chem-bla-ics

USPTO considers open source software prior art

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This is the best news I heard in weeks! The US Patent and Trade Offfice spoke with open source representatives about ways to deal with open source software as prior art. Apparently, their problem was how to be sure about release dates of open source, and authoritative sites like SourceForge.net, FreshMeat.net help a lot here, which extensive logging of releases.

Quoting from there website:

> The Department of Commerce's United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has created a partnership with the open source community to ensure that patent examiners have access to all available prior art relating to software code during the patent examination process.

It also indicates that releasing open source software with, or announcing it on, such an authoritative website is important! Otherwise, patent offices will not be able to decide wether our open source art is really prior.