

Open-source Code Licensing

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Free Software

As defined by FSF (1986)

- 1 run the program (for any purpose)

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- 3 **redistribute copies**

Free Software

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- 1 run the program (for any purpose)
- 2 study how the program works (and change it to your needs)
- 3 redistribute copies
- 4 improve the program and release your improvements to the public

Licenses

① GNU General Purpose License

Disclaimer: I am not a legal expert

Licenses

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- 2 GNU Lesser General Purpose License

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- 3 **Apache License**

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- 3 Apache License
- 4 **BSD License**

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- 3 Apache License
- 4 BSD License
- 5 lot of others

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GNU GPL

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- ③ linking to GPL code?

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- 4 LGPL vs GPL? which one to use?

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BSD

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- 3 no need to release source-code
- 4 “If you want to give your software away for free, use BSD. If you want to share your software, use the GPL”
(Courtesy:OSnews)

Apache

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- 2 handles the problem of software patents
- 3 author of the code (automatically) gives up the right to any of (his/her) patent used in the code

Case 1

- ACME systems internally uses CRM whose codebase is based on a GPL based CRM. Can someone ask the company for the source code?

Case 2

- Microspecial Inc. supplies embedded systems to the government(which government later distribute to citizens), as per the government orders they cannot release the source code to anyone but their codebase is based on GPL based code. What if someone asks for the source code? do they have to give it?

Case 3

- Stickpoint Solutions released Office software 1.0 under GPL and in the next version, they decide to move to BSD license? can they do it?

Case 4

- Tivo used parts of Linux kernel code for its consumer electronics product, so they had to release the source code but they put on the hardware check to avoid customised code from execution. Is this a violation of GPL?

Case 5

- Web Ultimates released source code of CMS(web application) under GPL, Web Peers Inc. used the code to develop their website, do they have to release the source code of their website?

References

- 1 Free Software Foundation (FSF) website