users to type in domain names (e.g., www.law.harvard.edu) rather than hard-to-remember numerical IP addresses (140.247.200.68)[27] – and Sendmail – "which routes about 80% of the E-mail that courses over the Internet"[28] – are open source.[29]

In addition to Apache, BIND, and Sendmail, Perl (short for 'Practical Extraction and Report Language') is another example of open source software that serves an important role on the Internet.[30] Perl – often called "the duct tape of the Web"[31] – is a programming language that serves a crucial role in the vast majority of interactive Web sites by processing the data entered in by visitors to the site and displaying the results.[32]

At this point one may wonder why anyone would want to give away such valuable intellectual property. Why didn't these open source developers simply take a Linux, a Perl, a BIND, etc., and simply keep the source code proprietary and out of the view of potential competitors? After all, the act of making source code publicly available – as the open source software development community has done – has garnered descriptions ranging from being the "equivalent [to] revealing the recipe for Coca-Cola"[33] all the way to giving away a "potential gold mine."[34]

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27 *See* McHugh, *supra* note 5, at 99. For a more thorough definition, *see* Computer & Internet Dictionary, *supra* note 7, at 54 (defining BIND), 168 (defining DNS).

28 McHugh, *supra* note 5, at 99.

29 *Id.*

30 *See id.*

31 *See* Seltzer, *Key Open Source Projects*, *supra* note 19, at 172, 176.

32 *See* McHugh, *supra* note 5, at 99. For a more technically correct definition, *see* Computer & Internet Dictionary, *supra* note 7, at 423 (defining Perl); *see also id.* at 85 (defining CGI). According to THE NEW HACKER'S DICTIONARY, Perl is the "language[ ] of choice" among Unix system administrators ("sysadmins"), Raymond, TNHD, *supra* note 15, at 353.

33 CUSUMANO & YOFFIE, *supra* note 11, at 139.

34 McHugh, *supra* note 5, at 96.