From: William [e-mail redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2010 4:58 PM
To: Bilski_Guidance
Cc: [e-mail redacted]
Subject: Please end software patents

Hello,

As an American and more importantly as a software developer software
patents are something I feel the US government should not be issuing.
I feel I have to fear what others have patented because they've been
granted a very generic broad patent that many people including myself
may violate. I also feel the idea of patenting an language (or
business idea too) is wrong.

Quite rightly I can't patent this email I am writing even though I may
be the first person to think of putting these words together like this
for this purpose. It would be ridiculous if I could patent it and
that, in my humble opinion, is what happens when someone is granted a
software patent.

Copyright and trade secret protections are more than enough to protect
a company's work. Especially when there is so much code floating
around that I believe it's hard for anyone to ever claim they have
been the first to do something and instead they have just been the
first to have the cash to apply for the patent.

Software is also not as obvious as something like how a cog may work.
I feel it's much harder to determine what software should be patented
because it's harder to grasp how it works for many people (including
some developers at times) and on the other side plain, obvious and
logical solutions like menu layout that any programmer can come up
with simply should not be patentable.

I'm not sure if anyone will actually read this so I'm not going to go
on too much but I genuinely think the best thing that could happen to
the software world is for software patents to go away and just let
companies rely on their copyrights and trade secret protections to
protect their works.

Regards,
William Baer