

From: [e-mail redacted] On Behalf Of Tim Sally
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2010 6:59 PM
To: Bilski_Guidance
Cc: [e-mail redacted]
Subject: Software Patents Request for Comments

Hello,

My name is Tim Sally and I am writing to you today in response to your request for comments on software patents. I am graduating this year with a Bachelors of Science in Computer Science from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. My specialization is in computer security and after graduation I will take a job with the government, most likely with in the Department of Defense.

Software patents make it much more difficult to do my job as a security professional. Often these patents are far too broad and cover abstract ideas. As a result, software patents make developing software like walking through a legal minefield. Even the most intelligent software developers cannot possibly write unencumbered software without extensive consultation with a lawyer. This is a massive negative externality; far larger than the positive impact of software patents. It's not even clear software patents are necessary to ensure innovation. Note the development of the Linux kernel, a piece of software valued at \$1.4 billion dollars [1], required no patents to motivate the innovation. This is why I'm encouraging you to take a strong stance on the Bilski decision. Please include strong language in your new guidance against software patents.

Sincerely,

Tim Sally

[1] <http://www.linuxfoundation.org/publications/estimatinglinux.pdf>

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