Project Charter

# Description

This document describes the purpose of the FOSSology-Ninka project, the background of the tooling environment it inhabits, and its planned relationships with other tools.

# Changelog

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Date: | Action | Who |
| 01/27/2014 | Created Prototype | Doug Richardson |
| 01/29/2014 | Updated File content | Doug Richardson |
| 01/29/2014 | Uploaded to Google Drive | James Thompson |
| 02/02/2014 | Updated License declaration | Doug Richardson |
| 02/03/2014 | Updated and moved into final report | James Thompson |
| 02/21/2014 | Added information about FOSSOLOGY and Ninka. Described where this project is within the larger meta-project. Updated the charter to indicate the use of a human-based interface and SPDX finalizer (still under dispute) | Doug Richardson |
| 02/25/14 | Proofread Doug’s added information and made changes and updated document in Github | James Thompson |
| 02/26/2014 | Added document description  Rewrote integration section to remove Yocto plans (shelved) and emphasize SPDX Dashboard  Added links to FOSSology and Ninka project homepages | Jon von Kampen |

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The purpose of this project is to develop a tool to generate SPDX documents that combine the outputs of FOSSology and Ninka. The tool will sequentially scan a piece of software, whether it is a file or package, using FOSSology and Ninka. The tool will collect the output given by both programs and compare and combine the output into one SPDX document. The result will give end users the licensing information that they need to determine how the scanned software may be used.

FOSSology and Ninka are both scanning tools used to find licenses associated with a given software file or package. Due to the methods they use each scanning tool can recognize particular licenses better than the other. The tool that we are creating intends to combine the output of both of these scanning tools into one cohesive document. Refer to the documentation of FOSSology[[1]](#footnote-1) and Ninka[[2]](#footnote-2) for more information.

This project may be integrated with the projects of other CSCI 4900 groups. In particular, FOSSology-Ninka output may be stored in an SPDX database to be accessed by the SPDX Dashboard application. An enhancement to SPDX Dashboard may allow its use as an interface to manually resolve license declaration conflicts detected by FOSSology-Ninka.

In addition, we will develop a basic interface and spdx-finalizing procedure to enable end users to manually use our software as a stand-alone program. These will consist of a simple uploader and SPDX finalizer. The core scanner will be able to work independently of these sub-systems to allow for automation or future customization.

If we have completed the main tasks above, we will attempt to optimize FOSSology’s execution time to likewise increase the speed of our program. Also, if time permits, we will attempt to design a web based user interface.

1. <http://www.fossology.org/projects/fossology> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://ninka.turingmachine.org/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)