

# Open-Source Licensing

Wrestling the Licensing Croc



# Open-Source Licenses

nice thing is there are so many to choose from

[opensource.org/licenses](https://opensource.org/licenses) lists 65 or so

most developer-driven projects choose GPL

because of copyleft, marketing, everyone else does it

not because it's simple/understandable, it's not

most organization-driven projects write their own

mostly don't choose GPL due to copyleft

want something simple, or complete, or both

want license text they control

# A twisty maze of tiny little passages

too many licenses is a problem

- too much time wasted writing them

- too much time wasted evaluating them

- too many questions about combining differently-licensed stuff

“BSD” is mostly what we are after

- but there's no standard reusable BSD-style license

- and it's probably too minimal for today's world

- though no one really knows what matters to whom

# Apache License 2.0

new as of Jan 2004

non-copyleft, ie free to use in products

clear definition of various items: licensor, contributor, contribution, redistribution, source, object, etc

clarifies what is granted by all contributors

designed to be reused by many projects

confidence in competence and intentions of ASF

OSI-approved

patent rights clauses

# Patents

## Apache license clause 3

all contributors grant use rights to patents they can license that are necessarily infringed by their contribution

this is form of assurance to package adopters

parties who initiate patent infringement suit lose rights

a burden on contributors?

maybe, but we have had patent trouble ...

removes (some) burden from adopters

# Apache License Adoption

(aka Bob's Crusade)

## Internet2 Middleware products

Shib has home-grown, Shibboleth-specific, BSD-minimal, ala Internet2 IP Framework;  
will be moving to Apache with next version

Signet, Grouper likely to follow

## U Washington products

Pubcookie (next version), some smaller things

Others?