

From: Jeffrey A. Libert [e-mail redacted]  
Sent: Sunday, September 26, 2010 8:35 AM  
To: Bilski\_Guidance  
Subject: Software Patents - PLEASE REIN THEM IN

Dear USPTO,

I've fully read dozens of software "process" patent applications, and scanned hundreds more, and it causes me a certain "intellectual terror" to think that so many obvious "systems and methods" could fall subject to rules of IP exclusivity, licensing and control.

Someone or some company has filed for or has been granted a patent for almost anything having to do with filling in a Web form and querying a database. There is nothing truly creative or original about 99.99% of these patents. The USPTO has granted patents for processes no more complex than asking simple questions and storing obvious or elemental types of data related to the questions. Basically they are patents for filling in a questionnaire that most high school students could construct. It's all an attempt to gain monopoly power over elementary school level "processes".

Patents for filling in a Web form and sending out a coupon? Please. No. A hundred or a thousand new patents, or applications, for processes no more complex than matching a persons IP address or GPS coordinates to stores/sales/coupons "nearby"? There is NO genius in that whatsoever. Really. Someone please stop and think. The genius, if any, was in certain systems used in the launch-control of the rockets and the satellites that have made GPS possible.

Now, with the emergence of "social media", it appears that people are attempting to patent the very processes by which people relate to one another in this multi-communication-channel world. Patents for "the stuff of human social intercourse"? Please, no. Stop.

Please limit the granting of patents to "genius science", i.e., the real hard work, hard to discern, "no one else gets it, but I just did" types of creative discovery and creation. All the patents being applied for or granted for obvious extensions of existent systems will stifle real creation and commerce as people waste time and money tip-toeing around junk patents.

Thank you.

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