Reclaim Invention

When universities invent, those inventions should benefit everyone. Unfortunately, they sometimes end up in the hands of patent trolls, companies that serve no purpose but to amass patents and demand money from other innovators and inventors.

The Electronic Frontier Foundation is asking universities around the country to protect their inventions from patent trolls by signing the Public Interest Patent Pledge . The PIPP is a promise that before selling or licensing its patents to a third party, a university will assess the business practices of that party and make sure that it will use those patents responsibly.

Ask your university to sign the PIPP .

Stupid Patent of the Month: Storing Files in Folders

This month's stupid patent provides a good example of why. US Patent No. 8,473,532 (the '532 patent), "Method and apparatus for automatic organization for computer files," began its life with publicly-funded
Louisiana Tech University
. But in September last year, it was sold to a patent troll. A flurry of lawsuits quickly followed.