



ZOOM

The ZOOM Framework: Legal aspects of FOSS and beyond

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AGENDA

- Introduction to Free Software Licensing
- Best Practices in a FOSS license compliance program
- Streamlining copyright and license information with REUSE

How to make FOSS licenses easier to comply with?

Freedoms

Use

The software can be used for any purpose without restrictions.



Study

The software and its code can be analyzed by anyone.

Share

The software can be shared without limitations.



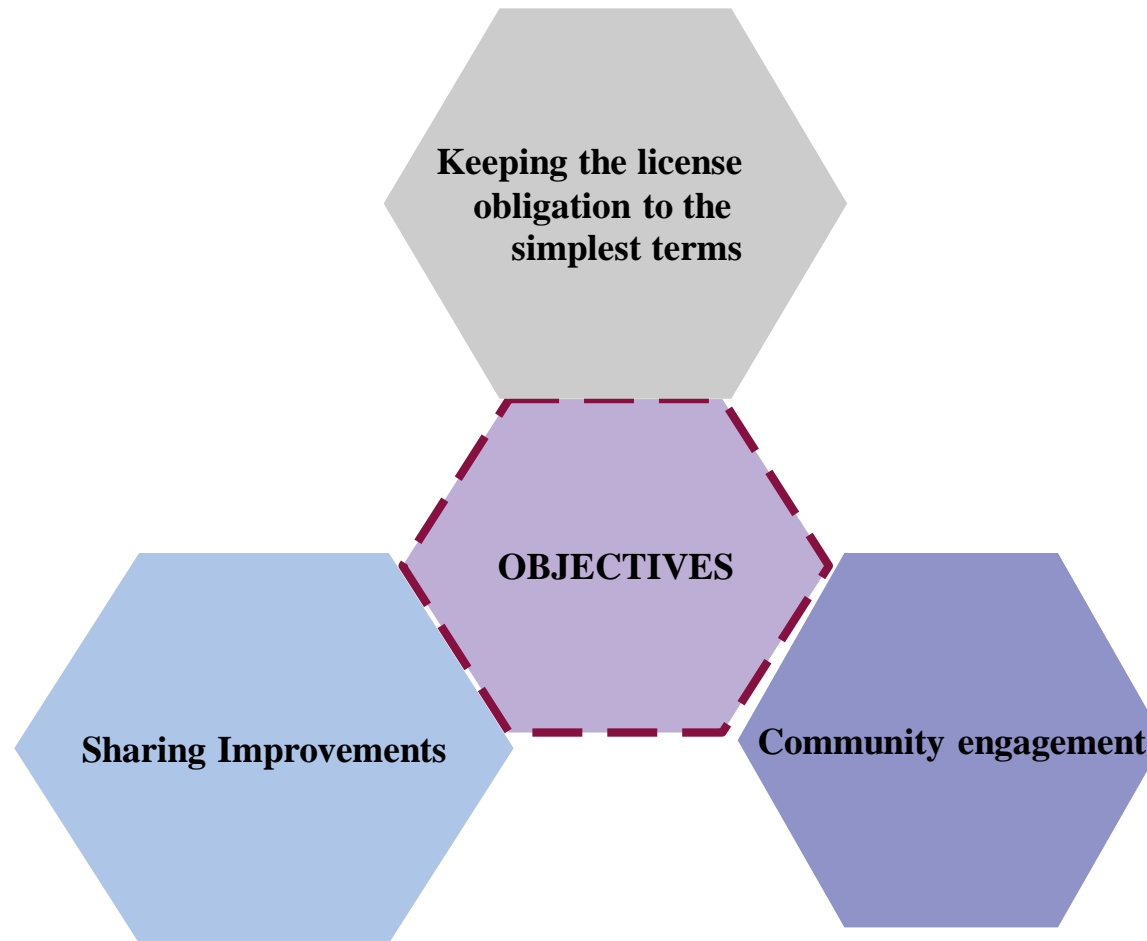
Improve

The software can be modified by you or others to give back to the community.

Fundamentals of Free Software Licensing Compliance

- **Free Software licenses increase legal interoperability and simplify license adoption.**
- **The correct appropriation of Free Software licenses requires it to conform to community norms and expectations.**
- **Free Software licenses do impose conditions on exercise of the license, but these are not limited as to the type of use, location of use, number of copies, in comparison to proprietary schemes.**

Choosing a FOSS license



Compliance steps

- Identification of all copyright holders
- **ALWAYS** check the copyright and license information in the root directory or README files of projects
- No license information \neq Work in public domain
- License based review



```
~/reuse-tool> reuse lint
# SUMMARY
* Bad licenses:
* Missing licenses:
* Unused licenses:
* Used licenses: Apache-2.0, CC-BY-SA-4.0, CC0-1.0, GPL-3.0-or-later
* Read errors: 0
* Files with copyright information: 53 / 53
* Files with license information: 53 / 53

Congratulations! Your project is compliant with version 3.0 of the REUSE Specification :-)
```

Examples of Compliance Issues

Types of Solutions

Integrating proprietary software into FOSS

Perform source code inspections and require prior approval to include proprietary source code into FOSS components.

Integrating or linking FOSS elements into proprietary software

Perform code scans and require prior approval to use FOSS. Provide training on dependencies and libraries should work.

Failure to provide source code (when license requires)

Establish a license compliance checklist.

Failure to include a description of the changes

Add source code marking as checklist item before releasing source code.

Failure to include copyright, attribution or license notices

Add milestone in compliance process to verify the different types of notices.

For more details, see Ibrahim Haddad, *Open Source Compliance in the Enterprise* (2nd edn, The Linux Foundation 2018)
<<https://www.linuxfoundation.org/resources/publications/open-source-compliance-in-the-enterprise>>

Governance of Free Software projects



Simple and clear compliance policy



Identification of all copyright holders



Setting the terms of a Free Software policy – include topics like contribution, code releases and transactional terms



Developing work flows for developer requests for incorporating Free Software



Creating checklists for license obligations, license and copyright notices.



Using automation tool for simplifying workflows



Conducting training for legal/engineering staff



Establishing a contribution policy for external contributions



Identifying all Free Software components of the project - mapping libraries and dependencies, and performing periodical code scan



REUSE

SOFTWARE

Web: reuse.software

List: lists.fsfe.org/mailman/listinfo/reuse

Git: github.com/fsfe | git.fsfe.org/reuse

Standardizing License and Compliance Information

- The REUSE project was founded by the FSFE in 2017 to raise awareness of the best practices for expressing license and copyright information in Free Software projects.
- REUSE facilitates management of source codes by automatically standardizing licensing and copyright information.
- Community-based project: Supplements several related projects, such as ClearlyDefined, OpenChain and FOSSology.
- Widespread adoption of REUSE – Over 1400 projects.
- REUSE specifications are also a central element in the compliance workflow for the European Commission's Next Generation Internet Initiative.



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Thank you!

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