

HSF Licensing Meeting - Live Notes

Participants: Carl Rosenfeld, Thomas Kuhr, Graeme Stewart, Stefan Roiser, Ed Moyse, Benedikt Hegner, Dave Dykstra, Marco Clemencic, Scott Snyder, Pere Mato, Martin Ritter, Andrea Valassi, Michel Jouvin, Liz Sexton-Kennedy

Introduction

- See [slides](#)
- Reminder on meeting goals and the license problem: license compatibility makes mandatory to have a licensing scheme compatible with the license of the dependencies we use. But also constraints by funding bodies that are not compatible with the restrictive approach chosen by some dependencies.
- Summary of experiments' approach
- Apache 2 is the CMS goal
- Various projects moved from GPL to LGPL or other more permissive licenses
- FastJet staying with copyleft but now GPLv2 or later rather than GPLv2, clearing the incompatibility with anything else the GPLv2 and LGPLv2. Still obliges clients to go for GPL too.
- [Join](#) WG mailing list!
- LCG AA - there are a lot of GPLv2 packages still - to be checked again
- Default copyright varies country to country - copyright is an issue especially for changing license (something more likely to happen with a copyleft license than with a permissive one)

LHCb

- Copyright to CERN as experiments are no legal entities
- License GPLv3 targeted, CERN copyright makes possible to relicense if necessary
- Adjusted statutes and procedures in experiment
- Plan to be finally endorsed in collaboration board in June
- Some initial reservations from 2 countries, but now addressed
- Keeping independent record of contributions as to make them visible/help authors

ATLAS

- Committed to open source its SW by summer 2018 and would like to move to Apache2 preferably, GPLv3 as a fallback solution: copyright ownership by CERN will allow further evolutions. Still trying to understand what is left preventing Apache 2.
- Open sourcing the SW, license/copyright is only part of the work: also need to clean the repositories from swearwords and other inappropriate words/sentences: tools can help but all involve rewriting the history with impact on many tools...
- Situation for Gaudi affects both LHCb and ATLAS - problem to track down all of the © holders

- Some dependencies on GSL (but isolated); plugin service is GPLv3, © CERN
- could relicense this (should be easy as it is quite in line with the recent move supported by CERN of Invenio/Indico licenses)
- Gaudi © could naturally go to CERN.

Belle II

- A TF created in 2017: still at the beginning of the work, no target license selected yet, welcoming collaboration with HSF on this topic
- Solution of ATLAS and CMS is split licensing more than dual licensing
- Started to work on assigning the copyright to one holder: KEK would be the natural candidate but not a role it is prepared to have yet. Discussions in progress.
- What would the fallback solution be for the copyright holder? This is not clear.
 - Would CERN be in a position to hold Belle II copyright? KEK answer really is not known. DESY could be a fallback.
 - Carl thinks CERN © could be ok for the collaboration, but very unclear.
- CERN are developing CLAs that could be models.
- External dependencies - there are a few GPL dependencies like GSL. Pythia is more of an issue.
- We do have some traction with the theory community and want to keep discussing with them.
 - They should feel part of the community and participate in this decision.
- Citations are really important for the theorists.
- We should keep a list of citations that should be used.

Discussion

- ATLAS and LHCb assigned © through the collaboration board.
- We should be a bit pragmatic about
- Update LCG stack for licenses.
- Next meeting pre-summer.