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FON is Patent Pending

When I invented call back I did not bother to patent it. I hated the way international telecom companies were ripping consumers off and while I wanted to make money with Viatel I also wanted to destroy the global oligopoly that the telcos had established. And Viatel and other call back companies like IDT did that. Still some smart guy out there patented call back and years later when his patent was granted he tried to collect payments from call back companies. I then had to testify that I had invented call back and in the end we had enough proof and we prevailed. In order to avoid the same this time with FON not only we have registered the brand FON but we have filed for patenting the FON idea, namely a piece of software that synchronizes the behavior of all the wifi access points to join into a network. This does not mean that we don't want to collaborate with others and freely roam on other networks. But I don't want the call back story all over again with someone else patenting my idea.

Posted on October 23, 2005



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1

Can you patent "a piece of software" in Europe?

Posted by: Peter at October 25, 2005 05:28 PM

2

You can't, or at least should't patent an idea. Software patents were dumped in EU Parliament recently. If you want support for this, keep it free (as in free speech).

Posted by: Paulo at October 25, 2005 06:58 PM

3

Martin,

I obviously have no way of knowing what your patent application encompasses (application not yet to be found at USPTO or EP), but I can make some base assumptions. To this extent, I'll have to point at the work we've been doing at [Organic Network](#) for the past three years, and - as a firm opponent to software patents - which I hope will nullify your patent as well as any other.

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Organic Network's agent connects a wi-fi access point (behind a firewall or NATed router) to a central management server which authenticates users and provisions the type of access the user is authorized for (bandwidth allocation, bandwidth shaping, etc.).

In any case, I wish you the best of luck with Fon and hope we will have the chance of meeting and potentially facilitate roaming between our two networks!

/n

Posted by: [Nikolai Nyholm](#) at October 25, 2005 09:39 PM

4

Let's see: Are you talking about patenting a piece of software, no more no less? In such a case, do you think that is going to ve a popular move?

Posted by: [QQ] at October 26, 2005 02:24 AM

5

my wealth will be proportional to your success...

Posted by: Anonymous at October 27, 2005 01:15 AM

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