Product, Open Source, Community

Adrin Jalali @adrinjalali Hugging Face

Terms / Orgs

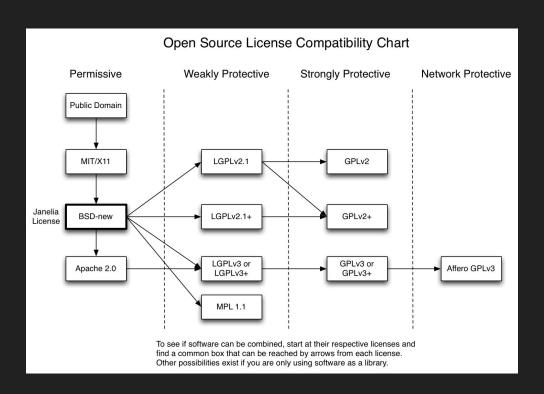
- Open Source
- FOSS: Free and Open Source Software
- OSI: Open Source Initiative
- FSF: Free Software Foundation
- Debian
- Fedora

The License World!

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Academic Free License	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	
Affero General Public License 3.0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Apache License 1 x	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Apache License 2.0	Yes	GPLv3 only ^[44]	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Apple Public Source License 1.x	No ^[47]	No	Yes	No	No	
Apple Public Source License 2.0	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	
Artistic License 1.0	No[rote 1]	No.	Yes	Yes	No	
Artistic License 2.0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Beenware License	see "Informal license" section[46]	see "Informal license" section [45]	No	No	Yes ^[40]	
Original BSD license	Yes	No	Nolsol	Yes	Yes	
Revised BSD license	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Simplified BSD ficense	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Zero-Clause BSD License	2	2	Yes[01]	2	2	
Boost Software License	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
CeCILL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Common Development and Distribution License	Yes	GPLv3 (GPLv2 disputed)[xx][xx][xx][xx][xx][xx]	Yes	Yes	Yes	
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Opensos Iconse PHP License	Yes Yes	No.	No Yes	Yes Yes	Yes Yes	
Python Software Foundation License 2.0.1; 2.1.1 and newer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
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Sleepycat License 1.5	No Yes	No Yes	Yes	No Yes	No Yes	
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Sun industry standards Source License Sun Public License	Yes	No No	Yes		Yes Yes	
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Sybase Open Walcom Public License Unlicense	No Yes[72]	No Yeslini	Yes Yes[70]	No 2	No Yes[sz]	
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Do What The Fuck You Want To Public License (WTFPL)	Yes Press 5]	Yes	No[74]	Yes	Yes	
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zlib/libpng license	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Zope Public License 1.0	Yes	No.	No	No	Yes	
Zope Public License 2,0	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_free_and_open-source_software_licenses



Open Source's Midlife Crisis

- Company X open sources a product under a license
- Some large cloud company uses it as a service
- Company X changes license

Server Side Public License

"SSPL requires that anyone who offers the functionality of SSPL-licensed software to third-parties as a service must release the entirety of their source code, including all software, APIs, and other software that would be required for a user to run an instance of the service themselves."

- => if you're AWS and you host ElasticSearch under SSPL, you need to release a LOT of code.
- => incompatible with a lot of other licenses, including linux kernel
- => Not OSI approved

Community

7 Deadly Sins!

Or what you really should not do!

1. Lack of Onboarding

- What is the project?
- How is it used?
- How do users get it?

1. Lack of Onboarding

- High barrier to entry
- Harder to create a community
- Reduced diversity (which is already a huge issue)

1. Lack of Onboarding

- README
- CONTRIBUTING
- Code Quality: pre-commit hooks?
- CI / tests
 - Can everybody run them?

2. Nothing in Writing

Documentation Driven API Design

The kind that runs!

2. Nothing in Writing

- Usage docs
- API docs
- Versioned docs
- Code documentation
 - Private as well as public
- Sphinx + sphinx-gallery + readthedocs

3. Leadership is a Mystery

- Who's making decisions?
- Whom should I ask?
- Whose review should I care about? Everybody?
- Anybody I could talk to?

Governance

Do-ocracy

- No formal process
- Decisions are made by those who do the work
- Contributors get effective rights on things they work the most

Pros

No overhead

- Implicit governance
- Not clear to outsiders what the governance is

Founder-leader (BDFL)

- Most common in new projects
- The founder takes the Benevolent Dictator For Life role
 - E.g.: was Guido for Python

Pros

- Easy to start with
- Low overhead

- This raises issues once the project starts to grow
- BDFL's preferences and project's direction

Self Appointing Council or Board

Pros

- No single point of failure
- No single person with their preferences

- Self selection and lack of user base representation
- Lack of progress clarity and ownership from community members

Electoral

- Multiple people offer to do the same role
- Large project / contributor base

Pros

- Projects with sponsors
- Explicit term limits

- Time consuming
- Slow
- Who votes?

Single Vendor

Pros

- Engage with a broader community
- Increase adoption
- E.g.: a plugin ecosystem

- Might be a walled garden kind of project
- Dual license and contributions
- Open or not?

Foundation Backed

Pros

- Trademark, merch, etc handled by a trusted org
 - E.g.: NumFocus for many NumFocus sponsored projects
- Flexibility on foundation leadership vs project leadership
- Funding opportunities

- Overhead
- Potentially very slow processes

Which one to Choose ???

4. No Path to Success

- What is success?
 - Being asked to give an opinion?
 - Becoming a core developer?
 - Being in committee X, Y, Z?
 - Advisory board?
- Engagement
 - Some people might just want to code
 - It's okay if they want more

Internal vs External

- Workflow requires people to be in the team?
- PRs/MRs from forks vs branches on the main repo
- Group members merging their own PRs
- Treat people equally, as much as it's feasible!

5. Poor Communication

- Communication matters
 - Especially for people who care
- 50% of text and email messages are misunderstood
- People with a history vs strangers
- Reviews are criticisms [almost] by nature, it's easy to offend people!

5. Poor Communication

- Use emojis
- Understand other people's emotions!
- Monitor your mailing list / issue tracker / chat channels for heated discussions
 - Have or be mediators

6. Lack of Transparency

- Office communication
- Communication behind closed doors
 - Company Slack?
- Important communication spread across different channels
 - Decisions made on a chat convo, and done in a PR w/o a summary
- Private communication between members

6. Lack of Transparency

- "Outsiders" would feel their opinion doesn't matter
 - Do their opinions matter to you?
- Barrier to get into the inner circle

7. Not Seeing Ourselves in Others

- Empathy!
 - Understand others' emotions and needs
- Emotional intelligence
- Be a feedback magnet!

- Lack of onboarding
- Nothing in writing
- Leadership is a mystery
- No path to success
- Poor communication
- Lack of transparency
- Not seeing ourselves in others

Resources



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Men :

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... a powerful and practical guide for men on the stage —SHERYL SANDBERG, COD OF FACEBOOK A

DR. MAURA CULLEN

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producing Karl Foge Open source Software



HOW TO RUN A SUCCESSFUL FREE SOFTWARE PROJECT

O'REILLY'

Resources

- OSI's Open Source Management Course and Resources
- RedHat's articles on Open Source Communities
- Linux Foundation's Inclusive Open Source Community Orientation
- Center for Scientific Collaboration and Community Engagement
- ...

♥ Thank YOU ♥ Questions ?!