



<https://www.gwdg.de>

Lars Quentin

## What every programmer should know about licenses

Create usable code while abiding by the law

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# Learning Goals

- write me last

# Why you should care

What happens if you don't use a license? [1]

- If a repository has no license, then **all rights are reserved!**
- This means that normal copyright laws apply.
- Therefore, nobody is allowed to:
  - ▶ Copy
  - ▶ Modify
  - ▶ Distribute
- If someone else contributes, this includes you!

If you want to share your code, you need a license!

# Overview of Code Licenses

Licenses can be divided into three categories:

- Public Domain-like
  - ▶ The Unlicense
- Permissive
  - ▶ MIT
  - ▶ Apache 2.0
  - ▶ BSD-3-Clause
- Copyleft
  - ▶ GPL

# Public Domain (Gemeinfreiheit)

- Releases code into the public domain
- Thus, everybody can
  - ▶ Use (commercially)
  - ▶ Modify
  - ▶ Distribute / Copy / Publish
  - ▶ Sell
- No attribution required
- Changes can be kept closed-source
- Example: The Unlicense [2]

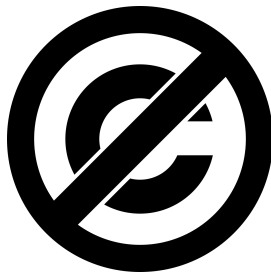


Figure: Unlicense logo [2]

# Permissive Licenses

- Sometimes also called BSD-like [3]
- Also allow everybody to
  - ▶ Use (commercially)
  - ▶ Modify
  - ▶ Distribute / Copy / Publish
  - ▶ Sell
- Requires attribution, at least in the source code
- Example licenses:
  - ▶ MIT: Most commonly used
  - ▶ Apache 2.0 [4]: Like MIT, but with a patent clause [5]
    - If you are a contributor with a relevant patent, you grant a license to the patent
  - ▶ BSD-3: Similar to MIT but adds a no-endorsement clause
    - If you use our tool, don't use us to endorse or promote your product

# Copyleft Licenses

- For Code: Gnu Public Licenses (GPL)
- Allow for any usage and modification
- Source has to be made available
- Modifications need to have same license
- Example: GPLv3

## Four Freedoms [6]

- 1 Run the program for any purpose
- 2 Be able to the source code
- 3 Distribute the program as you wish
- 4 Distribute your modified versions



# Font Licenses

- Most open fonts can be found at Google Fonts [7]
  - ▶ All of those fonts are licensed permissively
- Most used License [8]: SIL Open Font License [9]
- Other common licenses:
  - ▶ Apache license [4]
  - ▶ Ubuntu Font License [10]



Figure: Google Fonts logo [7]

# Creative Commons Licenses

- Standardized licenses for creative works
- Used for non-code
- Can be mapped to code licenses
  - ▶ Unlicense (Public Domain)  $\Rightarrow$  CC0
  - ▶ MIT (Permissive)  $\Rightarrow$  CC-BY
  - ▶ GPL (Copyleft)  $\Rightarrow$  CC-BY-SA

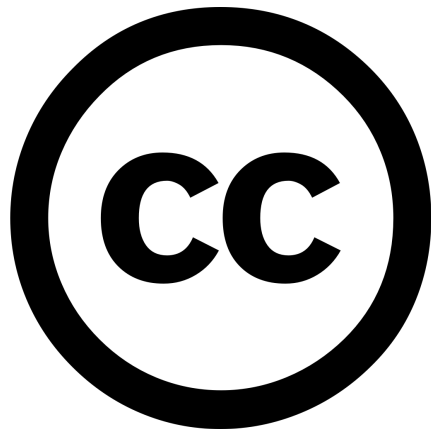


Figure: Creative Commons logo [7]

# Conclusion

## Summary

- Write me last, together with learning goals

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## If you need further help

- <https://choosealicense.com>
- <https://tldrlegal.com>
- <https://www.gnu.org/licenses/license-list.en.html>
- <https://opensource.org/licenses>
- <https://creativecommons.org/>

# References

*No License. Choose a License.* URL: <https://choosealicense.com/no-permission/> (visited on 07/11/2023).

*The Unlicense.* URL: <https://unlicense.org/> (visited on 08/21/2023).

*Open Source Licensing Guide | New Media Rights.* URL:  
[https://www.newmediarights.org/open\\_source/new\\_media\\_rights\\_open\\_source\\_licensing\\_guide](https://www.newmediarights.org/open_source/new_media_rights_open_source_licensing_guide)  
(visited on 08/21/2023).

*Apache License, Version 2.0.* URL: <https://www.apache.org/licenses/LICENSE-2.0> (visited on 08/21/2023).

*Top 10 Questions About the Apache License.* Mend. URL:  
<https://www.mend.io/blog/top-10-apache-license-questions-answered/> (visited on 08/21/2023).

*What is Free Software? - GNU Project - Free Software Foundation.* URL:  
<https://www.gnu.org/philosophy/free-sw.en.html> (visited on 08/21/2023).

*Google Fonts.* Google for Developers. URL: <https://developers.google.com/fonts> (visited on 08/21/2023).

*Frequently Asked Questions | Google Fonts.* Google for Developers. URL:  
<https://developers.google.com/fonts/faq> (visited on 08/21/2023).

*SIL Open Font License (OFL).* URL:  
[https://scripts.sil.org/cms/scripts/page.php?site\\_id=nrsi&id=OFL](https://scripts.sil.org/cms/scripts/page.php?site_id=nrsi&id=OFL) (visited on 08/21/2023).

*Ubuntu font licence.* Ubuntu. URL: <https://ubuntu.com/legal/font-licence> (visited on 08/21/2023).