

Abstract**The Research on the Compatibility of Open Source Licenses**

Lee, Chul Nam

The issue of software license compatibility arise when it comes to combining a software code with other one applied different licenses which contain contradictory requirements. Most proprietary software licenses are incompatible with each other because they contain very strict licensing terms. On the other hand, licensing conditions for open source software are relatively simple compared to proprietary software license, so compatibility issues of open source licenses are common. Compatibility issue between proprietary and open source licenses is a relatively old one and has been discussed for a long time as 'license compliance' issues among business executives in Korea. However the issue of compatibility among open source licenses has not been fully examined in Korea.

At the heart of compatibility issue among open source licenses lies the GPL which contains strong copyleft clause and prohibits further restriction. GPL can be incompatible with permissive licenses as well as copyleft licenses, so there are various problems in open source community. Although various solutions have been proposed to solve the compatibility problem of open source licenses, such as revising licenses on the one hand and flexible licensing policies of open source communities on the other, there are still many issues that have not been solved to date. Companies using open source software in business need to analyze and adequately address the risks associated with compatibility of open source licenses.

Keywords

Open Source Software, Open Source License, Compatibility, GPL, Copyleft