TDCAL Policy

Tom St Denis
tomstdenis@iahu.ca

June 8, 2003

Introduction

This document describes the "Tom Doesn't Care About Licenses" (TDCAL) license, how it applies to software and what it entitles the users to. Others are free to use the TDCAL scheme on their software and they are entitled to include a rendered copy of this LaTeX source file (*e.g. as a PDF, HTML, etc...*).

1 Waranty

TDCAL "software", that is end user applications, source code and library packages, are by nature free from any form of royalty payment. Since the software is freely obtainable and usable it is unfair to have the author assume any risk in the usage of the software. The end user will assume all risk of harm of damage that may arise from using software released under TDCAL.

While a good software developer will try to fix all known bugs and produce software of the upmost quality the risk of using such software lies squarely on the end user.

2 Software and Software Packages

For the purposes of this license the terms "software" and "software package" will refer to either a collection of source code that can be used in conjunction with other software to achieve a goal or standalone binary applications. For example, C source code can be considered software.

Briefly, other examples of "software" are C++, Java, HTML, TeX and LaTeX and shell script source code. The definition of "software" is not limited to those examples cited.

3 Usage Entitlements (binary form)

TDCAL software may be used in binary form in free (*as in closed source public domain*), open source and all forms of commercial end user packages. An end

user package is an application or application library composed of among other things, TDCAL based software. There is no restriction to what sort of end package TDCAL software is appropriate for.

Any end user binary package that uses TDCAL software does not have the obligation of releasing the source code (*as in GPL*) nor do any copyright notices have to be honoured. As a result TDCAL software must itself be comprised **entirely** of TDCAL based source code. Any contributed code to be released in a software package under the TDCAL must itself be under the TDCAL license.

At no time must the TDCAL license be honoured in end user package. That is end user package may be copyrighted, they may be commercial and they may be kept closed source.

4 Usage Entitlements (source form)

TDCAL software released in source form is free to be used in any of the previously mentioned types of binary form end user packages. Furthermore, the software is free to be redistributed in either privately or publicly held source form by a third party. Additions, improvements, enhancements and any other type of changes to TDCAL software may be privately or publicly held.

Third party branches of TDCAL software may be turned from free TDCAL software into privately held commercial software provided the license is changed from TDCAL to a more appropriate license. As a matter of practicality redistributed branches of TDCAL software must be released under a different title to prevent confusion.

Source code comments including copyright labels may be removed or altered in branches of TDCAL based software.

5 Changing License Status

At no time may TDCAL packages whether source or binary form be changed from TDCAL to any other license without first changing the name of the package.

6 TDCAL License Disclosure

The author of TDCAL software is entitled to include this LaTeX source file (*or any derivative of it*) along with their software.

7 License Purity

Software packages that include TDCAL and non-TDCAL components may not as a whole be deemed to be a TDCAL package. If a TDCAL package has non TDCAL components added the license is nullified and no longer applicable.

8 Matters of Practicality

As a matter of general practicality developers are strongly discouraged, but not prohibited, from removing the names of contributing authors and users. Generally most TDCAL software will be "ego" fed and blatant branches that do not include substantial changes with the exception of removing the authors name will deter further work. Users of TDCAL software, particularly developers are encouraged to give authors of TDCAL software feedback.

9 Comparison

At first glance the TDCAL and BSD licenses seem quite similar. A strong difference between TDCAL and BSD is that copyright notices do not have to be left intact. Branches of TDCAL software can be used in any fashion the developer sees fit.

TDCAL is very different compared to the GPL license. First, the copyrights do not have to be left intact. Secondly, adaptations of TDCAL source code used in binary end user applications do not have to be redistributed. Furthermore, end user applications which use TDCAL software verbatim do not have to include a copy of this license nor do they have to distribute a copy of the TDCAL software. In essence the TDCAL is much more commercial developer friendly.