

From: [e-mail redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2010 1:03 PM
To: Bilski_Guidance
Cc: [e-mail redacted]
Subject: Please End Software Patents

Dear Sirs,

My experience with software patents is that they hamper innovation. I have been in the computer industry since the early 80s and with every passing year it becomes more clear how impractical they are. Time and again, competition is squashed by patent lawsuits, or fear of them.

Furthermore I question their basis in law, since software is abstraction and hence a form of mathematics which is excluded from patentability. Claiming physical embodiment is a computing device is an obvious fig leaf, and the obvious is also excluded from patentability.

Saying that software patents are good for the economy is like claiming that breaking windows increases the GDP. We must not confuse mere economic activity, like ants running back and forth, with the public good.

Patents are a form of government regulation granted as an exception to free market capitalism to encourage progress in science and the useful arts. By any fair accounting the current situation fails this test.

The Bilski decision is our opportunity to bring freedom to the software industry, and hence accelerate its development for the benefit of humanity. Let's take it.

Sincerely,

-Scott Draves, PhD

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