

From: Jeremy Rothman-Shore [e-mail redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2010 4:59 PM
To: Bilski_Guidance
Cc: [e-mail redacted]
Subject: Please restrict software patents

Please, place strong restrictions on software patents!

My own name (Jeremy Rothman-Shore) is listed on six patents, so I am very familiar with the process of creating patents. While patents once served as a way to help safeguard great ideas from being stolen by bigger, larger organizations, this not how they are working in software.

Patents are viewed by companies as either marketing vehicles for purposes like raising venture capital, or else they are attempts to stifle competition. Patents are being submitted for ideas that companies have, not for things that they have actually built and are seeking to protect. Since patents are written as broadly as possible, this creates a proliferation of litigation opportunities rather than real protection of real work.

Furthermore, in the software world, the barrier to entry is incredibly low, and there is frequent convergence of ideas. In the majority of cases, patents are not needed to protect a person or company's ideas. Just about anyone can execute fast with very small investments.

Very few ideas are so revolutionary that they need the protection of patents. While I concede that it might be too big a step to eliminate them altogether, significantly restricting them would be a great step.

-- jeremy