



# Recognizing and Generating Patentable Inventions

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**Abstract:**

In the normal course of development one encounters new approaches for solving problems. Recognizing when a solution is patentable is just the first step of many in obtaining protection for your great invention. In addition to learning how to identify patentable matter, this talk will cover refining, researching, documenting and the basics behind the life of a patent as well as offer some strategies for when you should file a patent. Learn from the perspective of an inventor who has gone through this process many times.



**Speaker:**

*John A. Toebes, Senior Director, Patents,  
Cisco Intellectual Property Group, Cisco Systems, Inc.*

John Toebes, Senior Director, Patents Effectiveness, Tools and Processes at Cisco is responsible for evaluating patents and encouraging innovation at Cisco. John has been awarded 82 US patents for his work in MPEG video and XML compression, IP telephony, distributed computing and distributed network services. He currently has over 40 additional patents pending with the U.S. PTO.

Previously at Cisco, John was the Chief Architect of the Cisco Media Solutions Group, responsible for evaluating technologies, both internal and external to improve the content experience for consumers. Prior to that, he was a Senior Manager in Cisco's Technology Center, where he managed a team of software engineers who evaluated, designed, and developed innovative technologies. John and his team worked at the bleeding edge on a wide variety of technologies, including Network Search, Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), Network Gaming, and XML Applications.

John joined Cisco in December of 1999. Prior to this, he was Founder and Vice President of Research & Development for SouthPeak Interactive, a division of SAS Institute. While at SouthPeak, John was the Producer for *Men in Black: The Game*.

John received a BS in Computer Science from North Carolina State University and went on to be stationed at the Pentagon as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Air Force. He has also worked at SAS Institute and Nortel Networks as a Manager and Systems Developer.

John resides in Cary, NC with his wife where he likes to tinker with electronics and help coach high school Robotics and Science Olympiad teams. John was honored as the 2011 FIRST Tech Challenge Volunteer of the Year for development and support of their robot communications system.