

Dear Mr. Clark:

As part of the telecommunications industry, I recently took part in a conference where there was a discussion led by IBM of an "industry problem". That problem is that patents have been issued in the past (in this particular case in class 379) where the applicant was granted patents that will require challenges in court because there was prior art. The applicant probably did not know of the prior art but in the area of computer programs and applications where thousands of professionals are working simultaneously, it is impossible to know everything that is being developed and when unless there is established a database for you and others to check. There is not established database for us to recommend to you and the question next becomes if we as an industry should establish one. The only reason, at least initially, would be to provide information for you. It then becomes important to ask if you are interested. If so, I would contact some of the industry leaders and prepare for a meeting with you so that the database would be useful to you and reliable.

Without this database, we are all afraid that we are heading for a log jam in the courts.

Sincerely,

George Resch  
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