From: Bruce B [e-mail redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2010 10:06 PM
To: Bilski_Guidance
Subject: Comments on Software Patents

Software patents have been the bane of my industry since the beginning. I have been a software engineer for over 30 years and during that time, I have repeatedly observed that software patents stifle the growth of my industry and the ability of engineers like myself to exercise their creativity.

Software patents are largely used in any of three ways:
1. Defensively
   Companies collect a patent portfolio to fend off other companies attempting to impede their operations.

2. Offensively
   Companies use patents to prevent others from entering a market and thus limit consumer choice.

3. Trolls
   Patent trolls use patents (usually ones that they have acquired financially) to extort money form others.

None of these are helpful to the industry or to the consumer. Software patents should be abolished.

Bruce Beare
Senior Staff Engineer
[e-mail redacted]