Master's thesis

Master's Programme in Computer Science

Public Licenses in Software Engineering: A Multivocal Systematic Literature Review

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January 29, 2024

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Faculty of Science	Master's Programme in Computer Science

Tekijä — Författare — Author
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Työn nimi — Arbetets titel — Title
Public Licenses in Software Engineering: A Multivocal Systematic Literature Review

Ohjaajat — Handledare — Supervisors
Prof. Tomi Männistö

Työn laji — Arbetets art — Level	Aika — Datum — Month and year	Sivumäärä — Sidoantal — Number of pages
Master's thesis	January 29, 2024	7 pages, 1 appendix pages

Tiivistelmä — Referat — Abstract

Closed-source software slows down the advancement of the society and allows companies to ask for unsustainable amounts of money for software. Free software attempts to tackle this issue. Free software leans heavily on the software licenses that juridically forbid closed-source derivatives of the software licensed with a free software license. Unlike agile software projects of today these licenses do not patch their loopholes frequently. These loopholes cause exploitation of the licenses. One example of such a license failure is the RHEL incident where an operating system distribution licensed with a free license was partially was essentially rendered into proprietary software.

Tell about the research method here.

Tell about the results here.

Tell about the discussion here.

ACM Computing Classification System (CCS)
Social and professional topics → Computing / technology policy → Intellectual property → Licensing

Avainsanat — Nyckelord — Keywords
open source, free / libre software, software freedom, proprietary software, closed source, copyleft, license

Säilytyspaikka — Förvaringsställe — Where deposited
Helsinki University Library

Muita tietoja — övriga uppgifter — Additional information
Software study track

Acknowledgements

Contents

1 Introduction

2 other theses' 1.0 followed the following two forms setting, definition, problem, easier sub-problem, thesis' contribution to solution and setting, definition, observation, transferability, thesis' contribution to solution, thesis structure. i'll try the first one and let the supervisor let me know if i should try another approach for 1.0. 2/3 slrs that i read have some citation in the 1.0. Since proper and rigorous research on open source doesn't exist I won't include one at least now unless supervisor tells otherwise.

Licenses are in the core of open-source software. In order for open-source software to be freely available for possible modification and redistribution there must be an appropriate open-source license attached to the source code. Therefore the software license plays a central role on how the open-source software is developed and used now and in the future.

Open-source is defined by OSI in the following way: blah blah

start using another term for public software which includes everything else but trade secrets.

Closed-source software slows down the advancement of the society and allows companies to ask for unsustainable amounts of money for software. Free software attempts to eliminate closed-source software. Free software leans heavily on the software licenses that juridically forbid closed-source derivatives of the software licensed with a free software license. Unlike modern software these licenses do not patch their loopholes frequently. One example of such a license failure is the RHEL incident where an operating system distribution licensed with free software was partially converted into closed source (Ferguson, 2006).

Write something about the state of the public software licenses here.

1.1 Research goal, questions and contributions

- RQ1: How have public software licenses changed throughout the years?

- RQ2: Why have public software licenses changed throughout the years?

- RQ3: What is the speed of change in software licenses throughout the years?

- RQ4: What are the limitations for a rapidly changing software license?

- RQ5: How can we make it easier for developers to understand various public software licenses?

1.2 Background and terminology of public software licenses

literature review here

1.3 Thesis structure

Write how this thesis is going to contribute to the aforementioned problems.

Introduction 3 pages

Methods 10 pages

Results 10 pages

Discussion 6 pages

Conclusions 1 page

2 Methods

1. Develop Review Protocol

2. Validate Review Protocol

3. Identify Relevant Research

4. Select Primary Studies

5. Assess Study Quality

3 Results

7. Extract Required Data

8. Synthesize data

4 Discussion

5 Conclusions

Bibliography

Ferguson, D. (2006). *Syntar Errors: Why Version 3 of the GNU General Public License Needs Debugging.* URL: https://heinonline.org/HOL/Page?handle=hein.journals/ncjl7&id=403.

Appendix A Table of software licenses

List of FOSS licenses goes here.