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The serious problem of proliferating bad software patents was not solved by the Supreme Court's *Bilski* decision, but now it's looking like it may be part of the solution. The early case law applying *Bilski* is much more encouraging than expected. The new *Bilski* test focuses on whether an application attempts to patent "an abstract idea." That new test has already been applied to reject applications for quite a few bad software patents, and with more lawsuits, it could invalidate a lot more. To advance on this, we need to figure out out better ways to explain what software is and show when it is an unpatentable abstract idea.

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