

From: Martin L. Buchanan
Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2013 9:05 PM
To: SoftwareRoundtable2013
Subject: Comments on software patents

Dear sir or madam:

I will be brief, both because you will receive many in-depth comments and because I am not a patent law expert.

I'm a senior software engineer and small business owner. The current mistaken granting and enforcing of software patents:

(1) Keeps me from working in certain areas of software entirely because of likely patent issues, robotics software for example.

(2) Makes it likely that if I do invent a major and useful piece of software, I will sell it to a large firm like Google or Microsoft rather than starting a firm, because I will never pay a dime to software patent trolls myself.

(3) Makes it more likely that I will make commercially viable software "open source" and give it away rather than creating a business and employing people, but then being vulnerable to legal extortion by said trolls.

I urge everyone involved in this issue to work for the elimination of software patents. So long as software patents are not eliminated, consider every possible measure to eliminate or reduce the current practice of legal extortion by non-practicing entities. While I'm not a fan of higher taxes, if the administration proposed a 99.9% tax on income from software patents, I would support it. Be creative in looking for any way short of physical force to eliminate these evil and immoral trolls from our economy.

Finally, misuse of patents now extends beyond the software business. I urge similar elimination of patents or ameliorating reforms for business method patents and for patents on genes occurring in nature.

Sincerely,

Martin L. Buchanan
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