Stand Up for the GNU GPL!

Karen M. Sandler
LibrePlanet 2015
March 22, 2015
About me...

- Executive Director, Conservancy
- Board of Directors, GNOME Foundation
- Pro bono counsel, FSF, GNOME, QCO...
- Co-organizer, Outreachy
- Cyborg
- I ♥ LibrePlanet

@o0karen0o  @conservancy
About me...

• Executive Director, Conservancy
• Board of Directors, GNOME Foundation
• Pro bono counsel, FSF, GNOME, QCO...
• Co-organizer, Outreachy
• Cyborg
• I ♥ LibrePlanet
  @o0karen0o  @conservancy
Newcomer?
Standing up for the GNU GPL
We get passionate requests for enforcement.
Supercomputers
Android phones
TVs
Cars
International Space Station
Google Facebook Twitter Amazon
Copyleft is good for everyone in the long run.
How much is saved on software and how many months are products faster to market?
Free software is everywhere and yet our freedoms are being constantly eroded.
Once upon a time...
(aka October 2011)
• $36 billion market cap
• net revenue of over $1 billion
• Over 14,000 employees
In 2014, VMware finally said they would not comply with the GPL.
This is Christoph Hellwig

- 279,653 lines of code in the kernel
- 20\textsuperscript{th} of 1,340 in 3.19
- 4\textsuperscript{th} among reviewers of third party code
VMware asked for an NDA just to look at the settlement offer!
We were left with no choice but to sue.
This is the first case on derivative works.
#VMwareDTRT
Statement in support of Software Freedom Conservancy and Christoph Hellwig, GPL enforcement lawsuit

by Joshua Gay — Published on Mar 05, 2015 12:48 PM

While the Free Software Foundation is not directly involved in the suit, we support the effort.

On Thursday, March 5, 2015, Christoph Hellwig, with support from the Software Freedom Conservancy, filed suit in Hamburg, Germany against VMware Global, Inc. Hellwig is a prominent contributor to the kernel Linux, releasing his contributions under the terms of the GNU General Public License (GPL) version 2. VMware, like everyone, is free to use, modify, and distribute such software under the GPL, so long as they make available the human-readable source code corresponding to their version of the software when they distribute it.

This simple and fair obligation is the cornerstone of the successful cooperation we've seen for decades between organizations both for-profit and non-profit, users, and developers—the same cooperation which has given us the GNU/Linux operating system and inspired a wealth of free software programs for nearly every imaginable use.
“The point of the GPL is that nobody can claim those rights and then kick away the ladder to prevent others from also receiving them. We hope VMware will step up and do the right thing,”

-- John Sullivan, FSF's executive director.
“They should read our open source 101 materials!”
Enforcing the GPL is very political
We are a small organization
...with a lot of other important work to do.
We need your help
Support GPL Compliance Now!

Support our GPL compliance work now & donations count double!

Thanks to 1,005 donations, $41,774 of $50,000 match met.

83.5%
We don't want to litigate, we just want compliance.
copyleft.org

copyleft.org is a collaborative project to create and disseminate useful information, tutorial material, and new policy ideas regarding all forms of copyleft licensing. Its primary project is currently a comprehensive tutorial and guide, which describes the policy motivations for copyleft exists, presents a detailed analysis of the text of various copyleft licenses, and gives examples and case studies of copyleft compliance situations.

The Copyleft Guide and Tutorial

The primary project currently on this site is the tutorial book entitled Copyleft and the GNU General Public License: A Comprehensive Guide and Tutorial.

Getting Involved

There are various ways to get involved with this project. The primary copyleft.org website is a wiki, and we welcome additional information. Please edit this wiki with more information about copyleft.

However, the primary project available on this site is the aforementioned guide and tutorial about GPL and other copyleft concepts. We seek contributors.

Who Contributes to copyleft.org?

This site is a joint project of Software Freedom Conservancy and the Free Software Foundation. The editor-in-chief of the guide is Bradley M. Kuhn. The recent changes page shows who has contributed to the wiki, and you can see the Git commit log on the tutorial to see who has contributed to it.

Offsite Resources

What Is Copyleft?
Chapter 20
ThinkPenguin Wireless Router: Excellent CCS

Too often, case studies examine failure and mistakes. Indeed, most of the chapters that follow herein will consider the myriad difficulties discovered in community-oriented GPL enforcement for the last two decades. However, to begin, we offer a study in how copyleft compliance done correctly. This example is, in fact, more than ten years in the making. Since almost the inception of for-profit corporate adoption of Free Software, companies have requested a clear example of a model citizen to emulate. Sadly, while community-oriented enforcers have vetted uncounted thousands of “Complete, Corresponding Source” CCS candidates from hundreds of companies.
This is a long road.
You have a lot of power in this fight.
Stand up for the GNU GPL!
Thank you

- Software Freedom Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) charity in the USA - make a donation!
  
  sfconservancy.org/donate/

- These slides, this talk, and audio/video recordings thereof (except for photos by others) are licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-SA 4.0)