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Jenkins and MIT Licensing

Jenkins is an open source software application that I use daily for work and school projects.

Jenkins is an automation server that helps automate the software develop process by: building, deploying, monitoring, and scanning software. Jenkins is one of the most popular CI/CD tools for open source and commercial projects. There is a nice GUI for Jenkins and several plugins that allows users to easily configure the above tasking that would normally take days to setup manually. Jenkins is covered under the MIT license. This license is non-permissive which makes means it is not public domain but users can do almost anything they want with the software. Users can distribute and modify the software as long as they attribute the original creator. As a result, many people contribute to the Jenkins server and plugins. Many companies use Jenkins absolutely free for deploying and automating their production software.

Because of the popularity, other companies have produced propriety software that attempts to provide more functionality than Jenkins in a better way. Some other popular CI/CD tools are: Circleci, Travis CI, and TeamCity. If you are a student, or work on an open source project, you can use Travis CI for free, but otherwise you will have to pay. I haven't used Travis CI nearly as much as Jenkins, but it seems to be extremely easy to use and provides more functionality than Jenkins. I prefer writing my builds as code, and Travis CI allows me to do this with excellent documentation. The market for CI/CD tools is growing because software projects need to use several development tools and continuously deliver their products to their customers: waterfall development will not do. Jenkins, Travis CI, and TeamCity will continue to compete with each other for the foreseeable future, and make each other better by cross-examination. If Jenkins pushes

plugins and functionality that developers like, Travis CI can look at that code, and merge it into their environment for customers.

There haven't been any large lawsuits yet between these CI/CD products. There will inevitably be one in the future, but for now Travis and Circle CI have done great jobs of attributing Jenkins and honoring other's license agreements. I will continue to use Jenkins, but if other projects desire to use different tools I will be happy to use Travis CI, CircleCI, or TeamCity.