

ELEN 7046 Group 4 License Choice

1. License Choice

Copyright (c) 2012, Group 4
All rights reserved.

Redistribution and use in source and binary forms, with or without modification, are permitted provided that the following conditions are met:

- * Redistributions of source code must retain the above copyright notice, this list of conditions and the following disclaimer.
- * Redistributions in binary form must reproduce the above copyright notice, this list of conditions and the following disclaimer in the documentation and/or other materials provided with the distribution.
- * Neither the name of the Group 4 nor the names of its contributors may be used to endorse or promote products derived from this software without specific prior written permission.

THIS SOFTWARE IS PROVIDED BY THE COPYRIGHT HOLDERS AND CONTRIBUTORS "AS IS" AND ANY EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE ARE DISCLAIMED. IN NO EVENT SHALL GROUP 4 BE LIABLE FOR ANY DIRECT, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, SPECIAL, EXEMPLARY, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, PROCUREMENT OF SUBSTITUTE GOODS OR SERVICES; LOSS OF USE, DATA, OR PROFITS; OR BUSINESS INTERRUPTION) HOWEVER CAUSED AND ON ANY THEORY OF LIABILITY, WHETHER IN CONTRACT, STRICT LIABILITY, OR TORT (INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE) ARISING IN ANY WAY OUT OF THE USE OF THIS SOFTWARE, EVEN IF ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGE.

2. Motivation for License choice

The new BSD license is also referred to as the 3-Clause BSD license which serves as an improvement on the old or 4-clause BSD license which was GPL incompatible.

For the licensing of the group project, the New BSD license is suggested. The new Berkeley Software Distribution license is approved by the free software foundation and has been vetted as an open source license. The new BSD is compatible with the GPL and other licenses like the MIT license which is placed on certain components of the project. The new BSD allows unlimited redistribution for any purpose as long as its copyright notices and license disclaimers of warranty are maintained. Using the BSD license ensures that no further restrictions are placed on the project that will violate any of the license on components that have been used, while still maintaining the licenses on those components. One of such licenses is the MIT license which is placed on Coffee script. The compatibility of the new BSD license and the licenses of the other components used in the project was considered. The components and their licenses are:

1. Coffee script : MIT licence
2. Java script : GNU GPL
3. JQuery : GNU GPL
4. Kinetic js : GNU GPL
5. PDF reporting tool : CPOL
6. ITextSharp: GNU GPL\

The compatibility of these each of the above mentioned licenses with the new BSD license had to be confirmed. The MIT license and the new BSD license are compatible, both licenses are free and permissive free, thereby permitting reuse in free software a category the project falls under and also in proprietary software [1]. These software licenses are similar and therefore the new BSD does not impose any further restrictions on the MIT license, also the intended free release of the software implies no contradictions. The new BSD is GPL compatible [2]. Similar to the MIT license, the new BSD does not impose any further restrictions on the requirements of the license and hence the combination is safe. The CPOL, otherwise known as the Code Project Open License is strictly for software that is gratis, free of charge [3]. The CPOL is not compatible with the GPL and hence this license can not be used on software that contains GPL licensed components. The incompatibility with GPL arises as a result of the restriction that CPOL places on illegal use and selling the code without permission.

However, for the project a CPOL licensed component is used, and using the new BSD license does not infringe on the restrictions of the CPOL as the project is to be made available for free.

The new BSD also allows for redistribution of the software thereby promoting use of the unit testing project, which is ideal as the project is also intended to serve educational purposes. The new BSD license also has a disclaimer note in it which liberates the authors who in this case are the members of the Group 4 team from any responsibility from un-foreseen circumstances. The license for the project (the New BSD license) is below. The organization here is referred to as Group 4 for the purposes of the project. Group 4 is an umbrella name referring to Boreli, Demi, Sello, Keagan and Xoli.