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Personal Audio Speaks Out On Patent Reform In Slashdot Interview

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Beaumont, Texas

Today Personal Audio is featured in an extended interview with the readers of Slashdot who pose a series of probing questions about the company, the patent system, and the company's dispute with the EFF. The interview has Personal Audio inventor, James Logan, wading into the "Lion's Den" and discussing the company's recent litigation against several large media companies infringing its patents. These lawsuits have drawn the ire of the media, including a recent NPR interview. He reminds Slashdot readers that similar media companies were the same ones suing teenagers for downloading music and putting FBI warnings on its DVDs—certainly they can respect others' intellectual property.

In another part of the interview, there is a lively debate with Slashdot readers who insist that if you don't produce an invention you shouldn't be able to have, or at least license, a patent on it. Is invention therefore, with a goal to license, immoral? That was the primary business model of Edison and Tesla.

The theory behind Non-Practicing Entities, NPEs, companies who monetize other people's patents, is discussed and some of the data used to attack these entities is dissected. Regarding the myriad legislative proposals to thwart these companies, Logan warns about killing the golden goose and the amazing incentive system that patents represent.

Finally, some back and forth is offered on the well-publicized effort by the EFF to use crowd-source funding to undermine the Personal Audio patents. Logan notes how large tech companies have coopted this crowd to go after patent holders and notes the hypocrisy of a major EFF funder who has taken a large financial stake in a well-known public NPE.

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