

**From:** Bob Carlson [e-mail redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 27, 2010 5:43 PM  
**To:** Bilski\_Guidance  
**Subject:** Software patents

I have been a software developer my entire working life and I am 60 years old. I have worked on several ideas that I thought might make money for me. In theory I am one of those people who might benefit from software patents. However, I vehemently oppose software patents. They stifle innovation, exactly opposite effect that patents are supposed to have. Every software patent I have seen (and I have seen many, I have done expert witness work) have been blatantly obvious. The patent office regularly grants patents to “obvious” (in the sense of the law) ideas.

The patent system has evolved into a protection racket that allows a few big companies to crush any small company or individual who dares compete with them. Software patents and business method patents are a pox on the earth.

I am not an open source zealot. I do not particularly like the GPL, especially GPL3. I believe that source code should be protected by copyright only.

Sincerely, Bob

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