

License your code & pay it forward

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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?”

A close-up photograph of actor Robert Downey Jr. He has a weary, exasperated expression, looking slightly upwards and to the left. He has a goatee and is wearing a dark suit jacket over a blue shirt and a patterned tie. The background is dark and out of focus.

**ANSWERING THE SAME QUESTION FOR
THE 20TH TIME IN A ROW**

No license = All rights reserved

**When you create something,
you hold a copyright.***

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

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
expect 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



>_dlp

YT-DLP A feature-rich command-line audio/video downloader

yt-dlp

Copyleft or permissive?

Copyleft

Permissive

Examples



GPL

**“Once open,
always open”**



MIT

“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

(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?

Code or non-code?

	Code	Non-code
Examples	 MIT	 CC BY 4.0

Forego copyright?

 Public Domain	 
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Copyleft or permissive?

	Copyleft	Permissive
Examples	 GPL "Once open, always open"	 MIT "I don't care"

Place licensing info in LICENSE & README files

LICENSE

Good for metadata
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Easy to copy

README

Descriptive
Human-friendly