# Legal Aspects – Presentation
## Master on Free Software 2012-13

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October 19th, 2012

FLOSSYSTEMS
Open Source Systems Engineering

Universidad
Rey Juan Carlos

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# Administrative data

- First semester, 3 ECTS credits
- Teachers:
  - Miguel Vidal (`mvidal at gsyc.urjc.es`)
- Schedule: Fridays, 17:00-21:00
  - Classroom 227, Departamental I, campus at Fuenlabrada
- Moodle course (**please, join it as soon as possible**):
  `http://gsyc.escet.urjc.es/moodle/course/view.php?id=121`

## Subject: Legal Aspects

**Why should I care about legal aspects?**

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## Why should I care about legal aspects?

- It allows us to release & enjoy free software liberties

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## Why should I care about legal aspects?

- It allows us to release & enjoy free software liberties
- It allows us to distinguish between free software and non-free software

## Main topics addressed

- Intellectual property (IP) law for nonlawyers: Copyrights, Patents, Trademarks, Warranties...
- How FLOSS and IP work together
- Free and Open Source Software licenses (permissive and reciprocal)
- Free cultural works (documentation, images, Creative Commons licenses)
- Case studies and practical issues (choosing a license, compatibility, forking, merging/mixing... myths)

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# Sessions

1. **Oct. 19:** Introduction to the general concepts of Intellectual Property
2. **Oct. 26:** Copyright on Software. Legal aspects of free software
3. **Nov. 2:** Free Software Licenses
4. **Nov. 9:** Free licenses for other intellectual works
5. **Nov. 16:** Case studies, practical issues and myths

# Evaluation criteria

- Specific report: **45 points**
- Exercises (in Moodle forum): **35 points**
- Blog entries (optional, use `mswl-legal` tag): **20 points**
- Other activities (optional, agreed with lecturer): **15 points**

Deadline for submissions: November 28th.

## Grades

- **0-49: Fail** ("Suspenso", SS)
- **50-69: Pass** ("Aprobado", AP)
- **70-89: Good** ("Notable", NT)
- **90-100: Excellent** ("Sobresaliente", SB)

# Final work: Specific Report

- Specific written report about a relevant legal aspect of free/open source software.
- Mandatory.
- About 7-10 pages long.
- Deadline for submissions: November 28th.

## Final work: Some ideas

- IP (copyrights, patents) lawsuits against FLOSS.
- Infringement and violations of FLOSS licenses.
- How to affect SaaS (software on demand, cloud computing, etc.) to FLOSS licensing.
- Analysis of a specific FLOSS license or comparison between FLOSS licenses.
- Thinking about derivate works: linking and licensing, types of business models with FLOSS licenses, etc.
- Intellectual Property debate: Defense vs. opposition against patents and copyrights; IP framework alternatives, etc.

## Some references

- Course Website:
  http://gsyc.escet.urjc.es/moodle/course/view.php?id=121
- VAN LINDBERG, *Intellectual Property and Open Source*,
  O'Reilly Media, July 2008.
- MALCOLM BAIN et al. *Aspectos legales y de explotación del
  software libre*, UOC, February 2007.
  http://ocw.uoc.edu/informatica-tecnologia-y-multimedia/
  aspectos-legales-y-de-explotacion-del-software-libre/
  materiales/
- ANDRE ST. LAURENT, *Understanding Open Source & Free
  Software Licensing*, O'Reilly, August 2004
- LAWRENCE ROSE, *Open Source Licensing*, Prentice Hall,
  July 2004

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