Hello,
I implore you to end the patenting of software. Each software patent is an attempt to control information that should be free to everyone. Software patents constitute neither original work, for it runs on generic hardware, nor is it morally right.

I have spent many hours reviewing code, wading through the legal issues around what is and isn't patentable. It is a nightmarish hell of pointless cavils and ceaseless quibbles. It may be blessing to lawyers who relish that kind of unreflective combat over minutia, but it is suited to no one else. It is a waste, a drain, a moral morass of incompetent legal standards and dubious intellectual originality. If we allow the current trend to continue, we will always be bound to technology just beyond the patent curve, where we wait a decade for some simplistic, intuitive idea to be freed from the shackles of the obscure logic and banal descriptions found in a patent submission. These are not original works. These are works of practical mathematics, which constitute observations and ideas about the natural world, which should never be patented. To believe otherwise is to accept that anything obvious -- any idea whatsoever -- however codified in words, though it can be codified in mathematics more simply, constitutes an idea that no one else should be able to express. It is an absurdity beyond reason that anyone with a moral compass should rightly reject.

Please end this ridiculous farce. It empowers only quibbling lawyers, not the technologists that actually make the future possible.

-Gabe McArthur