

From: Matt Cutts [e-mail redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2010 3:11 PM
To: Bilski_Guidance
Cc: [e-mail redacted]
Subject: A software engineer against software patents

Hi, I'm a Principal Engineer at Google and have worked at Google for over 10 years. When I was a kid, I dreamed of being an inventor and having a patent in my name. Now I have patents to my name, but I think kids today are less likely to have that goal because of the damage done by software patents.

In my work at Google, I have been deposed in a lawsuit over what was (in my opinion) an incredibly frivolous software patent. Such depositions are a distraction from getting real, productive work done. And such lawsuits, especially by non-practicing entities ("patent trolls") are a waste of time and money. I encourage you to read <http://www.techdirt.com/articles/20100924/02132911143/vast-majority-of-software-patents-in-lawsuits-lose.shtml> for a good summary that I agree with.

In my personal opinion, software patents are an extension of mathematics, which is not patentable. I also believe that Bilski represents a unique opportunity to correct the damage done by software patents. In my experience, the patent system is in danger of being broken, and software patents represent one of the biggest dangers. As a software engineer who sees the damage from software patents, I implore you to narrow or remove software from patentability.

Sincerely,
Matt Cutts