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Subject: I believe software patents are harmful

I believe software patents unnecessarily create an atmosphere of fear, uncertainty, and doubt among those who would attempt to understand and improve software-based devices. Stories I read on this subject lead me to believe that patents are being issued for software constructs that do not meet the letter or spirit of the intent of the patent system. Subsequent concern about the consequences of patent violation inhibit optimum programming in development of new and improved products.

I have been told that the Supreme Court has not ruled in favor of the patentability of software and that their response to a recent case indicates they expect a narrower interpretation of patentability than is currently in effect. Software's basis in mathematics (allegedly unpatentable) and the obviousness of its combination with a computer to execute it should disqualify software from patent eligibility.