

Open Source Software Introduction

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Open Source Software Introduction

1. History and Philosophy of the Open Source Community
2. Common License Types
 1. Common License Features
 2. License Families
 1. GPL/LGPL Licenses
 2. Academic (BSD and MIT) Licenses
 3. Modern Licenses (*e.g.* Mozilla and Apache Licenses)
 4. Vanity Licenses
3. Issues Facing the Open Source Community

Open Source History

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Open Source History

Original Free Software/Open Source Communities:

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology – (1981-Present)
 - GNU Emacs Text Editor
 - GNU C Compiler/Compiler Collection (GCC)
 - GNU Debugger (GDB)
 - GNU C Library (glibc)
 - X11 Windows System (X11)
- University of California, Berkley – (1977-1995)
 - Berkley Software Distribution (BSD)
- Usenet/Bulletin Board Systems (1979-1999)
 - Linux Kernel
 - Original Web/HTTP Servers
 - Original Web/HTTP Browsers

Open Source History



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Richard M. Stallman:

- Researcher at MIT Artificial Intelligence Laboratory 1971-1984
- Founded Free Software Foundation in 1985
- Drafted GNU Public Licenses

Open Source History



Linus Torvalds

- Created Linux operating system kernel while a university student
- Influence stems in large part from position as head maintainer of largest/most influential open source software project

Open Source Philosophy

Free Software:

- “Free as in *libre*, not free as in *gratis*.”
- “Free as in ‘freedom,’ not free as in ‘beer.’”
- Four Freedoms:
 - Freedom to Run the Software
 - Freedom to Study and Change the Software
 - Freedom to Redistribute the Software
 - Freedom to Distribute Copies of Modified Versions

Open Source Software:

- Access to human-readable, non-obfuscated source code
- Right to modify source code

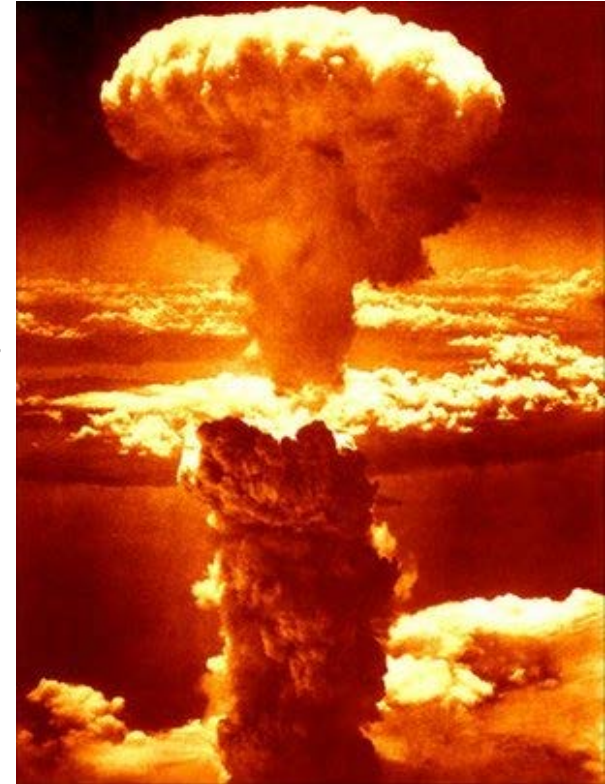
Common License Types

1. Common License Features
2. License Families
 1. GPL/LGPL Licenses
 2. Academic (BSD and MIT) Licenses
 3. Modern Licenses (*e.g.* Mozilla and Apache Licenses)
 4. Vanity Licenses

Common License Types

Common License Provisions:

- Access to the Source Code
- Permission to Redistribute the Source Code
- Permission to Modify the Source Code
- Disclaimer of Express and Implied Warranties



Common License Types

GNU Public License, version 2.0

- Released in 1991
- Drafted by Richard M. Stallman
- Most Commonly Used License
- Important Clauses:
 - Liberty or Death
 - Copyleft Provisions (“Viral Licensing”)



Common License Types

GNU Public License, version 3.0

- Released in 2007
- Drafted by FSF
- Quickly Replacing GPL-2
- Important Clauses:
 - TIVO® Clause
 - DMCA/EUCD Clause
 - Microsoft® Clause



Common License Types

Lesser/Library GNU Public License

- Versions 2.0 and 2.1 correspond to GPL-2
- Version 3.0 corresponds to GPL-3
- Similar terms to corresponding GPL version
- Compatible with greater range of licenses

Common License Types

East Coast vs. West Coast



Common License Types

MIT License (East Coast)

- Original Version Released in 1980s
- Drafted by Engineers at MIT
- Functionally Equivalent to BSD Licenses
- 3 Clauses:
 - Do What you Want With the Source Code
 - Copyright Notice and License Terms for Original Source Code Must Be Included in Redistributions
 - Software Is Provided As Is



Common License Types

BSD Licenses (West Coast)

- Original Version Released in 1980s
- Drafted by California Board of Regents Legal Department
- Functionally Equivalent to MIT License
- 4 Clauses:
 - Redistributions of Source Must Include Copyright Notice and Conditions
 - Binary Redistributions Must Include Copyright Notice and Conditions in Documentation
 - Names of Copyright Holders and Contributors May Not Be Used to Endorse Derivative Products
 - Disclaimer of All Warranties



Common License Types

Modern Open Source Software Licenses

- Drafted in late 1990s and early 2000s
- Examples:
 - Apache Software Licenses
 - Mozilla Public Licenses
- Common Features/Terms
 - Dual Licensing Permitted
 - Automatic Patent Licensing
 - Defensive Patent License Provisions



mozilla
FOUNDATION



Apache

Common License Types

VANITY LICENSES

Common License Types

Beerware License

- Drafted in 1987
- License Terms: As long as you retain this notice you can do whatever you want with this stuff. If we meet someday, and you think this stuff is worth it, you can buy me a beer in return.
- Equivalent to BSD or MIT License

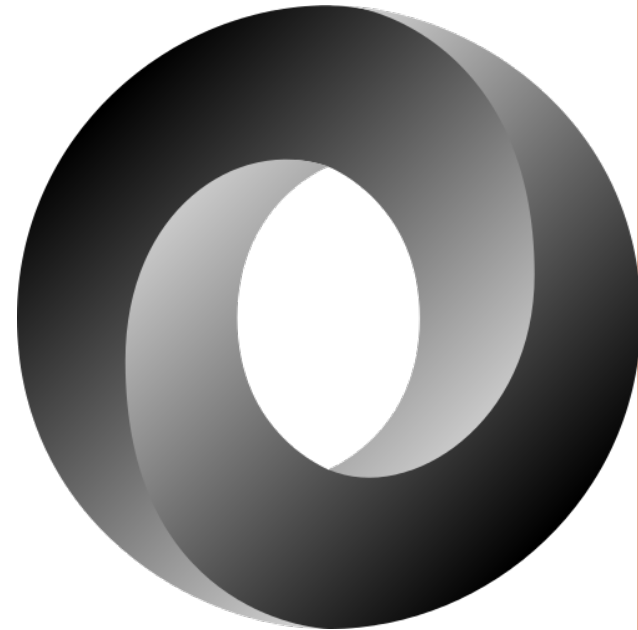


BEERWARE

Common License Types

JSON License

- Drafted in 2002
- License Terms:
 - Similar terms to MIT License
 - “The Software shall be used for Good, not Evil.”
- Functionally Equivalent to BSD or MIT License



Common License Types

WTFPL (Do What the !@# \$ You Want to Public License)

- Drafted in 2004
- Terms Are Obvious from License Name, but not Fit for Print
- Used by ~48 Software Projects
- Functionally Equivalent to BSD or MIT License



Issues Facing Open Source

1. License Compatibility

1. Conflicting Terms
2. Viral Licensing (GNU Public Virus)

2. License Proliferation

1. Redundant Licenses
2. Vanity Licenses (Not Invented Here Syndrome)
3. License Compatibility

3. Software Patents

1. Open Source Licenses Govern the Code
2. Software Patents Govern the Underlying Method, Algorithm, or System