



SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

Coimbatore-35.

An Autonomous Institution

COURSE NAME : 19CSE314 OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE

III YEAR/ VI SEMESTER

UNIT I

LICENSES IN FOSS



LICENSES

Some of the most common **FOSS licenses** are :

1. GNU General Public License (GPL)

- **Key Features:**
 - One of the most popular and widely used open-source licenses.
 - Allows users to modify, use, and distribute the software.
 - Requires that any derivative works (modified versions) also be open source and licensed under the GPL.
 - Ensures that the software remains free for everyone, including modified versions.
- **Versions:** The **GPLv2** and **GPLv3** are the two most common versions, with **GPLv3** providing additional protections, particularly regarding patents and anti-circumvention laws.



LICENSES

Some of the most common **FOSS licenses** are :

2. MIT License

- **Key Features:**

- Extremely permissive and simple license.
- Allows users to do almost anything with the software (use, modify, distribute, even for commercial purposes).
- The only requirement is that the original copyright notice and license text must be included in the software when redistributed.
- **No copyleft:** Unlike the GPL, you are not required to release derivative works under the same license.



LICENSES

Some of the most common **FOSS licenses** are :

3. Apache License 2.0

- **Key Features:**

- Permissive license similar to MIT but with more explicit terms.
- Allows modification, distribution, and commercial use of the software.
- Provides an explicit grant of patent rights from contributors to users, ensuring that users are not at risk of patent litigation.
- Requires modified versions of the software to include a prominent notice of changes made.
- Allows the use of trademarks, unlike the GPL.



LICENSES

Some of the most common **FOSS licenses** are :

4. **BSD License (Berkeley Software Distribution)**

- **Key Features:**

- **2-clause BSD License:** Permissive and simple, allowing almost unrestricted use, modification, and redistribution, as long as the copyright notice and disclaimers are retained.
- **3-clause BSD License:** Adds an additional restriction preventing the use of the name of the software or its contributors for promotional purposes without permission.
- Often used for software projects like FreeBSD and many others.
- Like the MIT license, the BSD license doesn't require derivative works to be open source.



LICENSES

Some of the most common **FOSS licenses** are :

5. Creative Commons (CC) Licenses

- **Key Features:**

- Typically used for creative works such as text, art, or multimedia content rather than software.
- Provides different levels of permissions, ranging from very permissive (CC BY) to very restrictive (CC BY-NC-ND).
- Commonly used for open educational resources, documentation, and content associated with software projects.
- Not typically used for software itself, but often applied to the documentation or non-code assets of software projects.



Thank You!