REUSE

Best practices for declaring copyright and licenses
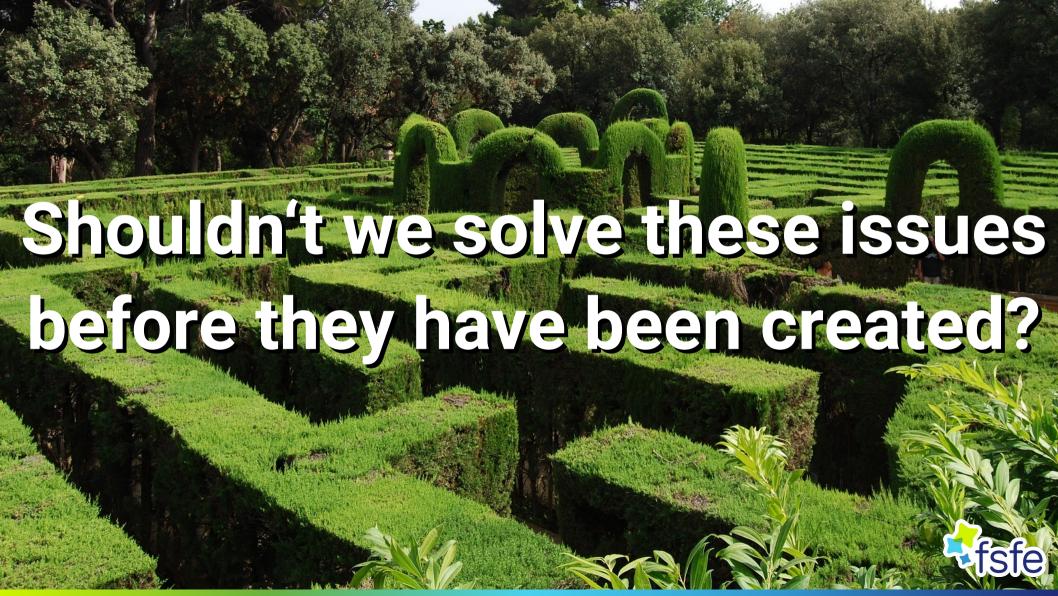
Typical FOSS Compliance Issues

- **Missing information** about license and copyright holder of own or third-party code

- License **ambiguity** (e.g. GPL version)

- Cleared information only stored in **silos**

- **Upstream changes** require re-check

- Developers need a lot of **training**

- **Conflicting** compliance practices

Shouldn't we solve these issues before they have been created?

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REUSE's Principles

- Make it easy to find copyright/licensing information for **every single file** in a repo

- Avoid silos by **storing info inside the repo**

- Info **readable** by humans and machines

- Do not reinvent the wheel, be **compatible**

- Make licensing **easy and fun** for developers, no matter the project size

https://reuse.software

Three Simple Steps

1. Choose and provide licenses

2. Add copyright and licensing information to each file

3. Confirm REUSE compliance

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SOFTWARE

https://reuse.software

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1. **Choose and provide licenses**

- Choose license(s) that the project uses

- Save license text(s) inside the `LICENSES/` directory

- Name after SPDX license identifier

```
project/
├──  LICENSES/
│        └──  GPL-3.0-or-later.txt
├──  src/
         └──  main.c
```

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2. Copyright and license information

- Add information in every file as comment in the header
  - License(s): *SPDX-License-Identifier*
  - Copyright holder: *Copyright* or *SPDX-FileCopyrightText*

```
/*
 * SPDX-License-Identifier: GPL-3.0-or-later
 *
 * SPDX-FileCopyrightText: 2021 Jane Doe <jane@example.com>
 * Copyright © 2017 Foo Bar <foo@bar.baz>
 */
```

2. Copyright and license information

- Two alternatives if file is not editable:

  1. **Separate .license file** ←

  2. dep5 file in `/.reuse`

```
project/
├── img/
    ├── cat.jpg
    ├── cat.jpg.license

           ↓

SPDX-License-Identifier: CC-BY-4.0
SPDX-FileCopyrightText: 2021 Great Artist <artist@example.net>
```

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2. Copyright and license information

- Two alternatives if file is not editable:

    1. Separate .license file

    2. **dep5 file in `/.reuse`**   ←

```
Format: https://www.debian.org/doc/packaging-manuals/copyright-format/1.0
Upstream-Name: reuse-example
Upstream-Contact: Free Software Foundation Europe <https://fsfe.org>
Source: https://github.com/fsfe/reuse-example

Files: img/*
Copyright: 2021 Great Artist <artist@example.net>
License: CC-BY-4.0
```

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3. Confirm REUSE compliance

Use the REUSE helper tool to check for missing information

```
$ reuse lint
# SUMMARY

* Bad licenses: 0
* Missing licenses: 0
* Unused licenses: 0
* Used licenses: CC-BY-4.0, CC0-1.0, GPL-3.0-or-later
* Read errors: 0
* Files with copyright information: 6 / 6
* Files with license information: 6 / 6

Congratulations! Your project is compliant with version 3.0 of the
REUSE Specification :-)
```

REUSE Specialities

- License text files stored in `LICENSES/` directory

- Every file shall contain comment header with copyright and SPDX license identifier tags

- Alternatives for uncommentable files

- Unambiguous copyright and licensing information for every single file of a repository

Components

Best Practices
Specification ready to be integrated by community and industry

Tutorial / FAQ
Low entry barrier, answering basic and advanced questions

Helper Tool
Support developers in making their projects REUSE compliant

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Demo Time (Tool)

Components

Best Practices

Specification ready to be integrated by community and industry

Tutorial / FAQ

Low entry barrier, answering basic and advanced questions

Helper Tool

Support developers in making their projects REUSE compliant

API / Badge

Quick check of a repository, and generate a dynamic badge

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Demo Time (API)

Ongoing Developments

Tools
Improvements and more automation for REUSE helper tool and API

Specification
More flexibility with REUSE.yaml and snippet declaration

Integration
Better integration of REUSE in platforms and other initiatives

Spread
Support communities and companies with adopting the best practices

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REUSE Adopters

- 400+ registered API projects

- Majority of projects (100+) of the *Next Generation Internet* EU project

- KDE and its frameworks

- Policies of Siemens, SAP, Liferay, LF Energy...

- Linux-Kernel (partly)

- You?

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Your Next Steps

- Sign up the mailing list to take part

- Make one of your projects REUSE compliant

- Integrate REUSE into your community and company policies

- Contribute code to REUSE, or become sponsor like **SIEMENS**

- Help others to adopt REUSE

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Thank you! Questions?

Web: reuse.software
List: lists.fsfe.org/mailman/listinfo/reuse
Git: github.com/fsfe | git.fsfe.org/reuse

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