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To: Bilski_Guidance
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Subject: End software patents

The purpose of patents is to encourage innovation of new products and provide a limited time frame in which their inventor can profit from the endeavor. Patents are not intended to protect ideas. Unfortunately, computer software does not meet this definition, and it is bewildering to see the abuses that have been committed in the name of software patents. SCO Unix's multi-year assault on the free and open source Linux operating system, Oracle's baseless attack on Google are all examples of anti-competitive abuses, and for what gain? The definition of software patents are so broad as to allow patenting algorithms, which is implicitly allowing patenting ideas.

Please stop allowing patenting of computer software, this is no different than allowing the patenting of a particular musical note sequence used in a video game, it is stifling and dangerous to the advancement of technology in the United States and puts our software developers at a huge disadvantage to our European counterparts, who do not have to deal with the constant threat of a rogue and baseless patent infringement lawsuit.

Thank you,
Gregory Beaver
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