

Copyright and Software Licenses

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What is a Software License?

- A software license is a legal instrument governing the usage or redistribution of software.
- All software is copyright protected, except material in the public domain.
- A free open source license makes software free for inspection of its code, modification, and distribution.

End User License Agreement

- EULA is the contract between the licensor and purchaser, establishing the purchaser's right to use the software.
- Many form contracts are only contained in digital form, and only presented to a user as a click-through where the user must "accept". The user may not see the agreement until after he or she has already purchased the software.

Public Domain

- Public domain software is software that has been placed in the public domain, in other words there is absolutely no ownership (such as copyright) of the intellectual property that the software represents.

Types of Software Licenses

- Proprietary Licenses:
 - Freeware
 - Shareware
 - ...
- Free and Open Source

Freeware

- Freeware is software that is available for use at no cost or for an optional fee, but usually with one or more restricted usage rights.
- Freeware is in contrast to commercial software, which is typically sold for profit, but might be distributed for a business or commercial purpose in the aim to expand the marketshare of a "premium" product.
- Popular examples of freeware include Adobe reader and Skype.

Shareware

- The term shareware is proprietary software that is provided to users without payment on a trial basis and is often limited by any combination of functionality, availability, or convenience.
- Shareware is usually offered either with certain features only available after the license is purchased, or as a full version but for a limited trial period of time.

Free and Open Source

- In the context of free and open-source software, free refers to the freedom to copy and re-use the software, rather than to the price of the software.

GNU GPL License

- The GNU General Public License (or simply GPL) is the most widely used free software license, originally written by Richard Stallman for the GNU Project.
- The GPL is the first *copyleft* license for general use.
- The GPL grants the recipients of a computer program the rights of the free software definition and uses copyleft to ensure the freedoms are preserved, even when the work is changed or added to.

Apache License

- The Apache License is a free software license authored by the Apache Software Foundation (ASF).
- The Apache License requires preservation of the copyright notice and disclaimer.
- The Apache License is permissive, so it does not require modified versions of the software to be distributed using the same license

Multi Licensing

- Multi-licensing is the practice of distributing software under two or more different sets of terms and conditions.
- Dual licensing is a form of multi licensing.
- When software is multi-licensed, recipients can choose which terms under which they want to use or distribute the software.
- The distributor may or may not apply a fee to either option.

Questions?