

## Re: PCB CAD

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.cad/2004-12/0239.html>

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Are we really discussing whether open source is a viable option for mission critical development?

Has anyone ever used emacs to write source code to tape out a chip, or write a line of C++ or assembler for a shipped executable? And how would that C++ have been compiled, nobody uses a GNU compiler right? How many boards, chips, executables can anyone really ship without touching an open source tool along the way? I bet there aren't that many.

Check out the Altera website. They have 14,000 (paying) customers and made over \$800 million last year. Or the Xilinx website. A swarthy group of "mission critical" customers gave them 1.4 billion last year. Each of them \_ship\_ cygwin and GCC as part of their development flow. Last I checked, those tools are open source.

I have an idea – just the one, I'm good for one a day and this is it. Rather than throwing rocks, why don't the folks who think closed source is a good idea try rationalizing it. Make a case for it – what are it's inherit benefits? How are customers better off when they use it? Stop making a case against open source development – it's not worth your time, right? Start making a case \_for\_ closed source.

If we all listened when someone said, "you can't do that", we'd never do anything.

Chris

Don Prescott wrote:

> *Re.....*  
>  
> *These tools are written*  
> > *\*for\*, and used \*by\* folks at the low and middle segments of the*  
**CAD**  
> > *marketplace. They are ideal for students, hobbiests, educators,*  
and  
> > *small-time consultants*  
>

- > *You wrote an awful lotta stuff, but then agreed with what I said...*
- > *YES, open source CAD applications are probably OK for "students,*
- > *hobbyists, educators, and small-time consultants". Generally*
- > *speaking, nobody uses these sort of products when you need to get a*
- > *commercial product out the door.....(mission critical). Why*
- > *not...???? 'cos you're much more concerned with the \$\$\$KKK than*
- > *playing around with some home-grown piece of code...*
- >
- > *Oh.... please don't tell me about apache and linux (again), thems was*
- > *never what I was talking about.*