

Software License

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The licenses of the commercial packaged software are often quite restrictive, forbidding users to duplicate, modify, reverse-engineer and transfer the software. The licenses are usually given when you open the package or when you click a button on the monitor screen to show your acceptance. However, since there is no room for negotiation between the seller and the buyer, and since it requires a legal fiction to regard opening a package or clicking a button as an act of accepting a contractual proposal, the effectiveness of such licenses has been under controversy.

To oppose such licenses' restriction and to foster creativity in the software community, the concept of free and open-source software was created. The far less restrictive licenses derived from the concept is gaining trust in the user community and the software with such licenses is steadily growing in number. The likely effect of this movement in the long run is decline of the proprietary software currently enjoying monopolistic advantages in the market. Therefore, it is too myopic to create a law favoring the restrictive licenses now.