



» The Open Compliance Program

The Linux Foundation
Open Compliance Training
Data Sheet

Produced By The Linux Foundation
<http://www.linuxfoundation.org>

Background

Free and open source software enables companies to accelerate product innovation by collaborating with a global community of developers. However, using open source in externally distributed products carries important responsibilities: Companies must ensure compliance with applicable license obligations at the same time they protect their intellectual property and that of their third party suppliers and customers.

Most open source licenses require publishing attribution notices that acknowledge copyright and authorship. In addition, most licenses require that the license text be made available to software recipients so they're aware of the freedoms they're entitled to. Some licenses require offers of source code for the covered open source and for modifications made to the code. Still other licenses require source code offers for the covered open source and any code combined with it. Other obligations may also apply.

Understanding what must be done to comply with license obligations takes knowledge and discipline. Companies achieve complete compliance only through a comprehensive process of audit, disclosure, review, and recordkeeping, not by ad hoc last-minute actions. Failure to comply can carry severe consequences, potentially including loss of license, compromise of intellectual property, lost ability to ship product, breach of contract, and financial penalties.

The Linux Foundation now offers comprehensive training on open source compliance from industry experts, along with tools, information, and guidance to assist organizations in achieving their compliance objectives.

Description

Training modules cover the fundamentals of open source licensing and compliance activities and can be tailored for audiences ranging from corporate executives to working professionals. The course provides practical, easy-to-understand guidance on license compliance to organizations building products that incorporate free and open source software. Topics address what needs to be done and how to integrate compliance activities with existing development and business processes.

Who Should Attend

Anyone involved in bringing software into the organization and anyone involved in developing and distributing products or interfacing with customers, including

- Corporate Management
- Engineering
- Product Management, Project Management, and Process Management
- Testing, Quality Assurance, Configuration Management and Logistics
- Legal Department
- Purchasing / Supply Chain
- Information Technology
- Marketing, Sales, and Customer Support

What Will You Learn

- Fundamentals of open source licensing and open compliance requirements
- What types of software activity require explicit compliance efforts
- Different types of open source licenses – their licensing goals and obligations
- How to implement an end-to-end compliance management program
- How to extend the compliance program to an organization's 3rd party suppliers
- Industry best practices, do's and don'ts, architectural guidelines
- Typical failures of the compliance process and how to avoid them
- Tools available to assist compliance activities
- How to respond to and resolve compliance inquiries

Location

Typically, training is delivered at the client's site to encourage frank and open discussion of compliance issues. Live virtual instructor-led delivery will also be offered. Recorded online training is planned for 2011.

Training Formats

Training options include:

- **LF281 Executive Review of Open Source Compliance.** Half-day training focusing on the importance of compliance and what must be done to satisfy open source license obligations.
- **LF384 Overview of Open Source Compliance End-to-End Process.** Provides one-day comprehensive coverage of the compliance process. Includes overview for executive management plus in-depth presentations for functional groups identified above in "Who Should Attend?" covering what must be done and recommended approaches to instantiating a compliance process.
- **LF488 Implementation and Management of Open Source Compliance.** Two-day comprehensive coverage of the compliance process. Includes LF281/LF384 content plus working sessions with the compliance team on how to adapt compliance activities to the organization's needs.

To discuss which option makes most sense for your organization, please contact the Linux Foundation at compliance@linuxfoundation.org.

Availability

The Open Source Compliance training course will be available starting 09/01/2010. To learn more, request more information, or to register for open compliance training, please visit <http://www.linuxfoundation.org/programs/legal/compliance/training-and-education>.

About the Linux Foundation

The Linux Foundation is a nonprofit consortium dedicated to fostering the growth of Linux. Founded in 2007, the Linux Foundation sponsors the work of Linux creator Linus Torvalds and is supported by leading Linux and open source companies and developers from around the world. The Linux Foundation promotes, protects and standardizes Linux by hosting important workgroups, events and online resources such as Linux.com. For more information, please visit <http://www.linuxfoundation.org> or follow the organization on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/linuxfoundation>.

About the Open Compliance Program

The Linux Foundation's Open Compliance Program is the industry's only neutral, comprehensive software compliance initiative. By marshaling the resources of its members and leaders in the compliance community, the Linux Foundation brings together the individuals, companies and legal entities needed to expand the use of open source software while decreasing legal costs and FUD. The Open Compliance Program offers comprehensive training and informational materials, open source tools, an online community (FOSSBazaar), a best practices checklist, a rapid alert directory of company's compliance officers and a standard to help companies uniformly tag and report software used in their products. The Open Compliance Program is led by experts in the compliance industry and backed by such organizations as the Adobe, AMD, ARM Limited, Cisco Systems, Google, HP, IBM, Intel, Motorola, NEC, Novell, Samsung, Software Freedom Law Center, Sony Electronics and many more. More information can be found at <http://www.linuxfoundation.org/programs/legal/compliance>.

The Linux Foundation promotes, protects and standardizes Linux by providing unified resources and services needed for open source to successfully compete with closed platforms.

To learn more about The Linux Foundation, the Open Compliance Program or our other initiatives please visit us at <http://www.linuxfoundation.org/>.

