

# GNU Library General Public License version 2 (LGPL-2.0)

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Comparison of free and open source licenses<sup>1)</sup>

## Note:

The Free Software Foundation, license steward of the LGPL, regards this license as having been superseded by [gpl-3](#).

## Data Sheet for GNU Library General Public License version 2 (LGPL-2.0)

| License Attribute | Value                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Full Name         | GNU Library General Public License version 2                                                                                      |
| SPDX Short Name   | LGPL-2.0                                                                                                                          |
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| Latest Version    | 2.0                                                                                                                               |
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| Linking           | Permissive                                                                                                                        |
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| Private Use       | Yes                                                                                                                               |
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| Trademark Grant   | No                                                                                                                                |

## About

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### Preamble

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*The reason we have a separate public license for some libraries is that they blur the distinction we usually make between modifying or adding to a program and simply using it. Linking a program with a library, without changing the library, is in some sense simply using the library, and is analogous to running a utility program or application program. However, in a textual and legal sense, the linked executable is a combined work, a derivative of the original library, and the ordinary General Public License treats it as such.*

*Because of this blurred distinction, using the ordinary General Public License for libraries did not effectively promote software sharing, because most developers did not use the libraries. We concluded that weaker conditions might promote sharing better.*

*However, unrestricted linking of non-free programs would deprive the users of those programs of all benefit from the free status of the libraries themselves. This Library General Public License is intended to permit developers of non-free programs to use free libraries, while preserving your freedom as a user of such programs to change the free libraries that are incorporated in them. (We have not seen how to achieve this as regards changes in header files, but we have achieved it as regards changes in the actual functions of the Library.) The hope is that this will lead to faster development of free libraries.*

*The precise terms and conditions for copying, distribution and modification follow. Pay close attention to the difference between a “work based on the library” and a “work that uses the library”. The former contains code derived from the library, while the latter only works together with the library.*

*Note that it is possible for a library to be covered by the ordinary General Public License rather than by this special one.*

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*“**Source code**” for a work means the preferred form of the work for making modifications to it. For a library, complete source code means all the source code for all modules it contains, plus any associated interface definition files, plus the scripts used to control compilation and installation of the library.*

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*(For example, a function in a library to compute square roots has a purpose that is entirely well-defined independent of the application. Therefore, Subsection 2d requires that any application-supplied function or table used by this function must be optional: if the application does not supply it, the square root function must still compute square roots.)*

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<signature of Ty Coon>, 1 April 1990  
Ty Coon, President of Vice

*That's all there is to it!*

1)

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