From: Steve Miner [e-mail redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2010 3:48 PM
To: Bilski_Guidance
Cc: [e-mail redacted]
Subject: against software patents

I saw something about the Supreme Court's decision in Bilski v. Kappos
on the FSF web page:

http://www.fsf.org/news/uspto-bilski-guidance

I would like to state my reasons for opposing software patents. First,
software is similar to mathematics and logic, which are not normally
patentable. Second, in practice, software patents have been used to
attack competition, rather than as a way to protect original ideas.
Finally, the USPTO cannot possibly do an adequate job of reviewing all
the prior art with regards to software. Thus, there is a tendency to
grant overly broad software patents.

In my opinion, the appropriate protection for software is copyright.

By the way, I am a named inventor on two software patents owned by a
large company that I used to work for. Because my work was granted
patents, it is legally dangerous for me to work on similar software.
Even if I don't technically violate a patent, it is unlikely that I
could afford to defend myself in court against a large company. The
entire software industry would be better off without software patents.

Thank you for your consideration,

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