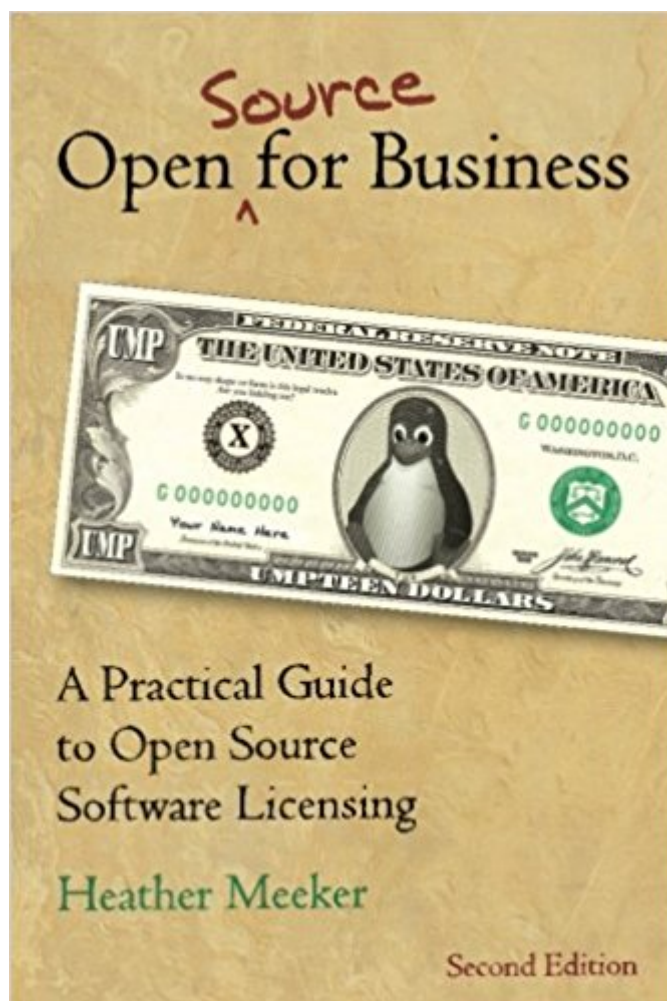


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Open (Source) For Business: A Practical Guide To Open Source Software Licensing -- Second Edition



Synopsis

Heather Meeker's *Open Source for Business* is a practical, readable guide to help businesspeople, engineers, and lawyers understand open source software licensing. Based on the author's twenty years as an attorney working at the crossroads of intellectual property and technology, this guide explains the legal and technical principles behind open source licensing so you can make the right decisions for your business. It offers tips on using open source, contributing to open source projects, and releasing your own open source software. You'll also get access to quick-reference tables on the major open source licenses, plus forms and checklists you can use to promote compliance. In this book, you will learn . . .

- Why open source is not a virus
- What the GPL is and how to handle it
- When and how to conduct open source audits
- What a user-friendly open source policy looks like
- How to avoid and respond to open source enforcement claims
- How to use open source to fight patent infringement claims
- How to manage trademarks for open source products

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An attorney in private practice, Heather Meeker is a 20-year veteran of Silicon Valley who specializes in intellectual property transactions for technology clients in a range of industries including software, communications, educational testing, computer equipment, and medical devices. She has extensive experience in open source licensing strategies and in intellectual property and technology matters related to mergers and acquisitions. Ms. Meeker served as an adjunct professor of law at Hastings College of the Law and University of California Berkeley School of Law, teaching seminars on technology licensing. A member of the American Law Institute (ALI), she has served as

an adviser to ALI projects, Principles of the Law of Software Contracts (2010) and Restatement of the Law, Copyright (ongoing). She has also served as counsel for the Mozilla Foundation and other open source organizations. Ms. Meeker graduated from Yale with a BA in economics and earned her JD from Boalt Hall School of Law, where she served as editor in chief of the Berkeley Technology Law Review. Prior to law school, she worked as a software engineer.

Ms. Meeker's subtitle of "practical guide" hits the nail on the head. Her analysis is a true marriage of the law, complexities of the OSS, and actual needs of organizations. Whether your business is just a consumer of OSS, or your company is neck-deep in OSS development - this book is a must-read for both the lawyers and engineers.

This is a really great book on open source licensing for attorneys and engineers. The book is pretty technical (a necessity for understanding many of the issues), particularly in chapter 2, so you'd be best off entering with some working knowledge of software engineering or supplementing this book with another book on software engineering basics so you're not completely lost. Highly recommend.

As the subtitle suggests - a very practical approach to open source licensing. Well organized and covers many of the questions a business may have on open source licensing both inbound and outbound. The book also does a good job of representing different views on some of the more controversial open source licensing topics. Overall - I would recommend this book to any business person who uses or supplies products with embedded open source.

This guide combines an excellent and up-to-date introduction to the OSS intersection of legal and technical concepts. It is required reading for all our employees and we have received very positive feedback from customer to whom we have recommended it.

Great book! I've been reviewing open source for years and I find this book to be a great reference. It may be a bit challenging for those with no experience to be able to apply it, but I'm sure it would still be helpful. A must buy.

I am a developer and educator of open source software. This book armed me with knowledge of popular licenses, their abilities to co-exists, best licenses for my needs, and verbiage to create contracts as someone who buys and sells services around open source software. Thank you very

much for writing this book!!!!

So pleased to have a new Heather Meeker book to send to our clients! Technically detailed yet totally accessible, legally in-depth yet easy to follow - the single best resource on open source out there. You will learn a lot and enjoy the read.

Thanks to the ubiquity of open source software today, every technology lawyer will, at some point, have to understand the basics of open source licensing. This book is a great introduction and handy reference that provides both a high level introduction to how the most common open source licenses work, and also practical guidance for common open source issues (both legal and business). Sure, all this information can be found scattered about the web, but you want to pay both for the convenience of having it between two covers and for the expert curation provided by Ms. Meeker, who is among the most respected lawyers in the field.-Fred von Lohmann, Legal Director, Copyright, Google Inc.

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