

From: Evan Eusey [e-mail redacted]
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To: Bilski_Guidance
Cc: [e-mail redacted]
Subject: Bilski

Rather than trying to sound legal, I'll be plain: the collaborative ("open source") software projects in which I participate, from operating systems to image editors, are frequently harmed by software patents. NPEs and non-manufacturing patentees in the software field hinder innovation in both the corporate and non-corporate realm. Most software patents are obvious to any skilled developer. Many ignore decades of prior art. Eliminating software patents would have a negligible effect on practicing companies, even those with large patent portfolios, while fostering growth in start-up companies. And, as we learn in basic computer science, software is just a form of mathematical notation, and I don't think you should be able to patent that.

Evan Eusey
Software Engineer
PeopleMatter, Inc.