

## Comparison of Academic Free Licence 3.0 and Other Similar Licences

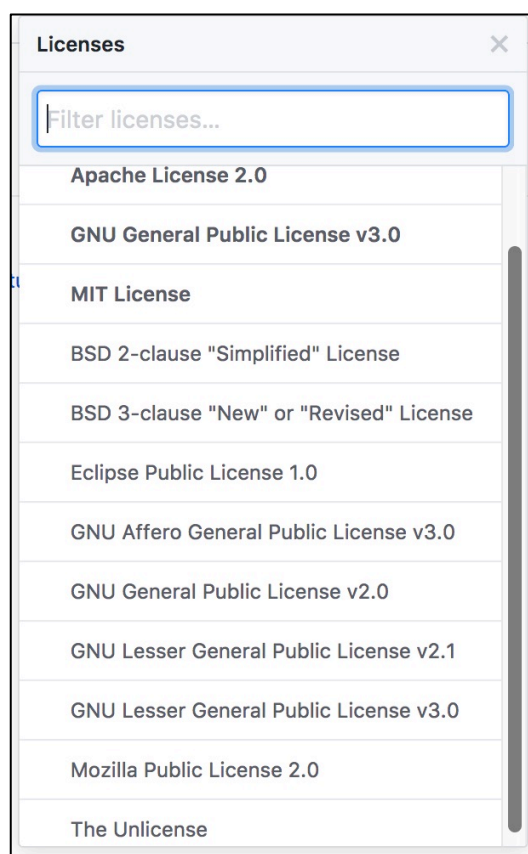
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According to the INTERLACE Description of Action (DoA), the INTERLACE project is supposed to use the Academic Free Licence 3.0 (AFL 3.0)<sup>1</sup> because this is the licence used by the CoreASIM framework<sup>2</sup> developed by the BIOMICS project.<sup>3</sup>

The INTERLACE project has elected to store its code as a public project on Github. As shown in Figure 1, Github offers a range of open source (OS) licences, but not AFL. The purpose of this short note, therefore, is to compare AFL to the licences in this list that come closest to it and to make a recommendation on which one to use.



**Figure 1: List of OS licences offered by Github**

As explained in a few relevant Wikipedia articles,<sup>4,5</sup> AFL is a 'permissive' licence, whereas Lesser GPL (LGPL) is mostly copylefted.<sup>6</sup> Therefore, it seems advisable to adopt a licence supported by

<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic\\_Free\\_License](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic_Free_License)

<sup>2</sup> See Interaction Computing Execution Framework (ICEF) <https://github.com/biomics/icef/blob/master/LICENSE.md>

<sup>3</sup> <http://biomicsproject.eu/>

<sup>4</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison\\_of\\_free\\_and\\_open-source\\_software\\_licenses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_free_and_open-source_software_licenses)

<sup>5</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Permissive\\_software\\_licence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Permissive_software_licence)

<sup>6</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copyleft>

Github that is closer to the properties of AFL than LGPL. Table 1 summarizes the main properties of the more likely licences.

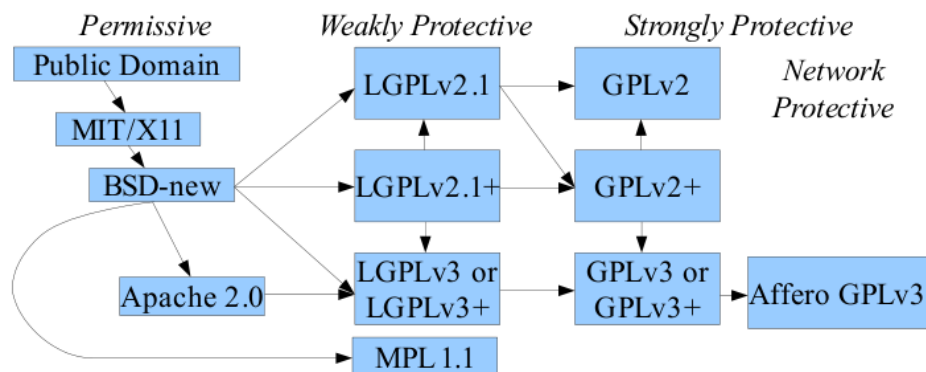
Licence	Ver	Linking	Distribution	Modification	Patent Grant	Private Use	Sub-Licensing	TM Grant
AFL	3	Permissive	-	Permissive	-	-	-	-
LGPL	3	Restrictions	Copyleft	Copyleft	Yes	Yes	Copyleft	Yes
Mozilla	2	Permissive	Copyleft	Copyleft	Yes	Yes	Copyleft	No
MIT	-	Permissive	Permissive	Permissive	Manually	Yes	Permissive	Manually
BSD	3	Permissive	Permissive	Permissive	Manually	Yes	Permissive	Manually
Apache	2	Permissive	Permissive	Permissive	Yes	Yes	Permissive	No
Eclipse	1	Limited	Limited	Limited	Yes	Yes	Limited	Manually

**Table 1: Summary of main features of AFL 3.0 and of similar licences available on Github**

The column categories are explained on Wikipedia as follows:<sup>7</sup>

- **Linking** - linking of the licensed code with code licensed under a different licence (e.g. when the code is provided as a library)
- **Distribution** - distribution of the code to third parties
- **Modification** - modification of the code by a licensee
- **Patent grant** - protection of licensees from patent claims made by code contributors regarding their contribution, and protection of contributors from patent claims made by licensees
- **Private use** - whether modification to the code must be shared with the community or may be used privately (e.g. internal use by a corporation)
- **Sublicensing** - whether modified code may be licensed under a different licence (for example a copyright) or must retain the same licence under which it was provided
- **Trademark grant** - use of trademarks associated with the licensed code or its contributors by a licensee.

Figure 2 shows that the permissive attribute is the most compatible with adoption of OS software and its derivatives by for-profit companies.



**Figure 2: License compatibility between common OS licences according to David Wheeler. The vector arrows denote a one-directional compatibility, therefore better compatibility on the left side (permissive licenses) than on the right side (copyleft licences)<sup>8</sup>**

As shown in Table 1, the closest licences to AFL 3.0 available on Github are MIT and BSD. **Thus, I propose we use BSD for Software created by the INTERLACE project.**

<sup>7</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison\\_of\\_free\\_and\\_open-source\\_software\\_licenses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_free_and_open-source_software_licenses)

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.dwheeler.com/essays/floss-license-slide.html>