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To: Julie L. Sigall
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From: William Pechter

Comment:

I've got a number of Software programs and documentation from the 80's and the 70's.

I've tried to find the companies that put them out and their successors to get the rights to use them and study them for non-commercial purposes.

Many of them are just lost forever and abandoned, unsupported and unusable legally since it's nearly impossible to find the current copyright holder if any.

Perhaps after 20 years of abandonment the stuff should go into public domain or there should be some central registry that can be queried to find the current owner of a piece of code... or book or document after the publisher drops it and there's no economic interest in the product anymore.