Magic Mirror on the net,
What’s the fairest license yet?
A GPLv3 fairness tale
Alexandre Oliva
lxoliva@fsfla.org
http://www.lsd.ic.unicamp.br/~oliva/
http://www.fsfla.org/

Copyright 2007 Alexandre Oliva (last changed in August, 2007)
Permission is granted to make and distribute verbatim copies of this entire document without royalty
provided the copyright notice, the document’s official URL, and this permission notice are preserved.
http://www.fsfla.org/svnwiki/blogs/lxo/pres/gplv3-snowwhite
Summary

- Overview
- Fairness model
- The spirit of the GPL
- Major changes in GPLv3
- Wrap up
Once upon a time...

- GPLv2: good old license
- Patents
- Technical restrictions
- Discrimination
- Internationalization

Improved fairness
Fairness model

Quid pro quo? Tit for tat?

- Showing each other the code?
- Publishing code and changes?
- Granting permissions to each other?
- Respecting others’ freedoms!

Payforward!
The spirit of the GPL

Respecting and preserving the 4 freedoms

0: Run for any purpose
1: Study and adapt
2: Redistribute
3: Distribute modifications

Copyleft: the responsibilities
Patent licenses

- Prince wrote a GPLed program
- Witch (holds patent) modifies it
- Witch passes it on
- Snow White improves it
- Witch sues Snow White

Explicit patent license
Patent paysideways

- Sneezy wrote a GPLed program
- Witch (holds patent) modifies it
- Witch does not pass it on
- Grumpy improves Sneezy’s program
- Witch sues Grumpy

Copyright infringement
Regenerate infringers

- Huntsman lies about killing Snow White
- Much later, he’s punished
- Compliance is the best remedy
- Sixty-days timeout for notice
- Thirty days to fix first infringement

Leads to compliance
Compatibility

- Happy wrote GPLv2 program
- Sleepy wrote Affero GPL 1.0 program
- Can’t share or bug-fix license without “or above”
- GNU Affero GPL 3+, Apache 2.0
- Warranty, legal notices, attribution, marking changes, publicity of marks and names
Internationalization

- Avoiding terms with juridic meaning
  - Propagation: all but running and adapting
  - Conveying: propagation such that others can make or receive copies, except sublicensing

- International copyright principles
- Avoiding references to local laws

A global license
Distribution modes

- Written offer only to recipients
  - Snow White shares her soup recipe
  - Satisfiable with network downloads
  - Royal Recipe Repository: rrr.gov.fa
- Peer-to-peer transmission of binaries
- Mirrors can point at sources elsewhere

Magic mirror likes GPLv3
Corresponding sources

apple  executable
poison  signature
poisoning  building
DNA  sources
Snow White  AntiVo DVR
sleeping  functioning

Must offer sources!
Breaking the spell

antidote  bug fix

blocked throat  signature checking

other potions  improvements
Tivoization

- Withholding key sources and
- Blocking installation of unsigned binaries
- Have the freedoms, can’t use them
- “Functional” signatures
- Separate signatures (poisoned skin)
- Installation instructions for “User Products”
- ROM is ok, nobody can make changes
Technical and legal measures

- No to inventing excuses
- No to wielding legal weapons
  - Huntsman could have killed Snow White
  - Lets her go in freedom
- Undesirable misfeatures can be removed
- Too bad for DRM

Must payforward the freedoms!
Discriminatory agreements

v2: Can’t distribute without freedoms

- Disclaiming patent license, public sources
- Limited patent license to select recipients?
- Can’t distribute along with limiting privileges
- Must extend patent license to all recipients

Just M$ay No!vell
Conclusion

- Preserves spirit
- Plugs holes
  - Preemptively?
- Improves fairness
- Why not?
- Released on 2007-06-29

Freedom upgrade! Mirrors rejoice!
Free the Software!

http://gplv3.fsf.org
http://www.gnu.org
http://www.fsfla.org
http://www.softwarelivre.org

lxoliva@fsfla.org
http://www.lsd.ic.unicamp.br/~oliva

Free yourself!