

Re: Licensing and Trademark Use Consultation ☆

From: Bruce Momjian <bruce@momjian.us>
Time Thursday, Aug 13, 2020 5:01 AM
To: evelyn.zhu@websoft9.com <evelyn.zhu@websoft9.com>
Cc: pqsql-core <pqsql-core@postgresql.org>; Darren Chen (Websoft <delin.chen@websoft9.com>; Jianjun Zhou (Websof <jianjun.zhou@websoft9.com>

On Wed, Aug 12, 2020 at 11:20:11AM +0800, evelyn.zhu@websoft9.com wrote:

>
> Hi Bruce,
>
> Sorry for my carelessness. I'd send it again. I found that the email I sent was
> not displayed properly. Could you see the complete text including some links
> and pictures? If not, please tell me. We will try to deal it. The following is
> the original text we sent before. Thank you for your attention to our
> consultation.

Yes, I could read it easily.

> We have learned the trademark policy. Considering the importance of your
> intellectual property and our respect for it, we'd like to get your clear reply
> on the following questions, in case of any infringement of your rights.
>
> First, allow me to give introduction about our company, Websoft9. Websoft9 is
> an open source software company that focuses on automatic installation and
> deployment of cloud application software. We sort out high-quality open source
> software, package it with runtime into image without any change to source code,
> release source code for image on Github, and then distribute the image on Major
> Cloud, so as to provide one-click use for global users. Here is the link to the
> image of PostgreSQL in AWS marketplace for you to get information clearly.
>
> PostgreSQL is a great, powerful, open source object-relational database system
> and gains great popularity. It is released under the PostgreSQL License which
> grants the permission to use, copy and distribute the software for any purpose.
> Our product contains PostgreSQL. Hence, we are writing to confirm whether we
> are allowed to do the following:
>
> 1) To package PostgreSQL with runtime into image and distribute the image on
> Major Cloud.

Sure. I think the confusing might be that there is the Postgres software copyright license, which allows for almost any use of the software, including modifying it, shipping closed source versions, modified or not, and charging for it:

<https://www.postgresql.org/about/licence/>

and then there is the trademark usage document. You can basically do anything you want with the software, as outlined in the software license, and use the trademark as specified. There is no distinction in what trademark usages are possible based on what license features you use --- you just abide by both, so charging for software, shipping closed source versions, and saying it is Postgres is just fine, again based on the trademark usage document. Yeah, it sounds crazy open, but that is how it has always been, and it has served us well. Postgres is a community project.

> 2) To use the name and logo of PostgreSQL. Referring to your trademark policy,
> the names and logo, may be used to promote PostgreSQL based products. Hence, we
> use the name and logo to describe our product in the following way. Meanwhile,
> we make intellectual property statement in order not to make users confused
> about the copyright, and trademark attribution of PostgreSQL. All as shown on
> the following pictures.
> [cid][cid]

Sure.

> 3) To charge certain fees for developing image and offering support and service
> to users.

Yep, again, the software is very open, and you just have to follow that, and the trademark is also quiet open.

> We hope to get your clear reply on whether we are allowed to do the above
> three things. If there is any improper use of the software and trademark,
> please inform us. We will correct it as you required as soon as possible.

OK.

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Bruce Momjian <bruce@momjian.us> <https://momjian.us>
EnterpriseDB <https://enterprisedb.com>

The usefulness of a cup is in its emptiness, Bruce Lee