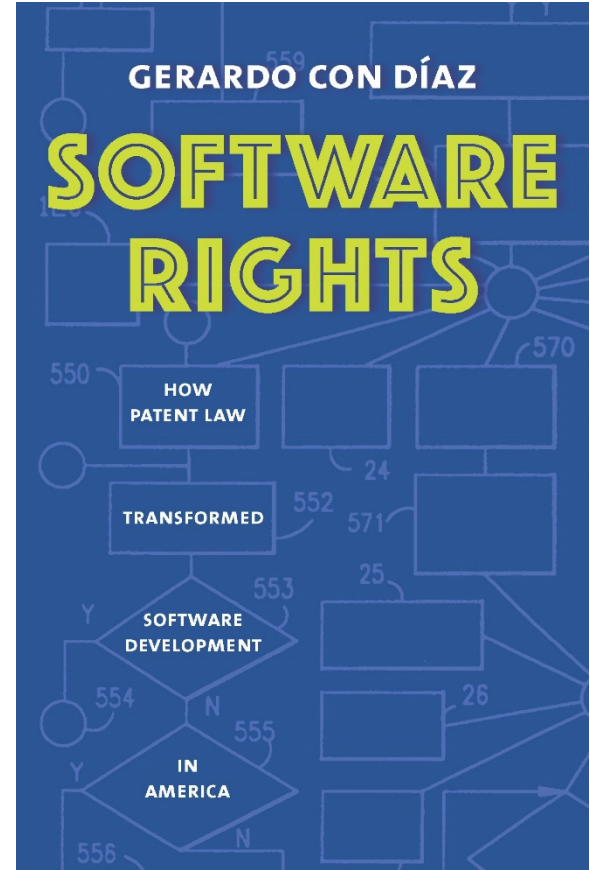# Software Rights

How Patent Law Transformed Software
Development in America

Gerardo Con Díaz

**A new perspective on United States software
development, seen through the patent battles that shaped
our technological landscape**

This first comprehensive history of software patenting explores
how patent law made software development the powerful industry
that it is today. Historian Gerardo Con Díaz shows how patent law
has transformed the ways computing firms make, own, and profit
from software. He demonstrates that securing patent protection
for computer programs was a central concern among computer
developers for more than half a century and traces how patents
and copyrights became inseparable from software development in
the Internet age. Software patents, he argues, facilitated the
emergence of software as a product and a technology, enabled
firms to challenge each other's place in the computing industry,
and expanded the range of creations for which U.S. intellectual
property law provides protection. Powerful market forces,
aggressive litigation strategies, and new cultures of computing
usage and development transformed software into one of the most
controversial technologies ever to encounter the American patent
system.

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