If you want to build a new, better car engine you need hundreds of thousands of dollars, just for the supplies to prototype it. If you want to design a better drug, or a better lightbulb you need a lot of money for the stuff to start working.

In software the 99% of the cost is the labor involved in creating it. If you want to make a new piece of software all you need is a computer and you're good to go. For this reason alone, software patents should be abolished.