Dear Madam, Sir,

I've been a software professional for more than 10 years now and a hobbyist for more than 15. I've seen my industry move at a fast pace, living through innovations as important as the Internet and Open Source Software. It's my strong belief, both as a US citizen and as a professional, that software patents hinder innovation in my profession and reduce our ability to bring better technology to the public. Because of the speed at which our field evolves, the initial intent of patents as a support for innovation has quickly become irrelevant and harmful. Patents in software are now used as a medium allowing bullying practices and fraud ("patent trolls"), forcing all software companies down a costly path of self-protection against possible litigations. Patents in software now are a liability.

Please stop granting software patents.

Best regards,
Matthieu Riou.