

Open Source Development



Software Licenses

2025/2: Igor Montagner (igorsm1@insper.edu.br)

So far

- Collaboration tools
- Code modifications
- UI and documentation translation
- Software distribution
- Software testing

Technical content: tools, workflows, etc.

Today

Software licenses

Software licenses

- Govern the **distribution** of software
- Assignment of copyright to others
- List which permissions a user (does not) have

Software Distribution

Writing software is considered an *intellectual work* and is therefore subject to copyright laws.

- These laws are country-specific
- Authorship vs Economic Exploitation
- Encompasses both source code and binaries

A Little History

A Little History - 1985



- [GNU Manifesto](#): described an effort to create a completely free system whose fate was in the hands of users
- GNU/Hurd: all command-line tools in modern distributions came from this project
- Centralized development and distribution

A Little History - 1990



- Linus Torvalds had an experimental kernel "ready"
- Released a new version every week
- Received contributions from others stakeholders
- Participatory Development and Distribution

A Little History

Further Reading: Free Software, Free Society: Selected Essays of Richard M. Stallman.



A Little History

Further Reading: Just for Fun: The Story of an Accidental Revolutionary, Linus Torvalds and David Diamond



Free Software Licenses

Created by the Free Software Foundation to guarantee four freedoms for users when using software:

1. Unrestricted Execution
2. Study and Modify the Software;
3. Redistribute Copies;
4. Redistribute Copies of Your Modifications

Distributing the sources is a prerequisite for items 2 and 3!

Also called *reciprocal*.

Free Software Licenses



0. RUN



1. STUDY



2. SHARE



3. IMPROVE

Free Software Licenses - Reciprocal

- **Copyleft:** This symbol is the opposite of copyright, whose purpose would be to restrict users
- Many supporters also have an anti-commercial stance
- Requires contributions back to the community
- Seeks to empower ALL those involved in the community
- Main figure: Richard Stallman

Open Source Initiative

- Founded to spread a less anti-commercial and ideological discourse
- Also promotes the "pragmatic" benefits of using "open source" software
- *Free* causes confusion in English
- Free (*free as in beer*)
- Free (*free as in freedom*)
- Founded by Eric Raymond and Bruce Perens

Open Source Software Licenses

More closely associated with the [Open Source Initiative](#), these are considered less "ideological."

- Often called *permissive*;
- Typically do not guarantee freedom;
- May impose other minor requirements or restrictions.

Examples: MIT, BSD

- Allow the distribution of software with proprietary parts.
- Allow the sale and complete *rebranding* of the software without any contribution to the original author.

Licenses: Which one to use?

choosealicense.com

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