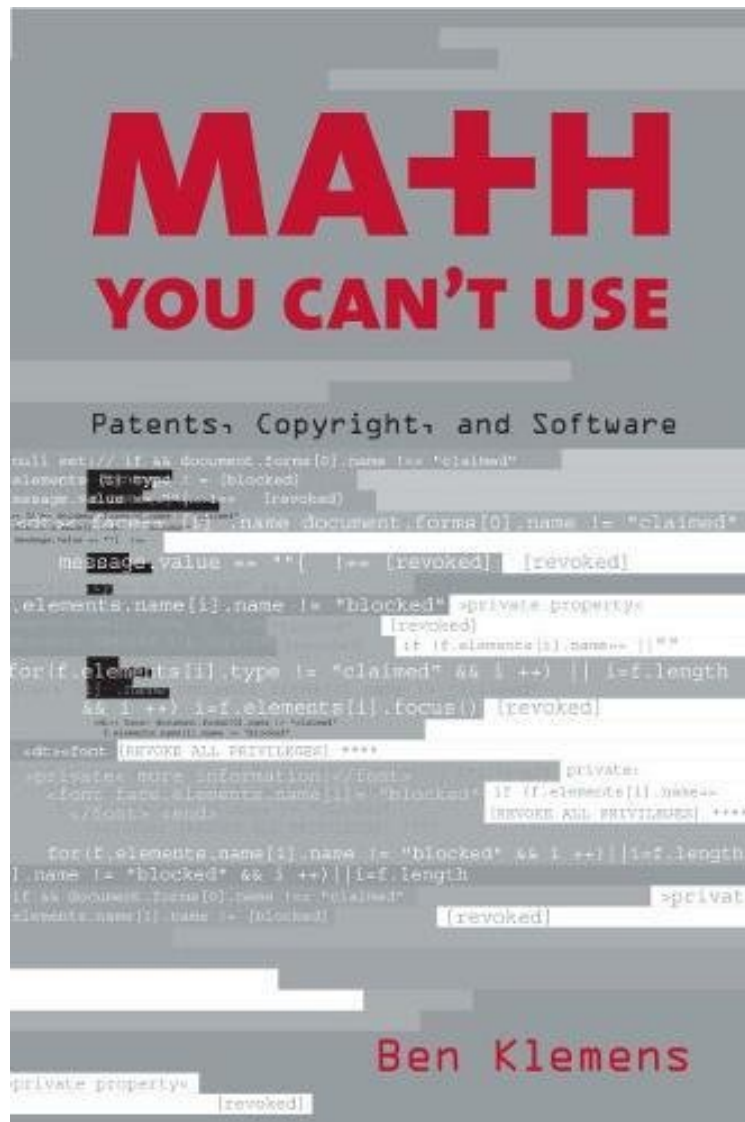


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Math You Can't Use: Patents, Copyright, and Software

Ben Klemens

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the book's conceptual framework remains valid, and I don't know of any good books that have covered the topic since then. And with the rise of patent trolls and renewed debate in Congress, the topic is more relevant than ever. Strongly recommended. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Analysis By Luis E. Ibanez Klemens provides an in-depth analysis of software patents and how they should be controlled, regulated and potentially discarded. Populated with engaging practical examples, this book should be read by anybody involved in software development, and in teaching future software developers.

This lively and innovative book is about computer code and the legal controls and restrictions on those who write it. The widespread use of personal computers and the Internet have made it possible to release new data or tools instantaneously to virtually the entire world. However, while the digital revolution allows quick and extensive use of these intellectual properties, it also means that their developers face new challenges in retaining their rights as creators. Drawing on a host of examples, Ben Klemens describes and analyzes the intellectual property issues involved in the development of computer software. He focuses on software patents because of their powerful effect on the software market, but he also provides an extensive discussion of how traditional copyright laws can be applied to code. The book concludes with a discussion of recommendations to ease the constraints on software development. This is the first book to confront these problems with serious policy solutions. It is sure to become the standard reference for software developers, those concerned with intellectual property issues, and for policymakers seeking direction. It is critical that public policy on these issues facilitates progress rather than hindering it. There is too much at stake.

"This adds some interesting perspective to the debate about software patents." Karl Friedrich Lenz, Lenz Blog, 1/18/2006 "Ben Klemens... cogently spells out the arguments against software patents, and also the next frontier: Mathematical algorithm patents." Butler Group Blog, 8/17/2005 "Regardless of where you stand on the software and process patent issue, this book is worth a read and should be on every software developer's and manager's bookshelf." William Wong, Electronic Design Online, 5/24/2006 "Klemens' book is interesting and engaging. It is also ultimately an important contribution to the debate over the appropriate means to protect the fruits of the innovation economy." Canadian Business Law Journal About the Author Ben Klemens is a guest scholar at the Center on Social and Economic Dynamics at the Brookings Institution, where he writes programs to perform quantitative analyses and policy-oriented simulations. He also consults for the World Bank on intellectual property in the developing world and computer-based simulations of immigration policy.