<http://www.economist.com/businessfinance/displayStory.cfm?story_id=15016132>

This article made me think that my cad-lint ideas might also be able to help admin normal office documentation

say there are a dozen spreadsheets belonging to a dozen people. Each ss is similar to the other people's spreadsheet but slightly different. The creators do not want a single ss on a sharepoint server. They like to have their own version. We all have access to the same core data but at the same time we can modify, add, play with the data whaever way we wish and push out good ideas so that they are available to all the other users.

On the other hand they would like to incorporate certain changes from the other spreadsheets and see how their ss differs from the others.

office lint would compare all the ss and note the similarities and differences.

The whole operation would be similar to forked branches off a main core when building a large computer application.

As the Economist article points out there is a huge surfeit of legacy code that banks are having issues dealing with.

I could see office lint as a possible solution to curing this problem. Instead of having a centrally stored mainframe application the code and data could be distributed. office-lint would monitor the spreadsheets on a continuous basis bringing note of code changes while harvesting changes to the data. So all customer address might be on the server but only your address list would be on your computer. And you might have some unique formulas in your ss while most of the formulas are the same as everybody else's.

Say there are thirty standard emails to be used in an office. Now you can customize each email to your own liking, but when the boilerplate is update you are notified of the change and a suggested change to your customized email is shown to you.