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Sent: Friday, September 24, 2010 4:58 PM
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Subject: Software patents inhibit the evolution of computing

I'm in full agreement with this statement:

Software patents hurt individuals by taking away our ability to control the devices that now exert such strong influence on our personal freedoms, including how we interact with each other. Now that computers are near-ubiquitous, it's easier than ever for an individual to create or modify software to perform the specific tasks they want done -- and more important than ever that they be able to do so. But a single software patent can put up an insurmountable, and unjustifiable, legal hurdle for many would-be developers.

(<http://www.fsf.org/news/uspto-bilski-guidance>)

Software patents have been granted for countless overly broad concepts despite the obviousness of the idea or the existence of prior art.

Software patents stifle, rather than protect, innovators.

Please consider a broad re-evaluation of the validity of software patents.

Ben Poliakoff