

OPEN SOURCE IS A CONDITIONAL LICENSE THAT :

- Requires no signatures
- Requires source code to be published
- Allows Licensee to copy, modify redistribute w/o royalties/fees
- If the licensee abides by the terms set forth in the license.

• OPEN SOURCE PROJECTS CAN GROW THROUGH COOPERATION

• OPEN SOURCE PROJECTS MAY BECOME ESTABLISHED COMPANIES

BACKGROUND INFO

SOURCE CODE

```

Untitled - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
public class Test {
    public static void main(String args[]){
        int x = 30;

        if( x == 10 ){
            System.out.println("value of x is 10");
        }else if( x == 20 ){
            System.out.println("value of x is 20");
        }else if( x == 30 ){
            System.out.println("value of x is 30");
        }else{
            System.out.println("this is else statement");
        }
    }
}
    
```

READABLE & EDITABLE

Used in Development & Collaboration

COMPILED CODE

```

IPDESIGN - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
[Illegible compiled code]
    
```

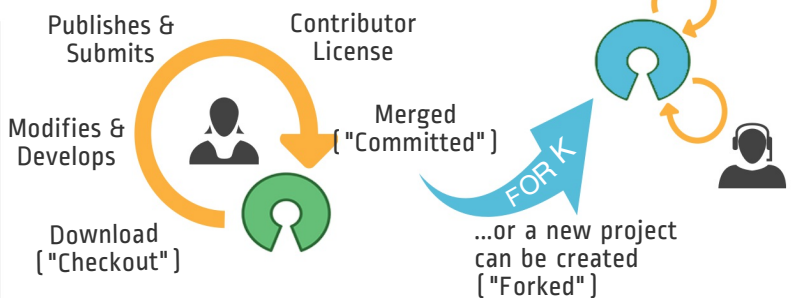
ILLEGIBLE & NON-EDITABLE

Maintains Trade Secrets

Open SOURCE is a license to the SOURCE code.

Public access to the source code reduces a project's ability to differentiate, but increases it's pool of developers and collaborators.

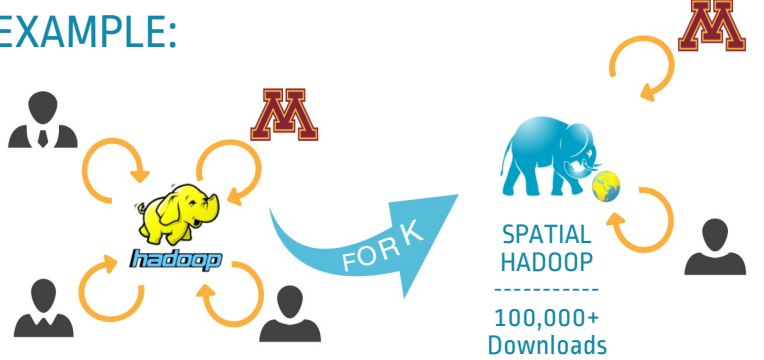
OPEN SOURCE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



OPEN SOURCE COMMUNITY

- Often dispersed developers
- Some individuals
- Many companies leverage OSS software and share edits/additions.

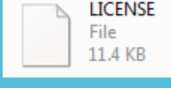
EXAMPLE:



How To Open Source

STEP 1 PICK A LICENSE TYPE [See next section]

STEP 2 SAVE AS LICENSE.TXT IN THE ROOT FOLDER



STEP 3 INCLUDE COPYRIGHT IN SOURCE CODE HEADERS

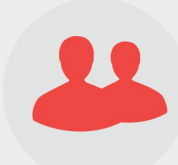
```

/*****
 * Copyright (C) 2014 by Regents of the University of Minnesota.
 * This Software is released under GNU General Public License 2.0
 * http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl-2.0.html
 * Additional license options available at http://license.umn.edu
 *****/
    
```

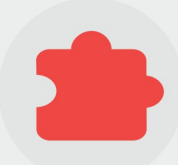
WHEN TO OPEN SOURCE

WHEN SHOULD A TECH TRANSFER OFFICE USE AN OPEN SOURCE COMMERCIALIZATION STRATEGY?

Consider Open Source If the Project is:



OR



NOT UNIQUE

- Open source reduces differentiation
- Companies tend to compete on price

MODULAR ASSETS

- Modular assets can be divided, strategically priced & open sourced

NETWORK EFFECTS

- Primary value of most software is the user base
- Open source is a way to increase users

NEEDS DEVELOPMENT

- Programming is expensive
- Open source is a way to add developers w/o adding costs

OTHER SITUATIONS



ALREADY OPEN SOURCED

Technology disclosures may come months or years after a faculty member already released open source. Additionally, funding agencies may require open source release for different projects.

COLLABORATION MORE VALUABLE



Collaboration between large entities, funding organizations and other universities is significantly easier in an OSS collaboration. Academia may value the collaboration more than the asset.

SPONSORED RESEARCH DUE DILIGENCE



Federally Sponsored

- Confirm any OSS Requirements in the Federally Sponsored Research Agreement.
- Review the grant proposal, often PIs include their intention to open source the grant output in their proposal.
- Some federal agencies have proposed rule changes to require OSS release.

Industry Sponsored



- Confirm any OSS Requirements in the Sponsored Research Agreement.
- OSS requirements in commercial grants are becoming more common. Companies find it simpler/cleaner than a NERF.
- Check for backdoors into pre-existing patent portfolios via the proposed OSS license.

Note:

UMN interprets grants that require "Open Source" to require a license listed on the Open Source Initiative (OpenSource.org).



When NOT to Open Source!

Patented Software:

At UMN we are unlikely to release patented software open source. This is primarily because we see a patent as an investment in the power to exclude, open sourcing counters that investment.

GPL v3.0 & Apache v2.0:

GPL v3.0 & Apache v2.0 now have a patent clause that provides a royalty free, non-exclusive patent license to the licensee if contributed source infringes.