SMB Alliance (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sme-solutions/ )
Created by David G.V. Ray (24/0472009)

# Software User Rights

## Identificiation & Loss Comparison

### *"Free Software" vs "Open Source Software" vs "Proprietary Software" Movements*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | = | "Yes" 100% of the time |
| No | = | "No" in at least some situations and maybe in all situations (i.e. 1-100% of the time) |
| n.a. | = | not applicable |
| | = | user rights lost by non-free software (i.e. "open source" or "proprietary") |

*Program Services = subroutines and modules not included in the core software
** i.e. as oppossed to "program services"
*** e.g. Micrososft, Red Hat, IBM

# = "a" version of the source and binary code but not necesarrily to the latest version

| | | | | | | Access to "a" version of the Source Code # | No Access to Source Code |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | Defends the rights of | |
| | | | | | | Users | Developers | Investors |
| | | | | | | *Free Software* | *Open Source Software* | *Proprietary Software**** |
| USER RIGHTS | RUN | Is the user able to run the programe for any purpose the user wants? | | | | yes | yes | yes |
| | | User Purpose | Can any kind of person or organization use the software (e.g. academic, commerical, non-profit, foreigner, national citizen, etc.)? | | | yes | yes | no |
| | | | Can the software be run on any kind of computer hardware and/or software system combination? | | | yes | no | no |
| | | | Can it be used for any kind of overall job and purpose? | | | yes | yes | no |
| | | | Is the user free to use the software for whichever purpose they want to without getting permission from the developer or any other specific entity... | ...re the core software? | | yes | yes | no |
| | | | | ....re program services(PS)... | ...that are free software (FS-PS)*? | yes | yes | no |
| | | | | | ...that are non-free software (NFS-PS)*? | yes | no | no |
| | | If the user releases the software, must it be available to be run for commercial use? | | | | yes | yes | no |
| | STUDY & ADAPT | Can the user... | ...study how the ... | ...core software works? | | yes | yes | no |
| | | | | ...program services... | ...that are Free Software work? | yes | yes | no |
| | | | | | ...that are Non-Free Software work? | yes | no | no |
| | | | ... adapt the .... | ...core software to meet their individual needs? | | yes | yes | no |
| | | | | ...program services... | ...that are Free Software to meet their individual needs? | yes | yes | no |
| | | | | | ...that are Non-Free Software to meet their individual needs? | yes | no | no |
| | | If the user releases the software, must it be available to be commerically developed? | | | | yes | yes | no |
| | REDISTRIBUTE | Core Software | Can the user redistribute copies of the core software... | ..without modifications? | | yes | yes | no |
| | | | | ...with modifications? | | yes | yes | no |
| | | | Can the user charge for copies of the core software that they distribute? | | | yes | yes | no |
| | | Program Services (i.e. PS's) | Free Software program-services (i.e.FS-PS) | Can FS-PS be included into the core software? | | yes | yes | no |
| | | | | Can the user redistribute the user-right protecting software(i.e. Free Software) that uses user-right protecting program services (i.e. Free Software) without getting permission from any other person or organization... | ...where those service programs have not been modified by that user? | yes | yes | no |
| | | | | | ...where those service programs have been modified by that user? | yes | yes | no |
| | | | | Can the user charge for copies of software that include user-right protecting program services (i.e. free software)? | | yes | yes | no |
| | | | Non-Free Software program services (i.e. NFS-PS) | Must non-user right protecting program services(i.e. Non-free) be excluded from the software that is distributed? | | yes | no | no |
| | | | | Is the user free to withhold the distribution of software that includes non-user right protecting program services (i.e. non-free services) i.e. they don't need permission from any organization or person to do so ... | ...where those service programs have not been modified by the user? | yes | no | no |
| | | | | | ...where those service programs have been modified by the user? | yes | no | no |
| | | | | Is the user obliged to protect user-rights by not dealing with or making a profit from the sale of copies of non-user right protecting software that includes non-user right protecting program services? | | yes | no | no |
| | | Must the software be available to be commerically destributed? | | | | yes | yes | no |
| | IMPROVE | Software Improvements | Can the user improve or engage someone else to improve the.... | ...core software? | | yes | yes | no |
| | | | | ...program services... | ...that are integrated into the core but are Free Software? | yes | yes | no |
| | | | | | ...that are integrated into the core but are Non-Free Software? | yes | yes | no |
| | | Software Releases | Can the user withhold their improvements to... | ...the software? | | yes | no | no |
| | | | | ...any program services... | ...that are Free Software ? | yes | no | no |
| | | | | | ...that are Non-Free Software? | yes | no | no |
| | | | If the user releases their software, must the author release both the source & the binary code versions? | | | yes | yes | no |
| | SERVICE | Can users charge for human services associated with the software that they deliver to other users without permission from anyone ** .... | ...re the core software ? | | | yes | yes | no |
| | | | ...re the program services... | ...that are Free Software? | | yes | yes | no |
| | | | | ...that are Non-Free Software? | | yes | no | no |
| | | Are these rights irrevocable (i.e. they cannot be removed)... | ...for core software? | | | yes | no | no |
| | | | ...for the program services... | ...that are Free Software? | | yes | no | no |
| | | | | ...that are Non-Free Software? | | yes | no | no |
| | | Are the terms of the user rights associated with the software unchangeable (i.e. can't be retroactively changed)... | ...for core software? | | | yes | no | no |
| | | | ...for the program services... | ...that are Free Software? | | yes | no | no |
| | | | | ...that are Non-Free Software? | | yes | no | no |