

From: Pandu Rao [e-mail redacted]  
Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2010 7:02 PM  
To: Bilski\_Guidance  
Cc: [e-mail redacted]  
Subject: Software and Business Method Patents

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am an independent software consultant. As a programmer and an entrepreneur I routinely face problems introduced by software and business method patents. I wish to bring my concerns to your attention.

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As a software developer, patents are not useful to me. In my years of developing software, working with everyone from Fortune 100 companies to start-ups, I have not known a single engineer who has read a single patent to learn/implement a single concept. Not one.

Instead what I have found that several of the concepts that I independently developed were later patented by large corporations.

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As a consultant, clients routinely try to include patent indemnification clauses in my contracts. I negotiate these clauses and have them stricken out. If clients refuse to remove the clause, I decline to engage. I think you will find that software and business patents hurt a vastly larger number of interests than they protect.

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When I was growing up in India, I was told that United States Patent System encouraged innovation and furthered the cause of science and technology. When I first came to the United States, I intended to apply for patents. When I saw how the system was being used/abused, I concluded that I could not, in good conscience, participate in the process of patenting software and business methods.

The Founders original goal of advancing the cause of arts and science have been perverted by the present-day practitioners of patents.

I urge you to reject attempts to patent software and business method (and revoke all such patents granted).

Yours sincerely,  
Pandu Rao