



OMB of CEF eDelivery

Open Source Licenses

27 April 2017

Copyleft vs permissive

COPYLEFT

- Copyleft is the practice of using copyright law to offer the right to distribute copies and modified versions of a work and requiring that the same rights be preserved in modified versions of the work. Any work derived from a work with a copyleft license must themselves be copyleft when distributed
- E.g:
 - EUPL 1.1 (Strong)
 - LGPL 2.1 (Weak)
 - MPL 1.1 (Weak)

PERMISSIVE

- A permissive license is basically a non-copyleft license. Permissive licenses typically allow licensees to use, distribute and modify the licensed material, for almost any purpose, including distributing Free/Libre/Open Source software licensed project, or a proprietary-licensed project.
- E.g:
 - BSD

Software licenses currently used in CEF eDelivery

SML & DOMIBUS:

•EUPL 1.1

SMP:

•MPL 1.1/EUPL 1.1

DYNAMIC DISCOVERY CLIENT:

•LGPL 2.1

PROBLEM

- No best practices defined by CEF
- Strategy promoted by the EC: https://ec.europa.eu/info/european-commissions-open-source-strategy_en:
- *Open-source and interoperable Commission-developed software. Software produced by the Commission services, in particular software produced with the objective of being used outside the Commission, will be open sourced and published on the Joinup platform and will use the European Union Public License (EUPL). The software produced should aim to be interoperable and use open technical specifications.*

SOLUTION

- Harmonise the licenses
- Decide the license(s) best suited for the sample software of CEF eDelivery

EUPL vs BSD in the context of CEF eDelivery

EUPL 1.1

Ensure conformance to the existing copyright laws of each of the 28 Member States of the European Union

Propagate the Open Source model.

Copyright licenses are usually avoided by closed-source private companies, may limit reuse

No support for Proprietary plugin/Application model.
E.g.: Domibus plugins must be Open Source, they can't be closed-source

Publishing the source code is required for the Software as a Service model (SaaS)

BSD

Allow private companies to integrate, modify and distribute the sample software of CEF eDelivery without constraint

Interoperability may be endangered as modifications may not be published publicly

Find out more on CEF Digital

Login Support



CEF DIGITAL



European Commission



The CEF Building Blocks

Supported by the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), the CEF Building Blocks offer basic capabilities that can be used in any European project to facilitate the delivery of digital public services across borders.

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Sources and references:

https://www.slideshare.net/vhars_hana/open-source-licences-35614097

<http://tiny.cc/2uarky>

DIGIT

Directorate-General for Informatics

DG CONNECT

Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology

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