From: Brian Deterling [e-mail redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2010 10:46 PM
To: Bilski_Guidance
Cc: [e-mail redacted]
Subject: Please Stop Issuing Software Patents

I'm a freelance developer and former CTO of a software startup. I do not think software should be patentable. It's simply too easy to come up with the same ideas independently and too difficult for a startup or individual to do the research to check every line of code they write to determine if they've violated an a patent. Imagine if someone had patented the linked list or the binary tree - virtually all software that exists would violate those patents or been so inefficient as to be unusable. The purpose of patents is to incentivize inventors to create new works, but software patents have the reverse effect - the more patents that are issued, the less developers will even try to create new code because it's too costly to comply and too easy to accidentally violate. Copyright law is more than sufficient to prevent someone from blatantly stealing someone else's code.

Please abolish software patents. You will encourage innovation and free the USPTO workers to spend their time on patents that really do encourage innovation.

Thank you for soliciting public feedback on this important issue.

Sincerely
Brian Deterling
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