

GitHub Licenses – Description & Usage :

| License Name | Description | Commonly Used For |
|--|--|---|
| No License | Code is fully copyrighted; others cannot use, modify, or distribute it | Private repositories, personal or confidential projects |
| MIT License | Very permissive; allows reuse, modification, and distribution with attribution | Student projects, open-source libraries, startups |
| Apache License 2.0 | Permissive with added patent protection | Enterprise software, commercial open-source projects |
| GNU GPL v3.0 | Strong copyleft; modified versions must also be open source | Free software, community-driven projects |
| GNU GPL v2.0 | Older GPL version; enforces open-source distribution | Legacy projects, Linux kernel |
| GNU LGPL v2.1 | Weak copyleft; allows linking with proprietary software | Shared libraries and frameworks |
| GNU AGPL v3.0 | Copyleft applies even to network/server use | Web apps, SaaS platforms |
| BSD 2-Clause License | Simple and permissive with minimal restrictions | Research software, academic projects |
| BSD 3-Clause License | BSD 2-Clause + prevents use of author's name for promotion | University and corporate projects |
| Boost Software License 1.0 | Very permissive and business-friendly | C++ libraries (e.g., Boost) |
| Mozilla Public License 2.0 | File-level copyleft; only modified files must be open | Hybrid open/closed source projects |
| Eclipse Public License 2.0 | Weak copyleft focused on enterprise use | Enterprise tools, IDEs |
| Creative Commons Zero (CC0 1.0) | Public domain dedication | Datasets, documentation, research data |
| The Unlicense | Completely releases code into public domain | Sample code, learning projects |

Comparative Table of GitHub Licenses :

| License | Open Source | Commercial Use Allowed | Modification Allowed | Distribution Allowed | Copyleft Strength | Patent Protection | Best Used For |
|---------------|-------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| No License | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | None | ✗ | Private or confidential code |
| MIT | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | None (Permissive) | ✗ | Student projects, libraries |
| Apache 2.0 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | None (Permissive) | ✓ | Enterprise & commercial OSS |
| BSD 2-Clause | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | None (Permissive) | ✗ | Research & academic software |
| BSD 3-Clause | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | None (Permissive) | ✗ | Corporate & university code |
| Boost 1.0 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | None (Permissive) | ✗ | C++ libraries |
| MPL 2.0 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Weak (File-level) | ✓ | Mixed open/closed projects |
| EPL 2.0 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Weak | ✓ | Enterprise frameworks |
| GPL v2.0 | ✓ | ✗* | ✓ | ✓ | Strong | ✗ | Legacy free software |
| GPL v3.0 | ✓ | ✗* | ✓ | ✓ | Strong | ✓ | Modern free software |
| LGPL v2.1 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Weak | ✗ | Shared libraries |
| AGPL v3.0 | ✓ | ✗* | ✓ | ✓ | Very Strong | ✓ | Web & SaaS apps |
| CC0 1.0 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | None (Public Domain) | ✗ | Data & research work |
| The Unlicense | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | None (Public Domain) | ✗ | Sample & learning code |

GitHub Alternative :

| Platform | Type | Hosting | Free Private Repos | Best Used For | Key Features |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| GitLab | Open Source | Cloud & Self-hosted | ✓Yes | DevOps, CI/CD-heavy projects | Built-in CI/CD, issue tracking |
| Bitbucket | Proprietary | Cloud & Self-hosted | ✓Yes | Teams using Jira | Jira integration, pipelines |
| SourceForge | Open Source | Cloud | ✗Limited | Legacy & open-source projects | File releases, mirrors |
| Gitea | Open Source | Self-hosted | ✓Yes | Lightweight Git hosting | Fast, low resource usage |
| Gogs | Open Source | Self-hosted | ✓Yes | Simple Git server | Minimal UI, easy setup |
| Azure DevOps Repos | Proprietary | Cloud | ✓Yes | Microsoft ecosystem | Boards, pipelines, repos |
| Codeberg | Open Source | Cloud | ✓Yes | Privacy-focused OSS | Community-driven, EU-based |
| Launchpad | Open Source | Cloud | ✗ | Ubuntu-related projects | Bug tracking, code hosting |
| AWS CodeCommit | Proprietary | Cloud | ✗ | AWS-based development | Secure, IAM integration |
| Phabricator | Open Source | Self-hosted | ✓Yes | Large engineering teams | Code review, task management |

Quick Recommendation Guide :

| Need | Best Choice |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Complete GitHub replacement | GitLab |
| Jira + Agile teams | Bitbucket |
| Self-hosted & lightweight | Gitea |
| Privacy & open-source | Codeberg |
| Microsoft ecosystem | Azure DevOps |
| AWS environment | CodeCommit |