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Subject: Software patents

As the Chief Software Architect of a small business the manufactures products based on software content I worry about how I will be able to grow my company, keep it in business and be able to retire from it. It seems each year there are more and more land mines of infringement to worry about.

The existence of patent trolls that wait for others to take submarine patents and strike when someone makes certain IP feasible and then extort a license strikes terror on my sort of company. We do not wish to make the patent system a lawyer employment act that you need to check every little software detail to see if there is infringement. It is not the software process way to work and will greatly slow down any innovation.

The ability of software to build upon the existing base of software is what made our country great. To have large corporations own the keys to innovation due to potential extortion and innovation prevention will be the death of our country's innovation engine. I can foresee new tech companies forming outside of this country to a smarter and more vibrant non-US world in the future if we keep stifling innovation here.

It is sad to see the things we have paid for by taxes, such as the internet and telephone service, now in the hands of self-serving corporations. I watch and support companies such as Vonage, who try create new ways of doing business to compete with incumbents that were built up with our money. The patent thicket by the incumbents was almost their undoing. It seems that as a state sanctioned monopoly the patents the incumbents filed should have been in the public domain anyways.

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