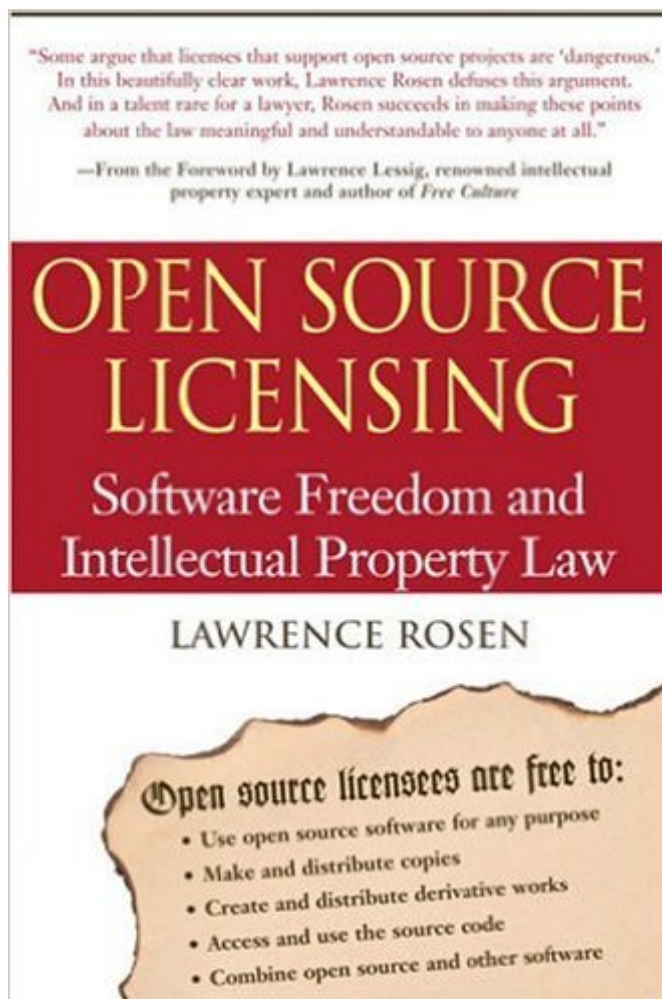The book was found

Open Source Licensing: Software Freedom And Intellectual Property Law

Synopsis

â œI have studied Rosenâ ™s book in detail and am impressed with its scope and content. I strongly recommend it to anybody interested in the current controversies surrounding open source licensing.â • â ”John Terpstra, Samba.org; cofounder, Samba-Team â œLinux and open source software have forever altered the computing landscape. The important conversations no longer revolve around the technology but rather the business and legal issues. Rosenâ ™s book is must reading for anyone using or providing open source solutions.â • â ”Stuart Open Source Development Labs A Complete Guide to the Law of Open Source for Developers, Managers, and Lawyers Now that open source software is blossoming around the world, it is crucial to understand how open source licenses workâ ”and their solid legal foundations. Open Source Initiative general counsel Lawrence Rosen presents a plain-English guide to open source law for developers, managers, users, and lawyers. Rosen clearly explains the intellectual property laws that support open source licensing, carefully reviews todayâ ™s leading licenses, and helps you make the best choices for your project or organization. Coverage includes: Explanation of why the SCO litigation and other attacks wonâ ™t derail open source Dispelling the myths of open source licensing Intellectual property law for nonlawyers: ownership and licensing of copyrights, patents, and trademarks â œAcademic licensesâ •: BSD, MIT, Apache, and beyond The â œreciprocal bargainâ • at the heart of the GPL Alternative licenses: Mozilla, CPL, OSL and AFL Benefits of open source, and the obligations and risks facing businesses that deploy open source software Choosing the right license: considering business models, product architecture, IP ownership, license compatibility issues, relicensing, and more Enforcing the terms and conditions of open source licenses Shared source, eventual source, and other alternative models to open source Protecting yourself against lawsuits

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Customer Reviews

If you're looking to get an in-depth understanding of open source licensing and all the issues surrounding it, you should read Open Source Licensing by Lawrence Rosen (Prentice Hall).Chapter list: Freedom and Open Source; Intellectual Property; Distribution of Software; Taxonomy of Licenses; Academic Licenses; Reciprocity and the GPL; The Mozilla Public License (MPL); The Common Public License (CPL); The OSL and the AFL; Choosing an Open Source License; Shared Source, Eventual Source, and Other Licensing Models; Open Source Litigation; Open Standards; The Open Source Paradigm; Appendices; IndexOn the positive side, this book will teach you more about licensing than you thought existed. This book deals with all the legal issues that either have arisen or could become a problem as open source continues to make inroads against commercial software. The analysis is detailed as only a lawyer can do it. Another positive aspect of the book is that the author covers how different open source licenses mesh with each other. You may be forced into choosing a certain type of license if you've incorporated software that already uses a license that you're expected to apply to your software. All good stuff.On the negative side, I don't think the book delivers on its promise to present "a plain-English guide to open source law for developers, managers, users, and lawyers". I see this as a book by a lawyer for lawyers needing to understand software licensing and how open source licensing fits into that. Companies that are building a business model around open source will need this material, but the typical developer and nearly all users will be bored to death as individual words are pulled out and dissected as for potential legal interpretations that could be applied.

The Open Source/Free Software movement can be very confusing because it is a mixture of ideology, politics and business. To choose the proper license for your purposes you first have to understand the purpose of the various licenses. Some, specially GNU/GPL, are mostly political and ideological in nature in that they try to create a 'right to software.' Others are designed to further either academic or business interests through free software.Except for Chapter 10, I found the book to be eminently readable. Unfortunately, Chapter 10: Choosing an Open Source License, which can be considered the core of the book, turned my brain to mush and was no help at all choosing a license. The author states:"If you expect a checklist method to select a license, don't bother reading

this chapter; it cannot be so easy."While from an attorney's point of view this might be correct, from a developer's point of view you don't really have an alternative to creating your own checklist to pick a license. An attorney will give you the attorney's standard solution: "consult your attorney." When you do, your attorney will not pick a license for you, he'll rehash everything in the book and you still have the burden to pick a license. So why not nip in the bud this Catch-22 situation?My own checklist, created mostly from what I learned from this book, is as follows:1.- Ideological intent? What is your prime intent, to make a political statement or is it something else like promoting academe or running a business?2.- Reciprocal licensing? What is more beneficial for your project, reciprocal licensing which limits contributor's choices or non-reciprocal which allows alternative licensing modes for derivative works?3.- Can you afford an attorney?

Open Source Licensing: Software Freedom and Intellectual Property Law Intellectual Property: Supreme Court Contemporary Decisions (Intellectual Property Law Series) Intellectual Property in the New Technology Age: 2016: Vol. I Perspectives, Trade Secrets and Patents (Intellectual Property in the New Technological Age) Intellectual Property and Open Source: A Practical Guide to Protecting Code Pro OpenSolaris: A New Open Source OS for Linux Developers and Administrators (Expert's Voice in Open Source) Nessus Network Auditing: Jay Beale Open Source Security Series (Jay Beale's Open Source Security) Law and Creativity in the Age of the Entertainment Franchise (Cambridge Intellectual Property and Information Law) Make: Arduino Bots and Gadgets: Six Embedded Projects with Open Source Hardware and Software (Learning by Discovery) Intellectual Property Law (Quickstudy: Law) Obviousness In Patent Law (Intellectual Property Law Series) Legally Branded (Brand law - Logos, Trade Marks, Designs, Copyright & Intellectual Property, Internet Law & Social Media Marketing) Using Open Source Web Software with Windows (Charles River Media Internet) Embedded Linux Primer: A Practical Real-World Approach (Prentice Hall Open Source Software Development Series) Embedded Linux Systems with the Yocto Project (Prentice Hall Open Source Software Development) Essential Linux Device Drivers (Prentice Hall Open Source Software Development Series) Ocean Modelling for Beginners: Using Open-Source Software Surgery Open Heart: A Surgical Nurse Guides You Through Open Heart Surgery (Open Heart Surgery, Aortic Valve / Mitral Valve Replacement, Coronary Artery Bypass, Aortic Aneurysm, Myxoma) Intellectual Property Law in the Sports and Entertainment Industries Emanuel Law Outlines: Intellectual Property Intellectual Property Law