

Open Source Philosophy and Software Licences

Terminology :

Free Software : Software that can be freely accessible and can be used freely, modified and distributed as user wants.

Free software is a matter of liberty (freedom) not price. It gives user freedom to use software in any way.

Free software provide following freedom to user.

- User is free to use software for any purpose
- User is free to study how the program works. (if source code is available)
- User can redistribute the copies of software to any one
- User can modify or improve program as he wants (if source code is available.)

Open Source Software :

The software whose source code is available to customer are called open source software.

These software can be used freely but it does not have to be free of charge. Company can take payment for development or support.

Terms of open source software must follow the following criterias: —

Free Redistribution → User should allow to redistribute whole or a part of software.

Source code: It must provide source code to the customer.

Derived works: license must allow users to modify & distribute the software

Integrity of Author's source code: Any modification in software should be distributed with a different name or version.

No Discrimination Against any Person or group → license should not restrict any person or group to use or modify it.

Distribution of license: User rights to use software must be applicable to whole users who wish to use it.

license must not restrict or impose any condition - such that software should be a part of program.

license should not restrict other softwares for using it.

FOSS → A software which is free and open source are called FOSS (Free and Open Source Software)

OSS and FLOSS.

Open Source Software whose source code is available to user. (Can be free or with charge).

FLOSS → Free Libre Open Source Software →
A software which is free as well as open source are called FLOSS.

GNU (GNU Not Unix) :- by Richard M. Stallman.

- * It emphasizes on freedom
- * It promotes open source softwares.

Free Software foundation (FSF):

In 1985 An organisation founded by Richard M. Stallman whose purpose is to promote free softwares.

OSI (Open Source Initiative):

- * An organisation which promotes open source software.
- * It defines criteria for open source softwares.

Freeware:

- * A software available free of cost.
- * It allows copying and redistribution of software.
- * Its source code is not available to user.

W3C (World Wide Web Consortium):

- * An organisation which develops standards and protocols for world wide web.

Proprietary Software:

- * Software which is neither free nor open source.
- * These are the software a user cannot use without purchasing license from developer.

Shareware:

- * The software whose license allows user to use it free of cost for a limited period of time. For further use, user have to pay for it.

Copylefted Software:

Free software whose distribution terms ensure all copies and all versions must follow same terms conditions.

Open Source Software License and Domains ⇒

1 GNU General public License (most commonly used license)

- * It allows user to copy the software
- * It allows user to redistribute the software as he want.
- * It allows users to modify software as he need.
- * It allows users to charge fee after modification.

2 GNU Lesser General Public License. (LGPL).

- * It provide less rights to work to user.
- * LGPL is mostly used by program libraries.

3 BSD license. (Berkeley Software Distribution)

- * It provide few restrictions on distribution as compare to other free software.
- * New BSD license allows unlimited redistribution for any purpose.

4 MIT License : (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

- * It is most shortest open source license.
- It provide following rights to user.

- * rights to use, copy and modify software.
- * rights to distribute software as user wants.

5 Apache license :

- It provide number of rights to user.
- To use the software forever, once purchase.
 - User can use it anywhere in the world.
 - No per-usage fee
 - No one can take rights from you.

Public Domain Software: can be used free and without any restrictions. It is outside the scope of copyrights.

Freedom of Information:

It refers to "rights to access information which is available on public platform."

Digital Divide.

Difference between the group of people who can access internet technology and who can not.

i.e. social inequality to access, use of information and communication technology.

Reason Behind Digital divide →

- * Technology reach.
- * Digital Literacy
- * Lack of knowledge about information Technology.

Digital Unity: It ensure the all the stock holders will get equal share of information technology.