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**Sent:** Sunday, September 26, 2010 3:30 PM  
**To:** Bilski\_Guidance  
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**Subject:** Patents Hurt the Software Industry

I'm a manager for software developers, gadget lover, and all around technophile. I'd like to express what a deep concern software patents have become for me in recent years. These patents stifle innovation and make it difficult for new companies to compete in the software market. Without a significant portfolio of patents a company must fear any amount of success will bring the ire of a money grubbing patent troll (see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patent\\_troll](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patent_troll)) to destroy them when they are most successful.

Software development should not be like the cold war and nuclear arms race. We shouldn't have to rely on mutually assured destruction so that we can then begin to innovate. Many other markets such as the fashion industry THRIVE because of a lack of patentability, the same should be true for software. Technology exists because we are able to stand on the shoulders of giants and build something, software patents threaten that very paradigm.

Thanks,  
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