

From: J.C. Roberts [e-mail redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2010 8:11 AM
To: Bilski_Guidance
Cc: [e-mail redacted]
Subject: Software Patents - Bilski

Hello,

The following article from the Free Software Foundation (FSF) states we only have until Monday Sep 27, 2010 to send opinions.

<http://www.fsf.org/news/uspto-bilski-guidance>

I truly dislike the FSF for a number of reasons, but I do agree with their stance against software patents.

To put it bluntly, software patents are a very harmful form of insanity.

Just like numbers and mathematics, logic exists whether or not any human being has ever thought of it before. Software is just an implementation of logic. If I tried to patent the number 42, you would (hopefully) laugh rather than grant the patent.

The costs of avoiding infringement of the patent on the number 42 are substantial, particularly when you realize someone else will patent two times twenty-one, and someone else will patent two times three times seven. The result is no one can use something that already existed prior to the granting of nonsense patents.

Allowing software patents is beyond stupid, and regardless of your decisions, I absolutely refuse to recognize any of them as valid.

Yes, I've unilaterally declared all software patents invalid. I am not alone. There are often many freely available implementations of supposedly patented software, and they are used constantly without paying or even recognizing the patent holder. When every sane human being will, very intentionally, defy your authority and ignore any software patents you grant, then you are only undermining the patent system itself.

Sincerely,
J.C. Roberts
Los Gatos, CA, USA