

## GitHub Licenses – Description & Usage :

<b>License Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Commonly Used For</b>
<b>No License</b>	Code is fully copyrighted; others cannot use, modify, or distribute it	Private repositories, personal or confidential projects
<b>MIT License</b>	Very permissive; allows reuse, modification, and distribution with attribution	Student projects, open-source libraries, startups
<b>Apache License 2.0</b>	Permissive with added patent protection	Enterprise software, commercial open-source projects
<b>GNU GPL v3.0</b>	Strong copyleft; modified versions must also be open source	Free software, community-driven projects
<b>GNU GPL v2.0</b>	Older GPL version; enforces open-source distribution	Legacy projects, Linux kernel
<b>GNU LGPL v2.1</b>	Weak copyleft; allows linking with proprietary software	Shared libraries and frameworks
<b>GNU AGPL v3.0</b>	Copyleft applies even to network/server use	Web apps, SaaS platforms
<b>BSD 2-Clause License</b>	Simple and permissive with minimal restrictions	Research software, academic projects
<b>BSD 3-Clause License</b>	BSD 2-Clause + prevents use of author's name for promotion	University and corporate projects
<b>Boost Software License 1.0</b>	Very permissive and business-friendly	C++ libraries (e.g., Boost)
<b>Mozilla Public License 2.0</b>	File-level copyleft; only modified files must be open	Hybrid open/closed source projects
<b>Eclipse Public License 2.0</b>	Weak copyleft focused on enterprise use	Enterprise tools, IDEs
<b>Creative Commons Zero (CC0 1.0)</b>	Public domain dedication	Datasets, documentation, research data
<b>The Unlicense</b>	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
<b>GitLab</b>	Open Source	Cloud & Self-hosted	✓ Yes	DevOps, CI/CD-heavy projects	Built-in CI/CD, issue tracking
<b>Bitbucket</b>	Proprietary	Cloud & Self-hosted	✓ Yes	Teams using Jira	Jira integration, pipelines
<b>SourceForge</b>	Open Source	Cloud	✗ Limited	Legacy & open-source projects	File releases, mirrors
<b>Gitea</b>	Open Source	Self-hosted	✓ Yes	Lightweight Git hosting	Fast, low resource usage
<b>Gogs</b>	Open Source	Self-hosted	✓ Yes	Simple Git server	Minimal UI, easy setup
<b>Azure DevOps Repos</b>	Proprietary	Cloud	✓ Yes	Microsoft ecosystem	Boards, pipelines, repos
<b>Codeberg</b>	Open Source	Cloud	✓ Yes	Privacy-focused OSS	Community-driven, EU-based
<b>Launchpad</b>	Open Source	Cloud	✗	Ubuntu-related projects	Bug tracking, code hosting
<b>AWS CodeCommit</b>	Proprietary	Cloud	✗	AWS-based development	Secure, IAM integration
<b>Phabricator</b>	Open Source	Self-hosted	✓ Yes	Large engineering teams	Code review, task management

## Quick Recommendation Guide :

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