1. The Parties

Complainant is Thoughtworks, Inc., United States of America ("United States"), internally represented.

Respondent is John Meriwether, United States.

2. The Domain Name and Registrar

The disputed domain name <forethoughtworks.com> (the "Domain Name") is registered with GoDaddy.com, LLC (the "Registrar").

3. Procedural History

The Complaint was filed with the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center (the "Center") on September 14, 2026. On September 15, 2026, the Center transmitted by email to the Registrar a request for registrar verification in connection with the Domain Name. On September 15, 2026, the Registrar transmitted by email to the Center its verification response disclosing registrant and contact information for the Domain Name which differed from the named Respondent ("Registration Private") and contact information in the Complaint. The Center sent an email to Complainant on September 17, 2026, providing the registrant and contact information disclosed by the Registrar, and inviting Complainant to submit an amendment to the Complaint. Complainant filed an amended Complaint on September 22, 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 Respondent of the Complaint, and the proceedings commenced on September 30, 2026. In accordance with the Rules, paragraph 5, the due date for Response was October 20, 2026. Respondent did not submit any response. Accordingly, the Center notified Respondent's default on October 26, 2026.

Following the Complainant's request for partial withdrawal regarding <thoughtworks.solutions>, and in the absence of objection from the relevant Respondent, the Center partially terminated the proceeding with respect to that domain name on October 26, 2026. The proceeding thereafter continued solely concerning the Domain Name.

The Center appointed Robert A. Badgley as the sole panelist in this matter on October 30, 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

According to the Complaint:

"Complainant is a global technology consultancy that integrates strategy, design, and software engineering to enable enterprises and technology disruptors across the globe to thrive as modern digital businesses. […] Founded in 1993, Complainant has grown from a small team to a leading, global company of more than 10,000 employees in 48 offices located among 19 countries. Complainant has been using the THOUGHTWORKS trademark since at least as early as 1993."

Complainant holds trademark registrations for the trademark THOUGHTWORKS in several jurisdictions, including: the word mark THOUGHTWORKS, United States Reg. No. 1,866,548, registered on December 6, 1994 in connection with "business consulting services"; and the word mark THOUGHTWORKS, United States Reg. No. 2,361,539, registered on June 27, 2000 in connection with computer software design for others; and computer hardware and software consulting services. Complainant also holds registered trademarks for THOUGHTWORKS in Japan, India, Canada, Brazil, Australia, New Zealand, and other jurisdictions.

Complainant owns the domain name <thoughtworks.com>, and uses that domain name to host a commercial website. Complainant's website promotes and describes Complainant's services, and lists some of Complainant's clients, including British Airways, Qantas, Walmart, BMW, Credit Suisse, and PayPal.

The Domain Name was registered on June 3, 2026. As of September 30, 2026, the Domain Name resolved to a website featuring the header "FORETHOUGHT WORKS", after which appeared the text "Strategic Insights for Success" and a "Contact Us" form.

Respondent has not disputed any of the foregoing allegations.

5. Parties' Contentions

A. Complainant

Complainant contends that it has satisfied each of the elements required under the Policy for a transfer of the Domain Name. With respect to bad faith registration and use, Complainant asserts that, "Complainant's THOUGHTWORKS mark is an inherently distinctive mark that has become well known through its continuous use for over 30 years". Complainant asserts further:

"A simple search would have shown Complainant's extensive rights in the THOUGHTWORKS mark. In light of Complainant's significant reputation and the strength of the THOUGHTWORKS mark, Respondents had sufficient constructive notice of the THOUGHTWORKS mark when registering the Disputed Domain Name."

“Both [the Domain Name and <thoughtworks.solutions>] are used to promote consulting, strategy, or transformation services closely corresponding to the Complainant’s commercial field.
The ‘THOUGHTWORKS’ mark has no descriptive or generic meaning in the technology sector except as a source identifier for the Complainant’s premier global technology consultancy. The Respondents’ deliberate choice of this exact mark to host websites offering competing ‘consulting services’ […] confirms that the Respondents had actual knowledge of the Complainant’s business and targeted its trademark with surgical precision.”

B. Respondent

Respondent did not reply to Complainant’s contentions.

6. Discussion and Findings

Paragraph 4(a) of the Policy lists the three elements which Complainant must satisfy with respect to the Domain Name:

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

A. Identical or Confusingly Similar

The Panel concludes that Complainant has rights in the trademark THOUGHTWORKS through registration and use demonstrated in the record.

The Panel also finds that the Domain Name is confusingly similar to Complainant’s mark. The Domain Name incorporates the THOUGHTWORKS mark in its entirety and adds the prefix “fore”. Despite the prefix, the Panel finds that Complainant’s mark is recognizable within the Domain Name.

Complainant has established Policy paragraph 4(a)(i).

B. Rights or Legitimate Interests

Pursuant to paragraph 4(c) of the Policy, Respondent may establish its rights or legitimate interests in the Domain Name, among other circumstances, by showing any of the following elements:

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

The Panel concludes that Respondent lacks rights or legitimate interests in respect of the Domain Name. Complainant has put forward a prima facie case that the Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in the Domain Name. Respondent has not come forward to dispute Complainant’s allegations and evidence.

The Panel concludes that Complainant has established Policy paragraph 4(a)(ii).

C. Registered and Used in Bad Faith

Paragraph 4(b) of the Policy provides that the following circumstances, "in particular but without limitation", are evidence of the registration and use of the Domain Name in "bad faith":

(i) circumstances indicating that Respondent has registered or has acquired the Domain Name primarily for the purpose of selling, renting, or otherwise transferring the Domain Name registration to Complainant who is the owner of the trademark or service mark or to a competitor of that Complainant, for valuable consideration in excess of its documented out of pocket costs directly related to the Domain Name; or

(ii) that Respondent has registered the Domain Name in order to prevent the owner of the trademark or service mark from reflecting the mark in a corresponding domain name, provided that Respondent has engaged in a pattern of such conduct; or

(iii) that Respondent has registered the Domain Name primarily for the purpose of disrupting the business of a competitor; or

(iv) that by using the Domain Name, Respondent has intentionally attempted to attract, for commercial gain, Internet users to Respondent's website or other online location, by creating a likelihood of confusion with Complainant's mark as to the source, sponsorship, affiliation, or endorsement of Respondent's website or location or of a product or service on Respondent's website or location.

The Panel concludes, on this undisputed record and on a balance of probabilities, that Respondent has registered and used the Domain Name in bad faith. The Panel incorporates its discussion above in the "Rights or Legitimate Interests" section.

As noted above, the Domain Name incorporates Complainant's THOUGHTWORKS mark in its entirety, with the addition of the prefix "fore". Complainant has used the THOUGHTWORKS mark since 1993, maintains its primary website at the domain name <thoughtworks.com>, and operates a global technology consultancy practice. The website to which the Domain Name resolves purports to offer consulting services (albeit the website has minimal functionality and appears to have been generated using a Registrar tool).

These facts support the Panel's view that Respondent more likely than not knew of Complainant's THOUGHTWORKS mark when registering the Domain Name.

Respondent's website purports to offer services similar to Complainant's, and invites visitors to contact Respondent. Whether this invitation is intended to offer genuine (competing) services to the consumer, or to collect personal information about the consumer, Respondent is pursuing commercial gain by creating a false association between its website and Complainant. Such conduct constitutes bad faith registration and use within the meaning of the above-quoted Policy paragraph 4(b)(iv).

Complainant has established Policy paragraph 4(a)(iii).

7. Decision

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

/Robert A. Badgley/
Robert A. Badgley
Sole Panelist
Date: November 2, 2026