



Free Software, Licensing And Business Processes



What Is Free Software?

'Free' does not refer to price.

It refers to freedom.



Freedom To Innovate

Use

Study

Share

Improve

Many Names

Free Software

Open Source

Software Libre

FOSS

FLOSS



Freedom To Innovate

Use

Study

Share

Improve

Freedom For Business

Shared development

Re-usable code

Flexibility



Powered By Licences

Licences use copyright to list terms.

Different licences have different terms.

Not all licences are compatible.



Basic Terms Of The GNU GPL

You can use, study, share and improve this code as long as others now and in the future also have these freedoms.

(the legal text is longer)



It's In The Details

The GNU GPL and CDDL
have different terms.



Incompatible But Both Free

GPL code and CDDL code is incompatible.



This Is A General ICT Thing

Microsoft Windows has a big EULA.

Microsoft and Adobe have different terms.

Just try mixing Microsoft and Adobe code.



Common Issues

People don't read the licences.

People mix code with incompatible terms.

Avoiding Issues

Read the licences.

Have work-flows and processes that take Free Software into account.



Business Processes

Free Software != Proprietary Software.

Free Software has its own terms.

Free Software needs its own processes.



In A Nutshell...

Optimise benefit and reduce risk.

Process Examples

List approved Free Software licences.

Refer all other licences to legal.

Have distribution check-lists.

Optimisation Hints

Use compatible licences.

Use popular licences.

Build good communication paths.

Risk Reduction Hints

Use existing best practice.

Pro-actively resolve issues.

Ask for supplier compliance.

The End Result

Flexible ICT frameworks and platforms.



Good Ideas Work Together

Free Software maximises user benefit.

Open Standards ensure interoperability.



Fair Access

Genuinely Open Standards are necessary
for a competitive marketplace.



What Is An Open Standard?

Available

Not dependent

Free from clauses

Independently managed

Multiple implementations



To Summarise..

Flexibility

Interoperability

Sustainability



FSFE's Freedom Task Force

Consultancy

Training

Compliance



Getting Help

www.fsfeurope.org/ftf

ftf@fsfeurope.org

