

From: Mark Adam
Sent: Saturday, January 05, 2013 2:30 AM
To: SoftwareRoundtable2013
Cc: simon
Subject: A solution for reforming IP, particularly as it relates to software

Hello,

I noticed the event you are holding on a subject that is very near and important to me. Unfortunately, my finances probably will not allow me to travel to either of the venues you will be holding your discussions but since the topic is so important I feel I should write this note to you anyway.

The problem facing the USPTO is far bigger than they have imagined. We are at a crossroads in civilization's history where education and widespread literacy make the old Industrial Economy obsolete. You see this in my generation, GenX, and (besides the complaints from the software community about patents) it also shows up with the unrest of the Writer's strike of 2008(?) and the Occupy Movement.

Further, at the point which has been called the "End of Growth" occurs (cf. Richard Heinberg), a planet moves from individualism and expansion to collaboration and interconnection. The Internet is the hallmark of that stage and offers an enormous opportunity for a new age of prosperity and new value generation.

I have been working on a project for over a decade on the issue of making a Creative Economy. What marks the creative economy different from any other point in history is that value is generated not through scarcity as in the physical economy, but by abundance -- the more people that share in goods which have a near-zero reproduction cost, the more value it creates to the community.

The problem is that you can't apply the tools of the old system into the new. The legal system and even the physical currency system will never be adequate -- they are simply radically different arenas and marketplaces. The Internet has been developing its own rules, its own currency and it is vital to understand this. The community on the internet has 100's of projects happening in parallel that have been trying to solve this issue of how to make a decentralized system of governance that protects all interests. Ideally this can complement our existing physical systems and create a balance not possible without it.

I would like to be part of the discussions somehow. I'm just not sure how. My project is called Internet II and is hosted at pangaia.sourceforge.net. I apologize for my rushed note, but felt it very important to get to you.

Kind regards,

Mark Janssen
Gothenburg, Nebraska