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To: Bilski_Guidance
Subject: Bilki v. Kappos

I'm writing in regards to the request for comments on the Interim Bilski Guidance. I am a computer programmer currently working for Google, but I am writing this independently of any comments that Google may have.

I strongly encourage the USPTO to issue guidance that a method executed on a general purpose computer is not patentable. A general purpose computer is by definition capable of implementing any algorithm, including any implementable abstract idea or mathematical formula. Only a method which requires a special purpose machine should be patentable.
An implementation of a method which runs on a general purpose computer should not be patentable.

I believe this is consistent with the Bilski ruling, which indicates that patent protection may be available when applying a mathematical formula to a known structure or process. When considered at the level of a computer program, a general purpose computer can not be considered a known structure or process, since it is capable of doing anything which can be described in an algorithm. Permitting a patent to apply in this domain would be similar to permitting a patent on pure human thought, which is generally considered to be out of bounds for patentability.

Thanks you for your attention to this comment.

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