Licenses: We're Doing it Wrong

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On Our Site

On our site: contradictory and bad information:

- The stated licensing terms are contradictory
  - Public domain
  - "Free" but invariant language
- Software, documentation, and data are conflated
  - Licenses for software and documents are not appropriate for each other
  - Software licenses need to be treated separately
- Licenses can mean different things different places

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This has consequences...

Permission and Protection

Spectrum of Permission

closed   public domain
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Permission and Protection

Spectrum of Permission

closed

public domain

- What's the best way to give access to the data?
- How do we best share accurate information?
- How do we protect our good name?
- How do we make sure we get credit?
- What happens to user contributed data?

My Preference (Documentation and Data)

Creative Commons BY (Attribution 3.0 Unported)

- Easy to explain and commonly used
  - Share
  - Adapt
  - Make commercial use
  - But you must attribute it in the way we want
- Allows what people would reasonably want to do
- Gives credit for our work
- International

The License

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