

From: Dave Jarvis
Sent: Saturday, June 18, 2011 3:35 AM
To: reexamimprovementcomments
Subject: Software Patents

To whom it may concern,

Software patents stagnate technological advancement.

Richard Stallman has an excellent article that details the problems inherent with software patents:

<http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/~mgk25/stallman-patents.html>

A lone developer, working part time on a software project, has not the time, resources, money, nor skill to search through potentially millions of software patents to discover if any of the technologies being used infringe upon an existing patent.

Last I looked, Earth is the only planet that can support human life. We need to leverage every possible technological advancement and innovation we can to assure the survival of our species. As software is the backbone of modern technology (satellites, space shuttle, rockets, communications networks, cell phones, vehicles); it is truly pervasive, affecting nearly all of us either directly or indirectly. Setting roadblocks on before software development will only slow down our efforts to implement survival plan before a cataclysmic catastrophe occurs. (Asteroid, nuclear war, runaway greenhouse effect, plagues, etc.)

What would have happened, for example, if there was a patent on multi-tasking (the ability for a computer to rapidly switch between two programs to give the appearance that the computer is running two (or more) programs simultaneously)? The space shuttle software could not have been developed.

Our survival is crucial; software patents hamper innovation and use up our precious time and resources.

They are not necessary.

Sincerely,
Dave Jarvis