

**From:** Sean [e-mail redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 27, 2010 4:21 PM  
**To:** Bilski\_Guidance  
**Cc:** [e-mail redacted]  
**Subject:** Argument against software patents

I am writing to include my opinion as a U.S. citizen in the discussion about the new guidelines concerning software patents. As a programmer, I have seen firsthand the way that software patents *discourage* innovation. My colleagues and I are terrified of releasing our software only to be put into thousands of dollars of debt by large companies throwing around vague patents covering such things as "online multiplayer games".

Simply put, ideas should not be patentable, and in fact are not patentable by law. Patent attorneys, looking to make more money, created the loophole that software runs on a machine, and therefore is a physically patentable object. Please restore some sanity to the software field and allow programmers to write code without fearing mighty patent wielding conglomerates trying to stifle competition and innovation.

Thank you,  
Sean Ray