From: Erik Andersen [e-mail redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2010 1:25 AM
To: Bilski_Guidance
Subject: Software Patents

Dear USPTO:
Please take a strong stand against software patents. I studied them
for a whole quarter for a research paper and discovered that they
were not only not needed but that the industry did fine with out them
for a long time. I find the patenting of file formats especially atrocious
because it is not only an unneeded monopoly, but it is one that
doesn't let you choose not to pay for a patent license because if you
did choose not to pay for the license, you are incompatible with
everything else. I use (GNU/)Linux, an operating system that is part
of an ecosystem of software that is often very innovative, but uses
ZERO patents to get to this place of innovation. The computer
software industry did fine in it's infancy without patents and we still
don't need them today. You can, and should, exclude software from
patent eligibility on other legal grounds: because software consists
only of mathematics, which is not patentable, and the combination of
such software with a general-purpose computer is obvious.
Sincerely,
Erik B. Andersen