

5 Tips Getting Started with Open Source Software (OSS) License

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What Does OSS License Mean?

- Software may be freely used, modified, and shared
- License is intended to protect the software and allow code to remain open source

Why Should I Care?

Are you operating without a license?

(Actually, if your application is using open source, the odds are you have a license ;)

Categories of OSS Licenses

Permissive or liberal

- Do whatever you want with the code
- Use at your own risk
- Acknowledge the author(s)

Copyleft (adds requirements)

- If you distribute the binaries, you must make the source available
- Source and derivative must be under the same copyleft terms

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What Do I Need To Know ?

1. What is "distribution"?
2. How do open source licenses affect patent rights in software?
3. What is the "notice" requirement and how do I comply?
4. What is a "derivative work", and does incorporating GPL code into my proprietary code cause the proprietary code to be licensed under GPL?

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The Woes of Those Who Didn't Care (Or Didn't Know)

| Organization | Violation |
|-------------------|---|
| Best Buy, Samsung | Violated GPLv2 |
| Cisco | GPL Violation - distributed GNU software in routers |
| Oracle | APIs are copyrightable |
| Versata Case | Testing the GPL; Carelessness can be costly |

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How Can Sonatype Help Me?

Sonatype's Nexus Lifecycle:

- Generates bill of materials and baseline scans as you develop, keeps the list up-to-date
- Notifies parties of a policy risk/break

Join the User Community...

Join now at <https://community.sonatype.com>

References

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What Does OSS License Mean?

Visit the Open Source Org

<https://opensource.org>

<https://opensource.org/licenses>



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Why Should I Care?

Are you Operating Without a License?

<https://www.aetonlaw.com/files/dont-get-caught-operating-without-a-license.pdf>

<https://corporate.findlaw.com/business-operations/the-risks-of-open-source-software.html>



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What Do I Need To Know ?

Reference

<https://opensource.com/article/17/9/open-source-licensing>



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The Woes of Those Who Didn't Care (Or Didn't Know)

Best Buy/Samsung - Violate (GPLv2)

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/best-buy-samsung-others-named-in-gpl-lawsuit/>

Cisco - Linksys distributed GNU software in their routers, in violation of GPL

<https://www.linuxinsider.com/story/43996.html>

Versata Case – Testing the GPL; Carelessness can be costly

<http://btlj.org/2015/11/consequences-violating-open-source-licenses/>



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How Can Sonatype Help Me?

Bill of Materials

<https://www.sonatype.com/software-bill-of-materials>

Nexus Firewall

<https://www.sonatype.com/nexus-firewall>

Sonatype's Nexus Lifecycle

<https://www.sonatype.com/nexus-lifecycle>

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