

## Questions in the online survey

### Consent Form

The purpose of this research study is to see your understanding and advice of open source software license.

Being in this research study is completely voluntary. You can choose not to be in this research study. If you agree to take part in this research, you will be asked to answer about 30 questions. Your participation in this study will take about less than 10 minutes. You can also choose to stop taking the survey at any time.

To protect your identity as a research subject, no identifiable information will be collected, the research data will not be stored with your name, the researcher(s) will not share your information with anyone. In any publication about this research, your name or other private information will not be used.

If you have any questions about this research, please contact the Investigator emailing [anonymous@anonymous](mailto:anonymous@anonymous).

### Part 0: Basic information of respondents

1. How old are you?  
(a) Less than 18 years old; (b) 18-25 years old; (c) 26-30 years old; (d) 31-40 years old; (e) 41-50 years old; (f) Over 60 years old; (g) prefer not to say
2. What is your gender?  
(a) Female; (b) Male; (c) Not listed above; (d) Prefer not to say
3. What is your job? ([free text])
4. How long have you been coding?  
(a) Never; (b) Less than 1 year; (c) 1-3 years; (d) 3-5 years; (e) 5-10 years; (f) Over 10 years
5. Have you ever used open-source code-sharing platforms or version control systems (Github, Bitbucket, Gitlab, etc.)?  
(a) Yes; (b) No
6. Have you managed or participated in the development of open source projects? (For example, publish code or commit changes on open source platforms such as Github/Gitlab, or participate in the development of similar open source projects)  
(a) Yes; (b) No

### Part 1: Understanding the open source software license

7. Which of the following best describes your level of proficiency with classical open source software licenses (MIT, Apache, GNU, etc.)?  
(a) Never heard of them; (b) Ever heard of them, but not familiar; (c) Familiar with some of them; (d) Professional with common open source software licenses
8. Do you know what regulations do the classic open source software licenses (such as MIT, Apache, GNU, etc.) have on the rights and obligations?  
(a) Not at all; (b) Don't know much; (c) Have basic knowledge; (d) Very clear
9. What's the main difference between MIT license and Apache License?

- (a) Whether it is possible to make the project closed-source when others modify the code;
  - (b) Whether it is a must to place a copyright notice with each modified file;
  - (c) Whether the newly created code should adopt the same license;
  - (d) Whether it is a must to provide documentation for the modification of the source code;
  - (e) I have no idea.
10. What's the main difference between GPL license and Mozilla License?
- (a) Whether it is possible to make the project closed-source when others modify the code;
  - (b) Whether it is a must to place a copyright notice with each modified file;
  - (c) Whether the newly created code should adopt the same license;
  - (d) Whether derivative software can be promoted with your name;
  - (e) I have no idea.
11. When you create or import open source software projects, have you ever encountered the difficulty of not knowing how to choose an appropriate open source software license?
- (a) Yes; (b) No
12. When you publish your code on the code-sharing platforms(such as Github, Bitbucket, Gitee, etc.), do you usually choose an appropriate license for your project?
- (a) Yes; (b) Sometimes; (c) No
13. When you import other people's open source code in your own project, will you pay attention to comply with the corresponding license requirements?
- (a) Yes; (b) Sometimes; (c) No

## **Part 2: Can an abstract of the license text help you understand them?**

14. Not choosing the appropriate license will always bring some negative effects. If you are required to choose the most suitable license according to your actual needs, do you think the current license text is too long and difficult to understand? (Some examples of license text are: [GNU v2.0](#), [MPL v2.0](#), [Apache v2.0](#))
- (a) Yes; (b) No
15. Not choosing the correct license always brings about some negative effects. If you are required to choose the most suitable license according to your actual needs, do you think it is necessary to take some auxiliary means (such as: web page plug-ins, IDE plug-ins, etc.) to help you understand the long license text?
- (a) Yes; (b) No
16. Below is a summary of the GNU General Public License v2.0, you can [click here](#) to view the original text of the license. Does the following summary (what can be done, what cannot be done, what must be done)? (5 for the most helpful)

You may copy, distribute, modify verbatim copies of the Program's source code, offer warranty protection in exchange for a fee. You must publish each copy of copyright notice, disclaimer of warranty, a copy of this License along with the Program, carry

prominent notices for any modified files, offer to distribute corresponding source code and any copyright holder shall not be liable to You for any damages.

17. Below is a summary of the Apache License v2.0, you can [click here](#) to view the original text of the license. Does the following summary help you quickly understand the rights and obligations of the agreement for users (what can be done, what cannot be done, what must be done)? (5 for the most helpful)

You can reproduce, publicly display, publicly perform, sublicense, distribute, use, offer to sell, sell, import, transfer the Work and such Derivative Works in Source or Object form. You must retain a copy of this License, all copyright, patent, trademark, attribution notices, NOTICE files and carry prominent notices for any modified files. You cannot use the trade names, trademarks, service marks, or product names of the Licensor and any Contributor shall not be liable to You for any damages.

18. Below is a summary of the Mozilla Public License 2.0 (MPL-2.0) , you can [click here](#) to view the original text of the license. Does the following summary help you quickly understand the rights and obligations of the agreement for users (what can be done, what cannot be done, what must be done)? (5 for the most helpful)

You can use, reproduce, make available, modify, display, perform, distribute, make, use, sell, offer for sale, have made, import, transfer the Contributions. You do not have any rights in the trademarks, service marks, or logos of any Contributor. You must retain the Source Code Form of the Covered Software, a copy of this License, copyright notices, patent notices, disclaimers of warranty, limitations of liability and any Contributor shall not be liable to You for any damages.

### **Part 3. Compare summaries of the open source software licenses**

*\* The following section is just an example. When the questionnaire is actually conducted, each participant was assigned 5 questions randomly selected from a collection of 210 questions.*

19. Suppose you encountered into a license which you have never seen. The following two options are both summaries of this license text. Which option is more helpful for you to quickly understand the provisions of the license text on the rights and obligations of users? (What can you do? What cannot you do? What must you do?)

(a) You may use, modify, redistribute, and generally hack it about in any way you like, and you do not have to give us anything in return. You are encouraged to thank us by making a return gift to the Allegro community, provide a useful bug report, make an improvement to the library, release the sources of your program, mention Allegro in the credits if you redistribute parts of this code or make a game using it.

(b) A do whatever you want style license, with a non-mandatory request to give a return gift to the author. This license may also be known as Allegro 4.

20. Suppose you encountered into a license which you have never seen. The following two options are both summaries of this license text. Which option is more helpful for you to quickly understand the provisions of the license text on the rights

and obligations of users? (What can you do? What cannot you do? What must you do?)

(a) This license grants you to copy, distribute, modify verbatim copies of the Program's source code, offer warranty protection in exchange for a fee. You must publish each copy of copyright notice, disclaimer of warranty, a copy of this License along with the Program, carry prominent notices for any modified files, offer to distribute corresponding source code and any copyright holder shall not be liable to You for any damages. And it allows you to link code under the license to proprietary applications. You may also license binaries under a proprietary license, as long as the source code is available under EPL.

(b) This license, made and used by the Eclipse Foundation, is similar to GPL but allows you to link code under the license to proprietary applications. You may also license binaries under a proprietary license, as long as the source code is available under EPL.

21. Suppose you encountered into a license which you have never seen. The following two options are both summaries of this license text. Which option is more helpful for you to quickly understand the provisions of the license text on the rights and obligations of users? (What can you do? What cannot you do? What must you do?)

(a) You must register with the government when you get the software and are asked to tell a specified agency how to use any modifications you make. You may use, distribute, reproduce, modify, display, sale, offer for sale on the software. You must ensure that the given copyright notice retained and you may not make any representation for advertising.

(b) This is a license used by NASA for some of its software. Note that you must register with the government when you get the software and are asked to tell a specified agency how to use any modifications you make.

22. Suppose you encountered into a license which you have never seen. The following two options are both summaries of this license text. Which option is more helpful for you to quickly understand the provisions of the license text on the rights and obligations of users? (What can you do? What cannot you do? What must you do?)

(a) You may distribute a complete, unmodified copy of the Work, or modify your copy of the Work, thus creating a Derived Work. Every component of the Derived Work must contain prominent notices detailing the nature of the changes or contains a complete and accurate log of the changes. You must offer equivalent access to copy the Work and place in each of the components an explicit copyright notice. There is no warranty for the Work and no support, and the authors shall not be liable to you for damages.

(b) A rather unique, non-copyleft license that defines a mediated way to transfer stewardship of software that is not currently maintained to a new user. You have to label changed parts of the software as such.

23. Suppose you encountered into a license which you have never seen. The following two options are both summaries of this license text. Which option is more

helpful for you to quickly understand the provisions of the license text on the rights and obligations of users? (What can you do? What cannot you do? What must you do?)

(a) You may copy or modify Rdisc without charge, and they may freely distribute it as long as this legend is included on all tape media. There is no warranty, support and the authors shall not be liable for any damages.

(b) Permissive license, users may copy or modify Rdisc without charge, and they may freely distribute it.

#### **Part 4. User's expectations**

24. Do you have any suggestions for improving the summary of open source software licenses you just saw? What would you like to add to the summary text to help you better understand the rights and obligations of open source software licenses? ([free text])

25. When using or developing open source software, what tools would you like to have to help you choose an appropriate license? ([free text])

26. If there is a tool that can assist you in choosing a license when importing or developing open source code, which platform would you like the tool to be integrated on? (multi-select)

(a) Integrated development environment (such as VSCode, IntelliJ Idea, etc.)

(b) Web plug-ins (e.g. during license creation or selection when you use Github/Gitee/...)

(c) Don't need to integrate a tool on these platforms, an individual website/tool is cool

(d) Other ([free text])

27. How seriously did you complete the questionnaire? (5 for the most serious)