

ACBLscore+ FACT SHEET

BACKGROUND

After extensive study by the ACBL Board and recommendation to ACBL management, on April 2, 2012, the ACBL entered into an Agreement with an outside consultant to develop, test and provide to the ACBL new code to replace the 1993 ACBLscore program. The Agreement provided for six specific milestones to be completed and tested by the consultant within stated time frames and for stated fees. The new program was called ACBLscore+.

PROGRAM WORK

During August, 2013, the fourth milestone time frame was missed by the consultant and the ACBL agreed to combine the fourth and fifth milestones to help the consultant get back on track. Then in February, 2014, it was determined by ACBL management that the project was further behind in completing several of the milestones, despite payment of the entire \$1.4 million consulting fee to the consultant. As a result, the ACBL CEO organized an advisory group of computer programming experts from the business community, the ACBL Board and ACBL staff to make an independent judgment and recommendation to the CEO as to the viability of continuing the ACBLscore+ project.

The advisory group unanimously recommended that the ACBLscore+ Agreement be immediately terminated and the program halted because: (1) the Personal Web Server concept was too difficult to install and ensure functionality; (2) The software did not meet ACBL expectations for responsiveness and usability; (3) the software was largely incomplete and untested; and (4) user interface was completely foreign, and would require a significant investment for user training.

In April, 2014, the Agreement was, in fact terminated. terminated.

OWNERSHIP OF RIGHTS IN THE PROGRAM

The Agreement provided that: "ACBL shall own all code developed specifically for this project," and that "ownership of the domain [name] shall reside with the ACBL." It was further provided that: the consultant "shall be provided with a free license-to-use and free license-to-distribute for all code developed during this project."

COPYRIGHT ISSUES

Had the ACBLscore+ program been completed and published, the ACBL would have obtained copyright protection by using the copyright symbol and terms of use language similar to those developed by outside copyright counsel for the recently published "Learn to Play Bridge" program. Since ACBLscore+ was not completed or fully tested or published, the copyright symbol and terms of use language could not be integrated into the final program.