From: Kurt B. Kaiser [e-mail redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2010 11:01 PM
To: Bilski_Guidance
Subject: Software Patents

I'm writing to urge the Patent Office to revise their policy regarding software patents. I'm against issuing such patents execept in the narrowest cases.

It's clear to me that most software patents that have been issued are unwarranted due to prior art (missed by apparently unqualified examiners) or because they are obvious to people (like myself) skilled in the art. Most of the software patents that I've reviewed are actually laughable in that they try to lock up software implementation techniques that are entirely obvious.

Further, these patents primarily benefit large corporations, which file thousands of patents a year, and then cross license them. Small business simply cannot compete. I don't believe that the patent system was intended to work that way.

It's also a travesty to be able to patent an obvious business procedure that has been used for decades or even centuries just because it was implemented in software.

Finally, even in those limited cases where something novel is being patented (it doesn't matter to me whether it's software, firmware, or hardware) it doesn't make sense to grant 20 year protection in the 21st century. The patent system is holding back progress.

Please stop patenting software.

Sincerely,
Kurt B. Kaiser
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