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

European Commission

EUPL vs BSD in the context of CEF eDelivery

EUPL 1.1	BSD	MPL
Strong copyleft	No copyleft (permissive)	Weak copyleft
Ensure conformance to the existing copyright laws of each of the 28 Member States of the European Union	Allow private companies to integrate, modify and distribute the sample software of CEF eDelivery without constraint	Reduced risk of endangering interoperability as MPL ensures no "fork development" of the core and consequently still enables interoperability among eDelivery solutions
No support for Proprietary plugin/Application model. E.g.: Domibus plugins must be Open Source, they can't be closed-source	Interoperability may be endangered as modifications may not be published publicly	Supports the Proprietary plugin/Application model. It allows third parties to develop complementary source code and distribute the binaries without the need to open the added source code. More specifically for Domibus, this will allow companies to develop plugins without being forced to distribute the source code under the EUPL 1.1 or compatible license.
Copyleft licenses are usually avoided by closed-source private companies, may limit reuse		Allows private companies to integrate and distribute the sample software of CEF eDelivery without the need of publishing their existing source code as long as they don't modify the source code of the sample software
Propagate the Open Source model.		
Publishing the source code is required for the Software as a Service model (SaaS)		

Find out more on CEF Digital

DIGIT
Directorate-General for Informatics

DG CONNECT
Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology

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