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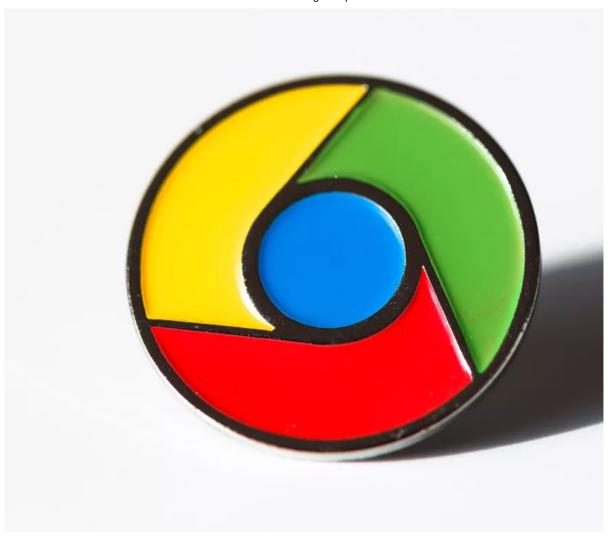
Chrome a bit less secre PDF reader goes open-

The software Google's browser uses to sho has been proprietary for years, but now it's source project called PDFium that others constructions or use themselves.



Stephen Shankland \mathcal{G} June 11, 2014 3:18 p.m. PT

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Stephen Shankland/CNET

Chrome, Google's mostly open-source Web browser, just proprietary.

Foxit's software for reading PDF (Portable Document Forr years a proprietary part of Chrome, now is an open-sourc called PDFium, Foxit announced on its blog. Google's Fra pointed out the change on Google+ Wednesday. The chathere's one more useful tool that programmers can draw less piece of potentially suspicious software that Google urking in Google's browser.

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With open-source software, anyone may scrutinize and m underlying source code then distribute the finished softw built from that source code. The approach shuts off the o making opportunities of proprietary software such as Mic Adobe Photoshop, but it can be good for security since m track down bugs and vulnerabilities. It also helps build a c interested people and organizations that collectively deve software and can rapidly encouraging the spread of the c software since it's available at no cost.

Security is a particularly important consideration in the ca PDF software has been a high-profile way for people to la on Web browsers. By making PDFs easier for programme the PDFium move also could help the prospects of PDF, a standard originally created by Adobe Systems that's wide for archival data like bank statements and carefully forma documents like online brochures.

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It's common to see open-source software sponsored by c use it to serve a different end than direct sales. In Google ends are online services such as search, Gmail, YouTube, Apps. Google doesn't sell Chrome, but Chrome furthers (money-making services.

One company's open-source project can also undermine prospects of another company's proprietary rival -- Googl source Android mobile operating system taking on Apple iOS, for example. In the case of the open-source PDFium, Systems for years has given away its Adobe Reader softv PDF files at no charge to users, but its higher-end Adobe which can create and edit PDF files -- costs money.

Google runs another open-source project called Chromiu combined with some proprietary elements, becomes Chr has grown over the last year to become the second most Web browser behind Microsoft's Internet Explorer. Among proprietary parts are software for decoding video compre patent-encumbered H.264 technology, a version of Adob Flash Player, and Google's own Widevine digital rights ma (DRM) software for video copy protection. Now, the PDF r longer on that proprietary list.

That's good news for Google and others, too, according t a founding member of the Chrome team.

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shady. It makes a high-quality PDF plugin available to use want an open-source product and were using Chromium Kasting said. "It is almost certainly the highest-quality PDF available in the open-source world, and can now serve as for other projects, or be included in other browsers based or other open-source projects entirely."

Google has enough power, exerted through search, Andr and other avenues, that it attracts many critics. The transpropen-source software makes it harder to hide something within a program, such as a service that secretly shares paragovernment surveillance operation.

One of the beneficiaries of the PDFium move is Opera Sc scrapped its own browser engine last year and incorpora Chromium instead. Now it'll get a PDF reader of its own fo

Mozilla has taken a different approach with its Firefox bro its own PDF reader called PDF.js that runs atop the brows using the JavaScript language. It's already open-source s just about everything Mozilla does.

Foxit, too, is of course affected by the open-source move

"Our high-performance, highly accurate, and platform-ind software technology will help developers everywhere to i powerful PDF technology when creating innovative applications application of the company Founder and Chairman Eugene Xiong in the company st. But it's not stopping sales of its product: the company founder and co

for use of its Foxit PDF SDK (Software Development Kit), vembedded in other software and which offers more feature open-source PDFium.

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