

To: Oregon DQP Core Group
From: DQP Information Technology (IT) Team
Date: January 24, 2013

On behalf of the DQP IT Team please consider the following rationale and recommendation for moving forward with licensing of DQP software developed as part of the grant.

In the spirit of openness, the DQP project has always had a goal of sharing any materials we develop over the course of the DQP grant. In keeping with that spirit, at the October, 2012 conference at Lane, we decided to release our materials under a Creative Commons License.

Unfortunately, Creative Commons does not recommend using CC licenses for software, due to significant, though sometimes subtle, differences in how works are created, distributed, and credited. After consulting Cable Green at Creative Commons and significant conversation within the DQP IT Team, we were able to narrow our possible licenses to two choices:

- 1) The Affero GPL (<http://www.gnu.org/licenses/agpl-3.0.html>)
- 2) The MIT License (<http://opensource.org/licenses/MIT>)

Both of these licenses are considered Open Source and both constitute sharing on our part. But they provide significant differences in how people who receive copies of our software are able to use and modify it.

The Affero GPL was built along strong "Copyleft" principles, and requires those that use our software to include a link to their source code, as well as any changes they may have made.

The MIT License is remarkably close to a public domain release, only requiring subsequent modifications of our software to include an attribution to our project as part of their distribution. It does not place restrictions on who is able to modify our program, nor does it require those that do modify our program to re-share their changes.

As an example, if Tillamook Bay CC downloaded a copy of the spidergraph application, then modified it to directly integrate with their SIS system, and hosted the application:

Under the Affero GPL, Tillamook Bay CC would be legally required to provide a link from their hosted application to the spidergraph source code, as well as their own improvements. Their improvements would be open for anyone to see, use, and incorporate in their own projects.

* Under the MIT License, that'd be the end. Optionally, the developers at Tillamook Bay CC could choose to submit their improvements to the core spidergraph developers, who could in turn provide those changes to everyone.

Although the Affero GPL is a more "open" way to share things, as it forces subsequent versions of the project used by other people to also be open; we thought that it was less "free" and thus less embodied our original mission of sharing what we develop for others to use as they see fit.

For that reason we recommend the use of the MIT License for the Spidergraphs Application.

The DQP IT team is indebted to team member Kyle Schmidt for providing research, input, and guidance to the team regarding software licensing.

Thank you,

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