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Subject: Stand Against Software Patents

Software is not an "invention". It's the implementation of an idea... an idea that builds upon other ideas. Patenting software is akin to patenting the plot of a book.

Software patents hurt individuals by taking away our ability to control the devices that now exert such strong influence on our personal freedoms, including how we interact with each other. Now that computers are everywhere, it's easier than ever for an individual to create or modify software to perform the specific tasks they want done. Software is no longer possible only for a tiny handful of companies. "ANYone" can write software. And "anyone" can have an idea.

A single software patent can put up an insurmountable, and unjustifiable, legal hurdle for many would-be developers.

The Supreme Court of the United States has never ruled in favor of the patentability of software. The USPTO can, and should, exclude software from patent eligibility on other legal grounds: because software consists only of mathematics, which is not patentable, and the combination of such software with a general-purpose computer is obvious.

You can't patent an idea. You can't patent a book. You should not be able to patent software.

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- Vicki Brown

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