Entrepreneurs: Licensing and Enforcing Patents in IT

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The opposing views

(Cartoon) Adam Smith

Vehement opponents of software patents
You may remember me from such public interest campaigns as “patents will kill the railroad industry..."
... and “patents will kill the auto industry, and patents will kill the telephone industry . . .”
My perspective

Adam Smith

• Markets are great
  – BUT

• Fair rules for exchange, governance of markets, are essential

Vehement opponents of software patents
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Vehement opponents of software patents

Some investors, stockholders, some entrepreneurs, large companies – constituencies that support patents, even in the software industry
• Reduce the gap between innovation and patent coverage

• Reduce the cost of weeding out bad patents

• Shut down the trolls: restore incentives, close off rents
• Easy “dedication to the public”; sophisticated interoperability policy – e.g., “standards estoppel”