From: Steven Nash
Sent: Sunday, January 06, 2013 9:22 AM
To: SoftwareRoundtable2013
Subject: Software Patent Investigation

Hi,

Firstly I am glad that the USPTO is investigating the use of Software Patents.

I have been deeply concerned by the amount of abuse by big companies using Software Patents to kill of competition and stifle innovation. I cannot see any justification for the granting of Software Patents whatsoever. Software is created by writing program source code which can either be compiled or interpreted at runtime. The small fragments of code can be used in many different ways and it is impossible to determine who wrote or used such code first. Also the specifications for file formats should not be patentable.

Developing software in the UK and later exporting to US companies create huge problems. For example I could spend 3 years developing an application in the UK. In the 4th year I good create a US version and, in the same year, a US company could be granted a Software Patent on a piece of code that I had been using in my software since year 1. They could therefore block my access to the US market my charging extremely high fees.

The rule should simple be not to allow Software Patents.

I hope you find my comments helpful?

Kind Regards,
Steve Nash

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