

From: [e-mail redacted] On Behalf Of David Roundy
Sent: Sunday, September 26, 2010 4:27 PM
To: Bilski_Guidance
Cc: [e-mail redacted]
Subject: software patents

Dear sirs,

I am writing to request that you exclude software patents in your new patent guidelines. I am an assistant professor in Physics at Oregon State University, and both use and create software extensively in my research, for my teaching, and for fun (e.g. the darcs revision control system: <http://darcs.net>). Software patents hurt me, because it's practically impossible to know whether I am infringing on a patent either in my own work, or by means of software that I may use. In practice, this doesn't hurt me much because no one is likely to sue me, but if I were to commercialize darcs (or anything else), I would be at risk. In other words, in the field of software, patents are an impediment to innovation, rather than promoting "the Progress of Science and useful Arts" as the Constitution demands.

Sincerely,

David Roundy
Assistant Professor of Physics
Oregon State University