

From: [e-mail redacted] On Behalf Of Greg Olsen
Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2010 4:06 PM
To: Bilski_Guidance
Cc: [e-mail redacted]
Subject: Software patents are bad for the United States

To whom it may concern,

I have worked in the software industry for more than 25 years, have co-founded 2 software companies, have authored a software patent, and believe strongly in the virtues of free market capitalism. My experience has led me to conclude that, contrary to their intent, software patents create a net reduction in innovation and adversely impact the US citizenry.

Innovation in the software industry does not come large investment, long duration efforts that require years of patent protection for their justification. I've been involved directly or indirectly in hundreds of R&D efforts in small and very large companies and never once was an effort advanced the assumption of being able to protect the investment through patent protection. I have a very large extended network of colleagues and friends in the software industry, and I know of exactly zero R&D efforts that would not be taking place if software patent protection were not available.

Software patents are primarily used by the largest, most deep-pocketed, and non-innovative vendors to block competition (primarily from innovative new entrants). The beneficiaries of the current system of software patent law are parasitic groups of attorneys and patent trolls of various forms - not the people and organizations that bring us innovation.

Sincerely,

Greg Olsen