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**To:** Bilski\_Guidance  
**Subject:** Software Patents

I'm a software developer, US citizen, and listed as an inventor on a few patents. I'm opposed to software patents in the vast majority of cases. They create an unknowable minefield that have scared me and my company away from several interesting areas of research and innovation. They last inordinately long for a field that is advancing as quickly as software does. Software patents don't encourage innovation. People don't go and create new software in order to get patents on it, they do it to make money by creating value for their customers. Copywrite and first-mover advantage provide enough protection and incentive without patents. Software patents are also issued far too liberally without good consideration of obviousness. The software portfolios of the largest companies give them far too much leverage when negotiation with a small company or individual. Patent trolls don't create anything, they just stop other people from creating value.

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