# 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](https://www.gnu.org/copyleft/gpl.html)

Berkeley Software Distribution. (2014). Wikipedia. Retrieved from [https://edtechbooks.org/-HVhd](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BSD_licenses)

MIT License. (2014). Open Source Initiative. Retrieved from [https://edtechbooks.org/-Zxv](http://opensource.org/licenses/MIT)

Apache License. (2014). apache.org. Retrieved from [https://edtechbooks.org/-EQzq](https://www.apache.org/licenses/LICENSE-2.0.html)

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