



## Stanford eCorner

### Patents and Paypal

Elon Musk, *SpaceX*

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Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/393/Patents-and-Paypal>

PayPal did have a few patents but nothing that really mattered, says Musk. He acknowledges the necessity of patents in certain industries but industries like software, where the lifecycle is rapid do not need IP.



#### Transcript

We did do a few patents on the PayPal system although nothing that ever actually mattered. Our patents are mostly useful in a defensive situation rather than offensive. It can be very difficult actually to offensively prosecute a patent. I think in certain industries like pharmaceuticals and so forth, patents can be incredibly important. In software, particularly when you've got a very rapid lifecycle where you're sure you got a patent but now it's redundant so who cares. It's less relevant when you got a rapid lifecycle.