

Comparison of open source licenses

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	Apache 2.0	Artistic 2.0	BSD	(L)GPL	MIT	zlib
Must include source	no	no	no	yes	no	no
Viral ¹	semi ²	semi	no	yes/semi (LGPL) ³	no	no
Upgrade provisions ⁴	no	no	no	yes	no	no
May charge for copies ⁵	yes	no ⁶	yes	yes	yes	yes
Retain copyright notices	source ⁷	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Anti-misrepresent clause	no	yes	no	optional(v3)	no	yes
Anti-advertising clause	no	no	yes	optional(v3)	no	no
Anti-obfuscation clause	no	yes	no	yes(v3)	no	no
Prevent fork misrepresent	no	yes	no	optional(v3)	no	yes
Prevent copy protection	no	no	no	yes(v3)	no	no
Include license	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	source
Restrict distribution of forks	no	yes ⁸	no	no	no	no
Limited disclaimer ⁹	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no

Artistic license

For distribution of forks, clearly document changes and (a) send upstream, (b) name differently and play nice with original, or (c) license it under a license that fulfills certain criteria. You must not charge licensing fees for packages that include the work. When the original work's API/interface is not exposed, your derived work is not restricted by any other terms. The same applies if you distribute bugfixes or portability fixes.

GPL/LGPL

Entries specific to version 3 ("v3" suffix) mean that the answer for version 2 is **no**.

General remarks

Accuracy: I do not guarantee that the information in this table is correct, even though I made every effort to check it. Some details are omitted, so you shouldn't exclusively rely on this table, anyway.

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¹forks must relicense under the same terms

²for contributions to upstream

³LGPL: not for things that just interface with the work

⁴people may opt to apply a newer version of the license if granted by the author

⁵unless otherwise noted, nominal transfer fees are always allowed

⁶except unmodified; see details section

⁷and always include NOTICE file

⁸except bugfixes, portability etc.; see detailed section

⁹disclaimer allows for local laws that restrict completely disclaiming liability