

From: Justin Cummins [e-mail redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2010 5:23 PM
To: Bilski_Guidance
Subject: Please end software patents

Please end software patents. In my field of research, computer security, software patents stifle legitimate research and deprive the public of its benefits. Software patents, in practice, are too vague, general, long-lasting, and difficult and costly the challenge. The bar to make a claim is so very low while the technical challenge to validate a claim is nearly insurmountable. One cost of these mistakes is the very real lawsuit or threat of one from a large company, based on a generic, nearly ubiquitous, concept to prevent competition or stop research which challenges products or services of such a company. Here are two such patents I've come across which are being used to halt work on improved (public, free) security mechanisms which fail on the grounds of novelty, and probably prior art, on their face: 6125447, 6192476. Software patents benefit very few, hinder many, and ultimately fail to spur innovation to benefiting the public good.

Thank you,
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