

“Some argue that licenses that support open source projects are ‘dangerous.’ In this beautifully clear work, Lawrence Rosen defuses this argument. And in a talent rare for a lawyer, Rosen succeeds in making these points about the law meaningful and understandable to anyone at all.”

— FROM THE FOREWORD BY LAWRENCE LESSIG,
renowned intellectual property expert and author of *Free Culture*

Some argue that licenses that support open source projects are ‘dangerous.’ In this beautifully clear work, Lawrence Rosen defuses this argument. And in a talent rare for a lawyer, Rosen succeeds in making these points about the law meaningful and understandable to anyone at all.
—From the Foreword by Lawrence Lessig, renowned intellectual property expert and author of *Free Culture*

OPEN SOURCE LICENSING

Software Freedom and Intellectual Property Law

LAWRENCE ROSEN

Open source licensees are free to:

- Use open source software for any purpose
- Make and distribute copies
- Create and distribute derivative works
- Access and use the source code
- Combine open source and other software

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OPEN SOURCE LICENSING

Software Freedom and Intellectual Property Law

A complete guide to the law of open source for developers, managers, and lawyers

Now that open source software is blossoming around the world, it is crucial to understand how open source licenses work—and their solid legal foundations. Open Source Initiative general counsel Lawrence Rosen presents a plain-English guide to open source law for developers, managers, users, and lawyers. Rosen clearly explains the intellectual property laws that support open source licensing, carefully reviews today’s leading licenses, and helps you make the best choices for your project or organization.

Coverage Includes:

- Explanation of why the SCO litigation and other attacks won’t derail open source
- Dispelling the myths of open source licensing
- Intellectual property law for nonlawyers: ownership and licensing of copyrights, patents and trademarks
- “Academic licenses”: BSD, MIT, Apache, and beyond
- The “reciprocal bargain” at the heart of the GPL
- Alternative licenses: Mozilla, CPL, OSL and AFL
- Benefits of open source, and the obligations and risks facing businesses that deploy open source software
- Choosing the right license: considering business models, product architecture, IP ownership, license compatibility issues, relicensing, and more
- Enforcing the terms and conditions of open source licenses
- Shared source, eventual source, and other alternative models to open source
- Protecting yourself against lawsuits

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

LAWRENCE ROSEN is an attorney specializing in technology and a computer professional who has taught programming and managed several computer departments at Stanford University. He is currently general counsel and secretary of Open Source Initiative (OSI), formerly served as its executive director, and has written several major open source licenses.

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0-13-148787-6, \$39.99

“I have studied Rosen’s book in detail and am impressed with its scope and content. I strongly recommend it to anybody interested in the current controversies surrounding open source licensing.”

— JOHN TERPSTRA
Samba.org;
Cofounder, Samba-Team

“Linux and open source software have forever altered the computing landscape. The important conversations no longer revolve around the technology but rather the business and legal issues. Rosen’s book is must reading for anyone using or providing open source solutions.”

— STUART COHEN
CEO, Open Source
Development Labs



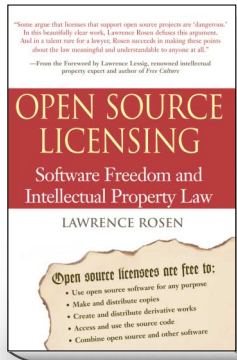


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword
Preamble

1. Freedom and Open Source
The Language of Freedom
Defining Open Source
Open Source Principles

2. Intellectual Property
Dominion Over Property
Right Brain and Left Brain
Acquiring Copyrights and Patents
Original Works of Authorship
Works Made for Hire
Exclusive Rights of Copyright and Patent Owners
Copies
Exceptions to the Exclusive Right to Make Copies
Collective and Derivative Works
The Chain of Title for Copyright
The Chain of Title for Patents
Joint Works
Assigning Ownership
Duration of Copyright and Patent
Trademarks
Exceptions to Intellectual Property Protection

3. Distribution of Software
Contributors and Distributors
Distribution
Open Source Collaboration
Contributor Agreements
What About Users?

4. Taxonomy of Licenses
What Is a License?
Bare Licenses
Licenses as Contracts
Patent Licenses
Template Licenses
Types of Open Source Licenses

5 Academic Licenses

The BSD Gift of Freedom
BSD License as Template
The BSD License Grant
Source and Binary Forms of Code
Conditions under the BSD
Warranty and Liability Disclaimer
The MIT License
The Right to Sublicense
The Warranty of Noninfringement
The Apache License
Protecting Trademarks
The Apache Contributor License Agreement
The Artistic License
License Preambles
When Amateurs Write Licenses
Big Picture of Academic Licenses
Apache License Version 2.0

6. Reciprocity and the GPL

The GPL Bargain
Copyleft and Reciprocity
Policy Objectives
The Preamble to the GPL
GPL as Template
The GPL Applies to Programs
Linking to GPL Software
Copyright Law and Linking
The LGPL Alternative
GPL Grant of License
Access to Source Code
"At No Charge"
Other Obligations in the GPL
The GPL and Patents
Accepting the GPL

7. The Mozilla Public License (MPL)

The Mozilla Story
The MPL Reciprocity Bargains
Contributors and Modifications
The MPL and Patents
Defending Against Patents
Other Important MPL License Provisions
Other Corporate Licenses

8. The Common Public License (CPL)

CPL as a Template
A Digression about Well Written Licenses
Grant of Copyright and Patent Licenses
Reciprocity under the CPL
Exception to Reciprocity
Patent Defense
Defend and Indemnify
Ownership of the CPL License

9. The OSL and the AFL

Academic or Reciprocal?
Initial Paragraph of OSL/AFL
1. Grant of Copyright License
2. Grant of Patent License
3. Grant of Source Code License
4. Exclusions from License Grant
5. External Deployment
6. Attribution Rights
7. Warranty of Provenance and

Disclaimer of Warranty
8. Limitation of Liability
9. Acceptance and Termination
10. Termination for Patent Action
11. Jurisdiction, Venue, and Governing Law
12. Attorneys Fees
13. Miscellaneous
14. Definition of "You" in This License
15. Right to Use
Copyright and Licensing Notice

10. Choosing an Open Source License

How Licenses Are Chosen
The Free-Rider Problem
Making Money from Open Source
In-Licensing
Out-Licensing
Contributions to Projects
License Compatibility for Collective Works
License Compatibility for Derivative Works
Relicensing

11. Shared Source, Eventual Source, and Other Licensing Models

Alternatives to Open Source
Shared Source
Public Source
Dual and Multiple Licensing
Eventual Source and Scheduled Licensing
Combining Licensing Models

12. Open Source Litigation

Owning a Cause of Action
Damages
Injunctions
Standing to Sue
Burden of Proof
Enforcing the Terms of a Contract
Disputes over Ownership of Intellectual Property
Disputes over Derivative Works
Patent Infringement Litigation
SCO vs. Open Source

13. Open Standards

Defining Open Standards
Open Specifications
Enforcing the Standard by Copyright Restrictions
Licensing the Test Suite: The Open Group License
Discouraging Forks: Sun's SSISSL
Patents on Open Standards
Reasonable and Nondiscriminatory
Royalty Free
The W3C Patent License
Justifying Open Standards and Open Source

The Open Source Paradigm

Appendixes

Index

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