

The open-source key to lasting software

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Dan Bricklin, who helped kick-start the personal computer revolution in the 1980s as co-inventor of VisiCalc, recently named by [Boston] Governor Romney to a state information technology advisory panel, [states] open source is key to creating "Software That Lasts 200 Years."

[He] "argues that the structure and culture of most prepackaged software companies -- marked by constant upgrades and replacement -- isn't compatible with society's long-term need for the software that is fast becoming part of our basic infrastructure."

"Bricklin believes funding for software development should come from users, rather than private sources of capital, and that software projects should be targeted at more than one customer. But he also thinks long-term software is best developed by businesses, using transparency and exploiting other attributes of open-source software."

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