



Open Source Licensing Issues

Open Source Development

Agenda

01

**Introduction to Open
Source Licensing**

02

License Types

03

Case 1: ICE vs Lerna

04

Case 2: MongoDB vs SSPL

05

Conclusion

Introduction to Open Source Licensing

Open Source development

Open Source Licensing

What Are Software licenses: Legal agreements that set usage, access and control rights

History and Purpose: Software was originally sold with source code. Licenses were created to restrict unauthorized use

Key License Types: Permissive and Copyleft licenses

License Types

:

Permissive Licensing

Freedom to use, modify, and distribute **without restrictions** on licensing

Right and Permissions

- **Use** without restrictions on commercial or personal use

Advantages

- **Wide** compatibility with commercial projects
- **Minimal** compliance effort
- **No requirement** to share modified code

Open Source development



Copyleft Licensing

Freedom to use, modify and share under the **same terms**

Right and Permissions

- **Viral** license, any code that uses or derives from the original must retain the same license

Advantages

- **Open access:** Ensures all modifications stay accessible to the community
- **Transparent collaboration:** limits contributions to open-source products only

Case 1: ICE vs Lerna

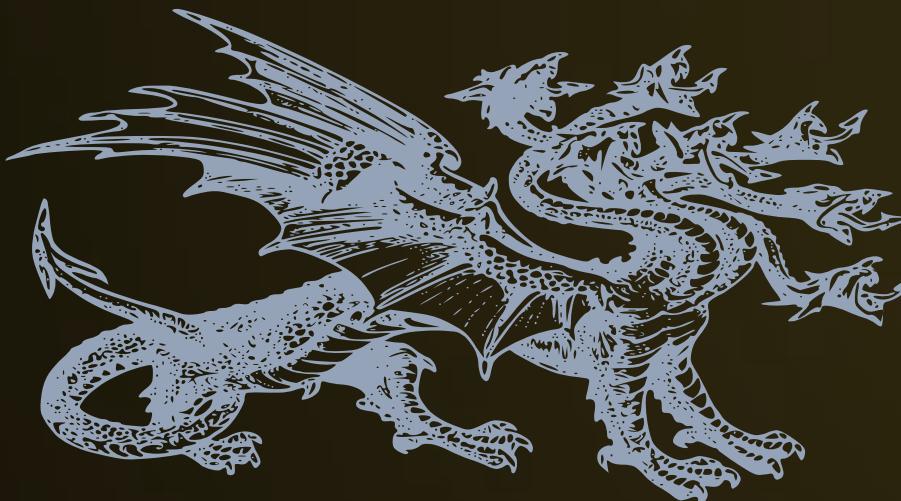
Open Source development

About the parts

:

Lerna

A JavaScript project management tool for monorepos, originally licensed under the permissive MIT license.



Open Source development

ICE (Intercontinental Exchange)

A company that owns the New York Stock Exchange, involved in controversial U.S. immigration policies.



•



Lerna vs ICE

1

The Controversy Explored

- In 2019, a Lerna maintainer modified the license to ban usage by companies collaborating with ICE.
- The decision was motivated by protest against ICE's involvement in immigrant detention practices.

2

Diverse Community Responses

- **Support:** Some supported the move as an ethical stance on software usage control.
- **Concerns:** Others worried that it would politicize open source and set a precedent for fragmentation.

3

Finding a Resolution

- The change was reverted, and Lerna returned to the MIT license with no restrictions, restoring its permissive nature.

4

Exploring Key Issues

- Discussions on the ethical role of open source software creators.
- The impact of politicization and usage control on open source software development.

Case 2: MongoDB switches to SSPL

Open Source development

About mongoDB

:

MongoDB

One of the world's most popular NoSQL databases, originally licensed under AGPL v3 (GNU Affero General Public License).

AGPL (GNU Affero General Public License)

A copyleft license requiring that software modifications provided as networked services must be shared with users. Developers must make their modifications publicly available, ensuring transparency and collaboration in web-based services.



Open Source development

•



The Switch to SSPL

1

Server Side Public License

- In 2018, MongoDB Inc. changed the license from AGPL to SSPL to prevent cloud providers from offering MongoDB as a service without contributing back.
- SSPL requires any company offering MongoDB as a service to open-source its entire service infrastructure.

2

Reasons for the License Change

- MongoDB Inc. aimed to stop large cloud providers (e.g., AWS) from using their open-source code without financial or technical contributions.

Controversies and Impact

3

Controversies and Criticisms

Ultimately, the change was rolled back, and Lerna went back to using the MIT license without any restrictions, reinstating its open and permissive nature.

4

Impact on the Community and Market

Delving into discussions about the ethical responsibilities of open source creators. Examining how politicization and usage control can impact the development of open source software.

Conclusion

Open Source development

Key Takeaways

Open Source development

ICE vs Lerna

- Ethical concerns can influence open source licensing, as seen with the attempt to restrict usage based on political stances.
- Modifying permissive licenses like MIT for ethical reasons can lead to fragmentation and controversy in the open source community.
- Ultimately, open source principles prioritize freedom of use over selective restrictions.

MongoDB switches to SSPL

- Ethical concerns can influence open source licensing, as seen with the attempt to restrict usage based on political stances.
- Modifying permissive licenses like MIT for ethical reasons can lead to fragmentation and controversy in the open source community.
- Ultimately, open source principles prioritize freedom of use over selective restrictions.



Thank you
For Listening

André Brito

Antônio Martins

Enricco Gemha



References

Open Source development

Introduction + License Types

FOSSA Editorial Team. All About Permissive Licenses. FOSSA Blog, 3 June 2021. <https://fossa.com/blog/all-about-permissive-licenses/>

DigitalOcean Community. Understanding Open Source Software Licenses. DigitalOcean, 18 June 2021. <https://www.digitalocean.com/community/tutorials/understanding-open-source-software-licenses>

Case 1: ICE vs Lerna

GitHub. Pull Request #1616: (REVERTED): Add Text to MIT License Banning ICE Collaborators. GitHub, 2018. <https://github.com/lerna/lerna/pull/1616>

GitHub. Pull Request #1633: chore: Restore Unmodified MIT License. GitHub, 2018. <https://github.com/lerna/lerna/pull/1633>

Akita, Fabio. Akitando #7: A Controvérsia da Lerna vs ICE. Akita On Rails, 4 September 2018. <https://www.akitaonrails.com/2018/09/04/akitando-7-a-controversia-da-lerna-vs-ice>

Case 2: MongoDB switches to SSPL

Lardinois, Frederic. MongoDB Switches Up Its Open-Source License. TechCrunch, 16 October 2018. <https://techcrunch.com/2018/10/16/mongodb-switches-up-its-open-source-license/>

GitHub. MongoDB Repository License Information. GitHub, <https://github.com/mongodb/mongo?tab=License-1-ov-file>

Open Source Initiative. The SSPL is Not an Open Source License. Open Source Initiative Blog, 16 January 2019. <https://opensource.org/blog/the-sspl-is-not-an-open-source-license>