



An open source developer and a lawyer walk into a bar...

and proceed to argue about whether the beer is “free

The developer orders a beer.  
The lawyer orders a whiskey shot.  
They make a derivative work  
(name the drink)

The developer asks the lawyer, "You've been here before - what beer do you recommend?"

The lawyer responds, "Anything that isn't too GNU"

The developer says, "I'm not a lawyer, but I will tell you what the GPL means."

The lawyer says, "Thanks, because I've read it many times and have no idea."

The developer ordered some fries and began merrily spooning condiments on top, as the lawyer sighed: "I hope you know what you're doing, mixing all those open sauces."

... unaware of each other

...because they go everywhere together



The very nature of open source software inevitably brings lawyers and developers together (like it or not).



lawyers

# Learn and listen

(Ask questions)

developers

Have respect  
(Don't be mean)

lawyers

Don't send a developer to do a  
lawyer's job

developers

Legal “answers” are often not  
satisfying to engineers

Accept this.

lawyers

# Learn about Github

Be familiar with what a source tree looks like

I just did some editing on the third party text file...

did you get my pull request

?

OMG thats amazing!!!

it's asking me for a comment

you are the greatest law type person ever!

I don't have to do that right - it already went through, yes?

sorry if I've made a mess for you 🙄

i'll re-open it

I ❤️ you

you have made my life so much better and easier

I accepted your changes, they've been merged in!

developers

Legal advice may be specific  
to the situation at hand, to the parties, point in time

lawyers

Don't (always) be the naysayer

Provide a path to yes (where appropriate)

developers

~~C.A.I.A.I~~

~~but .~~

A group of people are shown from the chest up, holding beer glasses in a toast. The glasses are filled with beer and have a thick head of foam. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting an indoor setting like a bar or restaurant. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark layer, and small white star-like patterns are scattered across it.

Lead, follow, or get out of the way  
there is a bigger context

come together

organizations

# Stop the CLA madness!

Use inbound=outbound w/DCO sign-off as default

organizations

Open source is free and open.

Make some noise about anything that masquerades

organizations

# Engage with the community

Don't do open source in a vacuum

organizations

# Embrace open source

Value open source expertise

organizations

Facilitate diversity and inclusion

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a condensation-covered beer bottle. The bottle is dark brown with a yellow label. In the background, another hand holds a clear beer bottle. The scene is set against a soft, blurred sunset or sunrise sky with warm orange and blue tones.

An open source developer and a lawyer walk  
into a bar...

Cheers!

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