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## **Free and open-source licenses**

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## *What we'll learn now...*

- What's « free software »
- What's « open source software »
- What's « copyleft » and what it's not
- What's neither « free » nor « open source » software

# Gratis Software

- Freeware
  - Gratis, close source
- Shareware
  - Payment is optional, close source
- Demo version
  - Gratis for some time, then user must pay
- Free Software, Open Source Software
  - Does not mean gratis – even though often gratis
  - Does not mean « public domain » - protection and licensing apply

# Free Software - Definition

- Free as in « Free Speech » not « Free Beer »
- Four « freedoms » (source: Free Software Foundation)
  - 0 - to **run** the program, for **any purpose**
  - 1 - to **study** how the program works, and **adapt** it to your needs
  - 2 - to **redistribute** copies so you can help your neighbor
  - 3 - to **improve** the program, and **release** your improvements to the public, so that the whole community benefits
- Access to the source code is a precondition for this **freedoms 1 and 3**

# Open Source Software – Definition (1/3)

## Definition of « open source software »

(source: Open Source Initiative)

- **1. Free Redistribution**
  - including as component of other software
- **2. Source Code**
  - included or available
- **3. Derived Works**
  - modifications can be licensed the same

# Open Source Software – Definition (2/3)

## Definition of « open source software »

(source: Open Source Initiative)

- 4. Integrity of The Author's Source Code
  - may distribute derivative works, but might need name change or use patch files
- 5. No Discrimination Against Persons or Groups
  - nor can you give one company extra rights
- 6. No Discrimination Against Fields of Endeavor
  - cannot forbid use in particular contexts

# Open Source Software – Definition (3/3)

- 7. Distribution of licence
  - no other required license
- 8. License Must Not Be Specific to a Product
  - same rights if extracted and used elsewhere
- 9. License Must Not Restrict Other Software
  - if simply distributed on same medium
- 10. License Must Be Technology-Neutral
  - cannot predicate technology or style of interface

# Culture Difference Free vs Open Source



E. Raymond

R. Stallman

- Ethical (FSF) vs pragmatic / « business friendly » (OSI)
- Acronym **FLOSS**: Free / Libre / Open Source Software
- « close source » or « **proprietary** » for short = non-FLOSS
- FSF creates its own licenses, OSI validates submitted licenses

# Sounding Like FLOSS but not FLOSS

- Gratis ≠ FLOSS
- Access to the source code does not mean FLOSS
  - e.g.: bespoke software; « Shared Source » (Microsoft)
- Freely redistributable does not mean FLOSS
- All FLOSS rights but restricted (e.g. to non commercial uses) does not mean FLOSS
  - e.g.: Scilab

# License « Proliferation »

- 1000 (?) licenses compliant to the F/OSS definition (Saugatuck 07)
  - Various philosophies / business models
  - International context
- 61 OSI-approved (APR 08)
- Drawbacks
  - Complexity for the user
  - Possible incompatibilities
- OSI answer: categorize

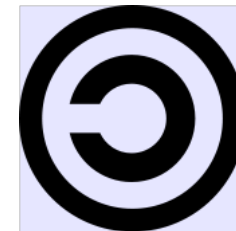


# Popular and Widely Used or with Strong Communities

- Apache License, 2.0
- New BSD license
- GNU General Public License (GPL version 2)
- GNU Library or "Lesser" General Public License (LGPL version 2)
- MIT license
- Mozilla Public License 1.1 (MPL)
- Common Development and Distribution Licence (CDDL)
- Common Public Licence (CPL)
- Eclipse Public Licence (EPL)

## « Copyleft »

- Based on **copy-right**
- The right owner grants rights to
  - Use, adapt, redistribute
- Under some « **reciprocal** » conditions:
  - **In case of** distribution...
  - ...the same rights must be **propagated**
  - Depending on the licenses, this obligation also applies to contributions or not
- Copylefted licenses exist for software, music, art, ...



# Misconceptions about Copyleft

The following common beliefs are not true:

- Obligation to distribute derivative works
- Obligation to make derivative works publicly accessible
- « Contamination » of the Information System
  - FUD terms: « virality »
  - Confusion between **aggregate** and derivative work
  - Confusion between development and execution
- **Incompatibility with a commercial activity**

# Copyrighted FLOSS Licenses aka « Reciprocal » Licenses

- GPL – GNU Public licence
  - v1 (1989), v2 (1991), v3 (2007)
  - E.g.: Linux kernel, PERL, MySQL
- LGPL – Lesser GNU Public licence
  - Designed for libraries
  - E.g.: glibc, JBoss AS
- CPL – Common Public licence
  - E.g.: Microsoft Windows Installer XML
- EPL – Eclipse Public licence
  - E.g.: Eclipse platform

# Non-Copylefted License aka «Academic» Licenses

- Inspired of the « academic freedom »
- Historically the first: BSD (Berkeley, < 1980)
- ≈ « *The copyright owner of this software hereby licenses it to you for any purpose whatsoever* »
- Usually, Warranty and Liability disclaimers
- (New) BSD, MIT, Apache 1.0, Artistic licenses

# Recap

- FLOSS  $\neq$  gratis software, even though usually available for free
- Free software = FSF definition
- Open Source = OSI criteria
- Distribution of FLOSS is not an obligation
- « copyleft » is a reciprocal principle
- Some FLOSS licenses are not copylefted

**About:**

"FOSS Bridge EU-Vietnam - Joint Business through Free and Open Source Software" is an ASIA-Invest programme implemented by InWEnt - Capacity Building International of Germany, Institut National de Recherche en Informatique et en Automatique (INRIA) of France and the Institute of Information Technology of Vietnam (IOIT) with financial support by the European Commission and the German Federal Ministry of Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ).

For further information please visit the following websites: <http://www.foss-bridge.org>.



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