

# LLVM RELICENSING

NOVEMBER 2021 UPDATE

KRISTOF BEYLS, THE LLVM FOUNDATION

# TIMELINE

2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

# TIMELINE

Need for license change emerges



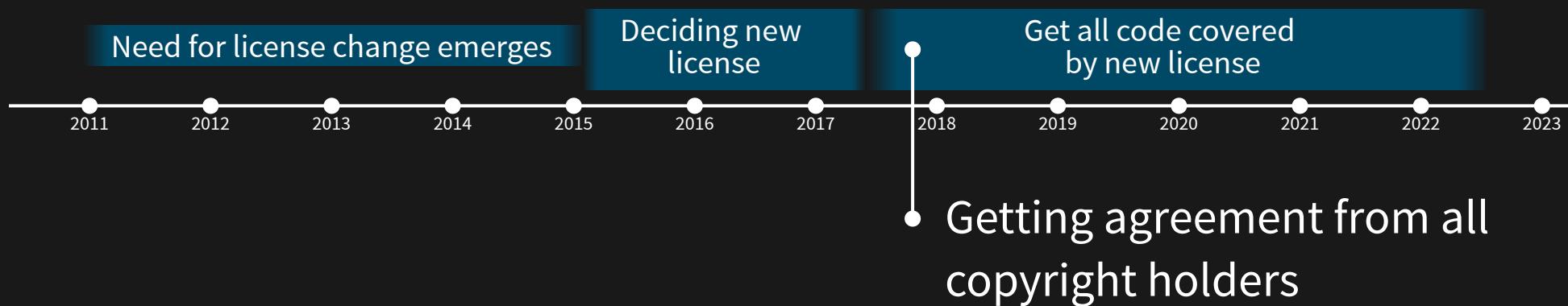
# TIMELINE



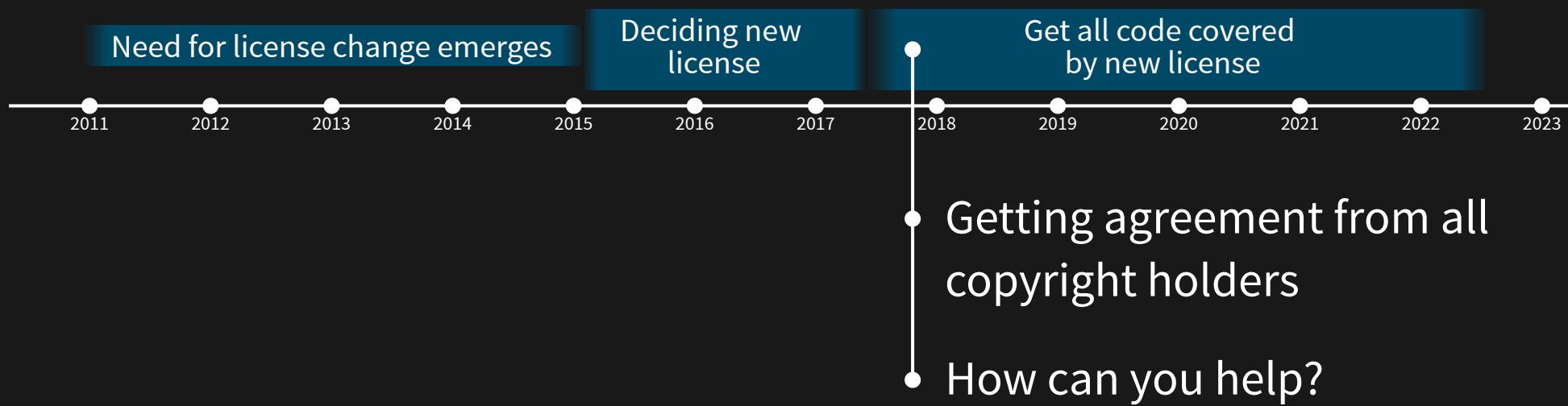
# TIMELINE



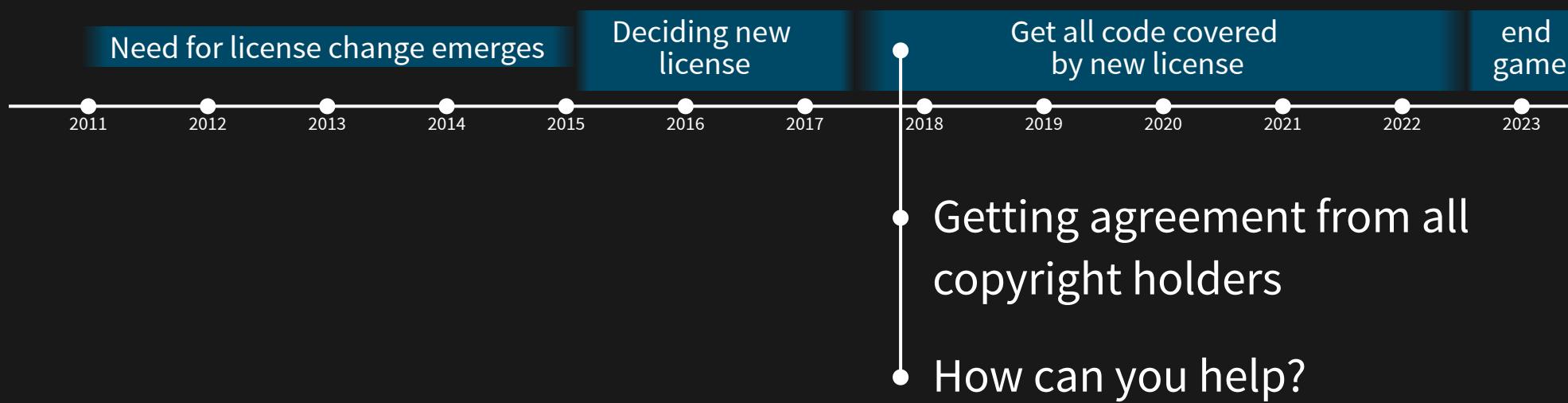
# TIMELINE



# TIMELINE



# TIMELINE



# WHY A NEW LICENSE?

Main concerns with the old licenses  
(UIUC+MIT+patents section in developer policy):

- ✖ Some are actively blocked from contributing.
- ✖ Cannot easily move code from LLVM to run-time libs.
- ✖ Patent coverage in Developer Policy may not provide intended protection.

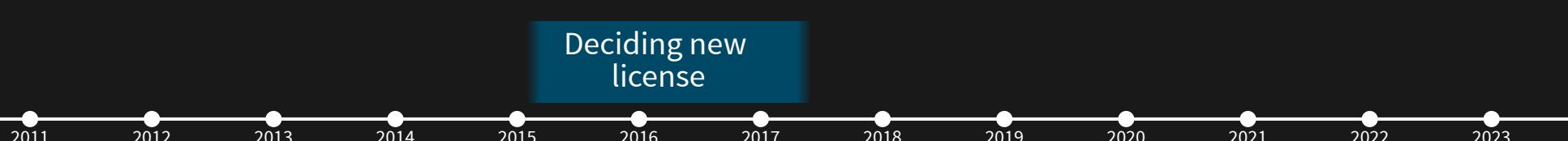
Need for license change emerges



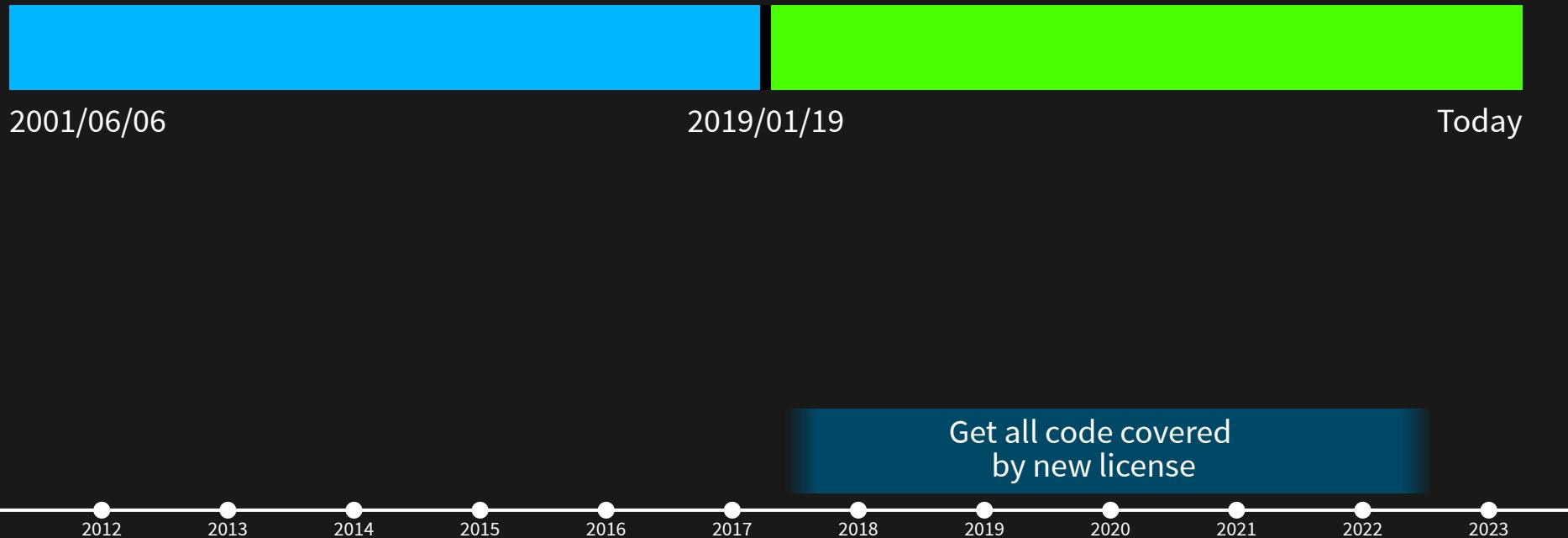
# NEW LICENSE: APACHE-2.0 WITH LLVM EXCEPTION

Addresses main concerns:

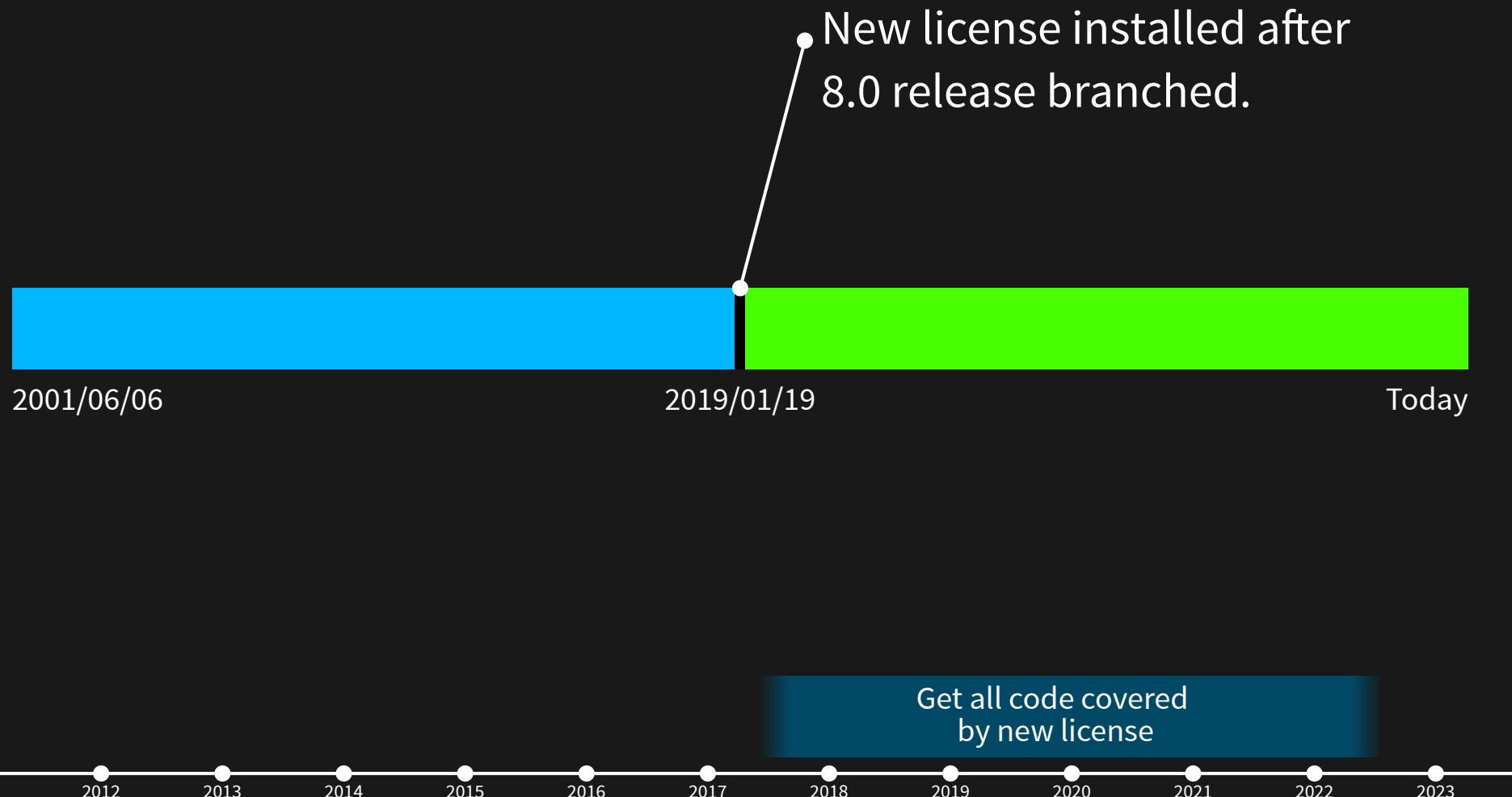
- ✓ Most no longer blocked from contributing.
- ✓ A single license: code can easily be moved.
- ✓ The patent coverage is well understood.



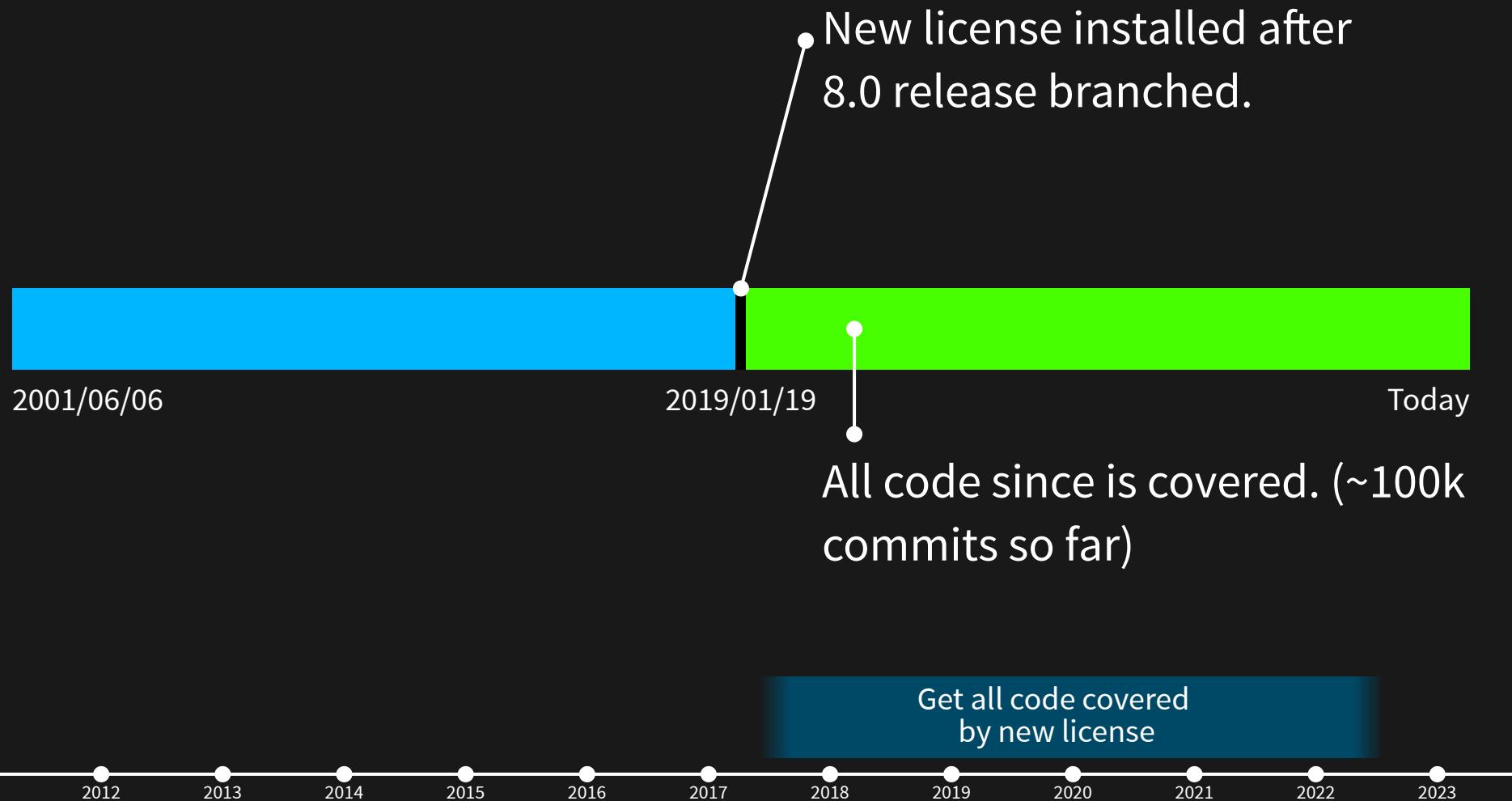
# GET ALL CODE COVERED BY NEW LICENSE



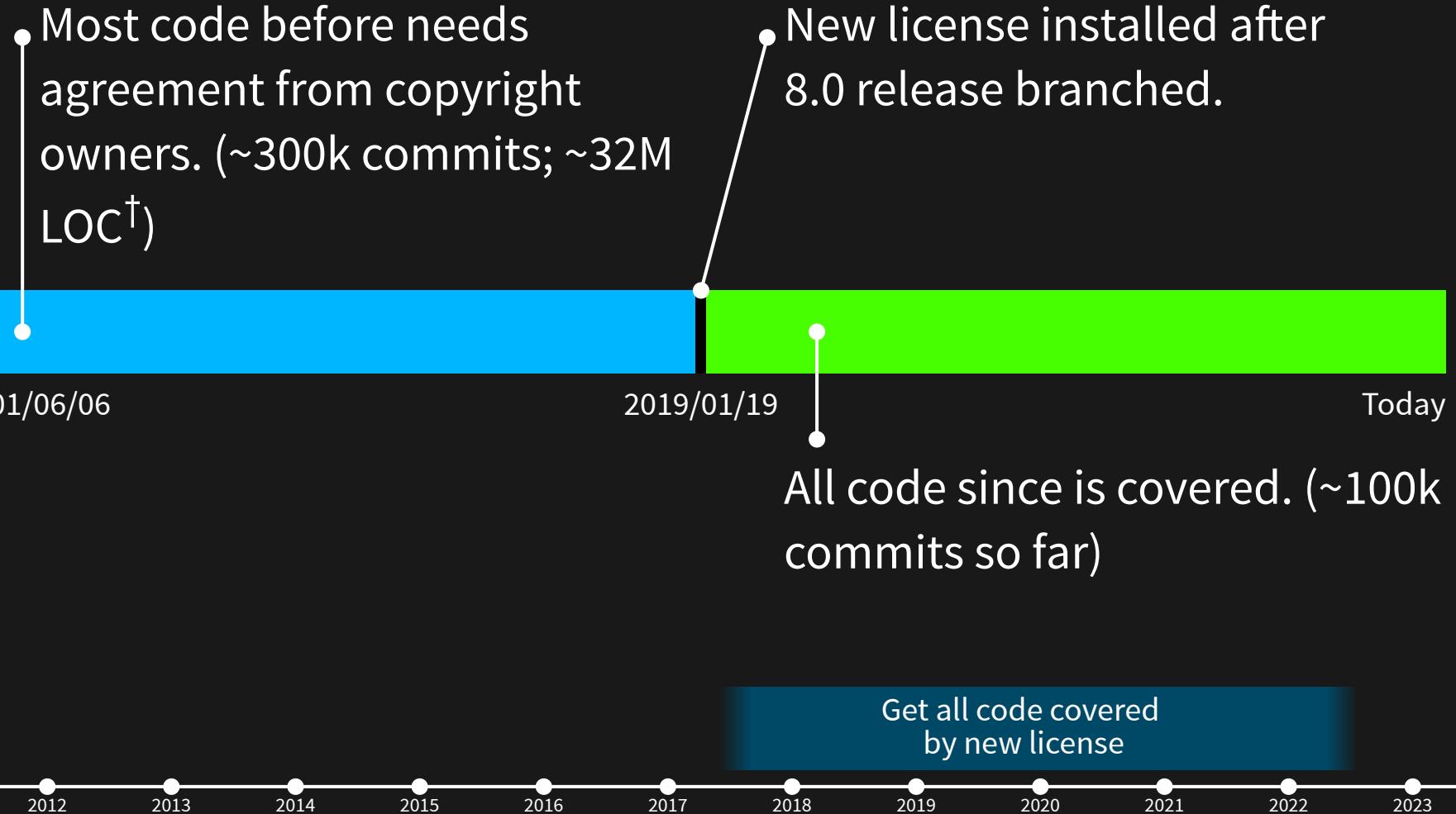
# GET ALL CODE COVERED BY NEW LICENSE



# GET ALL CODE COVERED BY NEW LICENSE



# GET ALL CODE COVERED BY NEW LICENSE



# AGREEMENT FROM COPYRIGHT OWNERS

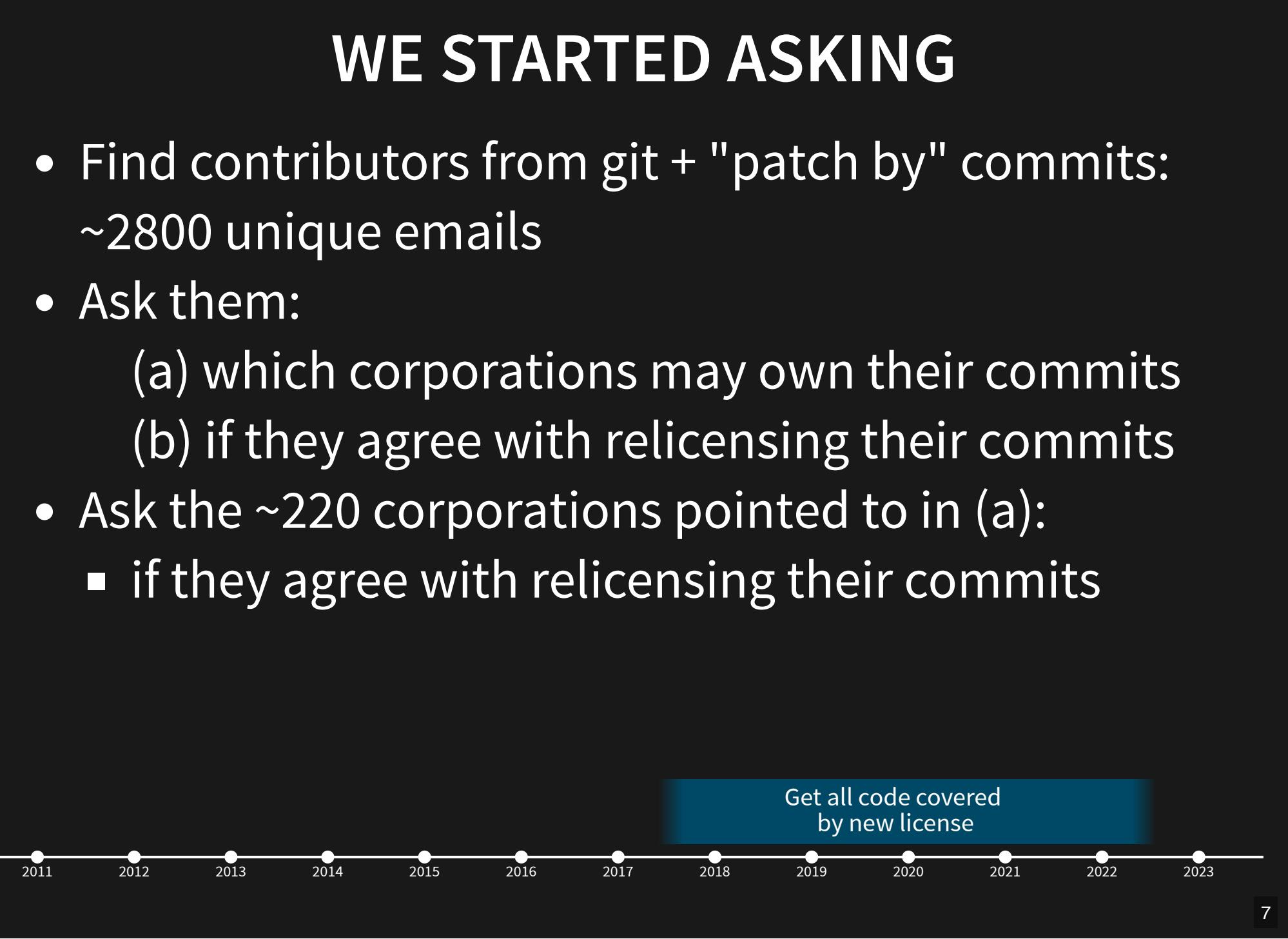
- Copyright is not transferred when patches are contributed.
- Only copyright owners can agree to offer past contributions under new license.
- Two main categories of copyright owners:
  - individuals
  - corporations

A horizontal timeline at the bottom of the slide shows years from 2011 to 2023, each marked with a small white dot. A dark blue rectangular box covers the years from 2018 to 2023. Inside this box, the text "Get all code covered by new license" is written in white.

Get all code covered  
by new license

# WE STARTED ASKING

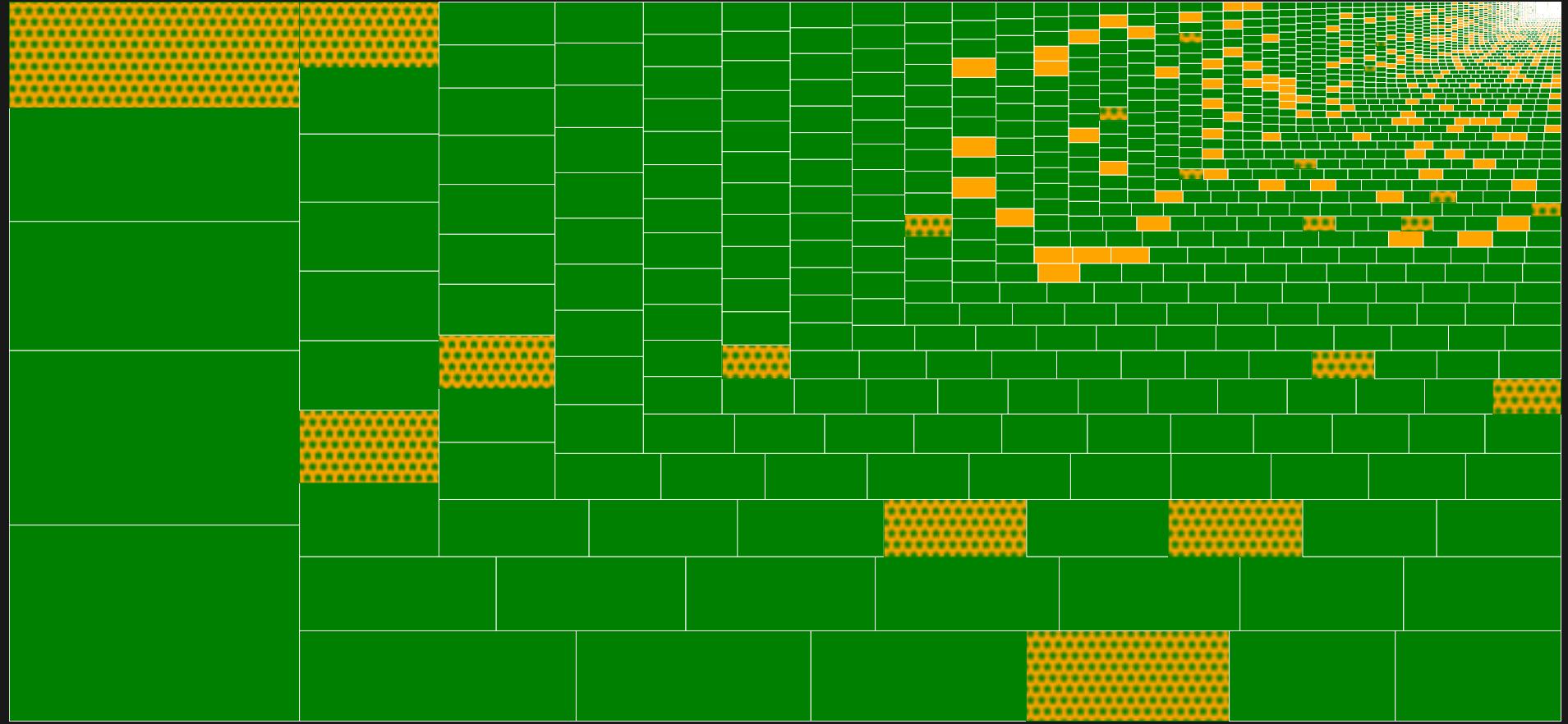
- Find contributors from git + "patch by" commits:  
~2800 unique emails
- Ask them:
  - (a) which corporations may own their commits
  - (b) if they agree with relicensing their commits
- Ask the ~220 corporations pointed to in (a):
  - if they agree with relicensing their commits



Get all code covered  
by new license

# STATUS

94% of ~32MLOC already relicensed



Get all code covered  
by new license

# HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Contact individuals and companies you know well,  
... that haven't reacted to our automated emails yet.

Please find an up-to-date list at

[https://foundation.llvm.org/docs/relicensing\\_long\\_tail/](https://foundation.llvm.org/docs/relicensing_long_tail/)

Any other useful information you could share, please  
tell us at [license-questions@llvm.org](mailto:license-questions@llvm.org)

Get all code covered  
by new license

A horizontal timeline from 2011 to 2023, marked by small white dots and years. A dark blue rectangular callout box covers the years 2018 through 2023. The text "Get all code covered by new license" is centered within this box.

```
graph LR; 2011((2011)) --- 2012((2012)) --- 2013((2013)) --- 2014((2014)) --- 2015((2015)) --- 2016((2016)) --- 2017((2017)) --- 2018((2018)) --- 2019((2019)) --- 2020((2020)) --- 2021((2021)) --- 2022((2022)) --- 2023((2023))
```

# RELICENSING END GAME

What do we do with contributions for which we cannot get an agreement to relicense? A few possibilities:

- Does copyright apply for that agreement?
- Is the code still in mainline?
- Remove contribution
  - Is the removed contribution still valuable enough to spend effort on reimplementing?



# SUMMARY

- Described rationale for relicensing and timeline.
- Currently collecting agreements. 94% already done.  
Long tail remains.
  - PLEASE HELP reach out! See  
[https://foundation.llvm.org/docs/relicensing\\_long\\_tail/](https://foundation.llvm.org/docs/relicensing_long_tail/)
- Any other info or questions? Tell us at [license-questions@llvm.org](mailto:license-questions@llvm.org)