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Sent: Monday, September 27, 2010 2:50 PM

To: Bilski_Guidance

Subject: Software patents hurt me, my company, the industry, and the consumer

I am a professional software developer working as a consultant for several large companies. Software patents are clearly the biggest threat to the future of the industry. Currently, there are multiple companies who abuse them because they know they will be targeted by other companies eager to sue for money rather than actually innovate.

The mobile industry is one such example. Nearly every large mobile phone maker is suing all of the others. It's essentially an arms race. Instead, the USPTO has the power to sign a treaty so everyone can lay their weapons down and actually get back to work. It's time to do it!

Software is essentially a recipe, just like cooking a meal. I can't patent my recipe for apple pie, and neither should software be patented. After all, it's just a series of commands that can be applied in an infinite number of ways. What is novel to some is obvious to other. Implementing real world analogues in the framework of software is not novel and shouldn't be patented.

Please realize how dangerous software patents are in their current form. They should be eliminated, but at the very least they need to be reigned in dramatically.

Peter Kananen