

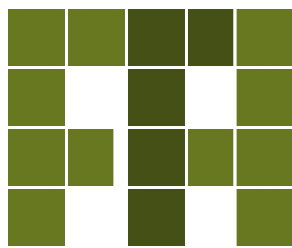


Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme



Education, Audiovisual & Culture
Executive Agency



FREE
TECHNOLOGY
ACADEMY

The concepts of Free Software and Open Standards

Third Continuous Assessment Activity

CAA3

NAME:

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Instructions

- The solved activity must be delivered in one of the following formats: plain text, ODF, PDF or RTF.
- Please include your full name in the first page of the document and rename the file as follows: *IntroFS_CAA3-NameSurname.**
- The submission deadline is Monday, 12 April at 24h CET. Late submissions will be accepted but will have their grade reduced in 1 point for every 24h delay.
- If you have any doubts regarding this CAA you can post them to the corresponding "Materials and activities" forum in the classroom, or ask your tutor directly.

1. [2 points] *Create a diagram that contains the following elements:*

*Freeware
Shareware
Charityware
Public Domain
Free Software
Open Source Software
Closed source software
Gratis software
Proprietary software
Robust licenses
Permissive licenses
BSD
GPL
LGPL
X11
ZPL
Apache license
Sleepycat
eCos
Affero GPL
IBM Public License
Mozilla Public License*

Probably the best way is to use a set diagram (also known as Venn diagram). You can use your favourite program to generate the diagram. The image can be embedded in and ODT file or delivered separately in one of these formats: JPG, PNG, EPS, PDF, SVG.

2. [1.5 point] In the company where you work you receive the following assignment:

- Take a program A published under the Sleepycat license (aka Berkeley DB License) and study the code.
- Take a program B published under the Eiffel 2.0 license and study the code.
- Combine both programs and add some original code in order to generate program C.

Answer the following questions:

- i) Is it legal for you to create program C?
- ii) Is it legal for you to distribute program C under the Eiffel 2.0 license?
- iii) Is it legal for you to distribute program C under the Sleepycat license?

Answers:

i) Yes/No. Why?

ii) Yes/No. Why?

iii) Yes/No. Why?

3. [1.5 point] *In the company where you work you receive the following assignment:*

- *Take a program A published under the GPLv2 license and study the code.*
- *Take a program B published under the Apache 2.0 license and study the code.*
- *Combine both programs and add some original code in order to generate program C.*

Answer the following questions:

- i) Is it legal for you to create program C?*
- ii) Is it legal for you to distribute it internally in your company?*
- iii) Is it legal for you to distribute it publicly? If so, under which license?*

Answers:

i) Yes/No. Why?

ii) Yes/No. Why?

iii) Yes/No. Why? If yes, under which license?

4. [2 points, 500-2000 words] Choose a Free Software development project and analyse it as is done in Chapter 9 of the course materials. Your analysis should have at least the following sections:

- *History of the project*
- *Development culture of the project*
- *Organisation of decision making structures and policies*
- *Related industry*
- *Current status*
- *X-Ray picture*

*Before you begin answering this question you must list the project you want to analyse in the classroom wiki (go to the wiki and then to **Case Studies → FS projects**). Projects that are already analysed in the course materials are not eligible.*

Answer:

5. [2 points] *There are many definitions of "Open Standard". Consider the following two:*

According to the European Interoperability Framework for Pan-European eGovernment Services¹, the following are the minimal characteristics that a specification and its attendant documents must have in order to be considered an open standard:

- *The standard is adopted and will be maintained by a not-for-profit organisation, and its ongoing development occurs on the basis of an open decision-making procedure available to all interested parties (e.g. consensus or majority decision).*
- *The standard has been published and the standard specification document is available either freely or at a nominal charge. It must be permissible to all to copy, distribute and use it for no fee or at a nominal fee.*
- *The intellectual property – i.e. patents possibly present – of (parts of) the standard is made irrevocably available on a royalty-free basis.*
- *There are no constraints on the re-use of the standard.*

Another definition is provided in the motion B103 of the Danish parliament². According to this motion a format can be considered as an open standard as far as it is:

- *well documented with its full specification publicly available,*
- *freely implementable without economical, political or legal limitations on implementation and use, and*
- *standardised and maintained in an open forum (a so-called standards organisation) through an open process.*

Compare these definitions of Open Standard and answer the following questions:

- i) Which are the main differences between them?*

¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/en/document/2319/5938>

² http://www.itpol.dk/sager/offpol/b103_eng (unofficial translation)

ii) Which is more restrictive?

iii) Which would be easier to accept by the proprietary software industry?

iv) Think of at least one file format specification that would comply with one of these definitions but not with the other.

Answers:

i)

ii)

iii)

iv)