

Opening Up Windows

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Are Web-based applications the way of the future? A lot of people seem to think so--including the former head of development at Microsoft.

Next month Paul Maritz, once third in command at the Redmond, Wash., software giant, will unveil a set of software products he's been cooking up in stealth mode since 2003. His company, PI, has developed desktop software that is intended to go beyond what Windows-based PCs can offer.

Some of PI's code will even be open-sourced, available free for download starting in July, Maritz says. (Open-sourced programs ship with their source code, or basic instructions, available for users to view and modify.) But the company will focus primarily on a licensed version that costs money.

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