USPTO,

Software patents while on the surface seem like a good idea have gone horribly wrong. Software patents; is now hampering software development. company's are suing not only each other, but the developers in some cases.

even, when something is declared a "standard" company's are *still* suing each other over it. in a perfect world software patents would be gotten rid of and copyright would be used to protect the code. also, provisions should be in place for standards, when things are standards company's should not be able to sue over it, we want people to use standards, not use patents that they have that cover standards as choke-holds over the entire industry.

if there MUST be software patents, they should be very restrictive, like for algorithms, and unique library's that are NOT covered in any standards.

William Cinnater