

# OSI: 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The Free Software Foundation, license steward of the LGPL, regards this license as having been superseded by [OSI: GNU General Public License version 3 \(GPL-3.0\)](#).

Table 1: 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                                                                                                                          |
| Author            | <a href="https://www.gnu.org/licenses/old-licenses/gpl-2.0.en.html">https://www.gnu.org/licenses/old-licenses/gpl-2.0.en.html</a> |
| Latest Version    | 2.0                                                                                                                               |
| Publication Date  | June 1991                                                                                                                         |
| Author URI        | <a href="https://www.gnu.org/">https://www.gnu.org/</a>                                                                           |
| OSI URI           | <a href="https://opensource.org/licenses/LGPL-2.0">https://opensource.org/licenses/LGPL-2.0</a>                                   |
| Linking           | Permissive                                                                                                                        |
| Distribution      | Permissive                                                                                                                        |
| Modification      | Permissive                                                                                                                        |
| Patent Grant      | Yes                                                                                                                               |
| Private Use       | Yes                                                                                                                               |
| Sub-licensing     | Permissive                                                                                                                        |
| Trademark Grant   | No                                                                                                                                |

## About

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### Preamble

*The licenses for most software are designed to take away your freedom to share and change it. By contrast, the GNU General Public Licenses are intended to guarantee your freedom to share and change free software—to make sure the software is free for all its users.*

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*For example, if you distribute copies of the library, whether gratis or for a fee, you must give the recipients all the rights that we gave you. You must make sure that they, too, receive or can get the source code. If you link a program with the library, you must provide complete object files to the recipients so that they can relink them with the library, after making changes to the library and recompiling it. And you must show them these terms so they know their rights.*

*Our method of protecting your rights has two steps: (1) copyright the library, and (2) offer you this license which gives you legal permission to copy, distribute and/or modify the library.*

*Also, for each distributor's protection, we want to make certain that everyone understands that there is no warranty for this free library. If the library is modified by someone else and passed on, we want its recipients to know that what they have is not the original version, so that any problems introduced by others will not reflect on the original authors' reputations.*

*Finally, any free program is threatened constantly by software patents. We wish to avoid the danger that companies distributing free software will individually obtain patent licenses, thus in effect transforming the program into proprietary software. To prevent this, we have made it clear that any patent must be licensed for everyone's free use or not licensed at all.*

*Most GNU software, including some libraries, is covered by the ordinary GNU General Public License, which was designed for utility programs. This license, the GNU Library General Public License, applies to certain designated libraries. This license is quite different from the ordinary one; be sure to read it in full, and don't assume that anything in it is the same as in the ordinary license.*

*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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*Also add information on how to contact you by electronic and paper mail.*

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Yoyodyne, Inc., hereby disclaims all copyright interest in the library `Frob' (a library for tweaking knobs) written by James Random Hacker.

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

*That's all there is to it!*

1)

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