visit ccMixter







Support the Commons





Select a jurisdiction



Home: About:

choosing a license licenses explained about us <u>people</u> think opportunities legal concepts sampling licenses press kit lessig letter newsletter supporters

## Choosing a License

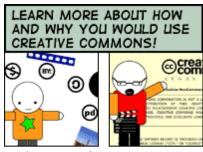
Offering your work under a Creative Commons license does not mean giving up your copyright. It means offering some of your rights to any member of the public but only on certain conditions.

What conditions? You can find an overview of the Creative Commons licenses here. All of our licenses require that you give attribution in the manner specified by the author or licensor.



**Attribution**. You let others copy, distribute, display, and perform your copyrighted work — and derivative works based upon it — but only if they give credit

the way you request.



view our comics: A Spectrum of Rights How It Works

**Example:** Jane publishes her photograph with an Attribution license, because she wants the world to use her pictures provided they give her credit. Bob finds her photograph online and wants to display it on the front page of his website. Bob puts Jane's picture on his site, and clearly indicates Jane's authorship.

Our core licensing suite will also let you mix and match conditions from the list of options below. There are a total of six Creative Commons licenses to choose from our core licensing suite.



**Noncommercial.** You let others copy, distribute, display, and perform your work — and derivative works based upon it — but for noncommercial purposes only

Examples: Gus publishes his photograph on his website with a Noncommercial license. Camille prints Gus' photograph. Camille is not allowed to sell the print photograph without Gus's permission.



No Derivative Works. You let others copy, distribute, display, and perform only verbatim copies of your work, not derivative works based upon it.

Example: Sara licenses a recording of her song with a No Derivative Works license. Joe would like to cut Sara's track and mix it with his own to produce an entirely new song. Joe cannot do this without Sara's permission (unless his song amounts to fair use).



Share Alike. You allow others to distribute derivative works only under a license identical to the license that governs your work.

Note: A license cannot feature both the Share Alike and No Derivative Works options. The Share Alike requirement applies only to derivative works.

Example: Gus's online photo is licensed under the Noncommercial and Share Alike terms. Camille is an amateur collage artist, and she takes Gus's photo and puts it into one of her collages. This Share Alike language requires Camille to make her collage available on a Noncommercial plus Share Alike license. It makes her offer her work back to the world on the same terms Gus gave her.

More examples are available on our examples page. Also note that every license carries with it a full set of other rights in addition to the allowances specifically made here.

Taking a License

1 of 2

- 1. Commons Deed. A simple, plain-language summary of the license, complete with the relevant icons.
- 2. Legal Code. The fine print that you need to be sure the license will stand up in court.
- 3. Digital Code. A machine-readable translation of the license that helps search engines and other applications identify your work by its terms of use.

## Using a License

You should then include a Creative Commons "Some Rights Reserved" button on your site, near your work. <u>Help and tips on doing this are covered here</u>. This button will link back to the Commons Deed, so that the world can be notified of the license terms. If you find that your license is being violated, you may have grounds to sue under copyright infringement.

About | Contact | FAQ | Sitemap & Site Search | Press Kit | Policies | Privacy



Except where otherwise <u>noted</u>, this site is licensed under a <u>Creative Commons Attribution 2.5 License</u>

2 of 2 6/28/2006 10:11 AM