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Subject: from a software user

I'm not a lawyer or a programmer or connected with software in any way except as a user. From that perspective, the only thing software patents seem to accomplish is to tie up people in litigation. And that litigation uses the law itself to commit what should be criminal acts. Patents are used to stifle innovation, to kill competition, instead of to promote them.

As a writer, I'm aware of the value of intellectual property. But companies arming themselves with portfolios of patents so they can squelch competitors respect neither intellect nor property. They've just found a new kind of club to beat what they want out of people.

I hope the USPTO makes an end to this travesty of justice.

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