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Patent Officers:

I am currently employed as a technical support person for a major computer manufacturer and services company. My views do not represent those of my employer.

In the past I have been a computer applications programmer, at various times, in the agriculture, retail, financial, and manufacturing businesses.

Computer programs should not be subject to patent. Systems with a unique, specific combination of sensors, inputs, and output actuators may be eligible for patent.

As an example. A system for selecting good fruit from a conveyor belt. It involves a video input, a computer program, and a scoop to remove the bad fruit and discard it. The system may be patentable. The program itself is not subject to patent any more than the instruction manual for training a human to perform that task, or the words of a supervisor explaining the job. A computer program is nothing more than an description of a job, that is, an abstract idea and hence not patentable.

If computer programs are to be patentable, the patent text must include the source code involved as part of the patent so that the specific elements patented are exposed and available. This will enable other inventors to avoid infringement.

Thank you.