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Subject: Bug Fixes (Re: CMREPLICATE)

Posted by [davidf](#) on Thu, 24 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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Craig Markwardt ([craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu](mailto:craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu)) writes:

> And today, I posted small bug fix for you early adopters who have IDL  
> 5.3. (I don't :-)

I've been reading an excellent book by Eric S. Raymond entitled *\_The Cathedral & the Bazaar: Musings on Linux and Open Source by an Accidental Revolutionary\_*. You can find it on Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1565927249/coyotesgui+detoid>

Raymond is a "hacker", in the true meaning of the word. Meaning he is "an enthusiast, an artist, a tinkerer, a problem solver, an expert". This book is a collection of his essays, which can also be downloaded for free from any number of locations on the Internet. This book describes the Open Source culture--epitomized by Richard Stallman and his EMACS editor-- and how it really works.

I've become a convert and I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the Open Source movement.

The title essay talks about the kinds of things I think we are often about in this newsgroup: sharing ideas, sharing code, participating in a community of users with shared interests, etc. And it explains how Open Source ideas can generate very good code. Code that is often better than commercial code.

One of the reasons the code is better is that it is seen by more "eyeballs". In fact, it is a premise of Open Source Software that "all bugs are shallow bugs, given enough eyeballs". I think this is true. It's certainly true in my experience on this newsgroup. I've often joked about finding bugs by posting code, but the feedback has been invaluable to me and my programs are significantly improved by the interaction.

Anyway, I thought some of you would be interested in this book and the ideas in it. And I also wanted to let you know that you will be seeing a LOT more not-fully-debugged code from me, since I now understand this to be part of the creative process and not an

attempt to make the author embarrassed. :-)

Cheers,

David

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