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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/>.

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