Mozilla public license

Intoduction|:

The **Mozilla Public License** (**MPL**) is a [free](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_software) and [open source](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open-source_software) software license developed and maintained by the [Mozilla Foundation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mozilla_Foundation). It is characterized as a hybridization of the [modified BSD license](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BSD_licenses#3-clause_license_.28.22New_BSD_License.22_or_.22Modified_BSD_License.22.29) and [GNU General Public License](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GNU_General_Public_License) (GPL) that seeks to balance the concerns of [proprietary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proprietary_software) and open source developers.

It has undergone two revisions, a minor update to version 1.1 for the sake of clarification, and more recently to version 2.0 with the goals of greater simplicity and better [compatibility](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/License_compatibility) with other licenses.

History:

Version 1.0 of the MPL was written by [Mitchell Baker](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mitchell_Baker) in 1998 while working as a lawyer at [Netscape Communications Corporation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Netscape_Communications_Corporation).[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mozilla_Public_License#cite_note-17) Netscape was hoping an open source strategy for developing their own [Netscape web browser](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Netscape_(web_browser)) would allow them to compete better with [Microsoft](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft)'s browser, [Internet Explorer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_Explorer). To cover the browser's code, the company drafted a license known as the [Netscape Public License](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Netscape_Public_License) (NPL), which included a clause allowing even openly developed code to be theoretically relicensed as proprietary. The possibility of Netscape accepting code from others only to claim it exclusively with a new license received wide criticism from the open source community.

However, at the same time, Baker developed a second license similar to the NPL, but with copyleft features to ensure contributions remained open source. It was called the Mozilla Public License after Netscape's project name for the new open source codebase, and although it was originally only intended for software that supplemented core modules covered by the NPL, it would become much more popular than the NPL and eventually earn approval from the Open Source Initiative.[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mozilla_Public_License#cite_note-20)