No License

Opting out of open source licenses doesn't mean you're opting out of copyright law.

You'll have to check with your own legal counsel regarding your particular project, but generally speaking, the absence of a license means that default copyright laws apply. This means that you retain all rights to your source code and that nobody else may reproduce, distribute, or create derivative works from your work.

You don't have to do anything to not offer a license, though including a copyright notice is recommended.

```
Copyright [year] [fullname]
```

Disallowing use of your code might not be what you intend by "no license." An **open-source license** allows reuse of your code while retaining copyright. If your goal is to completely opt-out of copyright restrictions, try a **public domain dedication**.

Even in the absence of a license file, you may grant some rights in cases where you publish your source code to a site that requires accepting terms of service. For example, if you publish your source code in a public repository on GitHub, you have accepted the **Terms of Service** by which you allow others to view and fork your repository.

For users

If you find software that doesn't have a license, that generally means you have no permission from the creators of the software to use, modify, or share the software. Your options:

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