

Free Software

Benefits for Business

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Goals

After the presentation you

- Know what is free software
- Can name business benefits of the model
- Know free software licenses for 75% of open source software

Agenda

- Free software definition
- Specific free licenses

Free Software Definition

- Run
- Study
- Distribute
- Improve

Free Software Foundation

Run - meaning

- Use software for any purpose
 - No limits against any business model, politics or religion
- No need to pay, no need to register
- Permanent permission
- Get your software without paying

Study

- See the source code
 - With comments, sensible variable names
- Possible to understand every aspect of program
- Learning
 - Ideas are often free to use
- Security
 - No backdoors, trojans

Distribute

- Copy to your friends
- Sell and keep the money
- Distribute with product to add value

Improve

- Requires source code
- Make it fit to your firm
- Often outsourced
- Combine the benefits of shrink wrap and tailor made

Shrink wrap vs Tailor made

- Cheap
- Ready today
- Experience in production environments
- Continuous testing by others
- Just for you
- Complete control
- Future guarantee

Free software combines these benefits

Distribute + Improve

- Share your improvements with others
- Upstream
- No need to patch
 - No need to update and test old patches

Free Software Definition

- Run
- Study
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- Improve

Free Software Foundation

Two popular definitions

- Free Software Foundation – FSF
 - Four freedoms
 - Easy to explain
 - User's Freedom
- Open Source Initiative – OSI
 - Very precise
 - OSI-approved licenses

Specific licenses

- Agreement between user and producer
- Based on copyright
 - Bern convention
- Without license from producer, no right to use at all

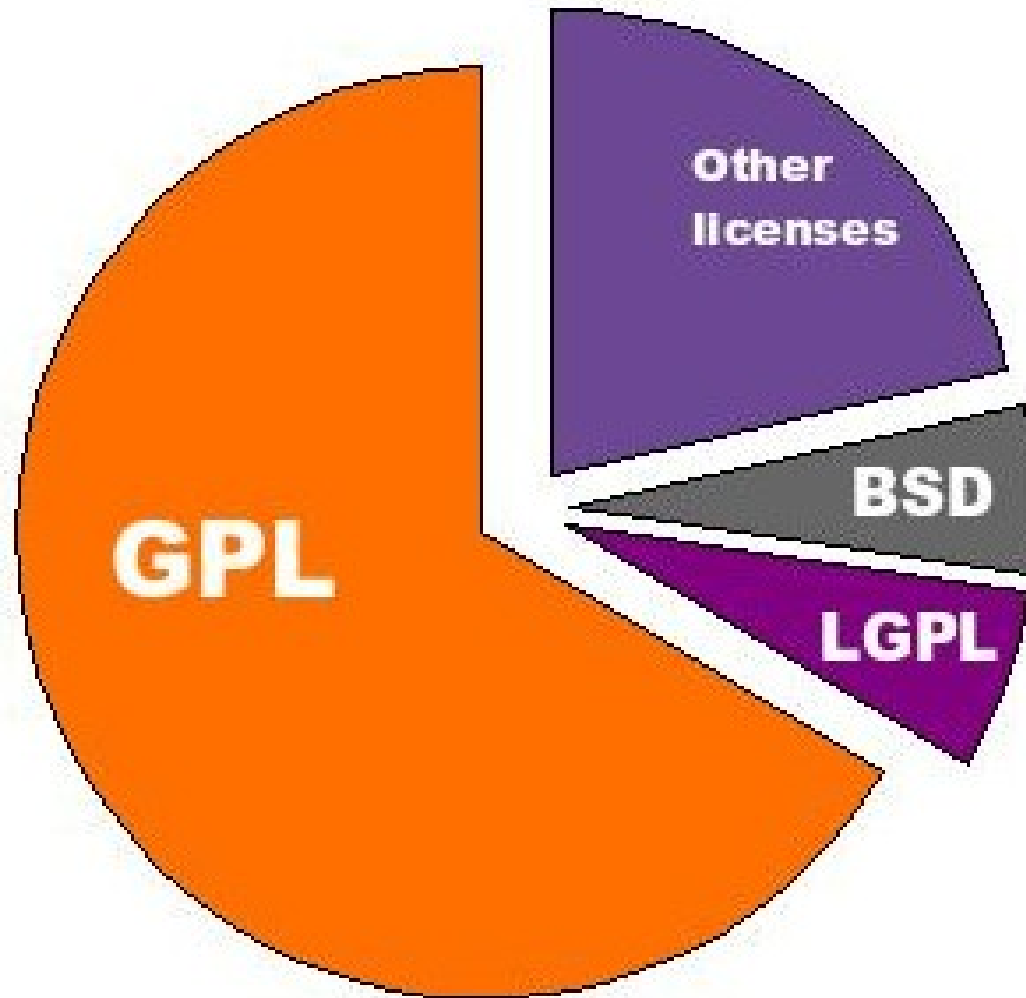
Non-free licenses

- Nearly infinite number
- Very difficult to understand
- Only agreement that's accepted without reading?

Free licenses

- Few licenses cover most open source applications
 - Easier to learn
- Binding just like any other license

Three licenses cover most apps



GPL – the most popular

- GNU General Public License
- 60 % of all open source
- Can't limit recipients rights

GPL – how to use

- Good choice when you publish

Copyright 2009

YOUR NAME,

GNU General Public License, version 2 or later

BSD

- All freedoms, almost no limits
- Can limit recipients rights (really!)
- Can you name an example?

Summary

- Free software definition
 - Run
 - Study
 - Distribute
 - Improve
- Free licenses
 - GPL
 - BSD

Try it today – install free software
or publish your own

www.iki.fi/karvinen/bilkent.html

