STANDARD OSS LICENSES

Download at: z.umn.edu/stdOSS

COMMON OPEN SOURCE LICENSES

For Detailed Resources on All Open Source Licenses Go To:
- Picking the Appropriate License: ChooseALicense.com
- Detailed Information: TLDRLegal.com
- Generally Accepted Licenses: OpenSource.org (77 Total)

MOST PERMISSIVE

APACHE 2.0

16% of OSS

Can	Cannot	Must
Commercial Use	Hold Liable	Include Copyright
Modify	Use Trademark	Include License
Distribute		State Changes
Sublicense		Include Notice
Private Use		
Use Patent Claims		
Place Warranty		

MIT

26% of OSS

Can	Cannot	Must
Commercial Use	Hold Liable	Include Copyright
Modify		Include License
Distribute		
Sublicense		
Private Use		

Acceptable Permissive License

VERY PERMISSIVE

BSD

6% of OSS

Can	Cannot	Must
Commercial Use	Use Trademark	Include Copyright
Modify	Hold Liable	Include License
Distribute		
Place Warranty		

PERMISSIVE (WEAK COPYLEFT)

LGPL 3.0 (WEAK)

v3.0: 2% of OSS
v2.1 4% of OSS

Can	Cannot	Must
Commercial Use	Sublicense	Include Original
Modify	Hold Liable	State Changes
Distribute		Disclose Source
Place Warranty		Include License
Use Patent Claims		Include Copyright
		Include Install Instructions

LICENSEE'S INCREASING BUSINESS RISK DUE TO AMOUNT OF SOFTWARE SUBJECT TO COPYLEFT

LEAST PERMISSIVE (STRONG COPYLEFT)

GPL v3.0

v3.0: 9% of OSS
v2.0: 21% of OSS

Can	Cannot	Must
Commercial Use	Sublicense	Include Original
Modify	Hold Liable	State Changes
Distribute		Disclose Source
Place Warranty		Include License
Use Patent Claims		Include Copyright
		Include Install Instructions

Note: GPLv2.0 does not have "Use Patent Claims" Language

Preferred for Desktop or Mobile Software

AGPL v3.0

<1% of OSS

Can	Cannot	Must
Commercial Use	Sublicense	Include Copyright
Modify	Hold Liable	Include License
Distribute		State Changes
Place Warranty		Disclose Source
		Include Install Instructions

Note: AGPL is written specifically to require disclosure of source with web publication; a loophole in GPL.

Preferred for Server Software

NON-COMMERCIAL

STRONG COPYLEFT

CREATIVE COMMONS NONCOMMERCIAL SHARE-ALIKE

<1% of OSS

Can	Cannot	Must
Distribute	Commercial Use	Give Credit
Modify	Sublicense	Include Copyright
Rename	Place Warranty	State Changes
	Hold Liable	

Preferred for Creative Works

Can/Cannot/Must Images from tlrdLegal.com and are licensed under Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 ("CC-BY")
OSS Usage Statistics : www.blackducksoftware.com/top-open-source-licenses
Designates Copyleft Licenses

MERGING OSS AND PROPRIETARY SOFTWARE

Proprietary Software | Most Permissive OSS | Permissive OSS AI | Least Permissive OSS AI

	MOST PERMISSIVE (APACHE/MIT/BSD)	PERMISSIVE (LGPL)	LESS PERMISSIVE (GPL/AGPL/CC-BY-SA)
Combined Work	Result...	Result...	Result...
	Proprietary Software	Combined Work with Seperation	Copyleft
Derivative Work	Result...	Result...	Result...
	Proprietary Software	Permissive OSS	Copyleft

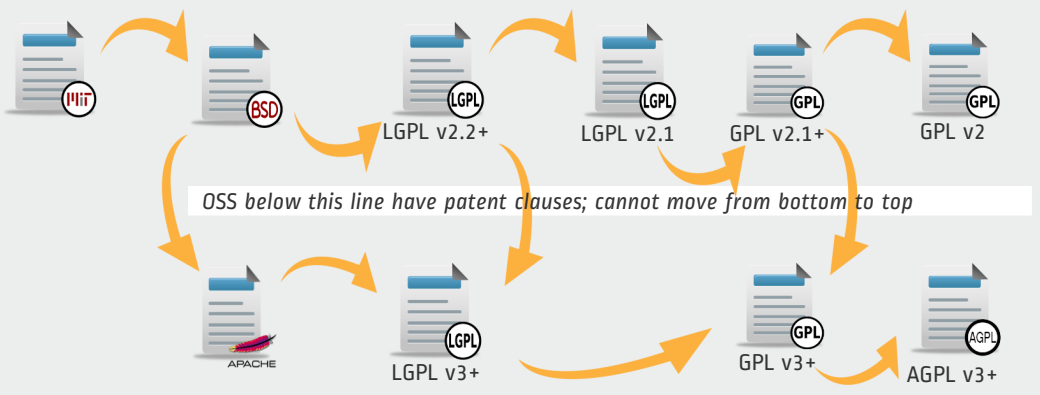
Note:
All OSS can interact with proprietary software as long as there is significant separation between the two software components.

LICENSE COMPATABILITY

COMPATABILITY

MOST PERMISSIVE — LESS PERMISSIVE

Licenses are compatible Left to Right across the Permissive Spectrum; cannot move Right to Left.



Note:
GPL & LGPL are ordered correctly in the chart above. Licenses became forward compatible in GPL v2.1 and LGPL v2.2.

When NOT to Open Source!

Patented Software:

At UMN we are unlikely to release patented software open source. This is primarily because we see a patent as an investment in the power to exclude, open sourcing counters that investment.

GPL v3.0 & Apache v2.0:

GPL v3.0 & Apache v2.0 now have a patent clause that provides a royalty free, non-exclusive patent license to the licensee if contributed source infringes.

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Author: Chris Ghere (z.umn.edu/cghere)