Selecting an appropriate License for Open Data

The GEOFON Experience

Javier Quinteros and the GEOFON team
Internal organization and data produced

- GE Seismic Network: Own seismic waveforms
- Seismological Data Archive: Seismic data from GEOFON & partners
- Rapid Earthquake Information: Event parameters (derived from the other 2)
Data or Services?

• Archival of our own data as well as from partners.
• Fastest provider of event parametric data (created by us and derived from data from different sources).
• The automatic processes to generate these data (event parametric data) comes from in-house software SeisComP3 (open software).
• But… GEOFON has also the mandate of providing all these data by means of standard services.
• In summary, we offer:
  • Open data (own and from partners),
  • Open software,
  • Open services.
In-house software development (SeisComP3)

- Base for operation of the GEOFON data center (archive and realtime) and rapid earthquake information
- Widely used package for seismological data acquisition, processing and exchange (national and international earthquake observatories and tsunami warning centers)
- More than 400 non-commercial licenses issued
- Its real-time data transmission protocol SeedLink became a de facto world-wide standard
Rapid Earthquake Information

http://geofon.gfz-potsdam.de/eqinfo/seismon/globmon.php
http://geofon.gfz-potsdam.de/eqinfo/list.php
Which License for which product?

- We are part of the EPOS project, in which there is a strong push to apply the CC-BY 4.0 License.
- Liability issues seem to be solved with this.

- But is this the best choice for us?
- And what about Open Data Commons?
- Are there any other options?
Doubts, a lot of doubts…

- How do I know whether a particular use of a database is restricted by sui generis database rights?
  - When a database is subject to sui generis database rights, extracting and reusing a substantial portion of the database contents is prohibited absent some express exception.
- Sui generis DB rights exist in only a few countries outside the European Union, such as Korea and Mexico. If you are using a CC-licensed DB in a location where those rights do not exist, you do not have to comply with license restrictions or conditions unless copyright (or some other licensed right) is implicated.
Doubts, a lot of doubts…

- If my use of a database is restricted by sui generis database rights, how do I comply with the license?
  - If the database is released under the current version (4.0) of CC licenses, you must attribute the licensor if you share a substantial portion of the database contents. The other requirements depend on the particular license applied to the database. Under the NC licenses, [...]. The ND licenses prohibit [...]. The SA licenses require you [...].
Most of our practices are based on implicit agreements. Some common principles which we share in the scientific community (e.g. citation).

What happen to us in the case that someone uses our software and data to establish a GEOFON v2?
- We cannot keep track of the data usage.
- Can we be sure about the attribution?
- Could we loose our position of being a reference in the community? (the most unjustified and basic fear)

And what if this someone is a big company outside from the academia? (e.g. Google?)

Doubts, a lot of doubts…
Thanks for your attention and for the feedback! (in advance)