From: Bob Paddock [e-mail redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2010 7:21 AM
To: Bilski_Guidance
Cc: [e-mail redacted]
Subject: Bilski Guidance on Software Patents

Software Patents are stifling innovation, and should be abolished.

I generate a lot of code, unfortunately I'm afraid to publish any of it.
I'm afraid that I will accidentally stumble into a Software Patent that
should have never been implemented in the first place.
Anything that raises the specter of lawyers is bad.

It is far to easy to reinvent something in software, discover that it was
patented in the past.

When was the last Software Patent issued to a "Little Guy" like me?

Below are a few tangible Software Patent numbers, that are obvious
to anyone "skilled in the art" of programming and hardware design,
that should have never been issued.

A case of patenting the obvious, TV remote controls:

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United States Patent 6,539,437
Windheim , et al./Intel
March 25, 2003

Remote control inputs to java applications

Abstract

A method of delivering input from a device's remote control to a
Java.TM. application uses asynchronous method invocation in a
processing device.

The input from the remote control is captured in system-specific
(native) code and delivered to a Java.TM. application
asynchronously. This is achieved by calling an event method in the

Java.TM. application in response to the received input
signals. The event method is then executed to transfer the input
signals from the remote control.

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Something that was implemented a couple of decades before the
patent was issued:

Patent number 6,727,830: "Time based hardware button for
application launch" obtained by Microsoft covers the use of such
technologies as double-clicking and holding down a button on a
PDA."

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The best of all:

US Patent June 16, 1998, US Patent Number 5,768,480 "Integrating
Rules into Object-Oriented Programming Systems". Known as R++.

This work was originally done at Bell Labs. In the land of Mega. Corp.
buyouts Lucent ended up with the patent rights, but AT&T ended up
owning production version of the software. The bottom line is that no
one can use this because it is a finger pointing match between the
company lawyers as to who can do what with the code and the patent.

Had the current software patent rules been in effect when Bell Labs
was creating the language C++ it would have never left the lab.

C++ is free to the world, and the world is a better place for it.
The world could be a safer place if R++ was free to the world too.

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Sincerely Robert L. Paddock - Certified Quality Software Engineer.

More at:
http://www.softwaresafety.net/SoftwarePatents/softwarepatents.html

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http://blog.softwaresafety.net/
http://www.designer-iii.com/
http://www.wearablesmartsensors.com/