

Sir,

I used to work as a Software Engineer, first writing search engines for Public Libraries and secondly writing simulation programs for the deregulated gas & electricity markets.

I believe that copyright and licences are sufficient means to protect software developers.

To put it in perspective, Visicalc was (possibly) the first spreadsheet program. Others devised databases and word processors. If those people had decided to patent those innovations, we would be living in a much poorer world now. Would Microsoft Office be a viable proposition?

The UK computer industry needs to freely share ideas. If it doesn't, other hi-tech economies will race ahead, at the disadvantage of the UK economy.

Thank you for your time,

Ian Bruntlett