

# Fixing Patents, Open-Source Style

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The software developers and users who make up the open-source software community have waged a war of words against software patents. Their main argument is that software shouldn't be patented because it stifles innovation.

What's more, they say, it exacerbates what has been dubbed the U.S. patent predicament. This predicament arises out of a patent examination process that was put in place years before software was even a concept, and therefore, was not created to protect software. It's like playing basketball by the rules of soccer.

CHANGE COMING. Here's why: The basis of any patent being granted is that the invention is new.

[Full Article](#) [2].

## In related news:

The US Patent and Trademark Office is to re-examine an image compression patent which has raked in licence fees of \$105 million (EUR\*87 million) and sparked 30 active patent trials.

The patent in question is commonly referred to as the JPEG-patent because it covers the compression technology used in the hugely popular image format that is extensively used for digital images.

A re-evaluation was requested by the Public Patent Foundation, a not-for-profit legal group which aims to protect the public from harmful patent claims that are the result of unsound patent policy.

The group has ties with activists in the open source movement and the anti-patent lobby.

[That Story](#) [3].

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