

# Homework 3 - Principles of Software Engineering (SWE311)

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## Abstract

As a team lead, I understand that my primary responsibility is to work in the best interest of the company. However, I also acknowledge that I have social and ethical responsibilities that may have consequences for the software development community and society at large.

## 1 Advantages and Disadvantages of Using GPL Component

In this scenario, using an open-source component distributed under GNU General Public License (GPL) has both advantages and disadvantages.

### 1.1 Advantages

- It is cost-effective as it is free to use.
- It allows for the creation of high-quality software quickly and efficiently.
- It promotes collaboration among developers, which can lead to the creation of better software.
- It encourages innovation and creativity.

### 1.2 Disadvantages

- Any software developed using a GPL component must be released as open source. This can make it difficult for companies to maintain a competitive edge.
- The company may lose control over the software development process, as others can modify and distribute the code.

## 2 Course of Action

In this situation, I would explain to the higher administration of the company the implications of using a GPL component and the licensing agreement that comes with it. I would discuss the advantages and disadvantages of using an open-source component and the potential consequences of not releasing the code as open source.

If the company still decides not to release the code as open source, I would respect their decision. However, I would also ensure that the code is not in violation of the GPL license. I would work with the development team to create a plan to remove the GPL component and replace it with a proprietary component. I would also make sure that the development team understands the importance of complying with licensing agreements and the potential consequences of violating them.

## 3 Conclusion

In conclusion, as a team lead, I have a responsibility to work in the best interest of the company, but I also have social and ethical responsibilities. In this scenario, I would prioritize the company's interest while ensuring that the team complies with the GPL license. I would also work to create a plan to replace the open-source component with a proprietary component to maintain the company's competitive edge.