

From: Shawn Asamoto-Brown [e-mail redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 26, 2010 8:29 PM
To: Bilski_Guidance
Cc: [e-mail redacted]
Subject: Software patents threaten the ability to innovate education

Dear USPTO,

Please ensure new guidance should include a strong stand against software patents.

I am an independent software developer working in the field of education.

I am writing software to assist children suffering from Autism acquire the Theory of Mind (understanding of other's beliefs, expectations and intentions).

There is research showing language acquisition can help them become able to lead productive lives.

I am a teacher, not a software expert.

Still, things that seem obvious even to me (a stupid individual without formal computer training), you somehow feel is worthy of a patent because the simple obvious application of technology gets puts into complicated explanations that make them look more like an advance than they really are.

I am scared that in just doing obvious things, that the companies set up to intimidate other companies by the threat of IP suits will prevent me from helping children who honestly need help.

Your patents system is hurting society in a very real way.

It's sad that you have so little awareness of what you are really doing.

Next time you see an autistic child have trouble and maybe cause trouble for your child, please remember that you have the power to enable them to be helped.

Software is basically an algorithm. Now I will make an algorithm to help children learn social skills by teaching them to go through the cognitive steps to understand what others perceive intuitively. Then someone with a software patent will say but your algorithm is too much like mine.

Yes software patents threaten the ability to innovate education. Education needs to proceed through a process and when you allow the process of ideas to be patentable, you stifle the potential of Education.

How does that help society?

Shawn Asamoto-Brown