

SPDX™ Beta Program

About SPDX™

The Software Package Data Exchange™ (SPDX™) specification is a standard format for communicating the components, licenses and copyrights associated with a software package. It is being developed by a group of companies and vendors as a working group of the Linux Foundation.

About the Beta Program

SPDX v1.0 Beta was released in July 2010, and a release candidate for SPDX v1.0 is expected in Q1 of 2011. We are looking for companies and other participants in the open source ecosystem that want to get involved in testing out the release candidate and providing feedback. The final version of SPDX v1.0 is targeted for release in summer of 2011.

Beta Site Requirements

- We are looking for pairs of “trading partners” who need to exchange information about the open source licenses associated with a software package. Examples could include:
 - A company and their supplier
 - A company and their customer
 - A Linux distro and an upstream project
 - A hardware supplier and a Linux distro
- For each pair, the supplying trading partner will create an SPDX file for software they supply and the receiving trading partner will then receive and review that SPDX file. This process may be done in parallel with an existing disclosure process based on spreadsheets or other technologies.
- Beta sites will need to complete their testing between March and Jun of 2011.
- We will ask beta sites to provide feedback during and after their test.
- We would like beta sites to provide quotes for our marketing activities when SPDX v1.0 is released.

Beta Site Benefits

- Beta sites will receive tools that can be used to create an SPDX file from a standard spreadsheet file or to read an SPDX file and generate a spreadsheet – reducing the manual effort involved in creating the SPDX file.
- Beta sites will receive support from an SPDX support team that can help with any issues.
- Beta sites will have the opportunity to provide critical feedback to ensure that SPDX meets their needs as well as the needs of the ecosystem of open source suppliers and consumers.
- Beta sites will get an early chance to become familiar with the SPDX spec, which looks to become the standard for exchanging software package data.

