

From: bill [e-mail redacted] [e-mail redacted]  
Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2010 4:58 PM  
To: Bilski\_Guidance  
Subject: Please stop software patents!

To whom it may concern,

Software patents are slowing this once blossoming industry to a stagnant crawl mired in litigation. I've been in the software business since 1980 as a Silicon Valley software developer and we used to build new products almost daily, not patents. Since those early years, I've been hit by patent trolls more than once, most notably the notorious PanIP ecommerce patent troll which I had to help defend against.

[http://www.theregister.co.uk/2002/10/29/all\\_your\\_ecommerce\\_sites\\_belong/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2002/10/29/all_your_ecommerce_sites_belong/)  
<http://gadgetopia.com/post/898>

Software isn't the same as hardware, it's pure ideas, and the effect software patents have on the computer industry is stifling innovation. Developers have to waste time trying to workaround what others have already patented, or fending off patent lawsuits, more often by patent trolls (see PanIP above) other than real companies, instead of just bringing new products to market.

Patents for software, pardon the pun, is just a patently bad idea.

Regards,

Bill Atchison  
Foster City, CA