

From: John Withers [e-mail redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2010 4:43 PM
To: Bilski_Guidance
Subject: Software Patent Comments

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is John Withers and I am the Chief Technical Officer for the Nautilus Institute for Security and Sustainability.

During the course of our work, we develop software to help gather information used by governments, scholars and individuals. This information is then used to make informed policy decisions by many different bodies, including various groups in the US Government.

Software patents raise our costs to perform this work. From having to license software performing obvious algorithms to extensive and expensive reviews to make sure we are protected from spurious patent lawsuits, money and effort that should be going to funding more projects is instead going into dealing with software patent issues.

I urge you to narrow or abolish software patents. There are various legal and moral arguments that can be made and you know probably better than I. But I know that doing so will help The Nautilus Institute put more effort into our primary mission, which I believe helps make the world a better place.

John P. Withers,
CTO, The Nautilus Institute for Security and Sustainability