



CanDoTech Consulting Inc.

Fully Managed Small Business IT Services

Your Outsourced IT Department

OPEN LICENSE VS GPL V3 VS PROPRIETARY LICENSING TERMS

Open license, GPL v3 (GNU General Public License v3), and proprietary licensing terms are different techniques for licensing software. Here is an overview of each:

1. Open License:

- Open licenses are designed to promote open-source ideas and offer freedom to customers. They grant customers the right to use, adjust, distribute, and occasionally even promote software programs.
- open licenses frequently require that derivative works also be licensed under comparable open licenses, ensuring the ongoing openness and accessibility of the software.
- examples of open licenses include the MIT license, Apache license, and creative commons licenses.

2. GPL v3 (GNU General Public License version 3):

- GPL v3 is a specific open-source license, created by using the free software foundation (FSF), which emphasizes software freedom and copyleft principles.
- copyleft provisions in GPL v3 require that any by-derivative works or modifications of the software program should also be licensed under GPL v3. This ensures that the source code stays open and freely available.
- GPL v3 additionally consists of provisions associated with patent protection, anti-tivoization, and license compatibility with other open licenses.

3. Proprietary Licensing Terms:

- Proprietary licenses are employed by individuals or organizations to protect their software as proprietary intellectual property.
- These types of licenses often limit users' rights and impose constraints on the modification, distribution, and usage of such software.
- in addition to potential licensing fees, they can feature restrictions that forbid reverse engineering or customization while prohibiting redistribution without explicit consent from the licensor.
- The end-user license agreements (EULAs) utilized by various business software providers serve as examples of proprietary licenses.

KEY DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN THOSE LICENSING TERMS CONSIST OF:

- **SOFTWARE FREEDOM:** Open licenses and GPL v3 prioritize software program freedom, permitting customers to get the right to access, modify, and distribute the software program. Proprietary licenses usually limit these rights.
- **COPYLEFT VS PERMISSIVE:** The GPL v3 license includes copyleft provisions that mandate derivative works to be licensed under the same terms. In contrast, alternative open licenses may include more relaxed conditions.
- **LICENSE RESTRICTIONS:** Proprietary licenses can impose diverse restrictions on utilization, modification, and distribution, while open licenses and GPL v3 tend to sell openness, transparency, and collaboration.

When selecting a license, developers, and organizations must consider their objectives, the community they want to build, their intentions for software openness, and any legal or business concerns. Seeking



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advice from legal experts can ensure compliance with licensing regulations while aligning with desired goals.

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