

# Software Licensing Overview

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## Open Source

Open source describes a term in software engineering in which the source code is freely available to everyone for use and/or modification. It is a collaborative approach where others can improve the source code and share the changes within the community to further improve it.

## Copyleft

Copyleft is a method within the open source community that preserve copyright laws making software components as free as possible. It requires modified and extended version to be free as well.

## Common Open Source Licenses

According to Black Duck Software [2], most open source projects are licensed under the *GNU General Public License*, *MIT License* and *Apache License*. However, there are a few differences between those licenses if it comes to their Copyleft restrictions. For this particular reason, the following sections include the most used open source licenses categorized by their Copyleft restrictions.

## Open Source licenses without Copyleft restrictions

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### GNU General Public License

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## Comparison of free and open-source software licenses

The following table gives a brief overview over the most common software licenses listed above. Herby, two main aspects are visualized:

- **Link with different code using different license.** This describes whether it is possible to add an additional software component that uses an another license than the current one.
- **Release changes under a different license.** This describes whether it is possible to publish software using a different license than the current one.

License	Latest version	Publication date	Link with code using different license	Release changes under a different license
Apache License	2.0	2004	Yes	Yes
MIT License	/	1988	Yes	Yes
Revised Berkeley Software Distribution (BSD-3)	/	1999	Yes	Yes
GNU Lesser General Public License (GNU LGPL)	3.0	2007	Yes	No
Mozilla Public License (MPL)	2.0	2012	Yes	Limited
GNU General Public License	3.0	2007	No	No

**Table 1** Comparison of free and open software licenses [1].

## Software Components

Within the EasyBook system we use following technologies that are published under the specified open source license:

- [Bootstrap](#): *MIT License*
- [jQuery](#): *MIT License*
- [YiiFramework](#): *Berkeley Software Distribution*

## Conclusion

Since it is required to extend the EasyBook system after the Distributed Software Development course at the Mälardalen University in Västerås and PoliMi University in Milano finished in January 2014, we recommend to use the *Revised Berkeley Software Distribution (BSD-3)* license. It permits to link software components with different open source licenses which allows us to use the listed software components above. Moreover, the system can be modified and distributed using a different open source license after the Distributed Software Development course has finished. Compared to the *Apache License* and *MIT License*, it is relatively short and written in an easy understandable language.

## References

[1] [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison\\_of\\_free\\_and\\_open-source\\_software\\_licenses](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_free_and_open-source_software_licenses)

[2] <https://www.blackducksoftware.com/resources/data/top-20-open-source-licenses>

## Appendix

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