

From: Walt Hucks, Technical Lead, Disco Technologies [e-mail redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2010 4:19 AM
To: Bilski_Guidance; [e-mail redacted]
Subject: Software Patents

There should be NO software patents at all. Let me explain why.

Consider a general purpose computer. It contains a processor, some memory, and other components. When connected with peripherals, it forms a complete system. That system is already capable of anything that it will ever be capable of doing, it just hasn't been told what to do yet.

Software, any computer program you can think of, is merely a recipe book. It is a set of instructions that tell it how to do X and how to do

Y. That's all. Now, we don't patent recipe books: we patent stoves, blenders, mixers, and various other pieces of hardware.

Look at the difference: with copyright, you and I can each write our own recipes for German chocolate cake. Assuming neither of us copies, and we each do our own experimentation to fine tune the traditional recipe, we'll each be able to copyright our recipes and each be able to sell our recipe books. With patents, on the other hand, once I patent "method for preparing German chocolate cake," you can no longer come out with your similar recipe. That's why books and software are both best protected by copyright, not patents.

If we continue to make the mistake of accepting and allowing patents, we are in essence, patenting recipe books, and we all suffer by not enabling the best recipes to win by convincing a hungry public.

Sincerely, Walt J. Hucks, registered voter
Apple Valley, CA
cc: [e-mail redacted]

P.S.: If this is posted on a public web site, I request that my e-mail address and my city of residence be redacted first.

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Your servers and most of your workstations should be running a modern GNU+Linux distribution. If you aren't, you're paying too much and getting too little.

Message to teens: I don't care which Teletubby is your favorite. Pull your pants up.