

Simplifying License Selection

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Neglected task

- Research(ers) rely on availability of data & software
 - License clarifies what you can do with the data/software
- Authors hold exclusive rights
 - Unless they “give up” the exclusivity the data are not “usable”
 - That means assigning a license

Resignation

- Not distributing the work
 - Law is scary/boring/complicated
 - License texts are long and hard to read
- Not attaching a license
 - I did not assign a license so everyone is free to do as they wish, right?
 - No one reads them anyway
- Using a license they are familiar with/have heard about
 - Good attempt, but GPL with data?

Data and software

- Overall different beasts
 - Regulated by different directives
- Different caveats
 - Software: libraries vs executables
 - databases
- Different licenses

Making it easier

- Get together people that know this stuff
- Prepare a tool/process to help choose
 - Filtering based on requirements
- Capturing differences of data and software
- Adhering to limitations
- Promoting open access, as free as possible

Tools

- <http://licentia.inria.fr/>
- <http://wizard.elda.org/index.php>
- <https://tldrlegal.com/>
- <https://ufal.github.io/public-license-selector/>

Tl;dr legal

- <https://tldrlegal.com/>
- Licenses, terms of use
- Community driven summaries
 - Textual
 - can/cannot/must
- Tracked changes
- Verified content

Public license selector

- <https://github.com/ufal/public-license-selector>
- Pawel Kamocki, Pavel Straňák, Michal Sedlák
 - Legal expert specialized in IP and personal data protection
- The other tools missing the distinction between data & software
- User friendly
 - Comprehensive explanations
- Promote open licenses

Public License

- Grants certain rights not to one particular user, but to the general public (everybody)
- A lot to choose from
 - 78 OSI approved licenses for software
 - Creative commons, Open data commons...
- Open access
 - Not all public licenses meet requirements of Open data/open access
 - <http://opendefinition.org/licenses/>

Public license selector

- User is provided with a series of questions
- Licenses not compatible with the answers removed from view
 - Question about licenses already use
 - Table of compatible licenses
- Licenses ordered based on openness

The first question related to data

- Is your data within the scope of copyright and related rights?

Customizing Public license selector

- You can add/hide licenses
 - Change priorities
 - assign to another question
- You can change the initial question
 - Data or software only

How to attach a license?

- Some licenses tell you
 - Insert prominently in all relevant locations a statement such as...
- Download license in RDF (Turtle syntax) to attach it to your data

Resources

- <https://github.com/ufal/public-license-selector>
- Open Source Initiative:
 - <https://opensource.org/licenses/alphabetical>
- Creative Commons:
 - <https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/>
- Open Data Commons:
 - <http://opendatacommons.org/licenses/odbl/>

Thank you

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Questions

- Are digitized resources within the scope of copyright
- What are relevant places