

From: Drew Engelbrecht [e-mail redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2010 4:48 PM
To: Bilski_Guidance
Cc: [e-mail redacted]
Subject: Software Patents hurt our freedom.

Hi. I hope your day is going well.

I am a software user who is interested in the freedom to use software that others have made for the sake of free use and reuse.

Software Patents hurt our freedom to freely (and independently) develop and share algorithms that drive modern computing. Patented algorithms are often so basic that they can be recreated by a person with no access to the original source. How can such a patent be justified?

As an example, please see this blog post by a programmer who was contacted about patent infringement:

<http://www.redcode.nl/blog/2010/07/patent-infringement/>

Regardless of whether the programmer was within current (although arguably unfair) legal bounds on this issue, I think this will give you an idea of how oppressive patent law can be to the independent developer, even when they are working from basic principles.

Sometimes, patents are not only trivial, but cover processes that should be free for independent implementation, such as Microsoft's patent describing the shut-down procedure, something that requires no patent.

I hope that you find my (and other's) arguments persuading, in defence of the allowance of free software use and creation.

Peace,
-Drew