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CART 351 - Networks and Navigation
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Creativecommons.org

Creative Commons is a company where creators can get easy to use licences for their work for free. You can share your work on the Creative Commons platform as well. Some platforms Creative Commons work with are: YouTube, Vimeo, Wikipedia and much more. If you are new to Creative Commons they suggest to read the licensing considerations. Creators can use the Creative Commons tools to help share their work. The main goal Creative Commons licenses is to help “give individual creators to large companies and institutions a simple, standardized way to grant copyright permission to their creative work”. Once you get a license you are then called “a licensor”. The creators “retain copyright while allowing others to copy, distribute and make some use of the [creators] work”.

When picking a licence, a client has to go through “the chooser”. It helps you pick the right licence for you in a few quick and easy steps. The client has to answer two questions when picking a licence, first question is, “do I want to allow commercial use or not?” and the other question is “do I want to allow derivative works or not? If a creator wants to follow derivative work, then they can choose to require that anyone who uses the work to make new work, that work is then available under the same licence terms. This is called “ShareAlike”. “ShareAlike” helps the digital commons grow over time. It is inspired by General Public License (is a free and open source software project), which is used by many. Licenses do not affect freedoms that the law grants to create work, like exceptions and limitations. People have to keep the copyright notice intact on all copies of work they do and must have a link to the licence.

Having a license means that the creators will have credit for the work that they made. The licenses work all around the world and last as long as you signed up for. The licenses are just the guidelines, licensors can give additional permission when deciding how they want their work to be used. There are three layers of licenses (three-layer design). The first one is legal code. This code is hard to read and it is said that lawyers will only understand this one. It is hard for normal people to read. The second one is called human readable aka the commons. This one is made for normal people to understand. It is user friendly compared to the legal code. It is mainly a reference, it explains the terms and conditions. The third one is called machine readable. It recognizes the software (music editing, search engines etc). This one makes it easy for the web to read it. It helps the web know when a work is available and has a licence. Having all three together ensures that everyone's right is not just a legal concept. It is something that everyone can understand, not just lawyers.