

Choosing a License - Additional Resources

 coursera.org/learn/open-source-software-development-methods/supplement/OsU5w/choosing-a-license-additional-resources



An excellent website by [OSS Watch](#), the United Kingdom's advisory service for issues related to free software and open source software, can help you pick an appropriate license by interactively asking you a series of questions. Briefly, these questions involve:

- Should the search include only very popular and widely used licenses?
- Should the licenses be restrictive or permissive? Depending on choice, there are more detailed questions.
- Jurisdiction? Might not be important.
- Patent policy on your patents (if relevant)?
- Patent retaliation clauses?
- Giving credit to original authors? And, if so, in what form should such attribution appear?
- Must source be given out even if the application is used only on a server?
- Can authors' names be used to promote a product or service?

Based on your answers to these eight (or more) questions, the above website will rank available licenses according to how they correlate with your answers.

There are several resources you can use to help you choose the most appropriate license for your project:

- [Open Source Licenses by Category \(by Open Source Initiative\)](#): Lists open source licenses by category.
- [Choose an Open Source License](#): Sponsored by GitHub, this site walks you through the properties you must consider, helping you decide what license makes sense.
- [Browse Software Licenses & Summaries](#): Tags software licenses with key properties to help you navigate easier and better understand the existing licenses.
- [Various Licenses and Comments About Them](#): Provides a description of copyleft licenses and comments about them.