



» The Open Compliance Program

The Linux Foundation
Open Compliance Program
Data Sheet

Produced By The Linux Foundation
<http://www.linuxfoundation.org>

Program Description

The Open Compliance Program presents a wide-ranging array of tools, training, and informative guidance to help companies comply with open source license obligations, with the goal of increasing adoption of open source and decreasing FUD present in the marketplace. As a trusted, neutral, non-commercial source of expertise, advice, and assistance, the Linux Foundation will help organizations achieve their compliance objectives, a sometimes daunting task. Given the explosive adoption of Linux in the mobile, consumer electronics and embedded industries, the time is right to proactively offer tools and services that will help the industry self-govern its use of open source. The five elements of the Linux Foundation's Open Compliance Program include:

Tools

The Foundation has developed a set of tools to complement commercial and open source scanning tools that identify the origin and license of source code. These tools include:

- **Dependency Checker**, capable of identifying code combinations at the dynamic and static link level. Dependency Checker includes a license policy framework that enables company FOSS Compliance Officers to define combinations of licenses and linkage methods to be flagged if found during code scans.
- **The Code Janitor**, capable of scanning code comments for terms and keywords that should be cleaned up or removed prior to public code release. This tool's linguistic review capability enables identification of product code names, confidential or derogatory references, mention of competitor's capabilities, internal email addresses, etc. to assist developers in cleaning source code prior to release. The tool maintains a database of keywords to recognize in source code files to ensure code released is safe and ready for public consumption.
- **Bill of Material (BoM) Difference Checker**, capable of reporting differences between bills of material. The tool enables companies to produce more accurate reports on open source components in product updates by identifying changes in source code components included.

The Linux Foundation has released initial versions of these tools as open source projects and urges other developers to contribute to them. Access to these tools is provided at <http://www.linuxfoundation.org/programs/legal/compliance/tools>.

In addition, the Linux Foundation has supported a number of community tool efforts that enhance compliance work. The Binary Analysis Tool, available at <http://www.binaryanalysis.org>, can help to discover what components were used to create compiled code. The FOSSology software, available at <http://fossology.org>, analyzes the source code used in a project and reports the licenses being used.

Self-Assessment Checklist

The Linux Foundation has compiled an extensive checklist of compliance practices found in industry-leading compliance programs. Companies can use this checklist as a confidential internal tool to assess their progress in implementing a rigorous compliance process and help them prioritize their process improvement efforts. The Linux Foundation can provide recommendations on specific practices to incorporate into a comprehensive compliance program. The checklist will

be formally launched in Q4 of 2010. For more information, see <http://www.linuxfoundation.org/programs/legal/compliance/self-assessment-checklist>.

The Software Package Data Exchange (SPDX™) Working Group

The SPDX™ Working Group was formed to create a set of data exchange standards for companies to use in disclosing open source packages and applicable licenses when they release software. Lacking a standard for suppliers to use in disclosing open source in their products has hindered manufacturer compliance efforts to date. Achieving a standard format for package and license metadata will enable companies to exchange software bills of material in a meaningful way. As a result, discovery and labeling of open source components in commercial products will become easier and automated verification efforts will become feasible. Attaining the goals of the SPDX™ Working Group will be especially important for consumer electronics manufacturers who assemble parts from a variety of suppliers into their shipping products. Suppliers will also benefit by having to prepare only one disclosure for their multiple customers. More information can be found at <http://www.linuxfoundation.org/workgroups/spdx>.

A Compliance Directory and Rapid Alert System:

From time to time, compliance discussions have been impeded because copyright holders could not identify appropriate contact points within companies suspected of violating license conditions. Occasionally, these breakdowns in communication have escalated into public lawsuits. To remedy this situation, the Linux Foundation has created a directory of open source compliance officers at companies using Linux and open source software in their commercial products. The Compliance Directory will be used to facilitate communication with company compliance officers when open source projects or copyright holders note concerns about use of their open source software. The Linux Foundation can assist, where appropriate, in establishing contact with company compliance officers. The Compliance Directory will be available starting August 10, 2010, and companies can add their contact information for compliance purposes at <http://www.linuxfoundation.org/services/compliance/directory>.

Training and Education:

The Linux Foundation now offers the industry's most comprehensive compliance resource for training and informational materials. Training modules cover the fundamentals of open source licensing and compliance activities and can be tailored for audiences ranging from corporate executives to working professionals. Training will be offered live on-site or online in half-day, one-day, or two-day formats. Information assets include free white papers, articles, and webinars available from noted compliance experts. The Open Source Compliance training course will be available starting September 1, 2010. To learn more, request more information, or to register for open compliance training, please visit <http://www.linuxfoundation.org/programs/legal/compliance/training-and-education>.

In addition to the Compliance Program elements described above, the Linux Foundation sponsors the FOSSBazaar community of open source compliance practitioners. As a workgroup of the Linux Foundation, FOSSBazaar is dedicated to helping organizations properly govern the implementation and deployment of FOSS. The vision of FOSSBazaar is to serve as a gathering place to discuss, explore, share experiences and cooperatively solve issues related to FOSS governance. The FOSSBazaar website can be found at <http://fossbazaar.org>.

About the Linux Foundation

The Linux Foundation is a nonprofit consortium dedicated to fostering the growth of Linux. Founded in 2007, the Linux Foundation sponsors the work of Linux creator Linus Torvalds and is supported by leading Linux and open source companies and developers from around the world. The Linux Foundation promotes, protects and standardizes Linux by hosting important workgroups, events and online resources such as Linux.com. For more information, please visit <http://www.linuxfoundation.org> or follow the organization on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/linuxfoundation>.

About the Open Compliance Program

The Linux Foundation's Open Compliance Program is the industry's only neutral, comprehensive software compliance initiative. By marshaling the resources of its members and leaders in the compliance community, the Linux Foundation brings together the individuals, companies and legal entities needed to expand the use of open source software while decreasing legal costs and FUD. The Open Compliance Program offers comprehensive training and informational materials, open source tools, an online community (FOSSBazaar), a best practices checklist, a rapid alert directory of company's compliance officers and a standard to help companies uniformly tag and report software used in their products. The Open Compliance Program is led by experts in the compliance industry and backed by such organizations as the Adobe, AMD, ARM Limited, Cisco Systems, Google, HP, IBM, Intel, Motorola, NEC, Novell, Samsung, Software Freedom Law Center, Sony Electronics and many more. More information can be found at <http://www.linuxfoundation.org/programs/legal/compliance>.

The Linux Foundation promotes, protects and standardizes Linux by providing unified resources and services needed for open source to successfully compete with closed platforms.

To learn more about The Linux Foundation, the Open Compliance Program or our other initiatives please visit us at <http://www.linuxfoundation.org/>.

