

“Some argue that licenses that support open source projects are ‘dangerous.’ In this beautifully clear work, Lawrence Rosen defuses this argument. And in a talent rare for a lawyer, Rosen succeeds in making these points about the law meaningful and understandable to anyone at all.”

— FROM THE FOREWORD BY LAWRENCE LESSIG,
renowned intellectual property expert and author of *Free Culture*

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OPEN SOURCE LICENSING

Software Freedom and Intellectual Property Law

LAWRENCE ROSEN

Open source licensees are free to:

- Use open source software for any purpose
- Make and distribute copies
- Create and distribute derivative works
- Access and use the source code
- Combine open source and other software

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OPEN SOURCE LICENSING

Software Freedom and Intellectual Property Law

A complete guide to the law of open source for developers, managers, and lawyers

Now that open source software is blossoming around the world, it is crucial to understand how open source licenses work—and their solid legal foundations. Open Source Initiative general counsel Lawrence Rosen presents a plain-English guide to open source law for developers, managers, users, and lawyers. Rosen clearly explains the intellectual property laws that support open source licensing, carefully reviews today’s leading licenses, and helps you make the best choices for your project or organization.

Coverage Includes:

- Explanation of why the SCO litigation and other attacks won’t derail open source
- Dispelling the myths of open source licensing
- Intellectual property law for nonlawyers: ownership and licensing of copyrights, patents and trademarks
- “Academic licenses”: BSD, MIT, Apache, and beyond
- The “reciprocal bargain” at the heart of the GPL
- Alternative licenses: Mozilla, CPL, OSL and AFL
- Benefits of open source, and the obligations and risks facing businesses that deploy open source software
- Choosing the right license: considering business models, product architecture, IP ownership, license compatibility issues, relicensing, and more
- Enforcing the terms and conditions of open source licenses
- Shared source, eventual source, and other alternative models to open source
- Protecting yourself against lawsuits

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

LAWRENCE ROSEN is an attorney specializing in technology and a computer professional who has taught programming and managed several computer departments at Stanford University. He is currently general counsel and secretary of Open Source Initiative (OSI), formerly served as its executive director, and has written several major open source licenses.

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“I have studied Rosen’s book in detail and am impressed with its scope and content. I strongly recommend it to anybody interested in the current controversies surrounding open source licensing.”

— JOHN TERPSTRA
Samba.org;
Cofounder, Samba-Team

“Linux and open source software have forever altered the computing landscape. The important conversations no longer revolve around the technology but rather the business and legal issues. Rosen’s book is must reading for anyone using or providing open source solutions.”

— STUART COHEN
CEO, Open Source
Development Labs



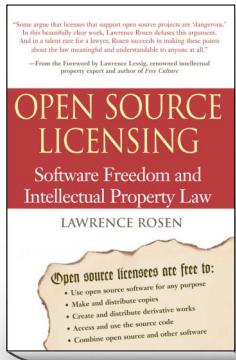


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