
Subject: Microsoft wants to patent smilies! WTF?!
Posted by [csskiller](#) on Sun, 24 Jul 2005 06:39:02 GMT
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<http://news.zdnet.co.uk/business/0,39020645,39210396,00.htm>

How low has Microsoft gone this time?

Oh and for those who sorta want to try to stop it here is a petition:
<http://www.petitiononline.com/f5923j49/>

Subject: Re: Microsoft want to patent smilies! WTF?!
Posted by [Drkpwn3r](#) on Sun, 24 Jul 2005 09:11:56 GMT
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Ok, I must know -> What the hell, Microsoft.

Subject: Re: Microsoft want to patent smilies! WTF?!
Posted by [Jecht](#) on Sun, 24 Jul 2005 15:23:47 GMT
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O M G. W T F?

Subject: Re: Microsoft want to patent smilies! WTF?!
Posted by [glyde51](#) on Sun, 24 Jul 2005 17:38:01 GMT
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LOL

I saw this article just before I came here.

OMFG MICROSOFT WUD KILL MEEE?!?!?!?

Subject: Re: Microsoft want to patent smilies! WTF?!
Posted by [mrpirate](#) on Sun, 24 Jul 2005 19:45:51 GMT
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Quote:The patent, which was published by the US patent office on Thursday, covers selecting pixels to create an emoticon image, assigning a character sequence to these pixels and reconstructing the emoticon after transmission.

The patent is for the way smileys are sent. However, this patent is frightening.

Subject: Re: Microsoft wants to patent smilies! WTF?!
Posted by [MrBob](#) on Wed, 27 Jul 2005 00:49:53 GMT
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This is nothing new.

<http://www.nosoftwarepatents.com/>

Subject: Re: Microsoft wants to patent smilies! WTF?!
Posted by [warranto](#) on Wed, 27 Jul 2005 01:13:36 GMT
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Heh, considering how detailed you have to be in a patent, I wonder how the smiley/the way it's sent would be described.

Oh, and mrpirate, it has nothing to do with how they are sent, what they are trying for is this:

example: patent includes that the ";" character and the ")" character will combine in that order to create the image when compiled after transmission.

example: patent includes that the ":" character and the "D" character will combine in that order to create the image when compiled after transmission.

in the above examples the ";", ")", and ":", "D" characters will be patented in the order needed to create the";.)" and ":.D" sequence (this will also be patented) to create the final and after transmission (which will be patented as well)

Subject: Re: Microsoft wants to patent smilies! WTF?!
Posted by [mrpirate](#) on Wed, 27 Jul 2005 04:28:48 GMT
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Oh... colour me corrected.

Subject: Re: Microsoft wants to patent smilies! WTF?!
Posted by [Doitle](#) on Wed, 27 Jul 2005 04:40:20 GMT
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Who cares. They will do what they want. They can patent it and people will comply or not. There'll be people who don't obey it, send smileys like always. Microsoft can go after them or just not care. They are a company and they are doing what companys do. Try to make money. I bet they are

just shaking and pulling all their hair out over that lame brain internet petition of 64 odd signatures of people using fake names and proclaiming that they show their emotion in the form of ascii characters.

Subject: Re: Microsoft wants to patent smilies! WTF?!
Posted by [Dave Mason](#) on Sat, 30 Jul 2005 02:02:36 GMT
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Fot The Wuck?

Subject: Re: Microsoft wants to patent smilies! WTF?!
Posted by [Scythar](#) on Mon, 01 Aug 2005 20:40:48 GMT
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It doesn't really affect the normal chatters on the Net anyway. It's the other companies who are going be owned because they can't use samekind of smilie system (AOL instant messenger etc etc).

Subject: Re: Microsoft wants to patent smilies! WTF?!
Posted by [TEKNIK](#) on Fri, 12 Aug 2005 22:06:19 GMT
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Wow, now that would reall suck for all those other companies. Maybe this petition is a good idea. I wish for AOL to stay up for a little longer before i leave them. They are going to start to charge for help calls.

Subject: Re: Microsoft wants to patent smilies! WTF?!
Posted by [Renerage](#) on Fri, 19 Aug 2005 17:00:18 GMT
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AOL sucks.

Subject: Re: Microsoft wants to patent smilies! WTF?!
Posted by [Chronojam](#) on Sat, 20 Aug 2005 00:40:03 GMT
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So all these other companies are jealous they didn't patent smilies first, and a bunch of ass hats are screaming at Microsoft for what reason exactly? "NO PATENTING THINGS! IT IS SO UN-AMERICAN"

Subject: Re: Microsoft wants to patent smilies! WTF?!
Posted by [MrBob](#) on Sun, 21 Aug 2005 00:47:42 GMT
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Chronojam wrote on Fri, 19 August 2005 20:40So all these other companies are jealous they didn't patent smilies first, and a bunch of asshats are screaming at Microsoft for what reason exactly? "NO PATENTING THINGS! IT IS SO UN-AMERICAN"

Ever hear of prior art? If not, please look it up before you start spouting more of your ranting.

Subject: Re: Microsoft wants to patent smilies! WTF?!
Posted by [Chronojam](#) on Wed, 24 Aug 2005 06:59:18 GMT
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If I make a stylized "peace" sign the symbol for my company, and then get a copyright on it, is that so unthinkable or impossible to have happen?

Subject: Re: Microsoft wants to patent smilies! WTF?!
Posted by [MrBob](#) on Wed, 24 Aug 2005 14:50:50 GMT
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What point are you trying to make? A logo for a company would be registered as a trademark, not a copyright.

Subject: Re: Microsoft wants to patent smilies! WTF?!
Posted by [Dr. Lithius](#) on Thu, 25 Aug 2005 02:37:31 GMT
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Oh my god! Must. . .use. . .Emotlcons. . .before. . .Gates. . .kills. . .me. . .!!

Ahhhh. . .that felt great! Okay, MicroSoft! DO EEEEEET!!!

Seriously. If MicroSoft wants to somehow find a way to patent Emotlcons/Smilies(good luck beating America On-Line/Time Warner to it), then by all means. Let them. They're a waste of space, in my opinion. Particularly the ones with attached sound effects. God, those are particularly annoying. . .

Subject: Re: Microsoft wants to patent smilies! WTF?!
Posted by [Renerage](#) on Thu, 25 Aug 2005 05:20:48 GMT
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Now, they aren't a waste of space.

Personally the only ones I would care to see to go are and and :(because, when you think about it, when you're on MSN, don't you use those the most?

Patenting these little pictures is extremely stupid and is only going to lead to riots/rants towards the idiots in charge.

So I say WTF IS WRONG WITH YOU MICROSOFT!?!?!?!?!?

Subject: Re: Microsoft wants to patent smilies! WTF?!

Posted by [Dave Mason](#) on Thu, 25 Aug 2005 15:35:09 GMT

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It's called business. A business's aims are to maximise income. If you patent something you can sue your opposition not only giving you more money but a wider used product due to uniqueness.

You may not like it but it's the way it is.

Subject: Re: Microsoft wants to patent smilies! WTF?!

Posted by [Renegade](#) on Thu, 25 Aug 2005 18:47:29 GMT

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DJM wrote on Thu, 25 August 2005 11:35: It's called business. A business's aims are to maximise income. If you patent something you can sue your opposition not only giving you more money but a wider used product due to uniqueness.

You may not like it but it's the way it is.

I know, but I still think it's jank.

Subject: Re: Microsoft wants to patent smilies! WTF?!

Posted by [Dave Mason](#) on Thu, 25 Aug 2005 22:41:01 GMT

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Jank? What? Is that the new "hip" term?

Subject: Re: Microsoft wants to patent smilies! WTF?!

Posted by [Renegade](#) on Fri, 26 Aug 2005 21:07:00 GMT

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DJM wrote on Thu, 25 August 2005 18:41: Jank? What? Is that the new "hip" term?

I don't know, I've been using it for a while now.

Jank means same as shit pretty much.

Oh well, take it or leave it. lol i like it.

Subject: Re: Microsoft wants to patent smilies! WTF?!
Posted by [Chronojam](#) on Sat, 27 Aug 2005 05:10:30 GMT
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Chronojam wrote on Wed, 24 August 2005 02:59 If I make a stylized "peace" sign the symbol for my company, and then get a copyright on it, is that so unthinkable or impossible to have happen?

Suppose though this sign were special. I could put a little symbol down digitally, and a vastly distributed operating system would recognize it was my characters, and instead replace it with my logo for me. Let's go a step further and have it recognize my symbol as standing for both those characters, and my company.

Too far fetched?

Subject: Re: Microsoft wants to patent smilies! WTF?!
Posted by [MrBob](#) on Sat, 27 Aug 2005 14:44:28 GMT
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Though replacing characters with something else like an image is common, let's say it was your original idea. Suppose you decided not to patent your idea and it was used commonly. Now, years later, someone else has patented your idea. That is the situation here.

Microsoft is taking advantage of the EU patent system. Though software patents aren't enforceable yet, this is just one example of the lunacy that will happen if they do. Take a look at some more absurd patents in the same database: <http://webshop.ffii.org/>.

Subject: Re: Microsoft wants to patent smilies! WTF?!
Posted by [nopic01](#) on Sat, 03 Sep 2005 22:44:41 GMT
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patent microsoft

Subject: Re: Microsoft wants to patent smilies! WTF?!

Posted by [warranto](#) on Sun, 04 Sep 2005 18:33:13 GMT

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Chronojam wrote on Sat, 27 August 2005 01:10Chronojam wrote on Wed, 24 August 2005 02:59If I make a stylized "peace" sign the symbol for my company, and then get a copyright on it, is that so unthinkable or impossible to have happen?

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Too far fetched?

That has nothing to do with Patent law, as it is not an industrial design. That is Trademark law, as it is something that is used for easy recognition of a company. They have two completely different methods and requirements of obtaining them.
