Cross Distribution Licensing Summit

A workshop hosted by
Ciaran Farrell  <cfarrell@suse.de>
Jürgen Weigert  <jw@suse.de>

Legal Boosters @ openSUSE.org
License Quiz

… Do you know a few license names?
# License Quiz

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Agenda

• Who is here, why?
• Have a “License namespace”
• Some syntax, some semantics
• Separate “facts” from “business logic”
• Review Automation (ldig-2@buildservice)
  •
  •
  •
  •
• Follow up plan
License Strings in meta data

• RPM has *.spec files for this

  %Package -devel
  %license: LGPL-2.1+
  %Package -doc
  %License: GFDL-2.1+

• DEB has */debian/copyright for this

  Files: .c
  Copyright: 2008, Joe Hacker <joe@example.com>
  License: GPL-2+ and BSD
  Files: patches/*
  License: GPL-3+
License Strings in meta data

Goals

• License String appears in RPM-Info (main-, sub-, source-packages)

• Should always show 'correct' and comprehensive license information in condensed form

• License String should follow a uniform syntax

(RPM spec-file describes licenses of binary, not source; */debian/copyright file describes source, not binary?)
License Strings in meta data

Mid-Term Goals (dreams?)

• Create dependency graphs, connecting source and binary (Complete graphs? → automate!)

• Allow for product reports with drill-down.

• Lower the burden on upstream & packagers (tools that implement guidelines)

• Support Compliance Certification with tools
Inconsistent name styles...

• How to append a version to a name?
  'NAME-1.0', 'NAME 1.0', 'NAMEv1.0',
  'NAMEv1', 'NAME-1', 'NAME V1.0'

• Find a short name that many people use?
  Apply a heuristic test:
  → type into Google: 'NAME software license'
  → If a reference to the intended license appears
    in the top ten results, this is a good one.

• Are there any guidelines, and how many?
Scalability → packages → products

• What do we want to do with licenses?
  • Check for permissions
  • Check for obligations
  • Check for compatibility

• How many license do we touch?
  • Sometimes multiple per file (code taken from...)
  • Often many per package component (library, build-environment, documentation, test-suite, main application)
  • Hundreds (thousands) components/packages per product.
The anatomy of a license string

Simple examples:

GPL-2; BSD3c

License Aggregation

GPL-2 or BSD3c

License Choice (e.g. dual)

GPL-2 and BSD3c

License Mix
The anatomy of a license string

More complex example:

(OSL-1.1 or LGPL-2.1+); NON-OSI-COMPLIANT(no modification)

Grouping

Generic types:
PERMISSIVE-OSI-COMPLIANT
OSI-COMPLIANT
COPYLEFT-OSI-COMPLIANT
NON-OSI-COMPLIANT
UNKNOWN

Additional Explanations
Validation Web Frontend

- http://license.opensuse.org
- License String Wizard
- License String Analyzer
- License Pool
References

http://spdx.org/licenses

http://svn.berlios.de/viewvc/opensuse/trunk/tools/License-Syntax/synopsis.csv

http://license.opensuse.org

http://en.opensuse.org/openSUSE:Accepted_licences

http://fedoraproject.org/wiki/Packaging/LicensingGuidelines

http://dep.debian.net/deps/dep5/

http://www.blackducksoftware.com/oss/licenses

http://search.cpan.org/~jnw/

https://spreadsheets.google.com/ccc?key=0Au7gtaw-TZXIdEZnT2RILS1CZWpDOGxPc2hlV3lReWc&
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