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Sent: Monday, September 27, 2010 4:55 PM
To: Bilski_Guidance
Subject: Please stop issuing software patents

Patents are supposed to protect processes, not ideas. And yet each day it seems we are faced with new patents on just that: ideas.

Amazon's one-click patent? An idea. Not a process.

There are now thousands of these obvious patents that should not exist. These software patents are *stifling* innovation -- not encouraging it.

Please stop issuing software patents.

Software patents hurt individuals by taking away our ability to control the devices that now exert such strong influence on our personal freedoms, including how we interact with each other. Now that computers are near-ubiquitous, it's easier than ever for an individual to create or modify software to perform the specific tasks they want done -- and more important than ever that they be able to do so. But a single software patent can put up an insurmountable, and unjustifiable, legal hurdle for many would-be developers.

The Supreme Court of the United States has never ruled in favor of the patentability of software. Their decision in *Bilski v. Kappos* further demonstrates that they expect the boundaries of patent eligibility to be drawn more narrowly than they commonly were at the case's outset. The primary point of the decision is that the machine-or-transformation test should not be the sole test for drawing those boundaries. The USPTO can, and should, exclude software from patent eligibility on other legal grounds: because software consists only of mathematics, which is not patentable, and the combination of such software with a general-purpose computer is obvious.

Thank you,

Justin Mayer