

From: Brian Kennedy [e-mail redacted]  
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2010 7:07 PM  
To: Bilski\_Guidance  
Cc: [e-mail redacted]  
Subject: Deny software patent applications

Dear Sir,

I am an academic researcher in Computer Science. It hurts the entire field when simple concepts that can be easily reinvented by independent researchers and software developers may be the subject of a patent on some related or unrelated technology. All innovation in software is abstract concept and process. These things should not be the subject of patents, for multiple reasons. It stifles innovation because it is difficult, if not impossible, to verify whether a given new concept is subject to an existing software/idea patent. The concepts are vague and difficult to describe which further limits both their patentability and their discoverability once patented. This leaves the software patent system a minefield of legal problems that could blow up on a start up company or researcher at any time. This strongly stifles innovation, and runs directly contrary to the public interest in the patent system as a whole. I strongly urge the USPTO to exclude software from patent eligibility on the grounds that all software innovations are processes, and the application of those processes in any way in a computer is obvious.

Sincerely,

Brian Kennedy