For the last ten years I’ve been a professional programmer, and I spend most of my day writing code. It’s very similar (in the abstract, at least) to writing a document in English. I use words that the computer understands to construct sentences that solve a business problem. While intellectual property is an important part of my job, the fact that someone can patent not a ‘sentence’, so to speak, but a *method* of constructing a certain type of sentence, is absurd.

Yet that’s exactly what software patents are. Is there any difference between being able to get a patent for “sentence designed to argue a point ending with a rhetorical question” and “A computerized list is provided with auxiliary pointers for traversing the list in different sequences.”?

Both are constructed using the basic building blocks of our field, and put together the end result is something done thousands of times a day by people across the world. Please take this into consideration when deciding on if software patents should exist.

Sincerely,

Vincent Marquez