

From:

Subject:

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My stance

Friday, March 05, 2010 10:10:54 AM

Hello Victoria,

I think we have enough IP (horrible catchall) protection. In fact, I think we have too much. For one, consumers no longer have the amount of freedoms with the products they have purchased as what once was possible. To me ideas are public domain. You think about the fact that every experience and piece of knowledge you have gained was from someone else either giving it to you or experienced because it was already there and thus influences your thoughts and ideas. Now, how can you say an idea is really yours, and yours alone? I can't.

Patents nowadays are just getting out of hand, and by that I am referring to just about anything being allowed to be patented. Companies getting patents on discovering pieces of our DNA that are already there. Business procedures. Then, you have software patents which are mainly just a description of a solution to a problem that is commonly known. No innovation there. I think sometimes the size of the company is inversely proportional to the amount of innovation. I see more innovative ideas coming from the smaller businesses like start-ups and not so much from the others. I think they rely on being treated as individuals so they can acquire when they can't innovate. This may happen because the larger the company the less flexible they may be for controlled profit risk. So we get a lot of baby step technology.

I feel we need more competition, and that would mean getting rid of patents and putting actual limits on copyrights. I see a world that has problems because it has too few companies/individuals in charge of too many things. My goal isn't to crash the system, but rather to hopefully make it more resilient. It does take money to invent, and get products out there. I have an idea, and one that could give consumers actual choice.

I recently read about the president meeting with top executives about jobs. I'm sure this will never reach him, but tell him if you want to create real jobs you meet with small business owners and not executives of large corporations. Most of the companies I seen listed (Coca Cola, Walmart) have a lot of mediocre positions that don't pay well, and have little to no benefits anyway. You have a person that makes around \$400,000 a year talking to a Walmart CEO that makes a annual salary in the millions. How many jobs do you think he could personally afford to employ? Think about it. Don't get me wrong I commend Obama on trying to make some change, and have respect for the man. I am just pointing out an angle that you may not see in Washington.

It seems you may have a daunting task, and I like to wish you the best. In the words of Jerry Seinfeld, "Good luck with all of that." =)

Michael Haynes