



# Legal Audit before Source Code Disclosure

**Denis Dorotenko**



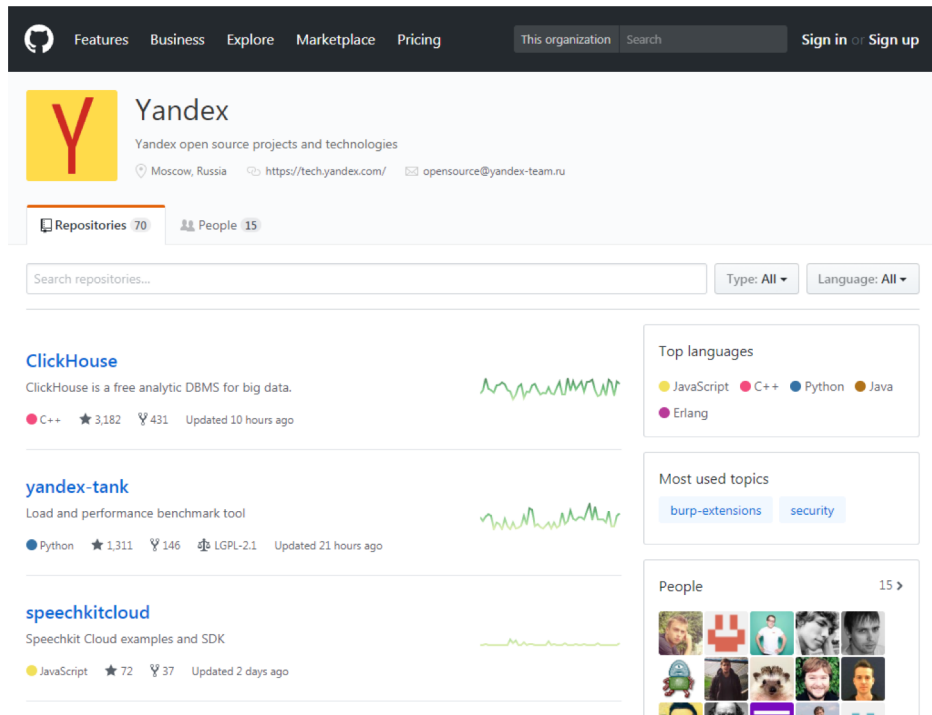
# Legal Audit before Source Code Disclosure

Yandex

# // Yandex open source projects

- ClickHouse
- CatBoost
- Yandex-Tank

many others available at  
[github.com/yandex](https://github.com/yandex)



The screenshot shows the GitHub organization page for Yandex. The header includes navigation links: Features, Business, Explore, Marketplace, Pricing, and a search bar. The Yandex logo and name are prominently displayed, along with the tagline "Yandex open source projects and technologies" and contact information for Moscow, Russia. Below this, there are tabs for "Repositories 70" and "People 15". A search bar for repositories is present, along with filters for "Type: All" and "Language: All". The main content area lists three repositories: "ClickHouse" (C++), "yandex-tank" (Python), and "speechkitcloud" (JavaScript). Each repository entry includes a brief description, star count, fork count, license, and update time. To the right of the repository list, there are three sidebars: "Top languages" (JavaScript, C++, Python, Java, Erlang), "Most used topics" (burp-extensions, security), and "People" (a grid of 15 profile pictures).


# // Four steps of legal audit

First

Second

Third

Fourth



» Answering special questionnaire

» Check on lack of trade secrets

» Patentability check

» Choosing appropriate license

# // Four steps of legal audit

## Purposes

- minimize possible risks (related to third party copyright, trademarks, names, etc.)
- avoid leaks of trade secrets
- timely file patent applications
- provide software licenses compliance
- provide the most appropriate license

# // Four steps of legal audit

## Persons

- Legal Counsel
- Product Team Representative
- Patent Specialist
- Head of corresponding division

# // Answering special questionnaire

## Purposes

- » narrow possible licenses to determine one as final choice
- » identify potential risks on the first stage of preparation to disclose the code

## Examples

- » software product name and logo
- » users duty to specify made modifications
- » third-party software components licensing dependencies

# // Lack of trade secrets

## Purposes

- » detect traces of the company's trade secrets within the code to be disclosed
- » prevent inadvertent disclosure of our trade secrets

- » review by senior developers or team leads
- » receiving relevant confirmation on lack

## Means



# // Patentability check

timely communicate with  
product team to avoid  
patent infringements

1

file applications for  
obtaining European  
patents prior to  
disclosure

3

2

not to miss bar dates for  
filing patent applications

# // Appropriate license

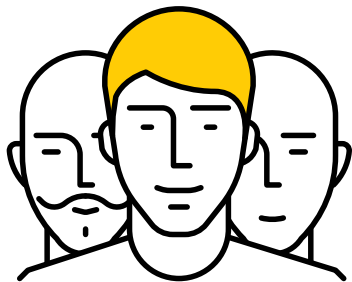
## Factors

- » third-party components licensing dependencies
- » our product team requirements to further use of disclosed code

## Rules

- » not to create yet another open source license
- » not license all our open source projects under unified license

# // Authors



- Help authors to refer on disclosed products in their portfolios
- Detect cases when a co-author has already become former Yandex employee
- Detect cases when a co-author is external person (i.e. not Yandex employee and not former one)

# // Authors

As example:

A list of Yandex  
employees who are  
ClickHouse authors  
(AUTHORS file)

Branch: master ▾ ClickHouse / AUTHORS

 **blinkov** CLICKHOUSE-2720: progress on website and reference (#886)

2 contributors  

44 lines (42 sloc) | 1.72 KB

```
1 The following authors have created the source code of "ClickHouse"
2 published and distributed by YANDEX LLC as the owner:
3
4 Alexander Makarov <asealback@yandex-team.ru>
5 Alexander Prudaev <aprudaev@yandex-team.ru>
6 Alexey Arno <af-arno@yandex-team.ru>
7 Alexey Milovidov <milovidov@yandex-team.ru>
8 Alexey Tronov <vkusny@yandex-team.ru>
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```

# // Conclusion

- Legal audit source code disclosure is necessary to a company, which often makes open source releases.
- It allows to reduce risks (related to copyright, trademarks, patents, trade secrets), that can affect open source disclosure and use.

# Thank you for attention —

Any questions are welcome.

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