

From: Jon Jensen [e-mail redacted]  
Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2010 9:47 PM  
To: Bilski\_Guidance  
Cc: [e-mail redacted]  
Subject: Software patents scope

To whom it may concern:

I write in response to the request for comments about guidance on issuance of software patents.

I've been writing computer software both as a hobbyist and as a professional since the early 1980s. As time has passed, I've seen software patents become an increasing threat to even the most basic, obvious software development. Most of us don't recognize the threat because it is expensive to initiate patent litigation, but as computers become more widespread in our phones, TVs, cars, and elsewhere in our homes and workplaces, this threat becomes increasingly severe.

Patents interfere with normal internal software development, hobbyist work, experimenting with devices we own, free software, and commercial software.

It is my understanding that the Supreme Court has never ruled in favor of the patentability of software. The USPTO should take a most conservative stance toward qualifications for software patents, given how much harm they can do. I suggest that the default stance should be that a particular piece of software should be considered unpatentable unless a very high standard of inventiveness and non-obviousness is met, along with reasonable certainty that it will not harm the general public's freedoms and competitiveness in industry.

Thank you,  
Jon Jensen  
P.O. Box 518  
Victor, ID 83455  
208-354-3842