

# REUSE

Simple steps to declare your copyright and licenses

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# Typical Issues with licensing



- **Missing information** about license and copyright of own or third-party code
- Re-users may **overlook chosen licenses** for all or individual files.
- How to deal with **multiple licenses**?
- License **ambiguity** (e.g. GPL version)
- Contributors need some sort of **training**
- **Conflicting** best practices



# How to make licensing and copyright easier for everyone?

# REUSE's Principles



**REUSE**  
S O F T W A R E

<https://reuse.software>

- Make it easy to find copyright/licensing information for **every single file** in a repo
- Avoid silos by **storing info inside the repo**
- Info **readable** by humans and machines
- Do not reinvent the wheel, be **compatible**
- Make licensing **easy and fun** for developers, no matter the project size

# Three Simple Steps



**REUSE**  
S O F T W A R E

<https://reuse.software>

1. Choose and provide licenses
2. Add copyright and licensing information to each file
3. Confirm REUSE compliance

# 1. Choose and provide licenses

- Choose license(s) that the project uses
- Save license text(s) inside the `LICENSES/` directory
- Name after **SPDX** license identifier

```
project/  
├── LICENSES/  
│   └── GPL-3.0-or-later.txt  
├── src/  
│   └── main.c
```

# 2. Copyright and license information

- Add information in every file as comment in the header
  - License(s): *SPDX-License-Identifier*
  - Copyright holder: *Copyright* or *SPDX-FileCopyrightText*

```
/*  
 * SPDX-License-Identifier: GPL-3.0-or-later  
 *  
 * SPDX-FileCopyrightText: 2021 Jane Doe <jane@example.com>  
 * Copyright © 2017 Foo Bar <foo@bar.baz>  
 */
```

# 2. Copyright and license information

- Two alternatives if file is not editable:

1. **Separate .license file** ←

2. dep5 file in / .reuse

```
project/  
├── img/  
│   ├── cat.jpg  
│   └── cat.jpg.license
```



```
SPDX-License-Identifier: CC-BY-4.0
```

```
SPDX-FileCopyrightText: 2021 Great Artist <artist@example.net>
```



# 2. Copyright and license information

- Two alternatives if file is not editable:

1. Separate .license file

- 2. dep5 file in / .reuse ←**

```
Format: https://www.debian.org/doc/packaging-manuals/copyright-format/1.0
Upstream-Name: reuse-example
Upstream-Contact: Free Software Foundation Europe <https://fsfe.org>
Source: https://github.com/fsfe/reuse-example

Files: img/*
Copyright: 2021 Great Artist <artist@example.net>
License: CC-BY-4.0
```

# 3. Confirm REUSE compliance

Use the **REUSE helper tool** to check for missing information

```
$ reuse lint
```

```
# SUMMARY
```

```
* Bad licenses: 0
```

```
* Missing licenses: 0
```

```
* Unused licenses: 0
```

```
* Used licenses: CC-BY-4.0, CC0-1.0, GPL-3.0-or-later
```

```
* Read errors: 0
```

```
* Files with copyright information: 6 / 6
```

```
* Files with license information: 6 / 6
```

```
Congratulations! Your project is compliant with version 3.0 of the  
REUSE Specification :-)
```

# REUSE Specialities

- License text files stored in **LICENSES/ directory**
- **Every file** shall contain comment header with copyright and SPDX license identifier tags
- Alternatives for **uncommentable files**
- **Unambiguous** copyright and licensing information for every single file of a repository

# Components

## Best Practices

Specification ready to be integrated by community and industry

## Helper Tool

Support developers in making their projects REUSE compliant



## Tutorial / FAQ

Low entry barrier, answering basic and advanced questions

# Demo Time (Tool)

# Components

## Best Practices

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## Tutorial / FAQ

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## API / Badge

Quick check of a repository, and generate a dynamic badge

# Demo Time (API)

# Ongoing Developments



## Tools

Improvements and more automation for REUSE helper tool and API



## Specification

More flexibility with REUSE.yaml and snippet declaration



## Integration

Better integration of REUSE in platforms and other initiatives



## Spread

Support communities and companies with adopting the best practices



# REUSE Adopters

- 400+ registered API projects
- Majority of projects (100+) of the *Next Generation Internet* EU project
- KDE and its frameworks
- Policies of Siemens, SAP, Liferay, LF Energy...
- Linux-Kernel (partly)
- You?

# Your Next Steps

1. Sign up the mailing list to take part
2. Make one of your projects REUSE compliant
3. Integrate REUSE into your community
4. Contribute code to REUSE
5. Help others to adopt REUSE

# Thank you! Questions?



**REUSE**  
S O F T W A R E

Web: [reuse.software](https://reuse.software)

List: [lists.fsfe.org/mailman/listinfo/reuse](https://lists.fsfe.org/mailman/listinfo/reuse)

Git: [github.com/fsfe](https://github.com/fsfe) | [git.fsfe.org/reuse](https://git.fsfe.org/reuse)

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