

Where would we be without these important patents?

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From

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/03/10/AR2006031001918.html>

"Government Sides Against EBay in Patent Dispute," \_Washington Post\_, 2006 Mar 11:

"The Office of the Solicitor General said in a brief filed with the Supreme Court that eBay willfully infringed on patents held by Great Falls-based MercExchange LLC and should be enjoined from using its 'Buy It Now' feature, which allows users to buy goods at fixed prices rather than compete in auctions. Goods sold using that system account for about a third of eBay's business."

There's absolutely no way a method like "Buy It Now" would have been developed without the prospect of patent protection.

LMAO...