From: Tim Holy [e-mail redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2010 6:25 AM
To: Bilski_Guidance
Subject: Software patentability

Hello,

I am writing to suggest that software be excluded from the patent
process.
Software is simply a different beast:
1. Unlike biotech, software is very cheap to develop, so it needs
little
protection.
2. Any idea which seems clever now will seem trivial in 6 months.
Virtually
every software patent in existence seems, in retrospect, ridiculous.
For
software, a 17-year protection cycle is completely unsupportable.
3. Most of the reward for a good software idea is realized within a few
years
of the invention; the remainder of the patent coverage serves to
discourage
"progress of Science and useful Arts" which (as enshrined within the
Constitution) is the fundamental purpose of the patent system. Patents
are a
means, not an end in themselves, and in the case of software they prove
to be
counterproductive in achieving the true end.

Best wishes,

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