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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	Free Use	Commercial License	Notes
Individual personal research (not for any business purpose)	[OK]	[ERROR]	Must be in personal capacity, not for any business or organization
Non-commercial academic research at degree-granting institution	[OK]	[ERROR]	Results must not support commercial operations. See LICENSE for full definition
Internal evaluation at a company	[ERROR]	[OK]	ALWAYS requires license – 30-day evaluation period available (see COMMERCIAL_LICENSE.md)

Scenario	Free Use	Commercial License	Notes
Proof of concept / pilot project within a business	[ERROR]	[OK]	ALWAYS requires license – even if experimental or non-revenue
Development / testing / staging environments in a business	[ERROR]	[OK]	ALWAYS requires license – any environment within a business context
Production use in a business	[ERROR]	[OK]	ALWAYS requires license
Trading, investment analysis, financial decision-making	[ERROR]	[OK]	ALWAYS requires license – regardless of revenue status
Client services, consulting, freelance work	[ERROR]	[OK]	ALWAYS requires license – any work for clients or third parties
Use by employees in scope of their work	[ERROR]	[OK]	ALWAYS requires license – regardless of role or department
Use by contractors / consultants for a business	[ERROR]	[OK]	ALWAYS requires license – even if temporary or part-time

Scenario	Free Use	Commercial License	Notes
Use by interns in scope of their work	[ERROR]	[OK]	ALWAYS requires license – employment status doesn't matter
Pre-revenue startup or experimental project	[ERROR]	[OK]	ALWAYS requires license – revenue status doesn't matter
Sole proprietor / freelancer business use	[ERROR]	[OK]	ALWAYS requires license – any business activity requires commercial license
Corporate research lab	[ERROR]	[OK]	ALWAYS requires license – even if non-profit status
University research with corporate funding	[ERROR]	[OK]	Corporate sponsorship = organizational use
For-profit university	[ERROR]	[OK]	ALWAYS requires license – excluded from academic carve-out
Academic partnership with commercial entity	[ERROR]	[OK]	If integrated into commercial operations, requires commercial license

Scenario	Free Use	Commercial License	Notes
Selling outputs (signals, analytics, predictions) to clients	[ERROR]	[OK]	Allowed with commercial license, provided clients don't access Software
Internal tools / dashboards within a business	[ERROR]	[OK]	ALWAYS requires license – any internal use in business context
Research pipelines within a business	[ERROR]	[OK]	ALWAYS requires license – even if “research-only”
Subsidiary / parent company sharing license	[ERROR]	[OK]	Each legal entity needs its own license – sharing prohibited
Hosting on AWS / GCP / Azure for internal use	[ERROR]	[OK]	Allowed with commercial license for internal use only
Building competing infrastructure service	[ERROR]	[ERROR]	PROHIBITED – may not build Competing Infrastructure Service (see <code>COMMERCIAL_LICENSE.md</code>)
Reverse engineering	[ERROR]	[ERROR]	PROHIBITED – under both licenses

Scenario	Free Use	Commercial License	Notes
Benchmarking without consent	[ERROR]	[ERROR]	PROHIBITED – under commercial license (Material Breach)
Sharing / loaning / renting license	[ERROR]	[ERROR]	PROHIBITED – each entity needs its own license

Key Principles

[OK] Free Use is **ONLY** for:

1. **Individual personal research** (not for any business purpose)
2. **Non-commercial academic research** at qualifying tax-exempt institutions (where results don't support commercial operations)

See LICENSE for the complete definition of free use.

[ERROR] 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 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"	[ERROR] Still requires commercial license – no free trial for commercial use

Misconception	Reality
“It’s not in production yet”	[ERROR] Development/testing/staging still requires commercial license
“We’re not generating revenue”	[ERROR] Revenue status doesn’t matter – business use requires commercial license
“It’s just research”	[ERROR] Research within a business context requires commercial license
“Our interns are using it”	[ERROR] Use by employees/contractors/interns requires commercial license
“We’re a non-profit”	[ERROR] 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”	[ERROR] Duration doesn’t matter – commercial use requires commercial license from day one
“It’s open source, so it’s free”	[ERROR] Source-available means code is visible, but organizational use requires a commercial license
“We’ll contribute back to open source”	[ERROR] 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 -> Free Use [OK]

+– NO -> Continue

Are you at a qualifying tax-exempt educational institution doing non-commercial research?

+– YES -> Is it funded by or integrated into commercial operations?

| +- YES -> Commercial License Required [ERROR]

| +- NO -> Free Use [OK] (see LICENSE for full definition)

+– NO -> Continue

Are you using this within a business, organization, or commercial entity?

+ - YES -> Commercial License Required [ERROR]
+ - NO -> Continue

Are you using this for any business purpose, client work, or revenue-generating activity?

+ - YES -> Commercial License Required [ERROR]
+ - NO -> Review definitions in LICENSE and 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
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