

Licensing

Frank Aragona

2023-04-09

■ Summary

- Licenses prevent code theft and inappropriate redistribution of code.
- Review common open-source licenses
- License types vary depending on repo goals

General License Info

[Below is a list of common open-source licenses.](#)

There isn't a one size fits all license, so thankfully there are a variety of options. Here are two common ones:

GNU GPL licenses

- a. These are the strong licenses
- b. Prevents someone from taking our code and privatizing it (and making money off of it)
- c. Someone can still use our code, they just need to ensure that what they're doing with it is open-source
- d. "Copyright and license notices must be preserved."
- e. "Contributors provide an express grant of patent rights. When a modified version is used to provide a service over a network, the complete source code of the modified version must be made available."

MIT license

- a. I think this is the most commonly used one
- b. “short and simple permissive license... only requiring preservation of copyright and license notices”
- c. “Licensed works, modifications, and larger works may be distributed under different terms and without source code.”
- d. Someone could basically do whatever they want with the code.
- e. Nextstrain/ncov repo is currently using this

And here are a couple of youtube videos that were helping in explaining licensing

https://www.youtube.com/embed/rbQg9DY_4y0?si=OvU9vLBHX43dTIcA

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/ndORMSnb2nw?si=tkUzjwZYWKfrLTEU>