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Survey of Scripting Languages

CSCI 301

Grade: 100

Ethics of Copyright

Everyone loosely knows what copyright kind of means. They are laws put in place to protect creators and their creative and intellectual properties. Beyond that, the idea of how to protect your creations, requirements when using others' inventions, and other various nuances. The details become a little murkier when applied to computer science and code, especially when some of that code is open source or public access and how to protect that open source code as well. Thankfully, licenses exist to protect open source code as well as private code. There are a few things that one must be aware of when creating and using code that others might use, and the licenses that indicate those rights.

A very important thing a creator needs to be aware of is how to protect your code without stepping on any toes. First things first, a programmer would have to consider their legal team when they think of putting any of their code in a public forum. This might only really apply to a programmer who works for a company, but a part of working for an employer is protecting anything deemed a trade secret. The company doesn't want any random person to have access to their personal projects or their security measures, especially if their customers' information is on the line. A programmer then must license their program to determine what rights and privileges

anyone who accesses or receives the programmer's code has when they use the code to any extent that the license allows.(Opensource Guide) The coder should also be careful to avoid harming other people and test any product they want to publish thoroughly, especially if it does something like handle others' information. (ACM code of Ethics)

“And do not forget to share and do good with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” (Hebrews 13:16) Open source code and code open to the general public are there to help and assist people that may wish to use it, but certain precautions must be taken when accessing that code. When handling any code you can find on the internet, it's important to consider the same situation as you would if you were the author as well as some unique situations using any code you would find. You must consider any licenses that any code you use would be under when you attempt to use it and comply to any legal terms and conditions that may apply to it, as well as giving credit where credit is due.

As for what licenses I would get? An MIT license would be obvious, to give out any projects and code that another person might find helpful that aren't pertinent to keep to myself. Eventually, I might find work that would require me to get a GNU GPLv3 license, fancy government or corporate work that'll pay big bucks that make the license for the code to have a pretty fair degree of value for itself. (Choose a License website)

In conclusion, copyright can work with you to allow you protect and secure your code and aid those who may need it, sharing the fruits of your labor with the world and making others better all the while. However, remember that caution must be taken to properly ensure that no one steals your code and blame falls onto you if anything malicious or untoward happens with it. It will, most importantly, protect your rights as the creator of the code. Make sure to keep all this information in mind if you ever develop code yourself.

Work Cited

“The Legal Side of Open Source.” *Open Source Guides*, ACM, <https://opensource.guide/legal/>

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King James Bible. Holman Bible Publishers, 1973.