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DLI Accelerated Data Science Teaching Kit

Lecture 22.3 - Pay Attention to Software Licenses Early On



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Using Existing Libraries/Code

GPL (General Public License)

In purely private (or internal) use — with no sales and no distribution — the software code may be modified and parts reused without requiring the source code to be released.

For sales or distribution, the entire source code need to be made available to end users, including any code changes and additions — in that case, copyleft is applied to ensure that end users retain the freedoms defined above.

Retrieved: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GNU_General_Public_License

“Horror” Story

- Had to remove all GPL code right before software distribution (upon late discovery of GPL license)
- Huge loss time and effort

Retrieved: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GNU_General_Public_License

Common Permissive Software Licenses

- Apache 2, MIT, BSD-3
- Minimal restrictions on use, modification, and redistribution
- Fine for commercial use (no need to release code)

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Thank You