

Clubbing the Tom-Tom

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I've been doing some research on the issues in Microsoft's lawsuit against Tom-Tom. Here's what I've found about the patents are at issue in the case:

Patent	Issued	Expires	Reexamined?	Title
<i>Car Navigation Systems</i>				
6,175,789 [2]	Jan 16 2001	2018	-	Vehicle Computer System with Open Platform Architecture
7,054,745 [3]	May 30 2006	2023	-	Method and System For Generating Driving Directions
7,117,286 [4]	Oct 3 2006	2023	-	Portable Computing Device-integrated Appliance
6,202,008 [5]	Mar 13 2001	2018	-	Vehicle Computer System with Wireless Internet Connectivity
<i>User Interface Model</i>				
6,704,032 [6]	Mar 9 2004	2021	-	Methods and Arrangements for Interacting with Controllable Objects within a Graphical User Interface Environment Using Various Input Mechanisms
<i>FAT</i>				
5,579,517 [7]	Nov 26 1996	2013	Nov 28 2006	Common Name Space for Long and Short Filenames
5,758,352 [8]	May 26 1998	2015	Oct 10 2006	Common Name Space for Long and Short Filenames
<i>Flash Memory Management</i>				
6,256,642 [9]	Jul 30 2001	2018	-	Method and System for File System Management Using a Flash-Erasable, Programmable, Read-only Memory

First, some discussion of scope?

As you read through these, the first thing that will become apparent is that the first four, the car navigation system patents, are no threat to Linux whatsoever.

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Links:

- [1] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/106>
- [2] http://www.google.com/patents?id=_wIGAAAAEBAJ&dq=6,175,789
- [3] <http://www.google.com/patents?id=Xzt4AAAAEBAJ&dq=7,054,745>
- [4] http://www.google.com/patents?id=K_N6AAAAEBAJ&dq=7,117,286
- [5] <http://www.google.com/patents?id=crt7AAAAEBAJ&dq=6,202,00>
- [6] <http://www.google.com/patents?id=zb0QAAAAEBAJ&dq=6,704,032>
- [7] <http://www.google.com/patents?id=cLakAAAAEBAJ&dq=5,579,517>
- [8] <http://www.google.com/patents?id=bUohAAAAEBAJ&dq=5,758,352>
- [9] <http://www.google.com/patents?id=02YIAAAAAEBAJ&dq=6,256,642>
- [10] <http://esr.ibiblio.org/?p=826>