

From: [e-mail redacted] **On Behalf Of** stephen stokols
Sent: Sunday, September 26, 2010 7:47 PM
To: Bilski_Guidance
Cc: Nic Ferrier
Subject: response letter

I am the CEO of WooMe.com and I feel that the US PTO should cease granting patents on software, I want to explain why.

WooMe.com is a video dating site. We are doing something few others are doing. We are a small, innovative startup and we've been directly harmed by Software Patents.

A Patent holding company pursued a claim against us for infringing a software patent regarding the use of cameras over the Internet. The patent was precisely the kind of thing many other companies have complained about. There was nothing substantive in the patent at all, nothing that seemed patentable, nothing worthwhile or non-obvious. As many patents, it existed for the sole purpose of extracting legal settlements and claims.

Fighting the legal case for this claim cost us tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees. This money would otherwise have gone to hiring new staff to pursue innovation and growth.

WooMe is doing interesting and patentable things with software. However, to patent them would cost even more time and legal fees so we don't. Patents on software are almost exclusively the providence of large companies with the resources to turn their software assets into patents and every time they do it they have the potential to crush another startup innovating and employing Americans.

Stephen Stokols
CEO, WooMe