Licensing and Intellectual Property

ICIS 2007 Workshop

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What is Copyright?

- Copyright is a legislative monopoly that aims to provide an incentive for the creation and distribution of creative works.
- Copyright grants monopoly rights for certain acts (e.g. making copies).
- Copyright applies automatically. No © symbol, or copyright statement needed.
- Free access (e.g. web, library) does not mean that there is no copyright.

What are the "copy rights"?

Exclusive rights of the holder:

- to produce copies or reproductions of the work and to sell those copies (including, typically, electronic copies)
- to import or export the work
- to create derivative works (works that adapt or improve the original work)
- to perform or display the work publicly
- to sell or assign these rights to others

Open Source Licensing

Example: General Public License

Permissions:

 Use, modify, copy, release modified versions of the software

Conditions:

- Apply to copying, distribution, modification
 - Copying and distribution may not remove rights
 - When releasing modified versions, make the source code available and release under the same license
 - Tell the user about his/her rights (e.g. copy of the license text, header in source code files)
 - No guaranty, warranty, liability

Freeware - example: GGT -

- 2007 edition, build 09-Mar-2007
- Expires 01-Jan-2007
- Developed by: Ralph van Berloo
- Contains components developed by Mike Lischke
- No explicit copyright or licensing statement
- What may/can users do with his software?
- Sustainability of GGT? Dangers?

Free Software - example: MySQL -

- MySQL.
- Copyright of source code owned by MySQL company (not of all storage engines)
- Released under dual license, GPL & commercial
- What may/can users do with this software?
- What may/can the MySQL company do with this software?
- Sustainability of MySQL? Dangers?

Open Source Software





- Copyright of source code owned by many developers
- Released under BSD license
- What rights do users have?
- What may/can users do with his software?
- Sustainability of PostgreSQL? Dangers?

Free Software - example: ICIS DLL -

- Copyright of source code owned by IRRI
- Released under LGPL license
- What may/can users do with his software?
- What may/can IRRI do with this software?
- Sustainability of ICIS DLL? Dangers?

 GGT could be used with ICIS DLL without making GGT Open Source

Free Software - example: SetGen -

- Copyright of source code owned by IRRI & others
- Released under GPL license
- What may/can users do with his software?
- What may/can owners do with this software?
- Sustainability of SetGen? Dangers?

Free Software - example: GCC -

- Copyright of source code owned by FSF
- Released under GPL license
- Contributors transfer copyright to FSF
- What may/can users do with his software?
- What may/can FSF do with this software?

Sustainability of GCC? Dangers?

Software Patents

- Protects the implementation of an idea
- Independent re-implementation may result in violation
- Different patent laws depending on national legislation
- Example: COP algorithm
- Is ICIS violating software patents?
- What can we do to avoid patent violation?

IRRI IP Policy Change

From:

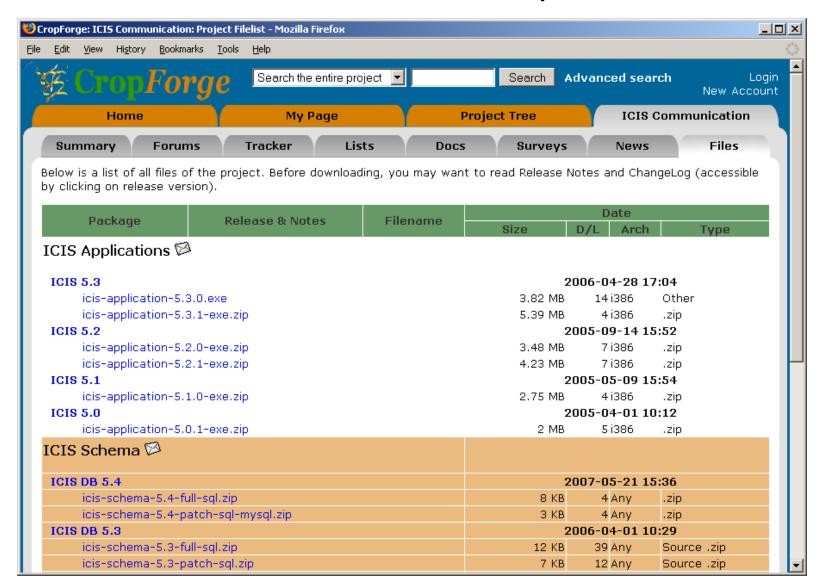
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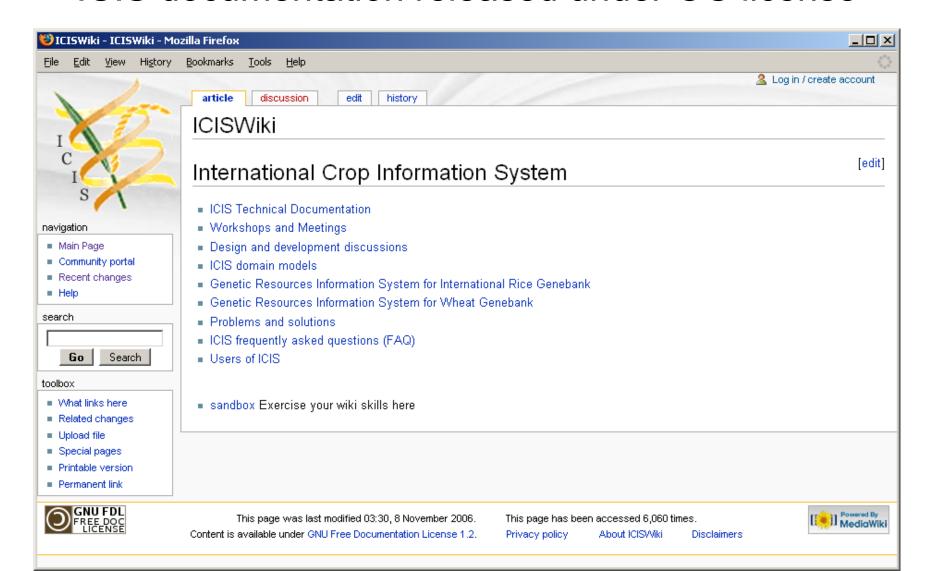
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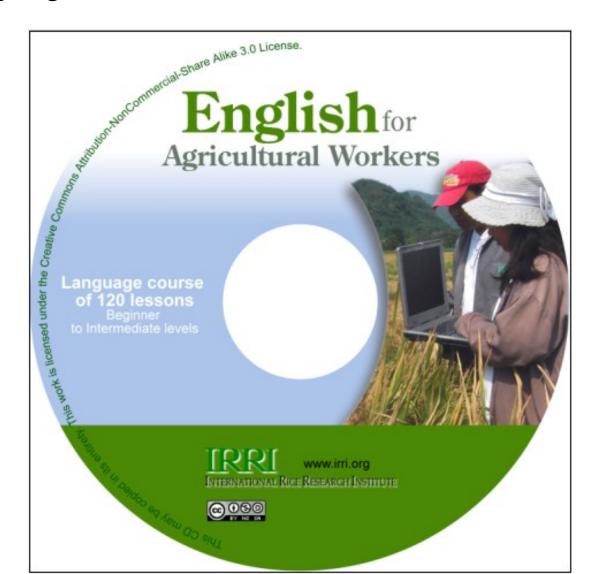
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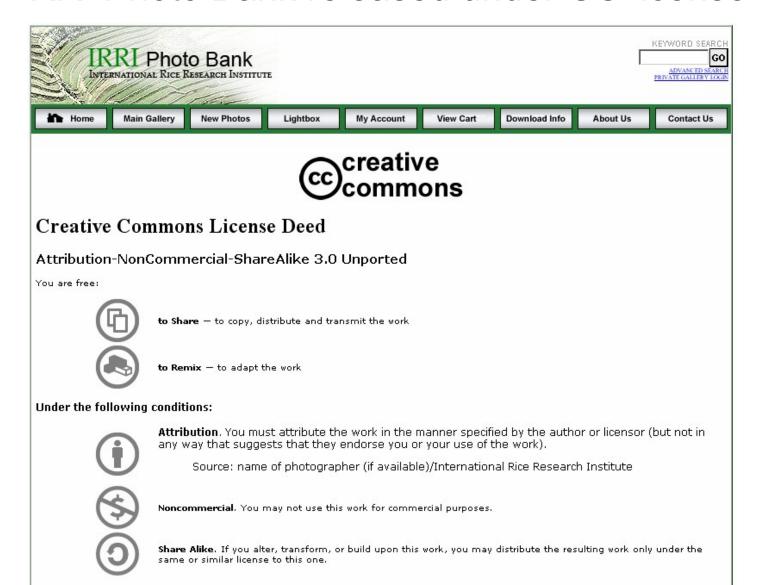
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Summary

- Sustainability of free/open source software is affected by spread of participation and ownership as well as licensing
- Software patents are an unquantifiable risk
- IRRI is committed to free and open content/source