

OSS Licenses

The screenshot shows the University of Colorado Technology Transfer Office website. The header includes the university logo and name, with locations listed as Boulder, Colorado Springs, Denver, and Anschutz Medical Campus. The main navigation bar contains links for About Us, For Investigators, Business Community, Proof of Concept Programs, Available Technologies, Media, and Contact Us. A left sidebar lists various processes and policies, with 'The Software Process' highlighted. The main content area is titled 'The Software Process' and contains sections for Copyright Notice, Licensing Strategy, Open Source and Free Software, Commercial Licenses, and Managing Projects. Each section provides detailed information and links to related documents. A search bar is located in the sidebar. The footer contains contact information and copyright notices.

The screenshot shows the website for Indiana University Research & Technology Corporation. The header includes the IU logo, navigation links for 'Find People', 'IURTC', and 'IU', and a search bar. The main navigation menu includes 'ABOUT', 'PROCESS', 'POLICIES', 'COLLABORATION', and 'FORMS'. The 'PROCESS' section is active, with sub-links for 'Technology Commercialization', 'Start-Up Company', and 'Software Licensing'. The 'Software Licensing' page features a large 'PROCESS' banner with an image of hands working in a lab. Below the banner, the text explains that software developers have two main options: releasing commercially or using open source licensing. It details the commercial software process, where IURTC has helped clients like ANGEL Learning and Optiform. It also discusses open source licensing, noting that while it's not mandatory to disclose to IURTC, departmental obligations must be considered. Finally, it lists open source resources at Indiana University, specifically the Kuali and Sakai Foundations.

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Indiana University Research & Technology Corporation

FACULTY INDUSTRY COMMUNITY

ABOUT PROCESS POLICIES COLLABORATION FORMS

IURTC » Process » Software Licensing

Technology Commercialization

Start-Up Company

Software Licensing

PROCESS

Software Licensing

QUESTIONS?

If you are interested in marketing your software commercially, contact us.

If you are a software developer, there are traditionally two approaches to making your software available to others: releasing your work commercially or sharing it via open source licensing.

Commercial Software

IURTC has helped several clients, including ANGEL Learning and Optiform, successfully market software solutions.

If you are interested in assessing the commercial potential of your software, we invite you to begin the technology commercialization process.

It is also sometimes possible to combine commercial development with open source sharing. Contact us if you would like to pursue that option.

Open Source Licensing

If you are not interested in commercializing your software, it is not necessary to disclose your discovery to IURTC nor to obtain our permission to explore open source options.

However, you will need to contact your department to determine any obligations you may have to release software under a particular open source license. These may include requirements in grants or pre-existing open source licenses attached to any software you have incorporated into your work. Your department can help you with these issues.

Open Source Resources at Indiana University

In the United States, the Open Source Initiative (OSI) promotes open source technologies and offers certification for open source licenses and software. Although not legally required, this certification indicates that a license or product complies with OSI's definition of open source.

Two open source communities supported by several universities, including Indiana University, are:

- Kuali Foundation, which supports the development and maintenance of open source administrative software from financial management tools to research administration.
- Sakai Foundation, which supports development of open source collaboration and learning environments that support teaching and group collaboration, from scheduling to wikis to social media.

The screenshot shows the Open Source Initiative website. At the top left is the logo, a green circle with a white 'O' shape inside, and the text 'open source initiative'. To the right of the logo is the title 'Open Source Initiative' in white text on a green background. Below the logo and title is a navigation bar with a 'Home' link. The main content area is divided into a left sidebar and a main column. The sidebar contains a search bar with the text 'Search this site:' and a 'Search' button. Below the search bar is a 'Navigation' section with a list of links: 'About the OSI', 'The Open Source Definition', 'Open Source Licenses' (with sub-links for 'Licenses by Category' and 'Licenses by Name'), 'Working Groups', 'FAQ', 'Trademark and Logo Usage', 'Open Standards', 'Open Source Education', 'Mailing lists', 'Getting Help', 'Donate to the OSI', 'OSI Individual Membership', 'OSI Store', 'OSI Affiliate Membership', 'Contact OSI', 'Terms of Service', and 'OSI Corporate Sponsors'. The main column has a 'Home' link at the top. Below that is the section 'Open Source Licenses'. Underneath is 'About Open Source Licenses', which explains that open source licenses comply with the Open Source Definition and must go through the OSI's license review process. This is followed by 'Popular Licenses', which lists 10 OSI-approved licenses: Apache License 2.0, BSD 3-Clause "New" or "Revised" license, BSD 2-Clause "Simplified" or "FreeBSD" license, GNU General Public License (GPL), GNU Library or "Lesser" General Public License (LGPL), MIT license, Mozilla Public License 2.0, Common Development and Distribution License, and Eclipse Public License. Next is 'All Approved Licenses', which states that many other licenses are also OSI-approved but fall into other categories, and provides links to 'sorted by name (alphabetical)' and 'sorted by category'. Finally, there is a 'Questions?' section with a link to the FAQ and a list of four common questions: 'Can Open Source software be used for commercial purposes?', 'What is "free software" and is it the same as "open source"?', 'What is "copyleft"? Is it the same as "open source"?', and 'What is a "permissive" Open Source license?'.

- ❖ Which Open Source license should I choose to release my software under?
- ❖ Is *<SOME PROGRAM>* Open Source?
- ❖ Can I call my program "Open Source" even if I don't use an approved license?
- ❖ Is *<SOME LICENSE>* an Open Source license, even if it is not listed on your web site?

For more information about open source licenses and in particular about the Open Source Initiative's approval process, see:

- ❖ [The Open Source Definition \(annotated version\)](#)
- ❖ [The OSI License Review Process](#)
- ❖ [Information on License Proliferation and the 2006 License Proliferation Report](#)

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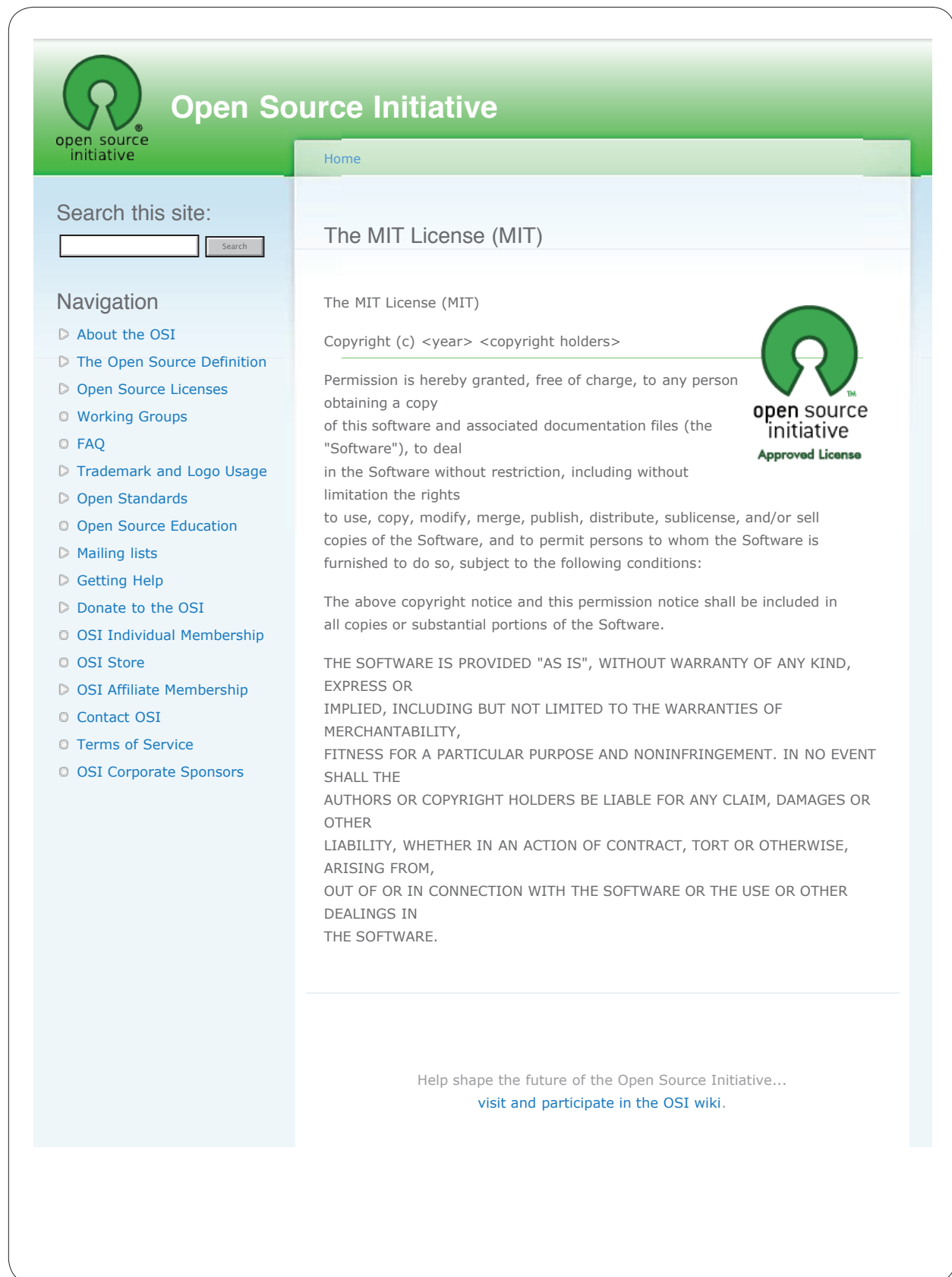
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The screenshot shows the Open Source Initiative website. At the top left is the OSI logo, a green circle with a white keyhole shape inside, and the text "open source initiative" below it. To the right of the logo is the text "Open Source Initiative" in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below the logo and title is a search bar with the text "Search this site:" and a "Search" button. To the left of the main content area is a navigation menu with the heading "Navigation" and a list of links: "About the OSI", "The Open Source Definition", "Open Source Licenses", "Working Groups", "FAQ", "Trademark and Logo Usage", "Open Standards", "Open Source Education", "Mailing lists", "Getting Help", "Donate to the OSI", "OSI Individual Membership", "OSI Store", "OSI Affiliate Membership", "Contact OSI", "Terms of Service", and "OSI Corporate Sponsors". The main content area has a heading "The MIT License (MIT)" and a sub-heading "The MIT License (MIT)". Below the sub-heading is the text "Copyright (c) <year> <copyright holders>". To the right of this text is the OSI logo and the text "open source initiative Approved License". Below the sub-heading is the text "Permission is hereby granted, free of charge, to any person obtaining a copy of this software and associated documentation files (the 'Software'), to deal in the Software without restriction, including without limitation the rights to use, copy, modify, merge, publish, distribute, sublicense, and/or sell copies of the Software, and to permit persons to whom the Software is furnished to do so, subject to the following conditions: The above copyright notice and this permission notice shall be included in all copies or substantial portions of the Software. THE SOFTWARE IS PROVIDED 'AS IS', WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE AND NONINFRINGEMENT. IN NO EVENT SHALL THE AUTHORS OR COPYRIGHT HOLDERS BE LIABLE FOR ANY CLAIM, DAMAGES OR OTHER LIABILITY, WHETHER IN AN ACTION OF CONTRACT, TORT OR OTHERWISE, ARISING FROM, OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE SOFTWARE OR THE USE OR OTHER DEALINGS IN THE SOFTWARE." At the bottom of the page is the text "Help shape the future of the Open Source Initiative... visit and participate in the OSI wiki."