

Experiences with the GPL

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A wonderful surprise!

- Insert in box for a ADSL router:

NETGEAR[®]

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Samba and the GPL

- Samba wasn't always licensed under the GPL
- In early 1992, the license was this:

Unix file server for Pathworks for DOS.

Version 0.5.

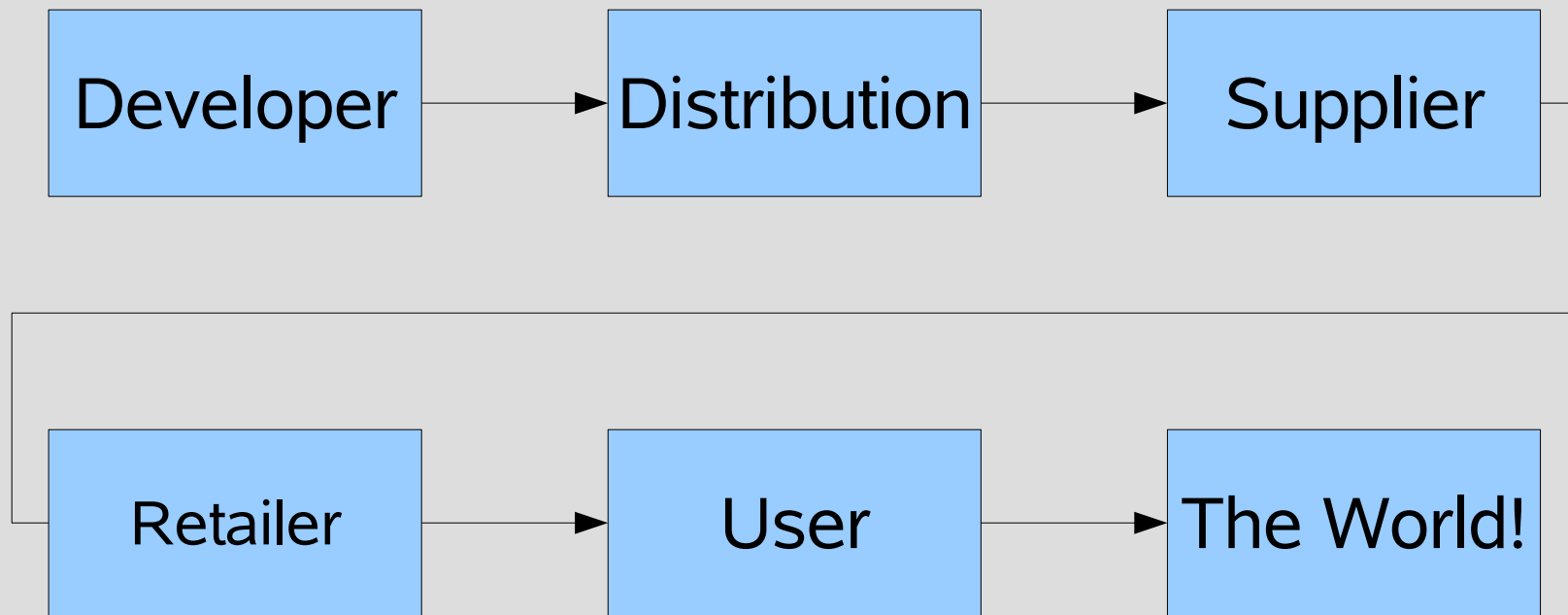
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Why choose the GPL?

- Different people have different reasons. For me, it is all about:
 - symmetry between developer and user
 - ensuring rights are preserved through complex distribution chains
- **Rights must not be lost or diluted!**
 - Must pass along all rights to recipients
 - Must let them know what rights they have

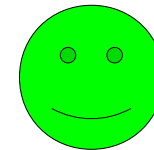
The distribution chain



DRM?
Patent?
TPM/DMCA?
Copyright?
Sub-License?



GPL?



GPLv3

- Why a new version?
 - New threats have arisen from 'creative', but ethically challenged, people
 - License needs to be internationalised
 - Increase license compatibility

New Threats

- **DMCA/TPM**
 - Free software cannot be declared to be a DMCA style TPM
- **DRM**
 - Locking down software with a DRM system breaks the chain of rights
- **Patents**
 - A growing threat and a likely major battleground of the future for free software

License Compatibility

- Other license have good ideas!
 - Some other licenses have good ideas, which happen to be GPL incompatible
 - GPLv3 aims to make at least two of these licenses GPL compatible
 - Eclipse Public License and Apache License
- Patent retaliation clauses
 - Both licenses have patent retaliation clauses
 - New 'optional' section 7 clauses make this possible
 - Other section 7 additions should help with other free software licenses

GPLv3 Reaction

- Different people react in different ways
 - Too much or too little?
- DRM terms
 - Many people think they go too far
 - I see them as a clarification of what I already thought to be true
- Wiggle room?
 - Could someone abuse the new terms?
 - Initial reaction was “oh no!”
 - No longer worried

GPL for everyone?

- Is the GPL for everyone?
 - No!
- DRM debate provides examples
 - What about locked down machines?
 - What about tamper-proof test software?
 - What about voting machines?
- Can you use the GPL?
 - Is it compatible? great, use it!
 - It's not? Then use a different license

GPL Enforcement

- Investigate first
 - Are they really in violation?
 - Is it deliberate?
 - What have they released?
- First contact
 - Polite, but persistent
 - Gather information
- Follow-up depends on them
 - Ignorant? Educate them
 - Uncooperative? Persuade them
 - Malicious? Fight them

Two cases – Two extremes

- **Ideal case - a NAS vendor**
 - Contacted us first
 - Told us they are in violation!
 - Asked what they could do to fix it
 - Result? Amicable solution
- **Worst case – a software vendor**
 - Lied to us constantly
 - Threatened us immediately
 - Threatened their distributors
 - Used nasty US copyright tricks
 - Hired a code obfuscator
 - Result? They lost, Eben won