

Protecting Your Startup: Commit

1. Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA)

A legal contract that prevents anyone from sharing or using your idea/code outside the agreed scope. Use this when working with freelancers, interns, or anyone who sees your idea/code. Templates can be found on LegalZoom or LawDepot.

2. Non-Compete Clause

This clause ensures the person you work with won't build or support a competing product or use your codebase for competition.

3. Use Private Repositories

Host your code on platforms like GitHub or GitLab with private repositories. Only grant access to trusted contributors and revoke access after work ends.

4. IP Assignment Agreement

Ensure the contributor signs a legal agreement assigning all code and IP ownership to you or your startup. This is separate from an NDA.

5. Limit Access

Only give access to the specific part of the codebase each person needs. Avoid giving full access unless absolutely necessary.

6. Register Your Brand

Register your startup name 'Commit' as a trademark via the Indian Trademark Portal (<https://ipindia.gov.in>) to protect branding and identity.

7. Track All Work

Use tools like GitHub Projects, Jira, or Trello. All contributions should go through Pull Requests to maintain a record of changes.

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8. Legal Entity

Consider registering a private limited company or LLP in India to legally bind contracts, protect personal assets, and attract investors.

9. Background Checks

Work with contributors who have a proven track record. Check GitHub, LinkedIn, or referrals before giving access to your project.

Summary Table

Concern	Protection
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Idea Theft	NDA, Limited Disclosure
Code Theft	IP Agreement, Private Repos
Future Clones	Non-Compete Clause
Brand Name	Trademark
Ownership Disputes	IP Assignment in writing