License your code & pay it forward

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This work is marked with CC0 1.0

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My journey into licensing does not make sense, except in the light of _____.

My journey into licensing does not make sense, except in the light of Open Science.

Question:
Who here works with code built by others?

Scenario:
You shared code on a repository

“Can I use your work?” Yes!

“Can I use your work?” Yes...

⋮

“Can I use your work?” ....

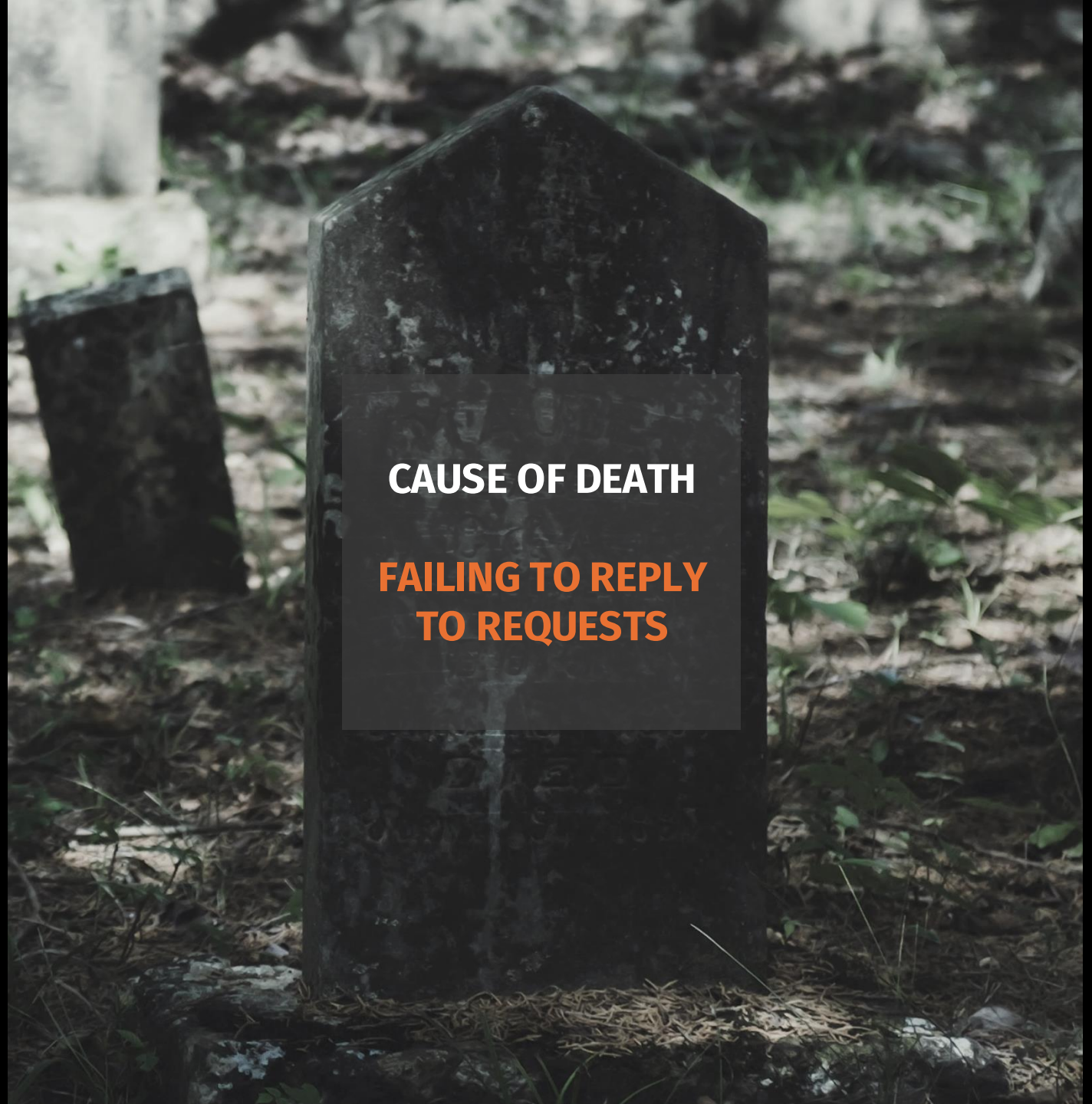

Photo by Kenny Eliason on Unsplash

No license = All rights reserved

When you create something, you hold a copyright.*

*If you are employed, your employer may own it.

Copyright | UU: https://www.uu.nl/en/organisation/copyright-information-office/copyright

You don’t want to write a **legal agreement** each time someone request to re-use your work

For example, an end-user license agreement

License can help you

Sharing code does not make sense except in the light of licensing.

Why should you license?

Licensing your work saves your time

No more answering, “Can I use your work for ...?” questions.

If you have a collaborator, no need to do a consensus-building activity every time.

At TU/e, “we strive for maximal disclosure of results and findings”

TU/e Strategy 2030

Licensing your work helps others, including you in the future

How to decide which license to use?

Use choosealicense.com

Code or non-code?

	Code	Non-code
Examples		
	MIT	CC BY 4.0

Licensing a code with non-code license is like sharing the meal without the recipe

Forego copyright?

Public Domain

SQLite

yt-dlp

Copyleft or permissive?

	Copyleft	Permissive
Examples		
	GPL	MIT
	“Once open, always open”	“I don’t care”

Use a copyleft license if you care about how others use your code

Are you building on other projects?
Check if it's marked with a copyleft license.

When should you license?

As early as possible

(that is, at the start of the project)

How to put a license?

Place licensing info in LIICENSE & README files

LIICENSE

Good for metadata

Contained

Easy to copy

README

Descriptive

Human-friendly

What to do when I have a mix of code and content?

Place LICENSE file for code

Note the complexity in the README file

E.g., “The code is licensed under MIT, and other non-code materials are licensed under CC BY 4.0”

License your code, because your future user could be you

Photo by ivan zakharenko on Unsplash

What are your questions?

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>_dlp

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