A NOVEL WAY TO EFFICIENTLY COMPLY WITH LICENSES

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Software Licenses

FOSS licenses stipulate

- **What you *may* do (permissions)**
  - e.g., copy the code, modify it, re-distribute it

- **What you *must* do (obligations)**
  - e.g., use the same license, mention author’s name
Source Code Distribution Obligation

Legal requirement: You have to deliver the source code along with the binary

- “For an executable work, 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 executable.”
  - GPLv2
Complete Corresponding Source (CCS)

Different terms used

- GPLv2: “complete corresponding machine-readable source code” / “accompany”
- GPLv3: “Corresponding Source” / “convey”
- MPLv2: “Source Code Form” / “made available”
- EPLv2: “Source Code” / “made available”
The Problem

In an ideal world

- Fool-proof processes in place
  - collect
  - package
  - provision
- Set it up once
  - always working
  - everyone uses this

In the real world

- People change roles or leave
- Re-organizations happen
- Things get forgotten
Use Cases

Combinations of own and external software:

1. Our delivery contains our own FOSS sw.tar.gz
2. Our delivery contains gcc-8.2
3. Our delivery contains gcc snapshot of revision 267928
4. Our delivery contains gcc-8.2 patched with patches.tar.gz

Note: not only because of license obligation!
Functional Requirements

We need to be able to:

1. provide our own software package
2. refer to a “well-known” FOSS component
   - with release version or unique revision
3. combine the two
   - well-known component with own patches
Great Idea

Can we *outsource* the fulfilment of our obligations?
Is It Legal?

GPL FAQ: Can I put the binaries on my Internet server and put the source on a different Internet site?

- [v3] Yes. Section 6(d) allows this. However, you must provide clear instructions people can follow to obtain the source, and you must take care to *make sure that the source remains available* for as long as you distribute the object code.

- [v2] The GPL says you must offer access to copy the source code “from the same place”; that is, next to the binaries. However, if you *make arrangements with another site* to keep the necessary source code available, and put a link or cross-reference to the source code next to the binaries, we think that qualifies as “from the same place”.
Great Idea

Wouldn't it be great if someone could fulfill our requirements?
Software Heritage

Mission:
Collect, preserve, and share the source code of all publicly available software

Non-profit
Coverage

Crawling of forges
Size

The richest public source code archive

- 200 TB compressed blobs, 8 TB database (graph: 10B nodes, 100B edges)
  - Entirely de-duplicated

Source files: 5,685,682,899
Commits: 1,262,321,770
Projects: 88,291,321
Archive Code

Besides the crawling of forges...

- “Add repository” to crawling
- “Take snapshot”
- “Direct deposit” (push)
  - SWORD 2.0 compliant
  - RESTful API
Once Archived... Identifiers

Anything on the archive

- Has a persistent identifier
  - e.g., `swh:1:cnt:0ffd12d85cdec70c88e852fc3f5ea9fd342213cd`
  - or `swh:1:dir:db990da9af15427455ce7836ce2b8a34b9bf67f5`

- Can be browsed online

- Can be downloaded
Conclusions

Obligations to deliver source code

- Legally compliant to outsource it
- Archive of everything available
- Allows adding own code
- Provides way to reference and retrieve

Problem solved!
Next Steps

From POC to Production service

▪ Gradual deployment
▪ Integration with software production and delivery
▪ Fine-tuning
  – check whether already available vs. upload everything
  – software optimization and customization
THANK YOU

Questions, comments, ... ?