

Licenses API

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The Open Definition states: "A piece of content or data is open if anyone is free to use, reuse, and redistribute it — subject only, at most, to the requirement to attribute and share-alike." [Open Definition v2.1](#)

Data on more than 100 open licenses

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Including all [Open Source Initiative \(OSI\)](#) approved open source licenses and all Open Definition conformant open data and content licenses. Provided in easy to use, machine readable [JavaScript Object Notation \(JSON\)](#) – perfect if you need to drop a license chooser into your app.

- [View the licenses available](#)

License Groups

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In addition various generic groups are provided that are useful when constructing license choice lists, including non-commercial options, generic [Public Domain](#) and more. Pre-packaged groups include:

- All licenses
- OSI compliant
- Open Definition compliant
- Specially selected set for data and content site license choosers] developed for CKAN =====
Format ===== [\[\[dido:public:ra:xapend:xapend.b_stds:defact:odc:tools:licenses_api | Return to Top](#)

[JavaScript Object Notation \(JSON\)](#) hashes with the following keys:

```
{
  "id": "ODC-BY-1.0",
  "domain_content": false,
  "domain_data": true,
  "domain_software": false,
  "od_conformance": "approved",
  "osd_conformance": "not reviewed",
  "status": "active",
  "title": "Open Data Commons Attribution License 1.0",
```

```
"url": "https://opendatacommons.org/licenses/by"
}
```

Spot an error, think we should have more info? Please file an issue or submit a patch.

How do I use it?

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Get the data

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Download the licenses, either all in one, individually (see below) or in specific groups (see above).

For example, here's how to use curl to access an individual license:

- **curl** <https://licenses.opendefinition.org/licenses/ODC-BY-1.0.json>

And here's how to use curl to access the CKAN license group:

- **curl** <https://licenses.opendefinition.org/licenses/groups/ckan.json>

Git Access

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You can also get the material as a git repo:

- **git clone** <https://github.com/okfn/licenses>

Javascript Access (JSONP)

We also provide a simple way to get direct access from javascript in the browser using JSONP, by providing versions of the all of the data in the jsonp subdirectory wrapped in a callback function named

```
license_callback
```

- **NOTE:** [JSONP is vulnerable to the data source](#) replacing the innocuous function call with malicious code, which is why it has been superseded by [Cross-origin resource sharing](#) (available since 2009¹⁾) in modern applications.

Thus, the JSONP version of a file named:

```
xyz.json
```

whether it is a license group or an individual license, will be located at:

```
licenses/jsonp/xyz.json
```

For example from jQuery:

```
$.ajax({
  url: 'https://licenses.opendefinition.org/groups/jsonp/ODC-BY-1.0.js',
  dataType: 'jsonp',
  // you *must* set the callback function to be license_callback
  jsonpCallback: 'license_callback',
  success: function(data) {
    console.log('License title is ' + data.title);
  }
});
```

Because our JSONP data is served from a static files, it has a hardcoded callback function and therefore must name your callback function for the JSONP request

```
license_callback
```

1)

Cross-Origin Resource Sharing, [Can I use](#) Retrieved 4 May 2020.

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