

From: David Wolfe [e-mail redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 26, 2010 2:59 PM
To: Bilski_Guidance
Cc: [e-mail redacted]
Subject: Please end software patents

Not being a lawyer, I can't cite legal doctrine concerning patents; however, as both a consumer and a software developer, I can say with some authority that software patents do NOT benefit the general public.

The notion that they actually protect consumers by incentivizing the creation of new works is utterly absurd. Software patents only serve to stifle innovation and make it more difficult for consumers to customize computing devices to suit their own personal needs.

Every day, we come to rely more and more on mobile computing devices.

They are becoming extensions of ourselves, and the ways these devices are used is as varied as the individuals using them. We need the freedom to write---or pay someone to write---software for these devices to make them behave the way we want them to.

Software patents restrict that freedom by making it illegal to execute certain sequences of instructions because someone has decided that these instructions are so 'special' that they merit patent protection. How does that benefit me, the consumer?

Copyright protection already provides sufficient incentive for companies wishing to develop software. Granting patent protection on top of this only benefits corporate producers by restricting competition and limiting consumer choice. Any argument that this will somehow benefit consumers is entirely specious.

Very truly yours,

David Wolfe
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