

From: seanj [e-mail redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2010 1:20 AM
To: Bilski_Guidance
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Subject: software patents stifle inovation

I am a software professional and entrepreneur. I do not support the issuance of software patents. All programmers create currently, but I think erroneously, patentable ideas on a daily basis.

Look at the quagmire that has been caused by the MPEG http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moving_Picture_Experts_Group and how it has a strangle hold on the video codecs that are used to disseminate the worlds knowledge.

The government granted monopoly on an idea should last in some proportion to the amount of work that it took to create. Software patents favor the large corporations, not the smaller developers who cannot pay for the thousands of patents that they could possibly apply for. And simply releasing a product does not indemnify you from a larger player patenting your own work and merely threatening to sue. If you don't have the funds to patent, you most likely don't have the funds to fight bogus patent claims. Lawsuits and patent licensing does not aid in the advancement of anything other than lawyers and patent trolls.

Please don't continue to force the US to be a technology backwater by granting patents on software.

I myself was granted a patent 6941300 because my employer wanted to make the company more salable. It is obvious technique to feed one search engine with the results of another. The patent itself does not extend or document the useful arts in a clear manner so that another programmer could implement the idea. It is a waste of paper of time and a shining example of something seemingly innocuous that could be used to bilk money out of hard working people.

When I need to use an advanced idea I seek out research journals and open source code. I have never found the contents of a software patent to be of any use.

Please allow us to let the best ideas win in the marketplace without the help of government granted monopolies only available to the most powerful and litigious companies.

Regards,
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