

Open Hardware Licensing

Why do we need a licence?

How do we go about licensing?

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Why do we need a licence?

- A licence is permission to do what would otherwise be illegal

What might be illegal

- Copying a design
- Manufacturing an article from a design
- Copying one article to make another article
- Making an article which infringes a patent or registered design

A licence grants permission...

- ...but subject to conditions

Types of Condition

- Retain copyright notices, disclaimers etc
- Must release derivatives under the same licence
- Copyleft/Share Alike
- Permissive/Academic

Some problems with copyleft hardware licences

- IPR impinges on software more frequently than hardware
- The boundary problem
- The “reverse engineering” gap
- There can be only one

Suitable licences

- Permissive – Solderpad Licence
- Copyleft – CERN OHL

Links

- <http://solderpad.org/licenses/>
- <http://www.ohwr.org/projects/cernohl/wiki>
- <http://www.ifosslr.org/ifosslr/article/view/69/131>
- <http://www.tapr.org/OHL>