

Free and Open Source software licenses explained

Video

https://youtu.be/UMIG4KnM8xw?si=Nj0WR_-78JiGG23I

Notes

GNU General Public License (GPL)

- Many forms and variants
 - For example, V3 is more comprehensive than V2 (and more inline with how modern code is written and distributed)
- It is a “copyleft” license
 - Means that someone using the code can’t decide to make it proprietary or private
 - This includes any modifications they made to the code
 - Allows you to download, use, modify, and redistribute the code (using the license) without any restrictions
- The true “free software” license
 - Prevents code from being turned proprietary and let you do what you want with it
- Allows you to sell the software, but the person who bought it can redistribute it for free

MIT License

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Another “free software” license
 - Allows you to copy, modify, merge or distribute the code
 - It's a very permissive license
 - No copyright or copyleft included
- It allows you to include code (that is under the MIT license) in your proprietary software and not redistribute your changes (as long as you include a copy of the MIT license in your project)
- Also allows the software to be sold

Apache License

- Some form of middle ground between the GPL and MIT
- It allows you the freedoms to download, use, modify, distribute, sell, etc
- Includes copyrights and patents
 - Anyone who has contributed to the project is given a right to the patent (if it has one)
- It is not a copyleft license, like the GPL, which means that your modifications don't have to use the Apache license
 - But the original work must be published under the Apache license, with the modifications clearly labeled

BSD License

- Is a “low restriction” license
- Multiple variants but most give the same freedoms
 - Download, use, modify, redistribute as long as it is redistributed with the same license
- Doesn't force any modifications to be redistributed under the terms of the license
- Lets you sell the software

Creative Commons

- Attribution
 - Applies to all creative commons license
 - Must give credit to the original author
- Share-alike
 - Basically the copyleft version
 - Any modification to the original also has to be shared under the share-alike license
- Non-derivative
 - Means they can reuse the work but you can't share it if you modified
- Non-commercial
 - Can modify your work but can't sell it or use it for commercial purposes
 - They do not have to use the same license for their modifications
 - The non-commercial share-alike license means that modifications do have to
- Non-commercial share-alike non-derivative
 - Restrictive
 - Means that you can't distribute any modifications or use the original for commercial purposes