

Attendees

Sean
David
Nick
Francois

Apologies

Gareth
Jannie
Sikhulile

Minutes

IP discussion document

- David has some comments on the document, which he will circulate
- In general, the feeling is that this document should be clear on which IP risks we need to mitigate, and which risks we are willing to accept
- Once this is in place, the CLA document will discuss and recommend a CLA which meets our requirements
- It was agreed that the IP document should deal with all of the IP issues, and that the CLA document can be shortened to deal only with the CLA discussion and recommendation
- There was also support for the suggested risk-adjusted approach for corporate CLAs

Antitrust document

- David has some comments on the document, which he will circulate
- In particular, it is important to note that the tools openASSA develops will be using standard or prescribed methodologies – so if we limit the scope of the project to these, then we should not run into any antitrust issues
- This might also limit the risk of running into IP issues
- Furthermore, we should note that a company's use of openASSA libraries is no different to their use of proprietary software with the same functionality (from an antitrust perspective)
- It was noted that ASSA is quite interested in the antitrust document, as this could be useful for a number of their working groups and sub-committees
- At the moment, ASSA relies on the professional conduct of members in this regard
- There was a suggestion that we could add antitrust recommendations to a openASSA code of conduct

Contributor license agreements

- In general, the working group is satisfied that the discussion document adequately covers our thoughts on the issue
- Parts of the discussion document will be migrated to the IP discussion document
- The remainder of the document will focus solely on CLAs and the working group's recommended CLA
- It was suggested that this document should include some examples of the various CLAs
- Once we have had feedback from ASSA's lawyers, we should send the proposed CLA to them for review
- The working group understands that the CLA process should be automated for contributors (and that the signed CLAs are automatically stored)

Licenses

- The working group is comfortable to use the BSD license (with patent clause)

- However, we should ask the lawyers about whether the patent risk is as material as it appears to be
- In general, we should ensure that there is consistency between the license we choose and the CLA we implement

General

- It was agreed that our cover email to ASSA's lawyers should include any outstanding queries which are not covered in the discussion documents.
- Of particular importance is what happens in the event of an IP claim – e.g. what happens if Company X claims the IP contributed by one of its employees? What are the consequences for other companies who are using the openASSA libraries?
- It was suggested that we have a session with the lawyers after receiving their feedback on the discussion documents
- Ideally, we would like to have an opinion from a software expert, if possible

Action items

- Nick to bulk up the IP document and remove the IP topics from the CLA document
- Nick to incorporate comments on the IP document and the antitrust document
- David to include examples of CLAs in the CLA document
- Nick to compile discussion documents and draft cover letter for ASSA's lawyers – this will be distributed to the working group for comment