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We're all familiar with the MS vs TomTom case regarding FAT patents. While that has settled, there appears to be some consequential action from this case...

Open Invention Network seeks prior art to burn FAT patents

<http://arstechnica.com/open-source/news/2009/04/open-invention-network-seeks-prior-art-to-burn-fat-patents.ars> [1]

Quote:

The Open Invention Network (OIN), a consortium of companies that have banded together to defend the Linux platform from patent litigation, announced on Tuesday that it has launched an effort to find prior art for Microsoft's FAT patents.

The OIN's new FAT-busting project is a response to a lawsuit that Microsoft settled earlier this year with navigation device maker TomTom. The lawsuit claimed that TomTom's Linux-based products infringe on a number of Microsoft's patents, including several that describe technical attributes of Microsoft's FAT filesystem. TomTom initially fought back by filing a countersuit of its own and by joining the OIN, but eventually agreed to pay a licensing fee and remove the features from its implementation.

If you want to help out with "prior art hunting", the following three are the ones Microsoft used in their case against TomTom....

Method and system for file system management using a flash-erasable, programmable, read-only memory

<http://www.post-issue.org/method-and-system-for-file-system-management-using-a-flash-erasable-programmable-read-only-memory> [2]

(a) Common name space for long and short filenames

<http://www.post-issue.org/a-common-name-space-for-long-and-short-filenames> [3]

(👤) Common name space for long and short filenames

<http://www.post-issue.org/b-common-name-space-for-long-and-short-filenames> [4]

It would be very interesting to see what comes of this action.

Source URL: <http://www.tuxmachines.org/node/36302>

Links:

- [1] <http://arstechnica.com/open-source/news/2009/04/open-invention-network-seeks-prior-art-to-burn-fat-patents.ars>
- [2] <http://www.post-issue.org/method-and-system-for-file-system-management-using-a-flash-erasable-programmable-read-only-memory>
- [3] <http://www.post-issue.org/a-common-name-space-for-long-and-short-filenames>
- [4] <http://www.post-issue.org/b-common-name-space-for-long-and-short-filenames>