FoxML Core – License Decision Matrix

Quick reference: Which license applies to your use case?

> **Important:** This matrix is for convenience only. In case of any conflict, `COMMERCIAL_LICENSE.md` is the authoritative and controlling document. See `COMMERCIAL_LICENSE.md` Section 22 for the complete document hierarchy.

Quick Decision Matrix

Scenario	AGPL-3.0	Commercial License	Notes
Individual personal research (not for any business purpose)	[OK]	[X]	Must be in personal capacity, not for any business or organization
Non-commercial academic research at degree-granting institution	[OK]	[X]	Results must not support commercial operations. See `LEGAL/SUBSCRIPTIONS.md` for full definition
Internal evaluation at a company	[X]	[OK]	**ALWAYS commercial** – no free trial for commercial use
Proof of concept / pilot project within a business	[X]	[OK]	**ALWAYS commercial** – even if experimental or non-revenue
Development / testing / staging environments in a business	[X]	[OK]	**ALWAYS commercial** – any environment within a business context
Production use in a business	[X]	[OK]	**ALWAYS commercial**
Trading, investment analysis, financial decision-making	[X]	[OK]	**ALWAYS commercial** – regardless of revenue status
Client services, consulting, freelance work	[X]	[OK]	**ALWAYS commercial** – any work for clients or third parties

Scenario	AGPL-3.0	Commercial License	Notes
Use by employees in scope of their work	[X]	[OK]	**ALWAYS commercial** – regardless of role or department
Use by contractors / consultants for a business	[X]	[OK]	**ALWAYS commercial** – even if temporary or part-time
Use by interns in scope of their work	[X]	[OK]	**ALWAYS commercial** – employment status doesn't matter
Pre-revenue startup or experimental project	[X]	[OK]	**ALWAYS commercial** – revenue status doesn't matter
Sole proprietor / freelancer business use	[X]	[OK]	**ALWAYS commercial** – any business activity requires commercial license
Corporate research lab	[X]	[OK]	**ALWAYS commercial** – even if non-profit status
University research with corporate funding	[X]	[OK]	Corporate sponsorship = commercial use
For-profit university	[X]	[OK]	**ALWAYS commercial** – excluded from academic carve-out
Academic partnership with commercial entity	[X]	[OK]	If integrated into commercial operations, requires commercial license
Selling outputs (signals, analytics, predictions) to clients	[X]	[OK]	Allowed with commercial license, provided clients don't access Software

Scenario	AGPL-3.0	Commercial License	Notes
Internal tools / dashboards within a business	[X]	[OK]	**ALWAYS commercial** – any internal use in business context
Research pipelines within a business	[X]	[OK]	**ALWAYS commercial** – even if "research-only"
Mixed use (some teams AGPL, some commercial)	[X]	[OK]	**PROHIBITED** – if any part of org uses commercially, all use requires commercial license
Subsidiary / parent company sharing license	[X]	[OK]	Each legal entity needs its own license – sharing prohibited
Hosting on AWS / GCP / Azure for internal use	[X]	[OK]	Allowed with commercial license for internal use only
Building competing infrastructure service	[X]	[X]	**PROHIBITED** – may not build Competing Infrastructure Service (see `COMMERCIAL_LICENSE.md`)
Reverse engineering	[X]	[X]	**PROHIBITED** – under both licenses
Benchmarking without consent	[X]	[X]	**PROHIBITED** – under commercial license (Material Breach)
Sharing / loaning / renting license	[X]	[X]	**PROHIBITED** – each entity needs its own license

---

Key Principles

[OK] AGPL-3.0 is ONLY for:

1. **Individual personal research** (not for any business purpose)

2. **Non-commercial academic research** at degree-granting institutions (where results don't support commercial operations)

[X] Commercial License is REQUIRED for:

1. **Any use within a business, organization, or commercial entity**
2. **Any use that directly or indirectly supports revenue-generating activities**
3. **Any use by employees, contractors, interns, or Affiliates in scope of their work**
4. **Any use in any environment** (development, testing, staging, production) within a business context
5. **Any experimental, proof of concept, or pilot project** within a business context

[PROHIBITED] PROHIBITED under both licenses:

1. **Building a Competing Infrastructure Service**
2. **Reverse engineering**
3. **Benchmarking without consent** (commercial license)
4. **Sharing / loaning / renting licenses**

Common Misconceptions

Misconception	Reality
"We're just evaluating internally"	[X] Still requires commercial license – no free trial for commercial use
"It's not in production yet"	[X] Development/testing/staging still requires commercial license
"We're not generating revenue"	[X] Revenue status doesn't matter – business use requires commercial license
"It's just research"	[X] Research within a business context requires commercial license
"Our interns are using it"	[X] Use by employees/contractors/interns requires commercial license
"We're a non-profit"	[X] Non-profit status doesn't exempt commercial use – still requires commercial license
"We're a university"	[WARNING] Only non-commercial academic research at degree-granting institutions is exempt – corporate funding or commercial integration requires commercial license
"We'll only use it for 30 days"	[X] Duration doesn't matter – commercial use requires commercial license from day one
"It's open source, so it's free"	[X] AGPL-3.0 is free only for non-commercial use – commercial use requires commercial license
"We'll contribute back to open source"	[X] Open source contributions don't exempt commercial use from licensing requirements

---

Decision Flow

```
Are you using this for personal research (not for any business)?
+- YES -> AGPL-3.0 [OK]
+- NO -> Continue

Are you at a degree-granting educational institution doing non-commercial research?
+- YES -> Is it funded by or integrated into commercial operations?
|   +- YES -> Commercial License [X]
|   +- NO -> AGPL-3.0 [OK]
+- NO -> Continue

Are you using this within a business, organization, or commercial entity?
+- YES -> Commercial License [X]
+- NO -> Continue

Are you using this for any business purpose, client work, or revenue-generating activity?
+- YES -> Commercial License [X]
+- NO -> Review definitions in COMMERCIAL_LICENSE.md Section 1
```

Default rule: If you're unsure, you almost certainly need a commercial license. When in doubt, contact jenn.lewis5789@gmail.com.

Still Unsure?

1. Review COMMERCIAL_LICENSE.md Section 1 ("Commercial Use" definition)
2. Review LEGAL/SUBSCRIPTIONS.md for usage scenarios
3. Review LEGAL/FAQ.md for common questions
4. Contact: jenn.lewis5789@gmail.com

Last Updated: 2025-12-09
Document Hierarchy: This matrix is for convenience only. COMMERCIAL_LICENSE.md is the authoritative and controlling document.