

Betreff: TECH035805 - ST - Solution proposed -
Von: <Onlinesupport@st.com>
Datum: 03.08.2017 20:33
An: Georg Icking-Konert <icking@onlinehome.de>

Hello,

You have received a response to your Online Support request. The new status is: SOLUTION PROPOSED. Please click here and review it: <https://my.st.com:443/tmtrack/tmtrack.dll?View&I=135662&T=1011>

You have 14 days to accept or reject the proposed solution. After this period, the Online Support request will be closed automatically.
Best regards

ST Online Support Team

STM8 SPL license question

Request Number: TECH035805
Type: Technical
Severity: Medium
State: SOLUTION PROPOSED
Product : Microcontrollers
STM8 8-bit MCUs
(None)
(None)

Description: hello,
a while ago I had a discussion about the STM8-SPL for use in open-source software. Background is that I wanted to avoid license issues in an open-source project for STM8. At the time ST seemingly planned to introduce a more permissive license which specifically allows software changes and re-distribution (see http://www.st.com/software_license_agreement_liberty_v2).

However, the current STM8-SPL license under <http://www.st.com/en/embedded-software/stsw-stm8069.html> still seems to be unchanged. Specifically, the intended changes described in above link have not been made. Is this merely a misunderstanding or was there a change of plans by ST?

Background still is that I would like to port my STM8 open-source projects to your SPL making use of the extensive example library on st.com. However, right now (I understand that) the license does not grant permission to distribute the sources...!? For a clarification, ideally in form of the above license change, thanks a lot in advance!

Best regards,
Georg Icking-Konert

Resolution Summary: SOLUTION PROPOSED BY SUPPORTER - 3/8/2017 20:32:34 :

Dear Mr. Icking-Konert,

I fully understand your need to ask a question about the terms of usign SPL. I agree with you that interpreting of both licenses is not obvious task and it is good that now it is clear.

I also agree with you that it would make sense to use correct license on SPL website. I will write to my colleageus and propose them doing it.

Let me wish you a good luck with achieving your goal to reuse SPL for purpose of SDCC.

As you are working with STM8 MCUs, let me use this opportunity to mention that ST has just introduced new MCU in STM8 family, which is 8-pin STM8S001J3. If this would be

interesting for you, you can refer to MCU's webpage or to my post on ST Community.

Kind regards
Szymon Panecki

SUBMITTER ACCEPTED WITH ADDITIONAL QUESTION - 3/8/2017 18:55:37 :

dear Mr. Panecki,

that is very good news, indeed! I was hoping for exactly this answer :-)

Just one question/request: the license on the SPL homepage is then the original, strict one. To avoid other people like me asking stupid questions, I propose this file is replaced with the new, relaxed one. In any case, I consider my question closed.

Best regards and thanks for your support!
Georg Icking-Konert

SOLUTION PROPOSED BY SUPPORTER - 3/8/2017 14:35:39 :

Dear Mr. Icking-Konert,

Finally I got a feedback from person in charge of ST MCUs development tools. As I don't want to change a meaning of his answer by describing them using my own words, let me paste below the original conversation:

Question:

Question is related to interpretation of Software License Agreement for STM8 SPL (Standard Peripheral Library). A group of STM8 users would like to use STM8 SPL in open-source software. In particular they would like to slightly edit SPL files (specifically the device header) in order to make it compatible with open source compiler SDCC. They would like to know if it is possible for them to edit SPL and redistribute it for purpose of this project. They reviewed two files (SPL license and "ultimate-liberty" license, both of them please find attached), but they didn't find a clear answer. Could you please help me to clarify this?

Answer:

We already had contacts with SDCC people. They wanted to turn our SPL into GPL license terms, which we can't accept, as it would have forced any customer using our lib to publish the source code of their application !!! However, since the beginning of discussions with those people, we modified our license. The one that applies is definitely the Ultimate liberty license (you had it attached), that clearly accepts modifications and redistribution: Redistribution and use in source and binary forms, with or without modification, are permitted, provided that the following conditions are met: 1. Redistribution of source code must retain the above copyright notice, this list of conditions and the following disclaimer.

I hope this information will be helpful to you.

Regards
Szymon Panecki

INFORMATION UPDATED - 27/6/2017 20:17:37 :

sorry, pressed the wrong button, so once again:

Since I am not a lawyer, can you please confirm your statement that the current SPL licence and the "ultimate liberty v2" licence differ only in wording, not in meaning. Specifically: am I allowed to download the SPL sources, modify them to be compatible with SDCC, and

distribute the sources as part of an open-source project. Of course I am happy to retain the original license files and references to STM within the sources.

If my above understanding is correct, may I forward this info also in the SDCC forum & newsgroup? To my understanding the unclear license situation is a major blocking point for wider adoption of the STM8 in (at least this) hobbyist group. Just compare the SPL situation with AVR where Atmel provides free headers, samples, compiler, IDE etc... (no offence meant!)

For a clear statement on the above question thanks a lot in advance!

Regards,
Georg Icking-Konert

SUBMITTER REJECTED - 27/6/2017 20:05:08 :

Hello,

thanks a lot for checking and for your kind reply! Unfortunately I have to reject in order to answer...

Just to make sure:

- for compatibility with the OS compiler SDCC I need to (slightly) patch the SPL files, specifically the device header
- the license "ultimate-liberty-v2" states: "Redistribution and use in source and binary forms, with or without modification, are permitted,..."
- on the other hand the SPL license states: "No source code relating to and/or based upon Licensed Software is to be made available or sub-licensed by You unless expressly permitted under the Section License". However, section Licence does not contain permission to modify and re-distribute the SPL sources - at least I don't find it...

Since I am not a lawyer, can you please confirm your statement that the current SPL licence and the "ultimate liberty v2" licence differ only in wording, not in meaning. Specifically: am I allowed to download the SPL sources, modify them to be compatible with SDCC

SOLUTION PROPOSED BY SUPPORTER - 26/6/2017 09:50:40 :

Dear Mr. Icking-Konert,

Thank you for contacting ST MCUs technical support.

Please find attached below a license related to STM8 Standard Peripheral Library (SPL). The same document you can find inside the software package, which you download from ST website.

MCD-ST Liberty SW License Agreement V2.pdf

The last update to this license was done in November 2011, so quite long time ago. There are no changes since then and according to my knowledge there are no plans to change it in future.

My understanding is that the file, which you mentioned (link), is in line with SPL license. You can redistribute it (also for purpose of open source projects) as long as you follow the restrictions, including:

1. there is no commercial purpose behind
2. you don't edit the libraries, which means also that you keep the statements "THIS SOFTWARE IS PROVIDED BY STMICROELECTRONICS AND..."

Kind regards
Szymon Panecki

STMicroelectronics

More Info:

**** This is an auto-generated email message, please do not reply. Use the link provided in the email body.
