

Licenses and Open Source Software

Arun Raghavan

Who am I?

Caveats

IANAL

Proof by court

Varies by country

Ownership

What do you buy
when you buy a phone?

The physical components
are yours

Some of the design
is restricted by patents

The software components
are (usually) licensed

Copyright

Licenses

What you **can/can't** do

Warranty and liability

Do?

→ Use

→ Distribute

Classify by
restrictions

Trade secret

Software used internally
in businesses

Proprietary licenses

Ever read your EULA?

"The software is licensed, not sold."

You have no rights

except what is explicitly granted

Nature of use

Number of copies

Reverse engineering

Hardware (hi Apple!)

F/OSS licenses

0. Freedom of usage

1. Freedom to study and change the program

2. Freedom to distribute copies

3. Freedom to distribute modifications

One step further

Copyleft

GNU General Public License

Linux kernel

Derived works

The GPL is “viral”

GNU Lesser/Library GPL

glibc

(L)GPL v2 vs. v3

DRM and patents

“Permissive” F/OSS licenses

Apache, MIT, BSD

Android

Public Domain

No restrictions

CCO and WTFPL

What about !code?

Creative Commons

Dual licensing

Why should you care?

How should you choose?

Read the license!

Publish with a license

Questions?

Thanks!