Comparison of Open Source Licenses

Background

There are a wide range of open source / free software licenses which are both popular and widely used. These licenses have much in common but differ from each other in subtle ways.

Key Points

License Comparison:

	MIT license	BSD License	Apache License	GNU License
Popular and widely used:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
License type	Permissive	Permissive	Permissive	Strong Copyleft
Jurisdiction:	Not Specified	Not Specified	Not Specified	Not Specified
Grants patent rights	No	No	Yes	No
Patent retaliation clause	No	No	Yes	No
Specifies enhanced attribution	No	No	No	No
Addresses privacy loophole:	No	No	No	No
Includes 'no promotion' feature	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Discussion Questions

1. Why are there so many types of licenses?
2. Who governs the licenses?
3. How can you choose the license type that is best for you?

Additional Resources

Free Software Foundation. (2014). gnu.org. Retrieved from https://edtechbooks.org/-eABG

Berkeley Software Distribution. (2014). Wikipedia. Retrieved from https://edtechbooks.org/-HVhd

MIT License. (2014). Open Source Initiative. Retrieved from https://edtechbooks.org/-Zxv

Apache License. (2014). apache.org. Retrieved from https://edtechbooks.org/-EQzq

License Differentiator. (2014). OSSWATCH. Retrieved from https://edtechbooks.org/-rVCG