

From: [e-mail redacted] On Behalf Of Brendan Hickey
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2010 1:38 PM
To: Bilski_Guidance
Cc: [e-mail redacted]
Subject: Software Patents: Just say no.

Hello,

I'm writing to share my thoughts on the upcoming USPTO guidance

Re:

Bilski. I am a software engineer; I make my livelihood writing software. The issue of software patents isn't of abstract concern to me, but instead of bread-on-my-table concern. In the interests of promoting business, I urge your office to act decisively and bar software from patentability.

Software patents stifle "the Progress of Science and useful Arts". I can't and won't mince words about it. Software patents make it impossible for small businesses to innovate without fear. Individual patents have choked off innovation in wide branches that would have otherwise borne fruit useful to industry.

More fundamentally, however, the subject matter of software falls squarely in the realm of the unpatentable. Software is only mathematics and nothing more. A particular expression of these mathematics is protected by copyright. Yet mathematics is not subject to patent.

Sincerely,
Brendan Hickey