

From: J. Scott Edwards [e-mail redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2010 3:26 PM
To: Bilski_Guidance
Cc: [e-mail redacted]
Subject: Please reject software patents

Hello,

I wrote my first computer program on punch cards in 1974 and I have been working in the Computer/Software industry ever since. I would like to ask that you reject software patents. I firmly believe that patents on Software harm the industry and our economy as a whole.

I have been developing, on my own, a Free (as in Freedom – <http://www.fsf.org/about/>) software project since 2001. Most of that time I have lived in fear that some large corporation with lots of money would patent some of the innovative ideas that I have developed and then I would not be allowed to use my own ideas. I have spent thousands of hours working on this project, I believe it is both innovative and will benefit society. It would be tragedy if some entity were to patent those ideas and prevent me from bringing my project to the world.

Another serious harm that software patents do is to the software that I and millions of other people use everyday: GNU/Linux. For the last 12 years I have used GNU/Linux on almost all of my computers, including machines at work. It is also heavily used by governments around the world including the U.S. Government. For the last several years, GNU/Linux has been under threats of patent infringement. This takes time and effort away from the developing of software, to deal with software patent issues that the Supreme Court has never ruled in favor of.

Please take a stand against Software Patents in light of the Bilski decision and remove this burden from the Software Industry and especially the Free Software ecosystem.

Thanks for your consideration

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