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Cc:
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I believe that crowd sourcing as a source of information for the PTO is very dangerous. Large corporations are likely to set up whole departments which monitor competing technologies and provide information to the PTO which is beneficial to their needs.

It seems to me that the opportunity to challenge patents subsequent to their issue should be enough to protect the integrity of the patenting system. There is so much information available from on line searching, that it does not appear to be necessary to involve contributors which have a vested interest in defeating a particular application to participate during the initial examination of an application. If, in the interest of reducing the number of patents issuing, large economic interests are given an opportunity to protect their "turf", the patent system may be doing a disservice to the United States, by discouraging the creativity which has created small business opportunities.

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