

Distribution of Software

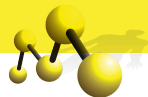
Luis Pedro Coelho

Programming for Scientists

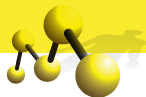
October 22, 2012



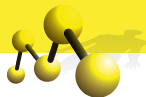
Why Make Your Software Available?



- You **want** to.
- You **have** to.

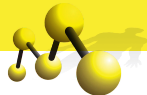


<http://sciencecodemanifesto.org/>

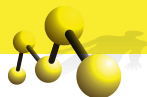


<http://sciencecodemanifesto.org/>

Many other similar initiatives.



What is open-source?



Wikipedia-level introduction to intellectual property:

- ① copyright
- ② patent
- ③ trademark



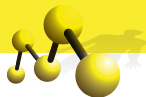
A license is a **loosening** of the default “All Rights Reserved” framework.



- ① Public-domain
- ② BSD or MIT licenses
- ③ GPL (copy-left)
- ④ ...(10 million others)



I can do whatever I want.



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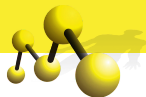
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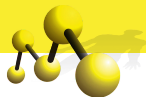
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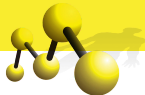




<http://www.gnu.org>

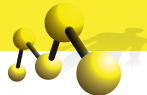


- Free as in beer (gratis)
- Free as in speech (libre)



You can distribute & modify the software as long as

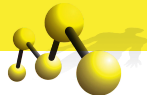
- you make the source code available,
- you license your modifications under the GPL.



You can use BSD licensed code in a GPL.
BSD is **GPL compatible**.

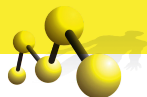


If you write a library and release it under the LGPL,
then closed-source programs can use it.

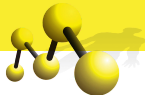




- Think about your license
- Pick either BSD/MIT, or GPL, or LGPL
- Be careful about code re-use



- Creative Commons.
- GFDL
- ...

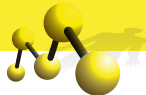


Restrictions

- **Attribution** [By] you need to state the source
- **Non-Commercial** [NC] you cannot use it for commercial purposes
- **Non-Derivative** [ND] you may not modify the work
- **Share-Alike** [SA] you must license your derivative works similarly

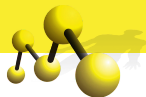
Mix & match to get a license, e.g., By-NC-SA.

This is Complicated...



... can't I just put up my software on my lab webpage?

This is Complicated...



... can't I just put up my software on my lab webpage?
Let me give you two answers:

This is Complicated...



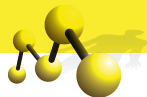
... can't I just put up my software on my lab webpage?

Let me give you two answers:

- ① Yes, but that is a confusing legal grey area and some people (like me) will complain.
- ② No, because doing so is the same as writing “this is made available for you to look at, but I might change my mind at any minute and demand that you start paying, take it offline, &c.” Because, the default is “all rights reserved.”

How do you actually distribute your software?

- Put it on your home page
- Put it in PyPI (Python Package Index)
- Use a service like [github](#), [google code](#), [launchpad](#), ...



Python Package Index