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Sent: Sunday, September 26, 2010 12:49 AM
To: Bilski_Guidance
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Subject: software patents

I am a researcher and software developer developing large scale recommendation and information retrieval systems (i.e. search engines). I have seen how software patents have actually discouraged innovation, rather than promote it. Due to over zealous attorneys, and a lack of patent examiners trained in software development, a situation has arisen where the claims within the software patents tend to be overly broad and not particularly novel from an engineering view. In fact, it has been said, that any moderately complicated (note, not even advanced) piece of software infringes on multiple patents. This is due to the sheer number and vagueness of issued patents. This situation results in stifling innovation, when any advanced software product begins to threaten an existing company with a large patent portfolio. The larger company simply begins to threaten the smaller company into submission.

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