







License Name Short Description

No license	Code is not open source. Others cannot legally use, modify, or share it.
Apache License 2.0	Permissive license with patent protection. Allows commercial use with attribution.
GNU General Public License v3.0 (GPL-3.0)	Strong copyleft. All modified versions must remain open source.
MIT License	Very permissive and simple. Allows use, modification, and distribution with credit.
BSD 2-Clause "Simplified"	Permissive license like MIT with a non-endorsement clause.
BSD 3-Clause "New" or "Revised"	Similar to BSD 2-Clause, but prevents using author's name for promotion.
Boost Software License 1.0	Very permissive, designed for libraries. Minimal restrictions.
Creative Commons Zero v1.0 (CC0)	Places the work in the public domain. No rights reserved.
Eclipse Public License 2.0 (EPL-2.0)	Weak copyleft. Modifications must be shared, but larger projects can stay closed.
GNU Affero General Public License v3.0 (AGPL-3.0)	Requires sharing source even for software used over a network.
GNU General Public License v2.0 (GPL-2.0)	Strong copyleft. Derivative works must remain open source.
GNU Lesser General Public License v2.1 (LGPL-2.1)	Weak copyleft. Closed-source apps can link to it.
Mozilla Public License 2.0 (MPL-2.0)	File-level copyleft. Only modified files must be open.

License	Open Source	Commercial Use	Modification	Distribution	Copyleft Strength	Patent Protection	Attribution Required	Special Notes
No License	No	No	No	No	None	No	No	Code is private by default; others legally cannot use it
Apache License 2.0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None (Permissive)	Yes	Yes	Explicit patent grant and protection
MIT License	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None (Permissive)	No (implicit)	Yes	Very short and simple license
BSD 2-Clause	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None (Permissive)	No	Yes	Similar to MIT, no endorsement clause
BSD 3-Clause	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None (Permissive)	No	Yes	Prevents using author name for promotion
Boost Software License 1.0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None (Permissive)	No	Minimal	Designed for libraries, very low friction
CC0 1.0	Public	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	No	No	Waives all rights; may

License	Open Source	Commercial Use	Modification	Distribution	Copyleft Strength	Patent Protection	Attribution Required	Special Notes
	Domain							not work in all countries
The Unlicense	⚠️ Public Domain	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	None	✗ No	✗ No	Similar to CC0, simpler wording
GPL-2.0	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	Strong	✗ No	✓ Yes	All derivatives must be GPL
GPL-3.0	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	Strong	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	Adds patent & anti-tivoization protection
AGPL-3.0	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	Very Strong	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	Network use requires source disclosure
LGPL-2.1	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	Weak	✗ No	✓ Yes	Allows linking from closed-source apps
MPL-2.0	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	File-level	✗ No	✓ Yes	Only modified

License	Open Source	Commerci al Use	Modificati on	Distributi on	Copyleft Strength	Patent Protectio n	Attributi on Required	Special Notes
								files must be open
EPL-2.0	 Yes	 Yes	 Yes	 Yes	Weak	 Yes	 Yes	Business- friendly copyleft

ALTERNATIVE FOR GITHUB

GitLab – Very popular; built-in CI/CD, issue tracking, DevOps tools (great all-in-one).

Bitbucket – Strong integration with Jira & Atlassian tools; common in enterprises.

SourceForge – Older platform, still used for open-source projects.

Gitea – Lightweight, open-source, self-hosted Git service.

Gogs – Simple and fast self-hosted Git server.