*November 4, 2008*

 *We are spending too much money to license proprietary*

 *software when free, open-source, general public license*

 *software is available.*

 *GPL software is usually even better than expensive proprietary*

 *packages and easier to maintain. Support for GPL software is*

 *also available for a very modest price. Furthermore, many*

 *proprietary software companies are realizing this situation*

 *and are now offering deep discounts for their products.*

 *Would it not be more sensible to explore alternatives? For*

 *example, we spend very large amounts of money to license*

 *MSOffice when the free alternative OpenOffice is available.*

 *I could list many more examples.*

 *Let's not just automatically buy software from big companies because of*

 *their name.*

 *Jeffrey H. Simonson*

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November 6, 2008

Hello Jeffrey:

Thank you for your suggestion regarding the high cost of proprietary software. You make a good case regarding open-source software and your suggestion will be passed on to the statewide technology group for further consideration. I assume it isn't an "all or nothing" issue, that is, we could try a pilot project with one open-source software program and see how it works without jumping in to the deep end of the pool. I'm an idiot when it comes to this subject, so I'll rely on others to provide additional input.

Again, thanks for your input.

Wendy Redman

**FOLLOW-UP:**  Send to Steve Smith for discussion with the statewide technology group.