



# ASTRON

Netherlands Institute for Radio Astronomy



Not us!

# (The struggle) Towards an open source policy

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Capabilities (Without Application Licensing Restriction)	GPL (Linux)	Dual-GPL (MySQL)	LGPL/MPL (OpenOffice, Firefox)	Apache/BSD (Apache, FreeBST)
1) Download	✓	✓	✓	✓
2) Evaluate	✓	✓	✓	✓
3) Deploy	✓	✓	✓	✓
4) Redistribute	⊘ <sup>1</sup>	✓ <sup>3</sup>	✓	✓
5) Modify	⊘ <sup>2</sup>	⊘ <sup>2</sup>	⊘ <sup>2</sup>	✓ <sup>4</sup>

<https://softwareengineering.stackexchange.com/a/162136>

Open Source Policy

# But also:

- Visibility of our efforts
- Valorisation through 3<sup>rd</sup> parties (closed source)



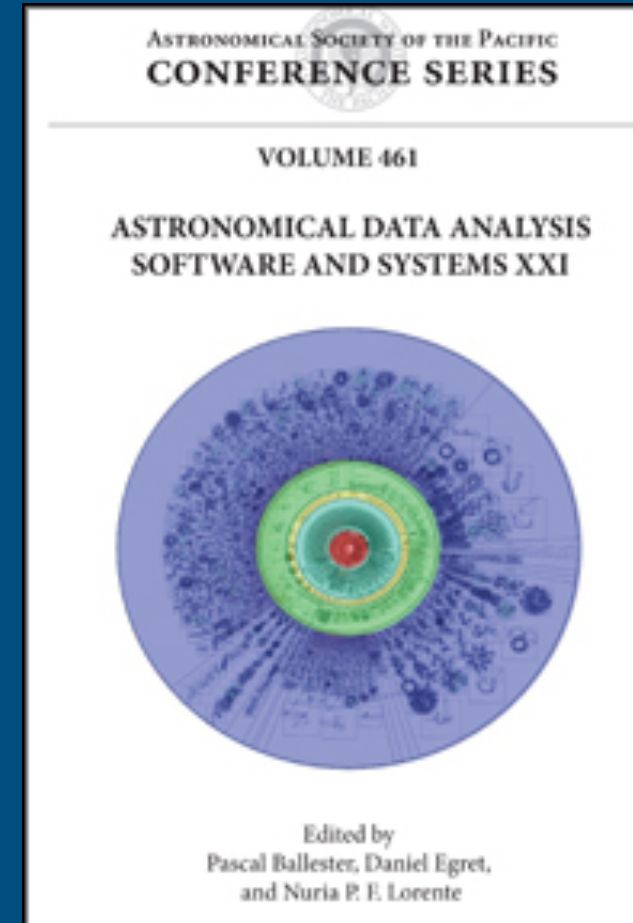
Receive credit



CC0 Public Domain

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## Document history:

Revision	Date	Chapter / Page	Modification / Change
0.1	28-09-2017	-	Creation
0.2	08-02-2018		Reviewed by committee
0.3	12-02-2018		Incorporated comments
0.4	12-02-2018		Edited format
0.5	13-02-2018		Incorporated comments
0.6	22-02-2018		Unified procedures and added remarks for MT
0.7	08-03-2018		Incorporated Gert Kruithof's review comments
0.8	04-04-2018		Incorporated amendments from Lourens Veen (Netherlands eScience Center) maintaining compatibility with current GPL licensing conditions
1.0	05-07-2018		Decided on licence to use, incorporated it. Document ready for distribution to MT
1.1	06-07-2018		Updated list of authors and distribution list
1.2	02-10-2018		Streamlined definition and hence refactoring. Also processed comments by reviewers.
1.3	09-10-2018		Several minor improvements to readability

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... and re  
1 year do

- We had a
- Got value
- NWO HQ
- Some op
  - ope
  - fun
  - link

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Public domain image)

# Open Source Policy Implementation How?

- Key points in policy:
  - Apache 2.0
  - DOI for each release!\* (advice: ASCL too)
  - DOI in NOTES file with software
  - All Software in ASTRON-owned (gitlab) repo
  - Need to deviate from open source policy?
    - get in touch with the OSC
- We realise we change most employees' work flow
  - (but assumed to have minimal impact in modus operandi)



<https://pixabay.com/illustrations/fun-happy-people-happiness-joy-1012681/>

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\*

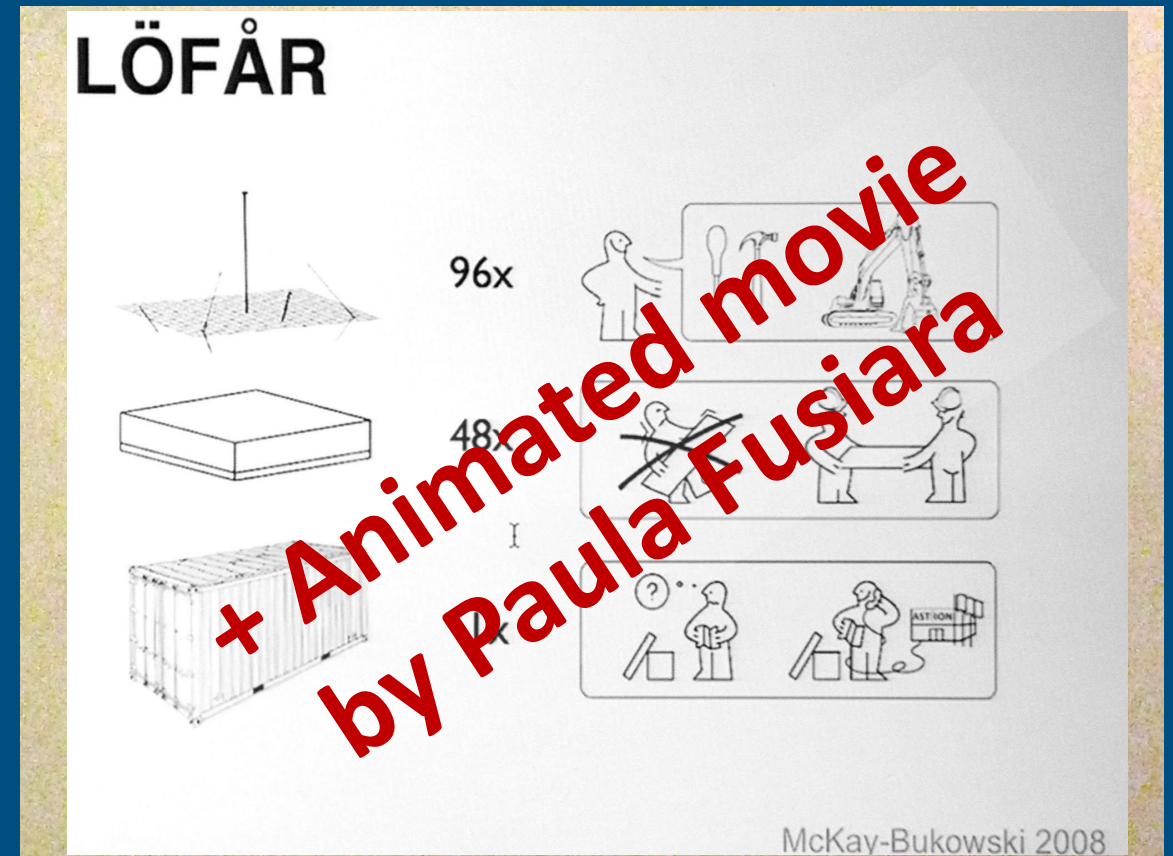
zenodo



Open Source Policy

# Usability is key!

- “This is the very nice eleven-page document in pseudo-legalese that tells you how to license your software!”



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# What's next?

- The policy has come alive!
  - First projects adopted it
  - Evaluation ongoing by the OSC
  - Share with public stake holders (NWO)
- Now **we** want to save **you** a lot of time
  - Policy released ([10.5281/zenodo.3479829](https://zenodo.org/record/105281))
  - Created an “Open Source Policy” group in Zenodo for other policies. We envision this to be a knowledge base for others writing their own policies





# where are we?

- **ASTRON now has an open source policy**
  - Which supports the wishes on open science from NWO
  - Which supports the wishes on creditability from ASTRON
- **The OSC raises awareness on licensing with Project Leads**
- **The OSC can provide guidance advice on licensing decisions**
  - We are not assuming the role of legal council (WANL).
- **Working on tools to automate the process of requesting a DOI as part of the release process**
  - Looks very much like what we have in the ESCAPE repo 😊
- **Handling external contributors is still an open issue**

# Lessons learned

- Bringing your own policy into a project can save a lot of discussion!
  - In one project, our policy even became the de facto project policy
- The cross-section of lawyers and people who care and know about scientific-open-source software is very small.
  - Those people seem not to work for us at least
- Scope creep is a very relevant issue
  - What about open data, open documents, open hardware designs?
  - Curating Zenodo groups, asked to request academic licenses for tools?
  - What about collaboration agreements?
  - Be clear as possible about what we consider in and out of scope!





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