

Re: Where would we be without these important patents?

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- *From:* "Andy F." <[never.mind@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:never.mind@xxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sun, 19 Mar 2006 15:03:56 -0000
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<[royls@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:royls@xxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
[news:441c40b1.20222611@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:441c40b1.20222611@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Irrelevant. A losing lottery ticket isn't worth a thing, either. That doesn't stop people from buying them. And buying those tickets reduces the amount people have to invest in more useful things, just as the huge rent seeker spending on worthless but patentable technologies crowds out more useful and promising research on unpatentable technologies.

I don't think your crowding out theory makes sense. There isn't a fixed amount to be invested in R&D. The amount firms invest depends on what profits they expect to make. If you made patentable technologies less profitable, firms would invest less money in research.

Also, since patents have to be published and become public domain once they expire, patents actually increase the amount of technical information in the public domain, and thus increase the opportunities for research.