LGPLv3 Second Discussion Draft Rationale

Free Software Foundation

This document states the rationale for changes in the second discussion draft of LGPLv3. The changes themselves are presented in the form of markup, with ~~strikeout~~ indicating text we have removed from the draft and **bold** indicating text we have added. Footnotes state the reasons for specific changes. We refer to the first and second discussion drafts of LGPLv3 as "Draft 1" and "Draft 2," respectively. The second and third discussion drafts of GPLv3 are referred to as "GPLv3, Draft 2" and "GPLv3, Draft 3," respectively.

GNU Lesser General Public License

Discussion Draft **2** of Version 3, ~~27 July 2006~~ **3 April 2007**

THIS IS A DRAFT, NOT A PUBLISHED VERSION OF THE GNU LESSER GENERAL PUBLIC LICENSE.

This version of the GNU Lesser General Public License incorporates the terms and conditions of version 3 of the GNU General Public License, supplemented by the additional permissions listed below.

0. Additional Definitions.

As used herein, "this License" refers to version 3 of the GNU Lesser General Public License, and the "GNU GPL" refers to version 3 of the GNU General Public License.

"The Library" refers to ~~the Program as defined in section 0 of the GNU GPL~~ **a covered work governed by this License, other than an Application or a Combined Work as defined below**.[1]

An "Application" is any work that makes use of an interface provided by the Library**,** but which is not otherwise based on the Library. Defining a subclass of a class defined by the Library is deemed a mode of using an interface provided by the Library.

[1] The definition in Draft 1 was incomplete. In LGPLv3 as well as in LGPLv2.1, "the Library" is sometimes used to mean a work based on the LGPL-covered work received by the licensee, though it does not refer to Applications (works that use the Library, in LGPLv2.1 parlance) or Combined Works (corresponding to works distributed under section 6 of LGPLv2.1). In Draft 2 we have defined a new term, "Linked Version," to disambiguate "Library" where necessary.

A "Combined Work" is a work ~~containing portions of the Library,~~[2] produced by combining or linking an Application with the Library. **The particular version of the Library with which the Combined Work was made is also called the "Linked Version."**[3]

The "Minimal Corresponding Source" for a Combined Work means the Corresponding Source for the Combined Work, excluding~~:~~

~~a.~~ any source code for portions of the Combined Work that, considered in isolation, are based on the Application**,** and not on the ~~Library~~ **Linked Version**~~; and~~

~~b. any keys, other than keys that are necessary to install and/or execute a modified version of the Combined Work produced by recombining or relinking the Application with a modified version of the Library~~.[4]

The "Corresponding Application Code" for a Combined Work means the object code and/or source code for the Application, including any data and utility programs needed for reproducing the Combined Work from the Application, but excluding the System Libraries of the Combined Work.

1. Exception to Section 3 of the GNU GPL.

You may convey a covered work under sections 3 and 4 of this License without being bound by ~~the second paragraph of~~ section 3 of the GNU GPL.[5]

2. Conveying Modified Versions.

If you modify a copy of the Library, and, in your modifications, a facility refers to a function or data to be supplied by an Application that uses the

[2] The remainder of the definition makes this wording redundant.

[3] We use the term "Linked Version" in places where "the Library" would otherwise be unclear or confusing. See n. 1.

[4] Keys are no longer part of the definition of Corresponding Source. The technical restrictions provisions of GPLv3, Draft 3 are presented as a condition on the right to convey object code in section 6 under certain circumstances. See GPLv3 Third Discussion Draft Rationale, Part I, § 1.1. We have accordingly deleted this part of the definition of Minimal Corresponding Source and added a clause concerning the limited requirement to provide Installation Information in subsection 4e.

[5] Because the first paragraph of GPLv3, Draft 2, section 3 has been removed in GPLv3, Draft 3, the exception stated here now applies to the entirety of that section of GPLv3.

facility (other than as an argument passed when the facility is invoked), then you may convey a copy of the modified version:

a. under this License, provided that you make a good faith effort to ensure that, in the event an Application does not supply the function or data, the facility still operates, and performs whatever part of its purpose remains meaningful, or

b. under the GNU GPL, with none of the additional permissions of this License applicable to that copy.

3. Object Code Incorporating Material from Library Header Files.

The object code form of an Application may incorporate material from a header file that is part of the Library. You may ~~copy and~~[6] convey such object code under ~~any~~[7] terms of your choice, provided that, if the incorporated material is not limited to numerical parameters, data structure layouts and accessors, or small macros, inline functions and templates (ten or fewer lines in length), you do both of the following:

a. Give prominent notice with each copy of the object code that the Library is used in it and that the Library and its use are covered by this License.

b. Accompany the object code with a copy of the GNU GPL and this ~~License~~ **license document**.[8]

[6] In GPLv3, Draft 3, sections 4–6, we have deleted references to "copying," since those sections contain conditions on conveying and not on all propagation, as permission to "copy and convey" might seem to imply. See GPLv3 Third Discussion Draft Rationale, Part II, sections 2, 4–6. We have made a corresponding change in sections 3 and 4 of LGPLv3.

[7] This word was superfluous.

[8] The reference to "this License" in Draft 1 was, strictly speaking, inaccurate, since "this License" in LGPLv3 refers to the set of terms in GPLv3 supplemented by the additional permissions in the LGPLv3 license document.

4. Combined Works.

You may ~~copy and~~[9] convey a Combined Work under ~~any~~[10] terms of your choice that, taken together, effectively do not ~~prohibit~~ **restrict**[11] modification of the portions of the Library contained in the Combined Work and reverse engineering for debugging such modifications, if you also do each of the following:

a. Give prominent notice with each copy of the Combined Work that the Library is used in it and that the Library and its use are covered by this License.

b. Accompany the Combined Work with a copy of the GNU GPL and this ~~License~~ **license document**.[12]

c. For a Combined Work that displays copyright notices during execution, include the copyright notice for the Library among these notices, as well as a reference directing the user to the copies of the GNU GPL and this ~~License~~ **license document**.

d. Do one of the following:

    0) Convey the Minimal Corresponding Source under the terms of this License, and the Corresponding Application Code in a form suitable for, and under terms that permit, the user to recombine or relink the Application with a modified version of the ~~Library~~ **Linked Version**[13] to produce a modified Combined Work, in the manner specified by section 6 of the GNU GPL for conveying Corresponding Source.

    1) Use a suitable shared library mechanism for linking with the Library. A suitable mechanism is one that (a) uses at run time a copy of the Library already present on the user's computer system, and (b) will operate properly with a modified version of the Library that is interface-compatible with the ~~version of the Library with which the Combined Work was made~~ **Linked Version**.

[9] See n. 6.
[10] See n. 7.
[11] "Restrict" is the correct word here. The non-LGPL terms must allow any kind of modification of the Library portions.
[12] See n. 8.
[13] See n. 3.

e. **Provide Installation Information, but only if you would otherwise be required to provide such information under section 6 of the GNU GPL, and only to the extent that such information is necessary to install and execute a modified version of the Combined Work produced by recombining or relinking the Application with a modified version of the Linked Version. (If you use option 4d0, the Installation Information must accompany the Minimal Corresponding Source and Corresponding Application Code. If you use option 4d1, you must provide the Installation Information in the manner specified by section 6 of the GNU GPL for conveying Corresponding Source.)**[14]

5. Combined Libraries.

You may place library facilities that are a work based on the Library side by side in a single library together with other library facilities that are not Applications and are not covered by this License, and convey such a combined library under terms of your choice, if you do both of the following:

a. Accompany the combined library with a copy of the same work based on the Library, uncombined with any other library facilities, conveyed under the terms of this License.

b. Give prominent notice with the combined library that part of it is a work based on the Library, **and** explaining where to find the accompanying uncombined form of the same work.

6. Revised Versions of the GNU Lesser General Public License.

The Free Software Foundation may publish revised and/or new versions of the GNU Lesser General Public License from time to time. Such new versions will be similar in spirit to the present version, but may differ in detail to address new problems or concerns.

[14] In Draft 1 a corresponding condition was contained in the definition of Minimal Corresponding Source. See n. 4. Subsection 4e reflects the more limited rule in GPLv3, Draft 3 to provide Installation Information where conveying occurs in User Products. It captures some cases that were missed by the previous approach, however, because option 4d1 does not refer to Minimal Corresponding Source.

Each version is given a distinguishing version number. If the Library **as you received it**[15] specifies that a certain numbered version of the GNU Lesser General Public License "or any later version" applies to it, you have the option of following the terms and conditions either of that published version or of any later version published by the Free Software Foundation. If the Library **as you received it** does not specify a version number of the GNU Lesser General Public License, you may choose any version of the GNU Lesser General Public License ever published by the Free Software Foundation.

If the Library as you received it specifies that a proxy can decide whether future versions of the GNU Lesser General Public License shall apply, that proxy's public statement of acceptance of any version is permanent authorization for you to choose that version for the Library.[16]

[15] Here "the Library" is intended to mean the LGPL-covered work as received by a user. The additional words make this clear. See n. 1.

[16] We have added a corresponding permission in GPLv3, Draft 3, section 14.