

From: Ed Young [e-mail redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 26, 2010 7:07 PM
To: Bilski_Guidance
Cc: [e-mail redacted]
Subject: Please END SOFTWARE PATENTS

I am a computer programmer by profession and avocation. Programming is a rewarding pursuit. It is relatively easy and quick to go from a usable idea to working program. But lately that joy is being thwarted by the minefield of software patents.

The analogy is like trying to build a brick structure when every tenth brick is undetectably faulty. It is easy to grab a brick and mortar it into place. And unknowingly you have created a structure which looks good but will fail in use. You could spend time testing each brick before emplacing it. But that would be prohibitively expensive.

The 'bricks' of building software come straight from the mind. As a practicing programmer I can tell you it is easy to create new 'bricks' as needed for a specific purpose. These 'bricks' in combination with other 'bricks' are used to create a usable program. But now programmers are finding out that some of their programs will fail in practice because someone else also created a 'brick' that they created.

The value in the software world is working programs. Programs are adequately protected by copyright.

Software patents are serving to enrich lawyers and non-practicing entities, not promote innovation in software development.