

**From:** Douglas Pope [e-mail redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 24, 2010 1:51 PM  
**To:** Bilski\_Guidance  
**Subject:** Software Patent Guidance

Hello Patent Office,

I am a founder of HotPads.com, a map-based housing search engine. Our operations have been significantly hampered by the issuance of broad software patents particularly in the Mobile Device space. We have been sued twice (one is ongoing litigation) for violating a patent that covers "using a gps enabled mobile device to get information about specific locations".

We are a small organization and make no money off of people that use our site to search for their new home on their phone, but we have been burdened with over \$100,000 in courts costs to date. 10 of our much larger competitors in the housing search space have been burdened with similar lawsuits from patents that are way to broad.

At HotPads we decided to fight the patent suit and look to get the patents invalidated a very costly road. But, in the meantime we have also ceased to innovate in the mobile space for fear of additional broad patent suits because we would be unable to afford to put up a defense.

The software industry is rapidly evolving, software patents have proven to be a barrier rather than a promoter of innovation.

HotPads is based in Washington, DC. I would be happy to share more thoughts if you have time.

Thanks,

douglas

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