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Subject: patents are a cancel to advancing technology

20% of the genome was already patented
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/30/business/30gene.html>

Mathematical equations have also been patented. All this due to the obsessive paranoia we have over ownership and safeguarding credit where credit is due. While acknowledgement and payoff for hard work stems from basic human instinct it extends to abuse in the face of greed. Common algorithms are patented for the singular purpose of making a profit without any real intent to make use of them in real world applications. This would be like mathematicians trying to find proofs for the sole purpose of suing anyone in the future who use their proof to extend human understanding. These are not innovators or creative and intelligent people, they're parasitic entities that extrude as much as they can by systematically targeting top fortune 500 companies or strategically targeting competitors. Patent trolls group together reverse engineers, lawyers and academia not to further advance society but to game the system based on existing regulations. By dedicating themselves to filling out the proper paperwork and prospecting for every conceivable thing they can patent, treating each like a billionaire's lottery ticket, they're doing what many companies avoid in lieu of allocating such dedicated resources to creating things of value. Essentially their net contribution is misguiding talent into positions destructive to the rest of the industry and making themselves rich stealing resources from the companies that the economy proves to be indispensable.

Independently uncovering the same efficient design patterns is common. I have no doubt some extremely complex algorithms and multifaceted designs can be the result of years of research and development, but currently there is not much differentiation or review of how often a certain pattern has occurred in commercial use already and the probability of independent rediscovery based on complexity to already widely used ideas. For this reason patent trolling has been seen as a viable and very lucrative way to feed off the success of an entire industry, the very technology which determines our future disposition, without ever contributing to the field itself. The rules of this game a rife for exploitation by design, so while some will use it as it was intended, the people that will truly benefit are those that take advantage of all its vulnerabilities as a system.

This is another case of profitable until deemed illegal. Let's not wait while these cancers gain power and try to gain even more influence in the shameless ways they are accustomed to. We may never get that high profile case that catches the public's interest enough to end patent trolls before it's too late.