

OTB Users Days 2016

Code provenance review, license and OSGeo incubation

OTB Team



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Legal presentation

- ▶ I'm going to start a presentation on legal issues -> Please don't leave now
- ▶ IANAL ("I am not a lawyer")
- ▶ Legal questions does actually matter (packaging, contributions, governance. . .)
- ▶ State of OSGeo incubation process for OTB
- ▶ Code provenance review
- ▶ Moving OTB license from CeCILL (GPL) to Apache v2



Why legal issues matter ?

- ▶ Why does it take so long to have OTB package in Debian ?
- ▶ What is the difference between Apache and GNU GPL license ?
- ▶ What is the difference between GNU GPL and CeCILL ?
- ▶ Why not changing OTB license to the WTFPL license (Do What the *f-word* You Want to Public License) ?
- ▶ Is it difficult to re-license a software ? *most of the time, yes*¹

1. Mozilla Foundation difficult experience <http://www.mozillazine.org/talkback.html?article=4155>

OSGeo incubation

OSGeo

- ▶ The Open Source Geospatial Foundation (OSGeo)
 - ▶ Not-for-profit organization
 - ▶ Software foundation
 - ▶ Mission is to foster global adoption of open geospatial tech

OSGeo incubation

- ▶ Incubation committee : responsible for overseeing the incubation process for new projects
- ▶ OTB apply in 2011 -> mentor : Landon Blake
- ▶ Everyone is benevolent
- ▶ Checklist to complete the incubation
- ▶ Long process, lead to sometimes long discussions. . .
- ▶ IMHO very valuable for OTB to improve and structure the project



OTB incubation checklist

- ▶ OSGeo wiki :
https://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/OTB_Project_Incubation_Status

Status report

- ▶ Infrastructure Transition (website, source access...) -> **OK**
- ▶ Community Functioning -> Set up OTB PSC and project procedures -> **OK**
- ▶ Foundation Membership -> brand OTB site with OSGeo foundation -> **OK**
- ▶ Code Copyright Review and Committer Responsibilities Guidelines -> In progress

Code provenance review

Contributions since 2006

- ▶ All OTB dependencies are license in Apache/MIT
- ▶ All contributions licensed in CeCILL
- ▶ No contributor agreement for committers (no CLA, CCLA)
- ▶ Discussion (initiate by CNES) to move OTB license from CeCILL to Apache

Strategy

- ▶ Check (again) the compatibility of third part libraries with OTB
 - ▶ Most
 - ▶ 6S (Radiative transfer) : provide with no license -> working on it
- ▶ Code provenance review :
 - ▶ List all files and identify contributors
 - ▶ **Completed**
 - ▶ Contributors have been contacted to sign a CLA (adapted from Apache CLA)



Moving from GPL to Apache

How does Apache 2.0 license differ from GPL ?

- ▶ Permissive
- ▶ Apache : you're not required to distribute the source code of a covered work

Re-licensing

- ▶ Code provenance review and contributor agreements is necessary condition
- ▶ But not sufficient ! Also need to be discuss thorough an RFCComments and a RFC
- ▶ Would not change much things for most users and contributors
- ▶ CNES committed to continue to contribute to the library

Conclusion

- ▶ OSGeo incubation starts in 2011 (first application)
- ▶ Not far for OTB to be a member
- ▶ Being an official OSGeo soft will not change lots of thing
- ▶ But I think that the incubation helps OTB to have a more open
- ▶ Code provenance review completed
- ▶ Moving to GPL to Apache was already discuss on OTB blog but it should lead to an RFC and discussion (their is already a RFCComments)

Conclusion

Questions ?

