

Public Policy for COVESA Licensing and Copyright Version 2.0

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1 Introduction

1.1 Scope

This document defines rules and guidelines regarding applicable licenses for code and documentation submitted to COVESA.

Red light licenses should be avoided also in all other artifacts.

1.2 Definitions

COVESA Baseline - A COVESA Baseline is a base platform provided as continuous integration recipe.

COVESA Compliance Specification - The COVESA Compliance Specification, if one exists, is a member-only document that specifies the requirements for the COVESA platform.

Contributor - Any person or legal entity contributing code to a COVESA project is considered a contributor.

Copyleft - Copyleft (a play on the word copyright) is the practice of using copyright law to offer the right to distribute copies and modified versions of a work and requiring that the same rights be preserved in modified versions of the work. In other words, copyleft is a general method for making a program (or other work) free (libre), and requiring all modified and extended versions of the program to be free as well.¹

1.3 Disclaimer

This Policy for COVESA Licensing and Copyrights ('Policy') is solely intended to provide high level information and guidance to COVESA and its Contributors. Nothing in this document shall be intended to provide legal advice. Each contributor shall use its own legal advisor for any interpretation or application of this Policy. This Policy is provided 'as is' and with all risks, without warranty of any kind including but not limited to warranties for merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose, title and non-infringement of third party rights with respect to any content and information hereunder. COVESA disclaims any liability for any inaccuracy or incompleteness.

¹ Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copyleft> retrieved 2013-08-30, licensed under CC-BY-SA 3.0

2 License Classifications

Not all licenses are considered equally acceptable for Covered Artifacts. Therefore licenses are divided into three categories:

- **Green-light:** These licenses have been reviewed by COVESA and accepted as suitable licenses without restrictions. If one of the licenses of a dual/multi-licensed project is a green-light license, then the component is acceptable.
- **Red-light:** These licenses have been reviewed by COVESA and rejected. These licenses may not be used for Covered Artifacts without exception.
- **Orange-light:** These licenses have been reviewed by COVESA and accepted as suitable licenses in certain cases.

The license and its usage scenario must be submitted to the COVESA Community Director (email to: pboyes@covesa.global). Recipients of this email will have the authority to review the particular case and to determine if the license is suitable in the described concrete case. If a license is intended to be used, but not listed in this policy, it must be submitted to the COVESA Community Director for approval.

COVESA may change the designation of one or more licenses in a later version of this document. Questions about COVESA's current designation of one or more licenses can be sent to the COVESA Community Director.

2.1 Green-light Licenses

2.1.1 Green-light Licenses for Code Artifacts

2.1.1.1 Mozilla Public License, Version 2.0 (MPL 2.0)

<http://www.mozilla.org/MPL/2.0/>

It is a weak copyleft license. This license is COVESA's preferred Open Source Software license. It is the default license for COVESA Hosted Code (see Section 3.1). It provides a good trade-off between copyleft for preventing privatization of the code and commercial adoption.

2.1.1.2 BSD 2- and 3-clause License

<http://opensource.org/licenses/BSD-2-Clause>

<http://opensource.org/licenses/BSD-3-Clause>

These are permissive licenses and are widely used.

2.1.1.3 MIT/X11 License

<http://opensource.org/licenses/MIT>

This is a commonly used permissive license similar to the BSD license.

2.1.1.4 Apache 1.1 License

<http://www.apache.org/licenses/LICENSE-1.1>

This is permissive license that restricts the use of the name "Apache" for advertising and product names.

2.1.1.5 Apache 2.0 License

<http://www.apache.org/licenses/LICENSE-2.0>

This is permissive license is an update of the Apache 1.1 license and includes patent grant and retaliation clauses.

2.1.1.6 Artistic License (versions 1.0)

<http://opensource.org/licenses/Artistic-1.0>

This is permissive license that is widely used (mainly for projects in the Perl programming language).

2.1.1.7 Artistic License (version 2.0)

<http://opensource.org/licenses/Artistic-2.0>

This is permissive license that is widely used (mainly for projects in the Perl programming language).

2.1.1.8 Eclipse Public License V1.0 (EPL 1.0)

<http://www.eclipse.org/legal/epl-v10.html>

This is weak copyleft license that is used by the Eclipse Projects and others. Copyleft is limited to a “module”. It has a limited patent retaliation clause.

2.1.1.9 Zlib license

<https://opensource.org/licenses/Zlib>

This is a permissive license with no copyleft effect. Modified files must be plainly marked as such.

2.1.1.10 Free Software Foundation Permission Notice

“Copyright (C) 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 Free Software Foundation, Inc.

This file is free software; the Free Software Foundation gives unlimited permission to copy and/or distribute it, with or without modifications, as long as this notice is preserved. This program is distributed in the hope that it will be useful, but WITHOUT ANY WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by law; without even the implied warranty of MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.”

This is a permissive Free Software Foundation permission notice that is widely used.

2.1.2 Green-light Licenses for Documentation Artifacts

2.1.2.1 Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 License (CC-BY-SA)

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0>

This is a Copyleft license which allows no proprietary forks and should be used for differentiating material. This license is GENIVI’s preferred and default license for documentation artifacts.

2.1.2.2 Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License (CC-BY)

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>

This is a permissive license which should be used for informative material.

2.2 Red-light Licenses

2.2.1 Red-light Licenses for Code Artifacts

2.2.1.1 GPLv3

<http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl-3.0.html>

Reason for rejecting: GPLv3’s anti-tivoization clause (see

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tivoization#GPLv3>)

2.2.1.2 LGPLv3

<http://www.gnu.org/licenses/lgpl-3.0.html>

Reason for rejecting: GPLv3's anti-tivoization clause (see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tivoization#GPLv3>) which also applies to LGPLv3.

2.2.1.3 LGPLv2.0

<http://www.gnu.org/licenses/lgpl-2.0.html>

Reason for rejecting: LGPLv2.0 requires distribution of the object code of the whole work that uses the library, to enable the recipient to link his/her modified version of the library to the resulting work.

2.2.1.4 BSD 4-clause License

<http://spdx.org/licenses/BSD-4-Clause>

Reason for rejecting: the advertising clause that requires the licensee to advertise the use of that specific piece of code. There are very few open source projects that use this license. Almost every project that used this license has switched to a version of the license that drops the advertising clause.

2.2.1.5 Mozilla Public License, Version 1.1 (MPL 1.1)

<http://www.mozilla.org/MPL/MPL-1.1.html>

This is a weak copyleft license. Reason for rejecting: This license contains a broad patent license retaliation clause which is not acceptable for OEMs.

Note: There is a provision in MPL 1.1 (clause 6.2) that allows switching to a newer version of the license. This is recommended, as MPL 2.0 is green-light.

2.2.1.6 Flora License

This is basically similar to the Apache License, version 2.0, but has a modified patent clause.

Reason for rejecting: The patent license is only granted, if the code is incorporated in a "Tizen Certified Platform", where the definition says: "Tizen Certified Platform" shall mean a software platform that complies with the standards set forth in the Compatibility Definition Document and passes the Compatibility Test Suite as defined from time to time by the Tizen Technical Steering Group and certified by the Tizen Association or its designated agent.

2.2.1.7 License for the MD5 message-digest algorithm

<https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc1321>

Reason for rejecting: the advertising clause that requires the licensee to advertise the use of that specific piece of code.

2.3 Orange-light Licenses

2.3.1 Orange-light Licenses for Code Artifacts

2.3.1.1 GPLv2

This is a very widely used, strong copyleft license.

<http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl-2.0.html>

The reason for orange-light designation is the strong copyleft of GPLv2 which requires to differentiate between use cases where GPLv2 is acceptable and where not.

GPLv2 is acceptable:

- i. as a kernel license irrespective of the license of an application running on the kernel,
- ii. as a user space application license irrespective of the kernel license, but **only** when applied to program code. Copyleft must be evaluated and observed.

GPLv2 is not acceptable as a user space library license, i.e. when applied to code that is intended to be used as a library. It is a widespread opinion that if a library is licensed under GPL v2, then all program code that links to that library must also be placed under the GPL v2.

Exceptions can be made in the case of specific components (e.g. if a library is only used by programs that are licensed under GPLv2).

If the component licensing is GPLv2 **or later** (which is common), this fact should be recorded so that COVESA is aware that component may later be relicensed to GPLv3 (which is categorized as red light).

2.3.1.1.1 GNU GPL Autoconf Exception

“As a special exception to the GNU General Public License, if you distribute this file as part of a program that contains a configuration script generated by Autoconf, you may include it under the same distribution terms that you use for the rest of that program.”

This is a widely used GNU GPL exception mainly for the configure files. If the software contains a configuration script generated by Autoconf, this file can be distributed under any license. Accordingly, the GPL copyleft effect can be avoided.

2.3.1.2 LGPLv2.1

<http://www.gnu.org/licenses/lgpl-2.1.html>

This is a widely used, weak Copyleft license. The reason for orange-light designation are certain provisions of LGPL that require to differentiate between use cases where LGPLv2.1 is acceptable and where not.

LGPLv2.1 is acceptable when applied to library code that is dynamically linked.

LGPLv2.1 is not acceptable:

- i. when applied to library code that is statically linked. The reason for this is a provision in section 6a which requires to make available the rest of the program as object code and/or source code to enable the recipient to link his/her modified version of the library to the resulting work.
- ii. when applied to program code. The reason is the provision in section 2a that the result of modifications must itself be a software library. This can be interpreted such that a modified program can no longer be licensed under LGPL unless it is transformed into a library. Section 3 of LGPL allows GPL as an alternative license which then would have to be applied. Most likely, using LGPL for program code is unproblematic, but some further study is needed. Note also that some existing applications use LGPL as their license so that, for example, proprietary plug-ins can be connected to the application. Examples include OpenOffice.org and Qt (since March 2009, <http://www.qtsoftware.com/about/news/lgpl-license-option-added-to-qt>).

2.3.1.3 Academic Free License (all versions)

<http://opensource.org/licenses/AFL-3.0>

Rationale for orange-light designation: incompatibility with the GPL.

2.3.1.4 Open Software License (all versions)

<http://opensource.org/licenses/OSL-3.0>

Rationale for orange-light designation: incompatibility with the GPL.

2.3.1.5 Public domain

Source code that is marked as being in the public domain (i.e., the author has disclaimed all rights in the source code) is acceptable in given usage scenarios. In most European countries “public domain” is not valid. It is therefore necessary that the author of the software designated as “public domain” also makes additional statements that can clearly be interpreted as a permissive royalty free license to use the software without any restrictions (including commercial exploitation). A good example is CC0 (see: <http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/>).

2.3.1.6 OpenSSL License

<http://www.openssl.org/source/license.html>

Rationale for orange-light designation: incompatibility with GPL, (see:

<http://www.gnome.org/~markmc/openssl-and-the-gpl.html>,

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OpenSSL#Licensing>, <http://www.gnu.org/philosophy/licenselist.html>, <http://www.dwheeler.com/essays/gpl-compatible.html>).

<http://www.dwheeler.com/essays/gpl-compatible.html>).

The OpenSSL license also has an advertisement clause that needs to be observed.

Note that in many countries export regulations for cryptographic software exist. Export of SSL software is restricted or requires accompanying documentation.

For the reasons listed, the OpenSSL license should be red-light. However, the OpenSSL project is essential, and it uses this license. The OpenSSL license is thus only permitted for the OpenSSL Toolkit.

Perhaps there is an alternative available under a different license (see

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_TLS_Implementations)

2.3.2 Orange-light Licenses for Documentation Artifacts

2.3.2.1 Creative Commons Attribution-NoDerivatives 4.0 License (CC-ND)

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/4.0>

This is a restrictive license which does not allow to make changes to the material. It should be used for unique, differentiating material which only COVESA may change. It is not an “Open Source” license and may only be used after a case-by-case approval.

3 Licenses and Copyright for COVESA Code Artifacts

3.1 Default License

3.1.1 Default License for Code Artifacts

The default open source software license for COVESA Hosted Code is the Mozilla Public License, Version 2.0 (MPL 2.0). Note: This license fulfills all of the following requirements COVESA had defined before (see bullet list below). It must be used unless there are significant technical or business reasons to use a different license (exceptional licenses see 3.2):

- The license shall allow combining the COVESA Hosted Code with proprietary software and GPLv2 software alternatively.
- The COVESA prefers a copyleft license to avoid privatization of the COVESA Hosted Code.
- The COVESA would like to use a license with a clear scope of the patent license regime.
- Where possible, the COVESA would prefer a single license for all COVESA Hosted Code instead of several licenses for different components.
- The COVESA wants to avoid an uncommon license.
- The license should be valid worldwide.
- A COVESA member must be able to sell products based on this to non-members.

3.1.2 Default License for Documentation Artifacts

The default license for documentation artifacts is the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 License (CC-BY-SA). Its characteristics and benefits are comparable to those of MPL 2.0 which is the default license for code artifacts.

3.2 Exceptional Licenses

3.2.1 Exceptional Licenses for Code Artifacts

The following licenses may be employed instead of the default licenses if there are significant reasons to use them for COVESA Hosted Code.

3.2.1.1 *Apache License Version 2.0*

This license may be used for software that is to be licensed under a permissive license and that does not need to be compatible with the GPLv2. The Apache License 2.0 is the default permissive license for COVESA Hosted Code.

3.2.1.2 *MIT/X11 License*

The MIT/X11 License does not have a clear patent license regime and should thus be avoided. However, it is GPL compatible and thus the license of choice for software components that need to be permissively licensed and combinable with GPL licensed software.

3.2.1.1 *Eclipse Public License Version 1.0*

Being similar to MPL v2.0, EPL v1.0 also fulfils the COVESA requirements. It is the default license for COVESA Hosted Code which is used in the context of Eclipse (e.g. Eclipse plugins).

3.2.1.2 *GPLv2 and LGPLv2.1*

GPLv2 is an acceptable choice for open source software where potential privatization is a relevant risk, and for this reason a stronger Copyleft license is preferred. The GPLv2 may only be used for programs;

the LGPLv2.1 may only be used for software libraries. Note that the addition “or any later” to the GPL license’s version is not permitted because the GPLv3 is not acceptable for the COVESA.

In each of the above cases, the decision to use an exceptional license will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with COVESA during component integration.

3.2.2 Exceptional Licenses for Documentation Artifacts

The following licenses may be employed instead of the default licenses if there are significant reasons to use them for documentation artifacts:

3.2.2.1 *Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License (CC BY)*

This license is an acceptable choice for documents with informational character, e.g. marketing material.

3.2.2.2 *Creative Commons Attribution-NoDerivatives 4.0 License (CC BY-ND)*

This license can be used for selected documentation where COVESA wants to ensure they stay unchanged unless COVESA changes them, e.g. public parts of Compliance Specifications.

Under certain circumstances it may be useful/necessary to apply the same license to the documentation as applied to the code. This is possible in general, but it requires individual COVESA approval.

3.3 Copyright

Copyright of COVESA Hosted Code remains with the original author unless the software was developed directly under a COVESA contract and the contract requires that ownership be granted to COVESA. All files of COVESA Hosted Code must carry a license notice and indicate being part of COVESA’s projects.

For these reasons, the COVESA will employ the following guidelines:

1. Each software component project must contain in the project’s root directory a file “COPYING” that contains the full copyright statements and the name(s) of the license(s) relevant to the software component and accompanying media (e.g. icons, artwork, documentation etc.).
2. Each software component project must contain in the project’s root directory a file “LICENSE” that contains the full text of the relevant license(s).
3. Each file with meaningful content must contain an appropriate license header for the applied license as provided in chapter 3.4. Meaningful content is usually code (including xml, and fidl) and documentation (including specification and user documentation). No meaningful content is usually found in build scripts, property files, readme and release notes. There is no “hard” criteria for content being meaningful. If in doubt, COVESA should be contacted or meaningful content should be assumed and an appropriate license header be added to the file.

3.4 License Header Templates

In the following license header templates, the line “Copyright (C) ...” may be duplicated in case of

- Multiple initial copyright holders
- Later contributions of other copyright holders

3.4.1 License Header Templates for Code Artifacts

3.4.1.1 *MPL 2.0*

```
/* SPDX-License-Identifier: MPL-2.0
```

```
*
```

```
* Copyright (C) <year>, <Copyright holder’s name>
```

Copyright (C) 2022, COVESA

This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License](#).

```
*
* This file is part of <component-project-name>.
*
* This Source Code Form is subject to the terms of the
* Mozilla Public License (MPL), v. 2.0.
* If a copy of the MPL was not distributed with this file,
* You can obtain one at http://mozilla.org/MPL/2.0/.
*
* For further information see http://www.genivi.org/.
*
* List of changes:
* <date>, <name>, <description of change>
* <date>, <name>, <description of change>
*
*/
```

3.4.1.2 Apache 2.0 License

```
/* SPDX-License-Identifier: Apache-2.0
*
* Copyright (C) <year>, <Copyright holder's name>
*
* This file is part of <component-project-name>.
*
* Licensed under the Apache License, Version 2.0 (the "License");
* you may not use this file except in compliance with the License.
* You may obtain a copy of the License at
*
* http://www.apache.org/licenses/LICENSE-2.0
*
* Unless required by applicable law or agreed to in writing, software
* distributed under the License is distributed on an "AS IS" BASIS,
* WITHOUT WARRANTIES OR CONDITIONS OF ANY KIND, either express or implied.
* See the License for the specific language governing permissions and
* limitations under the License.
*
* For further information see http://www.genivi.org/.
*
* List of changes:
* <date>, <name>, <description of change>
* <date>, <name>, <description of change>
*
*/
```

3.4.1.3 MIT/X11 License

```
/* SPDX-License-Identifier: MIT
*
* Copyright (C) <year>, <Copyright holder's name>
*
* This file is part of <component-project-name>.
*
* This Source Code Form is subject to the terms of the
* MIT License (MIT)
*
* For further information see http://www.genivi.org/.
*
* List of changes:
```

Copyright (C) 2022, COVESA

This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/4.0/).

```
* <date>, <name>, <description of change>
* <date>, <name>, <description of change>
*
*/
```

3.4.1.4 EPL 1.0

```
/* SPDX-License-Identifier: EPL-1.0
*
* Copyright (c) <year>, <Copyright holder's name>.
*
* This file is part of <component-project-name>.
*
* This program and the accompanying materials are made available
* under the terms of the Eclipse Public License v1.0
* which accompanies this distribution, and is available at
* http://www.eclipse.org/legal/epl-v10.html.
*
* For further information see http://www.genivi.org/.
*
* Contributors:
* <name> - <description>
* <name> - <description>
*/
```

3.4.1.5 GPL v2

```
/* SPDX-License-Identifier: GPL-2.0
*
* Copyright (C) <year>, <Copyright holder's name>
*
* This file is part of <component-project-name>.
*
*
* This program is free software; you can redistribute it and/or
* modify it under the terms of the GNU General Public License
* version 2 as published by the Free Software Foundation.
*
* This program is distributed in the hope that it will be useful,
* but WITHOUT ANY WARRANTY; without even the implied warranty of
* MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. See the
* GNU General Public License for more details.
*
* You should have received a copy of the GNU General Public License
* along with this program; if not, write to the Free Software
* Foundation, Inc., 51 Franklin Street, Fifth Floor,
* Boston, MA 02110-1301, USA.
*
* For further information see http://www.genivi.org/.
*
* List of changes:
* <date>, <name>, <description of change>
* <date>, <name>, <description of change>
*
*/
```

3.4.1.6 LGPL v2.1

```
/* SPDX-License-Identifier: LGPL-2.1
*
* Copyright (C) <year>, <Copyright holder's name>
*
* This file is part of <component-project-name>.
*
*
* This library is free software; you can redistribute it and/or
* modify it under the terms of the GNU Lesser General Public
* License version 2.1 as published by the Free Software Foundation.
*
* This library is distributed in the hope that it will be useful,
* but WITHOUT ANY WARRANTY; without even the implied warranty of
* MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. See the GNU
* Lesser General Public License for more details.
*
* You should have received a copy of the GNU Lesser General Public
* License along with this library; if not, write to the Free Software
* Foundation, Inc., 51 Franklin Street, Fifth Floor,
* Boston, MA 02110-1301 USA
*
* For further information see http://www.genivi.org/.
*
* List of changes:
* <date>, <name>, <description of change>
* <date>, <name>, <description of change>
*
*/
```

3.4.2 License Header Templates for Documentation Artifacts

3.4.2.1 CC-BY-SA

```
SPDX-License-Identifier: CC-BY-SA-4.0
Copyright (C) <year>, <Copyright holder's name>
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike
4.0 International License.
```

3.4.2.2 CC-BY

```
SPDX-License-Identifier: CC-BY-4.0
Copyright (C) <year>, <Copyright holder's name>
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0
International License.
```