

Podcast series

A Guide to Free and Open Source Software

Episode 4: Are You Allowed to Sell Copies of Your Free and Open Source Software?

Summary of Episode 3

Welcome to the fourth and last part of the CCdigital^{law} podcast series on free and open source software. In the last three parts you learned how to make software free and open source, what licenses qualify as free and open source software licenses, where you can find the licenses, and you learned about the difference between permissive and copyleft licenses.

Price of Free and Open Source Software

This fourth part will focus on the price of free and open source software. You have written an email program and you license it under a free and open source software license. You have done a lot of work programming the email program and you would like to make some money with it. Therefore you want to sell copies of your free and open source email program and buyers shall pay you a hundred francs for one copy of your email program.

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Also if you sold a copy of the machine readable object code of software that is licensed under a GNU GPL, then you can only demand a price not higher than the costs of distribution. This is so that you cannot restrict access to the source code of GNU licensed software. For example, you would give copies of object code away for free but then demand one million for the copy of the source code.

Summary

To resume, you are allowed to charge money for copies of free and open source software, but you are not allowed to charge money for licensing copyrights of free and open source software. That was it for this last part on free and open source software.

If you have any questions about free and open source software or feedback about this podcast episode, please contact us at info@ccdigitallaw.ch

In May 2018 we will answer your questions on the topic of free and open source software online during a webinar. If you are interested in it please subscribe to the webinar on www.ccdigitallaw.ch

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