

How to tame the SWPAT monster

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The idea to put patents into a pool to protect free software is old. Public Informational Property is however hardly usable for excluding others, especially when your opponent is a professional extortionist who develops no software but only trades with patents. So far the mutual defense idea has not been very successful. The chances for success could improve somewhat, if the patent system itself was reformed, so as to provide some mechanisms for adequately protecting public “intellectual property”.

Contents

Mutual Defense Against Software Patents (LPF)¹: A lucid text from Richard Stallman

Patent Nonsense and Collective Security in the Age of Software Patents²: Autodesk founder would like to ban patent nonsense, but sees a mutual defense alliance as the most realistic option.

OpenPatents³: Ein gut durchdachter, liebevoll konstruierter Ansatz, der theoretisch funktionieren sollte.

Preparing for the intellectual-property offensive⁴: Bruce Perens proposes remedies against an imminent flood of patent attacks on OSS.

Robert Gehrings Berliner Ausweg aus dem Digitalen Dilemma⁵: Gehring proposes some minor reforms to patent law which could help make it more favorable to open-source defense alliances.

J.P. Smets: Practical Software Patent Tactics for OpenSource Developpers⁶: Proposal of a contagious General Public Patent License (GPPL).