Sisyphus is happy

Lessons from the Fight
for Software Legal Compliance

Alexios Zavras

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zvr

disclaimers

Software
Legal Compliance

SWLC

companies

developers

companies

The Daily

GPL violations discovered

CITY -- With a surprising announcement yesterday, well-known digital goods company MegaCorp Inc. admitted that it has been violating some software license conditions for years. The announcement comes after the completion of investigation work on the software code of the company.

The GNU General Public License (GPL) is a free, copyleft license for software and other kinds of works. The licenses for most software and other practical works are designed to take away the users' freedom to share and change the works. By contrast, the GNU General Public License is intended to guarantee the freedom to share and change all versions of a program, to make sure it remains free software for all its users. The Free Software Foundation uses the GNU General Public License for most of its software.

developers

historically

Post-OpenSource

software
is a combination

own + others

own + (FOSS + Prop)

SWLC

detective

CSI: Licenses

JFreeChart

JFreeChart

- LGPL v2.1+

JFreeChart

- LGPL v2.1+

- includes Junit

  - Eclipse Public License v1.0

cURL

cURL

- "Curl and libcurl are licensed under a MIT/X derivate license"

cURL

- "Curl and libcurl are licensed under a MIT/X derivate license"

- includes `lib/md[45].c`

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is identified as the "RSA Data Security, Inc. MD5 Message-Digest
Algorithm" in all material mentioning or referencing this software
or this function.

iperf2

iperf2

- University of Illinois license

  - 3-clause BSD

iperf2

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  - 3-clause BSD

- Includes src/gnu_getopt.[ch]

  - LGPL v2+

getopt

getopt1.c

getting better

unnamed (Apache)

unnamed (Apache)

```
#ifdef ANDROID
/**
 * Android's bionic C lib has no getline
 * Code copied from busybox's libbb
 */
ssize_t getline(char **lineptr,
                size_t *n,
                FILE *stream)
{
```

copied from Internet

curse of copy-paste

FOSS strategy

process

workflow

NOT complicated

complicated

- Steps:

  Scan

  Identification

  Audit

  Issue resolution

  Review

  Approval

  Registration

  Distribution

  Verification

- Roles:

  Developer

  Architect

  Development manager

  Compliance staff

  Legal counsel

trust

NOT legal-oriented

handle
external source

DON'Ts

… use code if you don't have a license

… assume that no © symbol means
  no license required

… assume or guess the license

… remove copyright notices

DOs

... add your own copyright to all own code

... get a license to any external code

downloaded, found online, in textbooks, etc.

SWLC

Thank you!