As an American and more importantly as a software developer software patents are something I feel the US government should not be issuing. I feel I have to fear what others have patented because they've been granted a very generic broad patent that many people including myself may violate. I also feel the idea of patenting an language (or business idea too) is wrong.

Quite rightly I can't patent this email I am writing even though I may be the first person to think of putting these words together like this for this purpose. It would be ridiculous if I could patent it and that, in my humble opinion, is what happens when someone is granted a software patent.

Copyright and trade secret protections are more than enough to protect a company's work. Especially when there is so much code floating around that I believe it's hard for anyone to ever claim they have been the first to do something and instead they have just been the first to have the cash to apply for the patent.

Software is also not as obvious as something like how a cog may work. I feel it's much harder to determine what software should be patented because it's harder to grasp how it works for many people (including some developers at times) and on the other side plain, obvious and logical solutions like menu layout that any programmer can come up with simply should not be patentable.

I'm not sure if anyone will actually read this so I'm not going to go on too much but I genuinely think the best thing that could happen to the software world is for software patents to go away and just let companies rely on their copyrights and trade secret protections to protect their works.

Regards,
William Baer