

**From:** Jim Bray  
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**To:** SoftwareRoundtable2013  
**Subject:** Software Patents should be abolished

Software patents primarily benefit lawyers and the sort of parasitic middle-men who produce nothing but litigation.

They are generally trivial and obvious, "pinch to zoom" and "multi-touch" being excellent examples.

All software is based on generations of fundamental work of real value by Turing, Knuth and so forth which is uncompensated and unpatented. If software is patentable, then Apple, being the present worst offender, should have to pay royalties every time an instruction is executed, a linked list or tree is used, a memory location is accessed, and so forth.

Therefore, software patents are harmful to society, benefit only parasitic entities, and should be abolished entirely.