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Anatomy of a Creative Commons License



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Three Layers of CC Licenses

Machine readable



The top layer of the license is a “machine readable” version of a license written in a format that applications, search engines, and other kinds of technology can understand.

Machine readable

The commons deeds are the “human readable” portion of the license, that outlines the key information about each license in easy-to-understand language.

The Common Deeds



Human readable

The Legal Code



The legal code is the base layer of the Creative Commons certificate and contains the “lawyer readable” content that can be used in court.

Applicable in court

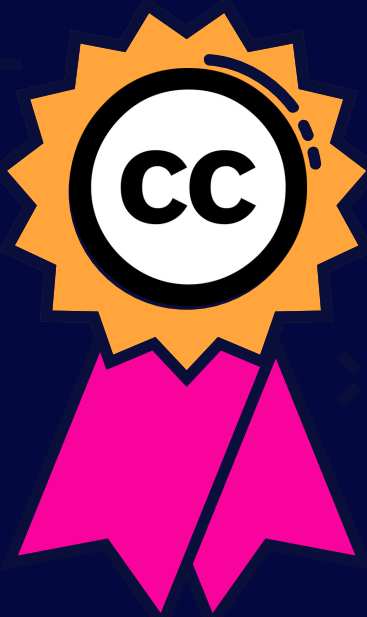
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Creative Commons License elements



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ATTRIBUTION

Attribution or BY is an acknowledgement of the original creator. Attribution is required by all Creative Commons licenses.



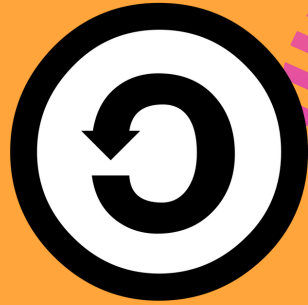
NONCOMMERCIAL

NonCommercial or NC means the work is only available to be used for noncommercial purposes. It can also have a dolar symbol.



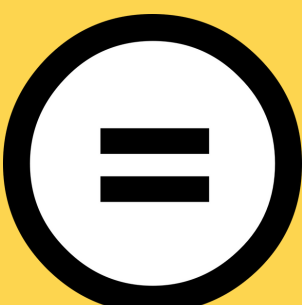
SHAREALIKE

ShareAlike or SA means that adaptations based on this work must be licensed under the same (or more restrictive) license.



NODERIVATIVES

NoDerivatives or ND means reusers cannot share adaptations of the work. They can only use them for their personal purposes.



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Licenses



All of the licenses include the BY condition which means you have to give credit to the creator.

Beyond that commonality, the licenses vary whether

1. commercial use of the work is permitted; and
2. whether the work can be adapted, and if so, on what terms.

CC BY

.. allows people to use the work for any purpose (even commercially and even in modified form) as long as they give attribution to the creator.



CC BY-SA

.. allows people to use the work for any purpose, as long as they give attribution to the creator and make any adaptations they share with others available under the same or a compatible license.



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.. allows people to use the work for noncommercial purposes only, and only as long as they give attribution to the creator and make any adaptations they share with others available under the same or a compatible license.



CC BY-NC-ND

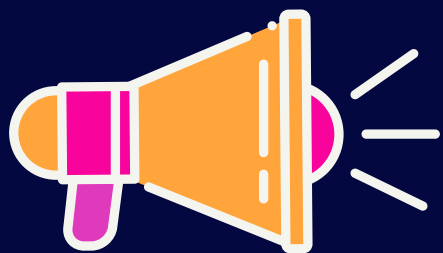
.. is the most restrictive license offered by CC. It allows people to use the unadapted work for noncommercial purposes only, and only as long as they give attribution to the creator.



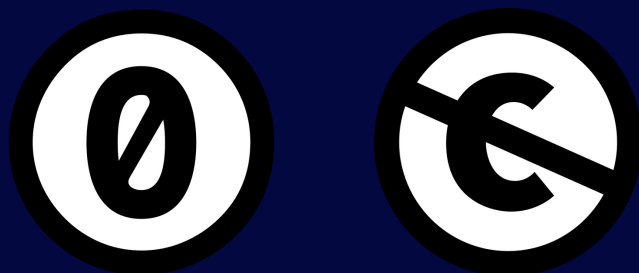


Public Domain

Tools

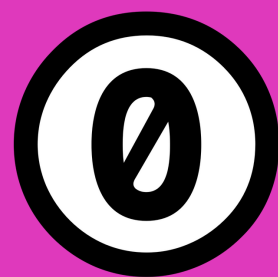


In addition to the CC license suite, CC also has two public domain tools represented by the icons below. These public domain tools are not equivalent to licenses.



CC ZERO

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CC VERSUS PD TOOLS

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Laws regarding fair use and fair dealing vary by country, but some typical examples of uses of copyrighted work that may be considered fair use/fair dealing include: “purposes of criticism, commentary, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, research, parody, and access for the visually impaired”.

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