To the USPTO:

As a professional in the software industry and a concerned citizen, I want to let you know of my experience with software patents in the wake of the Bilski decision.

It is openly known in the industry that software patents are destructive and useless, and do not serve the interests of the creators of software. Not a single professional software creator I have ever met supports the patentability of software. The reason is apparent to those in the business, but perhaps less so to those outside it: all computer software is a form of mathematics. Mathematics are not patentable.

Members of this industry are constantly inventing new technologies that build on older ones. I myself have created many pieces of original software that are apparently patentable under the USPTO's current standards. Yet I have never chosen to do so. If all members of the industry were to patent everything they have invented, the US Patent Office would be utterly overwhelmed with applications, and literally no new technologies could be created that were unencumbered. The only reason the current patent regime is sustainable is because only a small fraction of software developers bother to take out patents.

I urge you to take the narrowest possible reading of software patents in the wake of the Bilski decision.

Sincerely,

Ian White
CTO, Sailthru