The REST API is now versioned. For more information, see "About API versioning."

Licenses

Use the REST API to retrieve popular open source licenses and information about a particular project's license file.

About licenses 🔗

GitHub uses the open source Ruby Gem Licensee to attempt to identify the license for a project. Licensee matches the contents of a project's `LICENSE` file (if it exists) against a short list of known licenses. As a result, the API does not take into account the licenses of project dependencies or other means of documenting a project's license such as references to the license name in the documentation.

If a license is matched, the license key and name returned conforms to the SPDX specification.

Note: These endpoints will also return a repository's license information:

- Get a repository
- List repositories for a user
- List organization repositories
- List forks
- List repositories watched by a user
- List team repositories

> GitHub is a lot of things, but it's not a law firm. As such, GitHub does not provide legal advice. Using the API or sending us an email about it does not constitute legal advice nor does it create an attorney-client relationship. If you have any questions about what you can and can't do with a particular license, you should consult with your own legal counsel before moving forward. In fact, you should always consult with your own lawyer before making any decisions that might have legal ramifications or that may impact your legal rights.
>
> GitHub created these endpoints to help users get information about open source licenses and the projects that use them. We hope it helps, but please keep in mind that we're not lawyers (at least most of us aren't) and that we make mistakes like everyone else. For that reason, GitHub provides the API on an "as-is" basis and makes no warranties regarding any information or licenses provided on or through it, and disclaims liability for damages resulting from using the API.

Get all commonly used licenses 🔗

✅ Works with GitHub Apps

Lists the most commonly used licenses on GitHub. For more information, see "Licensing a repository ."

Parameters for "Get all commonly used licenses"

Headers

accept string

Setting to `application/vnd.github+json` is recommended.

Query parameters

featured boolean

per_page integer

The number of results per page (max 100).

Default: `30`

page integer

Page number of the results to fetch.

Default: `1`

HTTP response status codes for "Get all commonly used licenses"

Status code	Description
`200`	OK
`304`	Not modified

Code samples for "Get all commonly used licenses"

GET `/licenses`

cURL	JavaScript	GitHub CLI

```
curl -L \ -H "Accept: application/vnd.github+json" \ -H "Authorization: Bearer <YOUR-TOKEN>" \ -H "X-GitHub-Api-Version: 2022-11-28" \ http(s)://HOSTNAME/api/v3/licenses
```

Response

Example response   Response schema

Status: 200

[{ "key": "mit", "name": "MIT License", "spdx_id": "MIT", "url": "https://HOSTNAME/licenses/mit", "node_id": "MDc6TGljZW5zZW1pdA==" }, { "key": "lgpl-3.0", "name": "GNU Lesser General Public License v3.0", "spdx_id": "LGPL-3.0", "url": "https://HOSTNAME/licenses/lgpl-3.0", "node_id": "MDc6TGljZW5zZW1pdA==" }, { "key": "mpl-2.0", "name": "Mozilla Public License 2.0", "spdx_id": "MPL-2.0", "url": "https://HOSTNAME/licenses/mpl-2.0", "node_id": "MDc6TGljZW5zZW1pdA==" }, { "key": "agpl-3.0", "name": "GNU Affero General Public License v3.0", "spdx_id": "AGPL-3.0", "url": "https://HOSTNAME/licenses/agpl-3.0", "node_id": "MDc6TGljZW5zZW1pdA==" }, { "key": "unlicense", "name": "The Unlicense", "spdx_id": "Unlicense", "url": "https://HOSTNAME/licenses/unlicense", "node_id": "MDc6TGljZW5zZW1pdA==" }, { "key": "apache-2.0", "name": "Apache License 2.0", "spdx_id": "Apache-2.0", "url": "https://HOSTNAME/licenses/apache-2.0", "node_id": "MDc6TGljZW5zZW1pdA==" }, { "key": "gpl-3.0", "name": "GNU General Public

Get a license 🔗

● Works with [GitHub Apps](#)

Gets information about a specific license. For more information, see "[Licensing a repository](#)."

Parameters for "Get a license"

Headers

accept   string

Setting to `application/vnd.github+json` is recommended.

Path parameters

license   string   Required

HTTP response status codes for "Get a license"

Status code	Description
200	OK
304	Not modified
403	Forbidden
404	Resource not found

Code samples for "Get a license"

`GET` /licenses/{license}

cURL   JavaScript   GitHub CLI

```
curl -L \ -H "Accept: application/vnd.github+json" \ -H "Authorization: Bearer <YOUR-TOKEN>" \ -H "X-GitHub-Api-Version: 2022-11-28" \
http(s)://HOSTNAME/api/v3/licenses/LICENSE
```

Response

Example response   Response schema

Status: 200

{ "key": "mit", "name": "MIT License", "spdx_id": "MIT", "url": "https://HOSTNAME/licenses/mit", "node_id": "MDc6TGljZW5zZW1pdA==", "html_url": "http://choosealicense.com/licenses/mit/", "description": "A permissive license that is short and to the point. It lets people do anything with your code with proper attribution and without warranty.", "implementation": "Create a text file (typically named LICENSE or LICENSE.txt) in the root of your source code and copy the text of the license into the file. Replace [year] with the current year and [fullname] with the name (or names) of the copyright holders.", "permissions": ["commercial-use", "modifications", "distribution", "sublicense", "private-use"], "conditions": ["include-copyright"], "limitations": ["no-liability"], "body": "\n\nThe MIT License (MIT)\n\nCopyright (c) [year] [fullname]\n\nPermission is hereby granted, free of charge, to any person obtaining a copy\nof this software and associated documentation

Get the license for a repository 🔗

● Works with [GitHub Apps](#)

This method returns the contents of the repository's license file, if one is detected.

Similar to [Get repository content](#), this method also supports [custom media types](#) for retrieving the raw license content or rendered license HTML.

Parameters for "Get the license for a repository"

Headers

accept   string

Setting to `application/vnd.github+json` is recommended.

Path parameters

owner string Required

The account owner of the repository. The name is not case sensitive.

repo string Required

The name of the repository without the `.git` extension. The name is not case sensitive.

HTTP response status codes for "Get the license for a repository"

Status code	Description
200	OK
404	Resource not found

Code samples for "Get the license for a repository"

GET `/repos/{owner}/{repo}/license`

cURL   JavaScript   GitHub CLI

```
curl -L \ -H "Accept: application/vnd.github+json" \ -H "Authorization: Bearer <YOUR-TOKEN>" \ -H "X-GitHub-Api-Version: 2022-11-28" \ http(s)://HOSTNAME/api/v3/repos/OWNER/REPO/license
```

Response

Example response   Response schema

Status: 200

{ "name": "LICENSE", "path": "LICENSE", "sha": "401c59dcc4570b954dd6d345e76199e1f4e76266", "size": 1077, "url": "https://HOSTNAME/repos/benbalter/gman/contents/LICENSE?ref=master", "html_url": "ht
"VGhlIE1JVCBMaWNlbnNlIChNSVQpCgpDb3B5cmlnaHQgKGMpIDIwMTMgQmVu\nIEJhbHRlcgoKUGVybWlzc2lvbiBpcyBoZXJlYnkgZ3JhbnRlZCwgZnJlZSBv\nZiBjaGFyZ2UsIHRvIGFueSBwZXJzb24gb2J0YWluaW5nIGEgY29weSBvZgp0\naGlzIHNvZn
"encoding": "base64", "_links": { "self": "https://HOSTNAME/repos/benbalter/gman/contents/LICENSE?ref=master", "git": "https://HOSTNAME/repos/benbalter/gman/git/blobs/401c59dcc4570b954dd6d345e76199