Q&A On GCC RTL Exception

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At BOTTOM of announcement?!?!

Bottom of 4.5.0 release notes:

Other significant improvements Plugins It is now possible to extend the compiler without having to modify its source code. A new option -fplugin=file.so tells GCC to load the shared object file.so and execute it as part of the compiler. The internal documentation describes the details on how plugins can interact with the compiler.

The GCC RTL Exception Process.

- Initially drafted by me and fontana.

- Put forward to members of GCC SC and interested parties.

- Redrafted and revised many times by brett, karen, & me for 18 months.

- Final version is like GPLv3 . . .

    - . . . it's "legislation".

Core Details

- GPLv2 had no real exception "subsystem".

- GPLv3 § 7 allows formally for "Additional Permissions".

    - RTL exception uses this.

- Primary goal: Solve FSF's concerns about plugins as work around to GPL.

Basics of how it works

- If you mix (in *any* way) proprietary compilers w/ GCC . . .
  - . . . the RTL exception evaporates.
  - . . . your output binaries *must* be GPL'd.
- If your "Compilation Processes" are all "Eligible" . . .
  - . . . which means they are all GPL-compatible . . .
  - . . . your output can be proprietary software (usual outcome).

Take a look

- Take a look, and ask your questions.