

Open Source: Changes in Licenses and Landscape

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The biggest news on open source in 2023 was license and support policy changes: Red Hat CentOS Stream, Red Hat's customer terms, and Hashicorp. This presentation outlines issues to spot for license and policy changes. Also, it summarizes the efforts of the open source community on defining "open source AI."

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2023 continued a trend of license changes

- Grafana
- Red Hat
- Hashicorp

These grabbed the headlines, but
let's take a systemic view.

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License Changes: Open to Open

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Why do non-commercial open source projects change their licenses?

- Adjustment from permissive to copyleft or vice versa
- Picked the wrong license
 - OpenSSL
 - Wikipedia
 - Stack Overflow
- These initiatives can take years or crater
- Often requires relicensing by contributors
 - Permissive -> copyleft does not, but notices must be retained

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Corporate Moves to Copyleft (or GPL to AGPL)

- Usually part of a dual-licensing model
- Examples
 - Artifex
 - iText
 - Grafana
- “Gotcha” versus Stewards
 - Sales team or compliance police?
 - Continued maintenance and support for community edition

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