

From: Brad Hodge

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To: SoftwareRoundtable2013

Subject: Comments for Enhancement of Quality of Software- Related Patents

I believe patents in general are a bad idea, but software patents take that bad idea to a whole new level. If software patents must come about, then they should be for "earth shattering" innovation and given for a minimal time. Patents are artificial monopolies granted by the state (ironically, since the state opposes monopolies) and stifle creativity and innovation. The world got along just fine before patents came about. The open source community has done very well without the protection of patents. In fact, patent disputes have caused the open source community problems from greedy people trying to steal their code and then not let it be free. Sparkfun.com, an electronics company, puts out their designs as open source and has stated publicly that this has sped up innovation in the market place and keeps them on their toes and nimble.

Information wants to be free. That is its nature. Don't stifle it with government intervention.

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