

Feders-G-20050316143004

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Date: 03/16/2005

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Comment:

Given that the purpose of copyright is to provide economic return to the creator and his assignees of a copyrighted work, when economic gain is no longer being pursued due to abandonment, the reason for the copyright in the first place has evaporated.

Thereafter, for all sorts of reasons, it would make excellent sense to have this abandonware pass into the public domain. It may be important from a historical perspective to see what has gone before in order to build something better for the future, possibly with newer tools but relying on the older idea gleanable from examination of abandonware. It may also be that the abandonware is simply a better product for a person's use than the supposed "latest and greatest." There are many older things which are better implementations than their newer versions in all sorts of areas.

Often, older programs work, or work better, on older, outdated hardware which nevertheless can serve a very useful purpose for people unable to afford the latest and greatest; however, software must be available for the older machines and operating systems. Not having the formerly contemporaneous software available contributes to toxic waste landfills of older hardware, too