

## Re: GNU Public Licences Revisited (again)

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*Source:* <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/General/comp.programming/2005-09/msg00767.html>

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- *From:* "Joe Butler" <[ffffh.no.spam@xx](mailto:ffffh.no.spam@xx)>
  - *Date:* Mon, 26 Sep 2005 19:16:26 +0100
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>  
> Can you agree that Open Source, in itself, is a good thing ?

If anyone can use it in any way they see fit, without restriction, then I'd say it wasn't a bad thing. I'm speaking here from the point of view of a programmer that might incorporate unrestricted source and sell a resulting product – no need to put up a load of acknowledgments, etc. No worries about being sued by some prat that's given the source away but decides that they didn't want me to modify it and then sell it.

If someone purchases a product and gets the source code with it to do with it what they want without re-distributing it, I wouldn't risk it for a mass-market situation. I might risk it for high-end product that had tight controls. This is because it's not necessarily a great advantage to the majority of users that they get the source. In fact, in that situation, it may become a bit of a problem, since you could end up with an inexperienced programmer moding the code on behalf of a company and causing all sorts of issues. Then you have the problem that the vendor of the product getting blamed for instability, loss of data, etc. I guess that's one reason not to give customers the source code – to protect yourself from problems caused by the customer.

>  
> In my personal opinion (roughly speaking):  
> GPL is to Open Source what Communism is to Marxism.

I'll take your word on that – I didn't study politics.

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- *References:*
    - ◆ **Re: GNU Public Licences Revisited (again)**  
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    - ◆ **Re: GNU Public Licences Revisited (again)**  
◇ *From:* MSCHAEF.COM

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