Distribution of Software

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Programming for Scientists

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Why Make Your Software Available?



- You want to.
- You have to.

Open Source



What is open-source?

Intellectual Property



Wikipedia-level introduction to intellectual property:

- copyright
- 2 patent
- trademark

Licenses



A license is a loosening of the default "All Rights Reserved" framework.

Licenses



- Public-domain
- SD or MIT licenses
- **3** GPL (copy-left)
- ...(10 million others)

Public Domain



I can do whatever I want.

MIT License



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Copyleft



GNU Project





http://www.gnu.org

Free Software



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

GNU General Public License (GPL)



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- you license your modifications under the GPL.

GPL Compatibility



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

GNU Lesser General Public License (LGPL)



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





Summary



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

Non-Code Open Source



- Creative Commons.
- GFDL

Creative Commons



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.

How do you actually distribute your software?

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

Distributing Software: setup.py



```
import setuptools
long_description = ',', ...','
classifiers = ['Development Status :: 2 - Pre-Alpha',
'License :: OSI Approved :: MIT License',
'Programming Language :: Python',
setuptools.setup(name = 'Particles', version = '0.1',
      description = 'A Task Based Framework',
      long description = long description,
      author = 'Spring 09 Class of 98111 (CMU)',
      author email = 'lpc@cmu.edu',
      license = 'MIT', platforms = ['Any'],
      classifiers = classifiers,
      url = 'http://code.google.com/p/particles/',
      packages = setuptools.find packages(exclude='tests'),
```

Distributing Software: PyPI



Python Package Index