

# 313-Recitation 13: Open Source Licenses

**Goals:** The goals of this recitation are:

- Understand the origins of open source licenses.
- Compare and contrasts different open source licenses.

## **Context**

The TA has decided to open source the graduate student application for other universities to use. He is new to open source and is not sure what license to use. You will form teams representing different licenses and your task is to convince the TA that your license is the best/correct one to use.

## **Part 1: Debate preparation (15 min.)**

Form a team of three people. The TA will assign a license to your team. Research the open source license to give arguments about why the license should be used for this open source project. The following questions might help you to prepare for the debate: Why was the license created? What are the philosophies of the license? What does the license protect or guaranteed that is not by previous licenses? Are there any comparable licenses? What are the differences?

## **Part 2: Debate (20 min.)**

Each group will have 5 minutes to present their license and argue why it should be used for the application. After all groups have presented their license, we will have a discussion round in which each group will argue why the other groups' licenses should not be used for the application. Again, you need to convince the TA why your license is better than the other licenses.

## **Part 3: Reflection (15 min.)**

As a class, discuss the following questions:

- What is open source software?
- What is derivative work?
- What experience have you had with open source licenses?
- Do you have a favorite license? Why? Or why not?
- What are the benefits or drawbacks of adding licenses?

- Apache License 2.0
- BSD 3-Clause "New" or "Revised" license
- BSD 2-Clause "Simplified" or "FreeBSD" license
- GNU General Public License (GPL)
- GNU Library or "Lesser" General Public License (LGPL)
- MIT license
- Mozilla Public License 2.0
- Common Development and Distribution License
- Eclipse Public License