

OSI Reviews Open, Free and Openwashing Licences

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Statement that all major open source licenses rely on copyright for protection, none of them have severability clauses to address what happens if one or more clauses in the license cannot be enforced, and that works authored by the US Government (USG) does not have copyright attached in the USA. Concern that if standard licenses are used, it is not known if the license will be struck completely or if only portions would be, as well as whether it would expose the government if a standard license is used when some clauses don't apply.

- [License Review Process Update](#) [4]

We'd like to update you on some work we have underway on improving the OSI's work on reviewing open source licenses. We're working on two initiatives, one substantive and one process.

First, on process, we know that an email list is a suboptimal way to perform the license review process. We have published a Request for Proposals for a contractor to, first, develop a set of requirements for an appropriate license-review vehicle and, second, implement the selected process. You can find the full RFP here. If you're interested in participating as a stakeholder, stay tuned to this space for an announcement when we've started work on the project itself.

Second, on substance, we are starting a License List Working Group. The mission will be to

review, re-evaluate, and redefine current processes and standards for license review with a view towards ensuring that the OSI's license list is appropriately comprehensive while also continuing to encourage the use of a smaller set of well-known, well-understood licenses. More information on the Working Group can be found [here](#).

[OSS Legal](#)

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- [1] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/72>
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