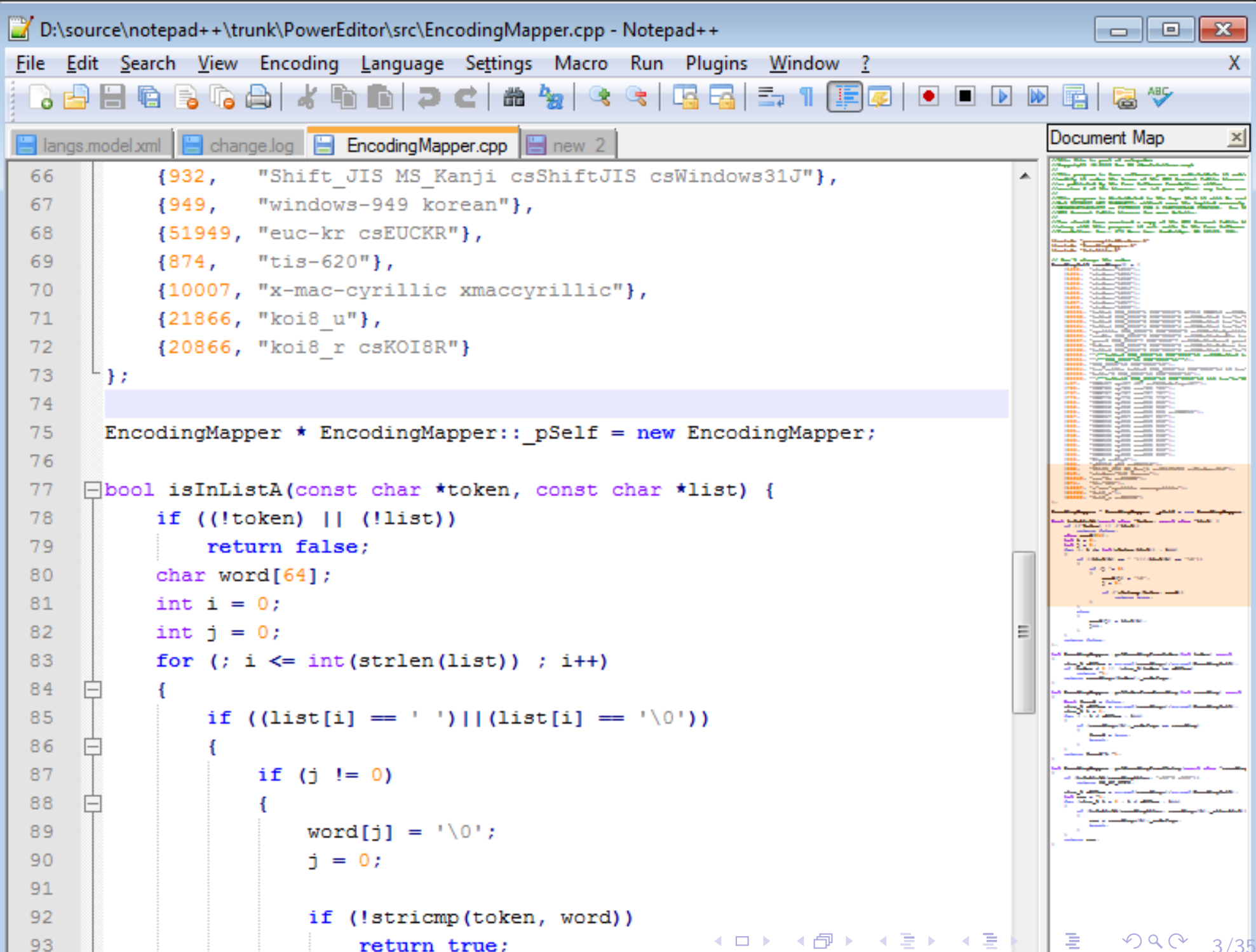
Licensing in a software project

Rémi Boulle

Starter


D:\source\notepad++\trunk\PowerEditor\src\EncodingMapper.cpp - Notepad++
File Edit Search View Encoding Language Settings Macro Run Plugins Window ?
langs.model.xml
change.log
EncodingMapper.cpp
new 2
Document Map
{932, "Shift_JIS MS_Kanji csShiftJIS csWindows31J"},
{949, "windows-949 korean"},
{51949, "euc-kr csEUCKR"},
{874, "tis-620"},
{10007, "x-mac-cyrillic xmaccyrillic"},
{21866, "koi8_u"},
{20866, "koi8_r csKOI8R"}
};
EncodingMapper * EncodingMapper::_pSelf = new EncodingMapper;
bool isInListA(const char *token, const char *list) {
if ((!token) || (!list))
return false;
char word[64];
int i = 0;
int j = 0;
for (; i <= int(strlen(list)) ; i++)
{
if ((list[i] == ' ')||(list[i] == '\0'))
{
if (j != 0)
{
word[j] = '\0';
j = 0;
if (!stricmp(token, word))
return true;

COPYING -- Describes the terms under which Notepad++ is distributed.
A copy of the GNU GPL is appended to this file.

IMPORTANT NOTEPAD++ LICENSE TERMS

Copyright (C)2016 Don HO <don.h@free.fr>. This program is free software; you may redistribute and/or modify it under the terms of the GNU General Public License as published by the Free Software Foundation; Version 2 with the clarifications and exceptions described below. This guarantees your right to use, modify, and redistribute this software under certain conditions.

Note that we consider an application to constitute a "derivative work" for the purpose of this license if it integrates/includes/aggregates Notepad++ into a proprietary executable installer, such as those produced by InstallShield. Our interpretation applies only to Notepad++ - we don't speak for other people's GPL works.

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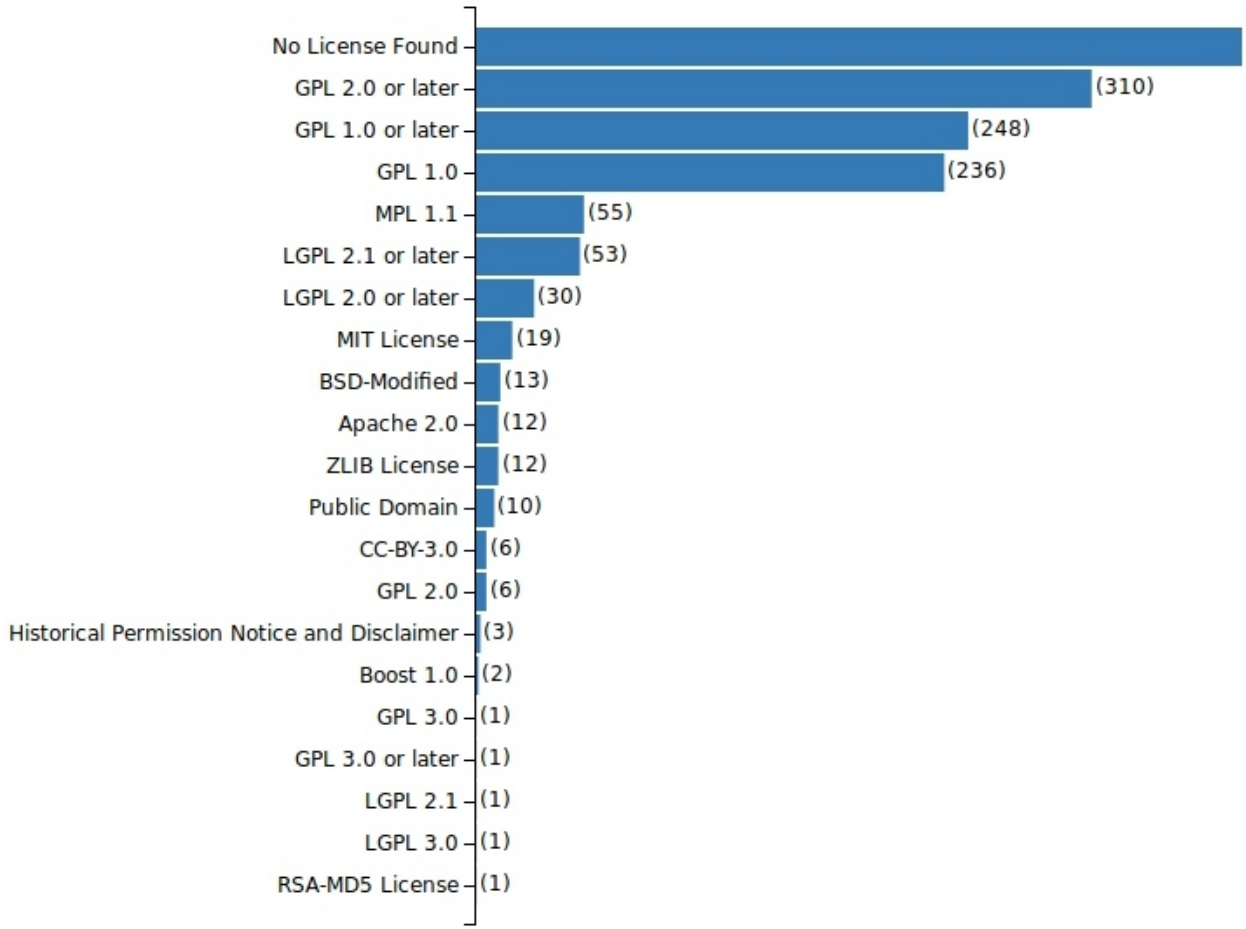
This program is distributed in the hope that it will be useful, but WITHOUT ANY WARRANTY; without even the implied warranty of MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. See the GNU General Public License for more details.

scan results for: ../notepad-plus-plus-master/

- notepad-plus-plus-master
  - PowerEditor
    - bin
    - gcc
    - installer
    - misc
    - resources
    - scintilla.original.forUpdating
    - src
    - Test
    - visual.net
  - scintilla
  - appveyor.yml
  - CONTRIBUTING.md
  - ISSUE_TEMPLATE.md
  - LICENSE
  - README.md

License Summary | Copyright Summary | Clues | File Details | Packages

Total Files Scanned: 1142

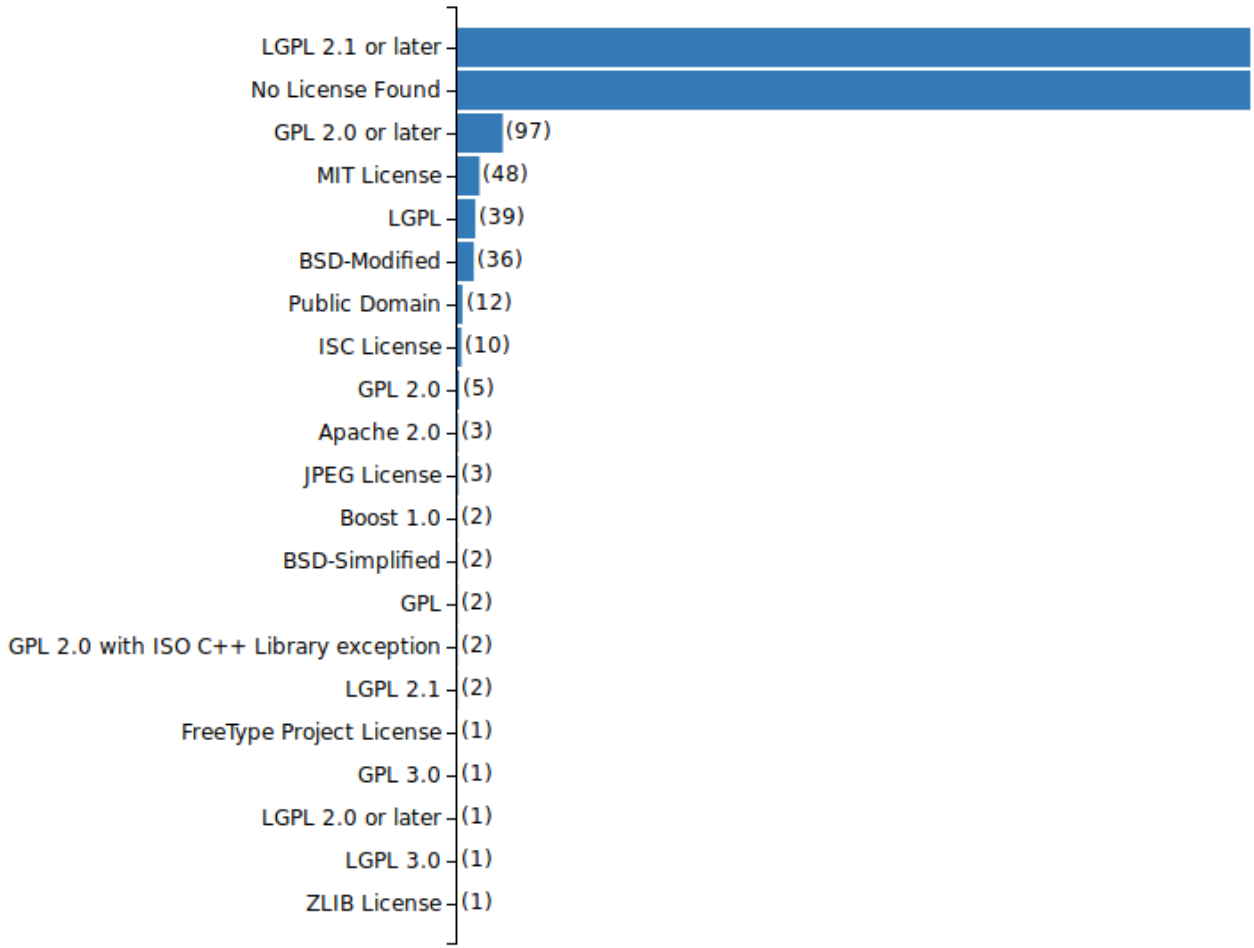


ScanCode scan results for: ffmpeg/ Made by nexB

- ffmpeg
  - compat
  - doc
  - libavcodec
  - libavdevice
  - libavfilter
    - tests
    - x86
      - af_volume.asm
      - af_volume_init.c
      - avf_showcqt.asm
      - avf_showcqt_init.c
      - colorspacedsp.asm
      - colorspacedsp_init.c
      - Makefile
      - vf_blend.asm
      - vf_blend_init.c
      - vf_bwdif.asm
      - vf_bwdif_init.c
      - vf_eq.c
      - vf_fspp.asm
      - vf_fspp_init.c
      - vf_gradfun.asm
      - vf_gradfun_init.c
      - vf_hqdn3d.asm
      - vf_hqdn3d_init.c
      - vf_idet.asm
      - vf_idet_init.c
      - vf_interlace.asm
      - vf_interlace_init.c
      - vf_maskedmerge.asm

License Summary | Copyright Summary | License & Copyright Details | File Details | Packages

Total Files Scanned: 6471



FFmpeg License and Legal Considerations

Legal issues are a constant source of questions and confusion. This is an attempt to clarify the most important issues. The usual disclaimers apply, this is not legal advice.

FFmpeg License

FFmpeg is licensed under the GNU Lesser General Public License (LGPL) version 2.1 or later. However, FFmpeg incorporates several optional parts and optimizations that are covered by the GNU General Public License (GPL) version 2 or later. If those parts get used the GPL applies to all of FFmpeg.

Read the license texts to learn how this affects programs built on top of FFmpeg or reusing FFmpeg. You may also wish to have a look at the GPL FAQ.

Note that FFmpeg is not available under any other licensing terms, especially not proprietary/commercial ones, not even in exchange for payment.

License Compliance Checklist

The following is a checklist for LGPL compliance when linking against the FFmpeg libraries. It is not the only way to comply with the license, but we think it is the easiest. There are also a few items that are not really related to LGPL compliance but are good ideas anyway.

1. Compile FFmpeg **without** "--enable-gpl" and **without** "--enable-nonfree".
2. Use dynamic linking (on windows, this means linking to dlls) for linking with FFmpeg libraries.
3. Distribute the source code of FFmpeg, no matter if you modified it or not.
4. Make sure the source code corresponds exactly to the library binaries you are distributing.
5. Run the command "git diff > changes.diff" in the root directory of the FFmpeg source code to create a file with only the changes.
6. Explain how you compiled FFmpeg, for example the configure line, in a text file added to the root directory of the source code.
7. Use tarball or a zip file for distributing the source code.
8. Host the FFmpeg source code on the same webserver as the binary you are distributing.
9. Add "This software uses code of <a href=http://ffmpeg.org>FFmpeg</a> licensed under the <a href=http://www.gnu.org/licenses/old-licenses/lgpl-2.1.html>LGPLv2.1</a> and its source can be downloaded <a href=link_to_your_sources>here</a>" to every page in your website where there is a download link to your application.
10. Mention "This software uses libraries from the FFmpeg project under the LGPLv2.1" in your program "about box".
11. Mention in your EULA that your program uses FFmpeg under the LGPLv2.1.
12. If your EULA claims ownership over the code, you have to **explicitly** mention that you do not own FFmpeg, and where the relevant owners can be found.
13. Remove any prohibition of reverse engineering from your EULA.
14. Apply the same changes to all translations of your EULA.
15. Do not misspell FFmpeg (two capitals F and lowercase "mpeg").
16. Do not rename FFmpeg dlls to some obfuscated name, but adding a suffix or prefix is fine (renaming "avcodec.dll" to "MyProgDec.dll" is not fine, but to "avcodec-MyProg.dll" is).
17. Go through all the items again for any LGPL external library you compiled into FFmpeg (for example LAME).
18. Make sure your program is not using any GPL libraries (notably libx264).

Trademark

Why do we have to care ?

Why do we have to care ?

- Very rare to write a software *from scratch...*
- A typical software project often reuses hundreds of third-party components...
- Code quality is often much much better...
- You are a potential IT professional, so well, you MUST know a bit of this !

Your mission

Main mission

Acquire and strengthen your expertise on free software licences

- History and context
- Different families of licenses
- Diffusivity and compliance rules
- Auditing your project
- Free software economics

Context

Where does it come from ?

- GNU project in 1984 by Richard Stallman (RMS)
- GPLv1 : 25th of february 1989
- 1991 : Linux based on Minix (*just a hobby, won't be big and professional like gnu* by Linus Torvalds (LT)
- 1995 : Red Hat (NASDAQ in 1999), Apache license
- 1998 : release of Netscape source-code (fight back IE. Free the lizard, mozilla)
- 1998 : "Free software" versus "Open Source Software" (OSI). Rebranding the free software movement to emphasize the business potential ?

THE LINUX FOUNDATION
Linus Torvalds
KERNEL SUMMIT

GNU / Linux
GNU GENERAL PUBLIC LICENSE Version 3,
29 June 2007 - Copyright © 2007 Free
Software Foundation, Inc. <http://
fsf.org/>
Everyone is permitted to copy and
distribute verbatim copies of this
license document, but changing it is not
allowed.
Preamble. The GNU General Public License
is a free, copyleft license for software
and other kinds of works. The licenses
for most software and other practical
works are designed to take away your
freedom to share and change the works.
By contrast, the GNU General Public
License is intended to guarantee your
freedom to share and change all versions
of a program--to make sure it remains
free software for all its users. We, the
Free Software Foundation, use the GNU
General Public License for most of our
software; it applies also to any other
work released this way by its authors.
You can apply it to your programs, too.
When we speak of free software, we are
referring to freedom, not price. Our
General Public Licenses are designed to
make sure that you have the freedom to
distribute copies of free software (and
charge for them if you wish), that you
receive source code or can get it if you
want it, that you can change the
software or use pieces of it in new free
programs, and that you know you can do
these things. To protect your rights, we
need to prevent others from denying you
these rights or asking you to surrender
the rights. Therefore, you have certain
responsibilities if you distribute
copies of the software, or if you modify
it: responsibilities to respect the
freedom of others. For example, if you
distribute copies of such a program,
whether gratis or for a fee, you must
pass on to the recipients the same
freedoms that you received. You must
make sure that they, too, receive or can
get the source code. And you must show
them these terms so they know their
rights.
boot_cpu_init();
setup_arch(command_line);
setup_command_line(command_line);
setup_nr_cpu_ids();
setup_per_cpu_areas();
boot_cpu_state_init();
smp_prepare_boot_cpu();
build_all_zonelists(NULL, NULL);
page_alloc_init();
pr_notice("Kernel command line: %s\n",
parse_early_param();
after_dashes = parse_args("Booting
static_command_line, __start___
__stop___param - __start___param,
-1, -1, NULL, &unknown_bootoption);
if (!IS_ERR_OR_NULL(after_dashes))
parse_args("Setting init args",
NULL, set_init_arg);
jump_label_init();
setup_log_buf(0);
pidhash_init();
vfs_caches_init_early();
sort_main_extable();
trap_init();
mm_init();
sched_init();
preempt_disable();
if (WARN(!irqs_disabled(),
"Interrupts were enabled *very*
local_irq_disable();
idr_init_cache();
rcu_init();
trace_init();
early_irq_init();
init_IRQ();
tick_init();
rcu_init_nohz();
init_timers();
hrtimers_init();
softirq_init();
timekeeping_init();
time_init();
sched_clock_postinit();
printk_nmi_init();
perf_event_init();
profile_init();
call_function_init();
WARN(!irqs_disabled(), "Interrupts were
early_boot_irqs_disabled = false;
kmem_cache_init_late();
kernel_init_freeable();
async_synchronize_full();
free_initmem();
mark_readonly();
system_state = SYSTEM_RUNNING;

Communities and organizations

- Free Software Fondation : `https://www.fsf.org/`
- Open Source Initiative : `https://opensource.org/`
- Linux Fondation : `https://www.linuxfoundation.org/`
- Debian, python, Ubuntu, KDE... communities

Free Software

Social movement, user's essential freedom, free as in freedom.
"political and ethical choice asserting the right to learn, and share what we learn with others"

"All freedoms depend on freedom of information and are not more important than other fundamental freedoms, but as life's practices change over to the computer, it will be needed to maintain other freedoms". (RMS)

Why Free and/or Open Source Software ?

Free Software

Social movement, user's essential freedom, free as in freedom. *"political and ethical choice asserting the right to learn, and share what we learn with others"*

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Open Source

Concerned solely with licensing of source code: *"I think ideology sucks"* (Linus Torvalds), pragmatism.

We are always the ideologist of someone... Outdated debate ?

Vocabulary

Vocabulary

- **Proprietary software** but all software have authors.
- **Copyright** : legal term describing rights given to creators for their works. Under the Berne Convention, everything written is automatically copyrighted from the time it is put in *fixed form*
- **Copyleft** :
  - *we give rights*, uses functional parts of copyright law to achieve a legal protection for free sharing (*clever hack*);
  - all modified and extended versions of the program must be free as well, under the same terms;
  - you cannot add restrictions to deny other people freedoms.

Copyright

With the creation authors obtain intellectual property rights.

- Economic rights :
  - permit or prohibit the fixation and reproduction of their work;
  - translation, arrangement, adaptation and alteration of the work;
  - distribution of the original or copies;
  - related rights.
- Moral right :
  - right to protect their personal connection with the work.

EU directive

- the expression of a computer program is protected by copyright.
- ideas and principles which underlie any element of a program, including those which underlie its interfaces, are not protected by copyright.

Copyleft

What is copyleft ?

Copyleft is a general method for making a program (or other work) free (in the sense of freedom, not “zero price”), and requiring all modified and extended versions of the program to be free as well.

How to copyleft ?

We first state that it is copyrighted; then we add distribution terms, which are a legal instrument that gives everyone the rights to use, modify, and redistribute the program’s code, or any program derived from it, but only if the distribution terms are unchanged.
Thus, the code and the freedoms become legally inseparable.

Proprietary

Proprietary software

General principle : limitations against use, distribution and modification. Use by end-users only under predefined conditions.

Definition : proprietary software

Software who limits at least one of the 4 freedoms of free software.

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Software who limits at least one of the 4 freedoms of free software.

Michel Rocard, 2002, patent battle : 648 no, 14 yes, 18 abs

Creation, freedom, innovation were on the side of free software. The pursuit of profit, and above all the rent, the desire to restrict competition, and to restrain the external innovations, were on the side of big industry.

Free Software

General principle

Free as in free speech, not as in free beer. Source code is free.

Their main difference is in the modalities of redistribution. In all cases source code must stay free. Two large families :

1. users should receive a copy of the code under the same terms (GPL, LGPL, MPL...)
2. users are not guaranteed to receive a copy (BSDx, MIT...)

Definition : free software

A program is free software if the **users of the program** have the four essential freedoms.

freedom 0 : freedom to run the program

- Absolute freedom to run for anyone without **any** restriction
- A work produced with a free software doesn't have to be free
- Some products made by a free software could be seen as a derivative work (compiler mostly).
- What about SaaS ?

Principle

It is the user's interest that matters (all users not only developers).

Quick question : Is JSON license free ?
`http://www.json.org/license.html`

freedom 1 : freedom to study

- Study without any obstacles (technicals, rights...)
- Includes the freedom to use your modified version in place of the original one.
- Source code should be made available for free or at a low cost.
- Source code available for at least 3 years (GPLv3).

Principe

Again, it is the user's interest that matters, not only the developers.

freedom 2 : freedom to modify

- absolute freedom. Only restrictions when distribution.
- Preserve copyritht ownership (Berne convention)
- Identify contributions

Principle

Always, it is the user's interest that matters

freedom 3 : freedom to redistribute

Anyone, anywhere (export control, trade sanctions...)

- Conditions of redistribution : main difference between all free software licenses :
  - **Copyleft (strong or weak)**
  - **Copyfree**
- Always identify contributors (Berne convention)
- Preserve original authors' reputation

Principle

User's interest again and mostly necessary condition for the three others freedoms.

When does license apply ?

Redistribution triggers !

Exception : APGL

Questions ?

Bibliography and credits

References

Bibliography (in french) :

- "Droit des logiciels, logiciels proprietaires, logiciels libres", F.Pellegrini et S.Canevet, PUF 2013.
- "Option libre. Du bon usage des licenses libres", B.Jean, Framabook 2012.
- "Histoire et cultures du Libre. Des logiciels partagés aux licenses partagés", Collectif, Framabook 2013.

Websites :

- `http://gplv3.fsf.org/`
- `https://copyleft.org/guide/`
- `http://april.org/en`

Credits 1/2

- Photo of Richard Stallman by Lionel Allorge, license GFDL1.3+, CC-BY-SA+, LAL+, http://photos.april.org/picture.php?/4413/category/159
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