



Software Licensing Survey

Page 1

Consent Form

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Study Purpose and Overview:

We invite you to participate in a survey on software licensing.

The overall objective of this research is to investigate how well software developers understand open source software licenses.

Taking part in this survey is entirely up to you. You have the right to refuse to participate. If you decide to take part, you may choose to stop filling out the survey at any time.

Study Procedures:

You will complete an anonymous online survey involving software licensing issues.

Study Results:

This anonymous survey is part of research regarding how well software developers understand commonly used open source licenses. The results of this research will be included in research papers and made public in due course.

Known Risks:

The only known risk is the loss of time to perform the survey.

Potential Benefits:

You may find it useful to reflect upon your knowledge of open source licenses and potential software licensing issues when building on open source software in your projects.

Confidentiality:

The raw anonymous survey data will be kept confidential on secure UBC servers and laptops.

Payment:

There will be no payment for your participation.

Contact for information about the study:

If you have any questions about or desire further information with respect to the study, you may contact Dr. Gail Murphy at +1 604 822 5169.

Who can you contact if you have complaints or concerns about the study?

If you have any concerns or complaints about your rights as a research participant and/or your experiences while participating in this study, contact the Research Participant Complaint Line in the UBC Office of Research Ethics at 604-822-8598 or if long distance e-mail RSIL@ors.ubc.ca or call toll free 1-877-822-8598.

Consent

By completing the consent, you confirm that you:

1. understand what is required based on reading the letter of information.
2. understand that your participation is voluntary and you are free to withdraw at any time.
3. understand the provisions of confidentiality.
4. consent to participate in the survey.

You would like to participate?

 Yes No

Demographic Questions

(demographics01)

Which job title best represents your responsibilities?

- Programmer / Software Developer / Software Engineer
- System Administrator / Network Engineer
- Project Manager
- Technical Lead / Team Leader
- Other

(demographics02)

What is your experience level in software development?

- Less than 2 years.
- Between 3 and 7 years.
- More than 7 years.

(demographics03)

What is the total number of people working in the company you work for?

- 1
- 2-9
- 10-24
- 25-99
- 100-499
- 500-999
- 1000-4999
- 5000+

(demographics04)

Have you ever had to choose a software project's license?

 Yes No

(demographics05)

Do you often contribute to open source software projects (either as part of your job or on your own time)?

 Yes No

(demographics06)

Which programming language do you use the most?

- Java

C

C++

C#

PHP

JavaScript

Python

Ruby

Swift

Objective-C

Other(s)

Type here

Software Licensing Scenarios

The following pages will present 7 hypothetical software development scenarios involving open source licenses.

At the end of a scenario, you will have to answer **Yes**, **No**, or **Unsure** to a direct question for each of the following three licenses: GNU GPL 3.0, GNU LGPL 3.0, and Mozilla Public License 2.0. If you answer Unsure, an additional open question will appear, giving you the opportunity to elaborate on why you are not sure.

You can find the licenses here: [Software Licenses](#).

Once the survey is closed, the results and what we consider to be the best answers will be available here: [Results](#).

Scenario 1

John has been working on *ToDoApp*, his own personal task management application. *ToDoApp* is going to be a desktop-based application that will be used exclusively by John on his own computer. To make sure he does not lose any of his very special tasks, John is planning to use a lightweight library called *LightDB* to persist *ToDoApp*'s data.

(scenario01)

If *LightDB* is distributed under the following licenses, would John be allowed to use it as part of *ToDoApp*?

	Yes	No	Unsure
GNU GPL 3.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
GNU LGPL 3.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mozilla Public License 2.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

(scenario01_unsure_gpl3)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **GNU GPL 3.0**?

(scenario01_unsure_lgpl3)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **GNU LGPL 3.0**?

(scenario01_unsure_mpl)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **Mozilla Public License 2.0**?

(scenario01_assumptions)

Are there any assumptions you've made about this scenario? Is anything unclear or confusing to you?

Scenario 2

Having used *ToDoApp* for three months, John realized how much his productivity has improved. To help other people manage their tasks as efficiently as well, John has decided to make *ToDoApp* available as open source.

[\(scenario02_gpl3\)](#)

If *LightDB*, the lightweight library used to persist *ToDoApp*'s data, is distributed under **GNU GPL 3.0**, would John be allowed to make *ToDoApp* available under the following licenses ?

	Yes	No	Unsure
GNU GPL 3.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
GNU LGPL 3.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mozilla Public License 2.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

[\(scenario02_gpl3_unsure_gpl3\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **GNU GPL 3.0**?

[\(scenario02_gpl3_unsure_lgpl3\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **GNU LGPL 3.0**?

[\(scenario02_gpl3_unsure_mpl\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **Mozilla Public License 2.0**?

[\(scenario02_lgpl3\)](#)

If *LightDB*, the lightweight library used to persist *ToDoApp*'s data, is distributed under **GNU LGPL 3.0**, would John be allowed to make *ToDoApp* available under the following licenses ?

	Yes	No	Unsure
GNU GPL 3.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
GNU LGPL 3.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mozilla Public License 2.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

[\(scenario02_lgpl3_unsure_gpl3\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **GNU GPL 3.0**?

[\(scenario02_lgpl3_unsure_lgpl3\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **GNU LGPL 3.0**?

[\(scenario02_lgpl3_unsure_mpl\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **Mozilla Public License 2.0**?

[\(scenario02_mpl\)](#)

If *LightDB*, the lightweight library used to persist *ToDoApp*'s data, is distributed under **Mozilla Public License 2.0**, would John be allowed to make *ToDoApp* available under the following licenses ?

	Yes	No	Unsure
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	Yes	No	Unsure
GNU GPL 3.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
GNU LGPL 3.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mozilla Public License 2.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

[\(scenario02_mpl_unsure_gpl3\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **GNU GPL 3.0**?

Type here

[\(scenario02_mpl_unsure_lgpl3\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **GNU LGPL 3.0**?

Type here

[\(scenario02_mpl_unsure_mpl\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **Mozilla Public License 2.0**?

Type here

[\(scenario02_assumptions\)](#)

Are there any assumptions you've made about this scenario? Is anything unclear or confusing to you?

Type here

Scenario 3

After the success of the open source version of ToDoApp, John has decided to create a brand new commercial task management application: *TaskPro*. *TaskPro* is going to be built from scratch and use *LightDB* as a lightweight library to persist data.

[\(scenario03_gpl3\)](#)

If *LightDB* is distributed under **GNU GPL 3.0**, would John be allowed to make *TaskPro* commercially available under the following licenses ?

	Yes	No	Unsure
GNU GPL 3.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
GNU LGPL 3.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mozilla Public License 2.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

[\(scenario03_gpl3_unsure_gpl3\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **GNU GPL 3.0**?

[\(scenario03_gpl3_unsure_lgpl3\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **GNU LGPL 3.0**?

[\(scenario03_gpl3_unsure_mpl\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **Mozilla Public License 2.0**?

[\(scenario03_lgpl3\)](#)

If *LightDB* is distributed under **GNU LGPL 3.0**, would John be allowed to make *TaskPro* commercially available under the following licenses ?

	Yes	No	Unsure
GNU GPL 3.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
GNU LGPL 3.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mozilla Public License 2.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

[\(scenario03_lgpl3_unsure_gpl3\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **GNU GPL 3.0**?

[\(scenario03_lgpl3_unsure_lgpl3\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **GNU LGPL 3.0**?

[\(scenario03_lgpl3_unsure_mpl\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **Mozilla Public License 2.0**?

[\(scenario03_mpl\)](#)

If *LightDB* is distributed under **Mozilla Public License 2.0**, would John be allowed to make *TaskPro* commercially available under the following licenses ?

	Yes Yes	No No	Unsure Unsure
GNU GPL 3.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
GNU LGPL 3.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mozilla Public License 2.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

[\(scenario03_mpl_unsure_gpl3\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **GNU GPL 3.0**?

[\(scenario03_mpl_unsure_lgpl3\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **GNU LGPL 3.0**?

[\(scenario03_mpl_unsure_mpl\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **Mozilla Public License 2.0**?

[\(scenario03_assumptions\)](#)

Are there any assumptions you've made about this scenario? Is anything unclear or confusing to you?

Scenario 4

As the lead developer of a new product at GreatSoftware Inc., Laura decided to use an existing authentication library she found on the Web called *SafeAuth*. She realizes that *SafeAuth* could be improved by using a stronger cryptographic algorithm when storing users' information. The product is going to be released under a commercial software license, but Laura would like to release the *improved version of SafeAuth* as open source.

[\(scenario04_gpl3\)](#)

If *SafeAuth* is distributed under **GNU GPL 3.0**, would Laura and her team be allowed to release the *improved version of SafeAuth* under the the following licenses ?

	Yes	No	Unsure
GNU GPL 3.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
GNU LGPL 3.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mozilla Public License 2.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

[\(scenario04_gpl3_unsure_gpl3\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **GNU GPL 3.0**?

[\(scenario04_gpl3_unsure_lgpl3\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **GNU LGPL 3.0**?

[\(scenario04_gpl3_unsure_mpl\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **Mozilla Public License 2.0**?

[\(scenario04_lgpl3\)](#)

If *SafeAuth* is distributed under **GNU LGPL 3.0**, would Laura and her team be allowed to release the *improved version of SafeAuth* under the following licenses ?

	Yes	No	Unsure
GNU GPL 3.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
GNU LGPL 3.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mozilla Public License 2.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

[\(scenario04_lgpl3_unsure_gpl3\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **GNU GPL 3.0**?

[\(scenario04_lgpl3_unsure_lgpl3\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **GNU LGPL 3.0**?

[\(scenario04_lgpl3_unsure_mpl\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **Mozilla Public License 2.0**?

[\(scenario04_mpl\)](#)

If *SafeAuth* is distributed under **Mozilla Public License 2.0**, would Laura and her team be allowed to release the

improved version of SafeAuth under the following licenses ?

	Yes	No	Unsure
GNU GPL 3.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
GNU LGPL 3.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mozilla Public License 2.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

[\(scenario04_mpl_unsure_gpl3\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **GNU GPL 3.0**?

[\(scenario04_mpl_unsure_lgpl3\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **GNU LGPL 3.0**?

[\(scenario04_mpl_unsure_mpl\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **Mozilla Public License 2.0**?

[\(scenario04_assumptions\)](#)

Are there any assumptions you've made about this scenario? Is anything unclear or confusing to you?

Scenario 5

(scenario05)

Laura, who works for GreatSoftware Inc., has changed the open source version of *SafeAuth* found on the Web and added a new, stronger cryptographic algorithm to it. Despite Laura's intentions to release the modified version of *SafeAuth* as open source, her manager sees a very strong competitive advantage for their products and decides not to release the modified version as open source.

Considering that the new product is going to be distributed under a commercial software license, if *SafeAuth* is distributed under the following licenses, can Laura and her team use the modified version as part of their new product?

	Yes	No	Unsure
GNU GPL 3.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
GNU LGPL 3.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mozilla Public License 2.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

(scenario05_unsure_gpl3)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **GNU GPL 3.0**?

(scenario05_unsure_lgpl3)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **GNU LGPL 3.0**?

(scenario05_unsure_mpl)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **Mozilla Public License 2.0**?

(scenario05_assumptions)

Are there any assumptions you've made about this scenario? Is anything unclear or confusing to you?

Scenario 6

Shaoqing believes there are unhappy users out there willing to pay for a premium email client. To get to market faster, she decided to use an open source implementation of the *Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP)*.

[\(scenario06_gpl3\)](#)

If the *SMTP* implementation is released under the **GNU GPL 3.0**, would Shaoqing be allowed to fork the *SMTP* project and change the fork's license to the the following licenses in order to use it in her commercial e-mail client?

	Yes	No	Unsure
GNU GPL 3.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
GNU LGPL 3.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mozilla Public License 2.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

[\(scenario06_gpl3_unsure_gpl3\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **GNU GPL 3.0**?

[\(scenario06_gpl3_unsure_lgpl3\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **GNU LGPL 3.0**?

[\(scenario06_gpl3_unsure_mpl\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **Mozilla Public License 2.0**?

[\(scenario06_lgpl3\)](#)

If the *SMTP* implementation is released under the **GNU LGPL 3.0**, would Shaoqing be allowed to fork the *SMTP* project and change the fork's license to the the following licenses in order to use it in her commercial e-mail client?

	Yes	No	Unsure
GNU GPL 3.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
GNU LGPL 3.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mozilla Public License 2.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

[\(scenario06_lgpl3_unsure_gpl3\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **GNU GPL 3.0**?

[\(scenario06_lgpl3_unsure_lgpl3\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **GNU LGPL 3.0**?

[\(scenario06_lgpl3_unsure_mpl\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **Mozilla Public License 2.0**?

[\(scenario06_mpl\)](#)

If the *SMTP* implementation is released under the **Mozilla Public License 2.0**, would Shaoqing be allowed to fork the *SMTP* project and change the fork's license to the the following licenses in order to use it in her commercial e-mail client?

	Yes	No	Unsure
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	Yes	No	Unsure
GNU GPL 3.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
GNU LGPL 3.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mozilla Public License 2.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

[\(scenario06_mpl_unsure_gpl3\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **GNU GPL 3.0**?

[\(scenario06_mpl_unsure_lgpl3\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **GNU LGPL 3.0**?

[\(scenario06_mpl_unsure_mpl\)](#)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **Mozilla Public License 2.0**?

[\(scenario06_assumptions\)](#)

Are there any assumptions you've made about this scenario? Is anything unclear or confusing to you?

Scenario 7

(scenario07)

Shaoqing has been trying to optimize the way her email client handles old e-mails. Browsing on the Web, she found a fairly sophisticated implementation of a compression algorithm on a software developer's blog that could be used on archived emails. The algorithm implementation has hundreds of lines of code and does not include an explicit license, but there is a copyright notice on the blog that states "All Rights Reserved".

If Shaoqing used the source code she found on the blog in her email client, would she be allowed distribute the email client commercially under the following licenses ?

	Yes	No	Unsure
GNU GPL 3.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
GNU LGPL 3.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mozilla Public License 2.0	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

(scenario07_unsure_gpl3)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **GNU GPL 3.0**?

(scenario07_unsure_lgpl3)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **GNU LGPL 3.0**?

(scenario07_unsure_mpl)

Could you explain why you are not sure about your answer for **Mozilla Public License 2.0**?

(scenario07_assumptions)

Are there any assumptions you've made about this scenario? Is anything unclear or confusing to you?

Open Questions

[\(open_question01\)](#)

Has this survey changed how you view software licensing issues?

Yes No

[\(open_question01_details\)](#)

Could you elaborate on how your view has changed?

Type here

[\(open_question02\)](#)

Have you avoided using a software package because of licensing issues?

Yes No

[\(open_question02_details\)](#)

Why?

Type here

[\(open_question03\)](#)

Are you responsible for making decisions regarding software licensing in your current position?

Yes No

[\(open_question03_details\)](#)

Who is?

Type here

[\(open_question04\)](#)

Have you used any additional resources to help you understand the licenses and answer the questions?

Yes No

[\(open_question04_details\)](#)

Could you mention the resources you've used?

Type here



a place of mind
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