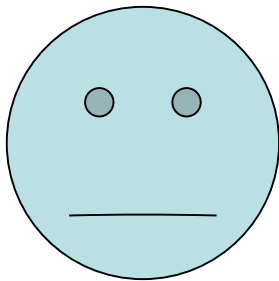


# License advice and approval for opening software

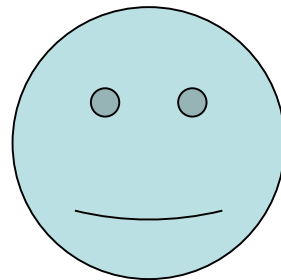
GFZ Research Software Meet-up

14. September 2022

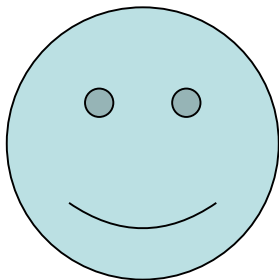
Christian Meeßen



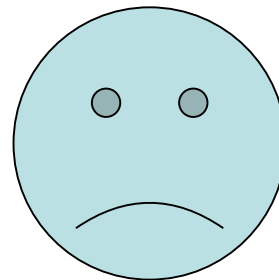
Work on  
fantastic  
software  
for months



The results  
are perfect

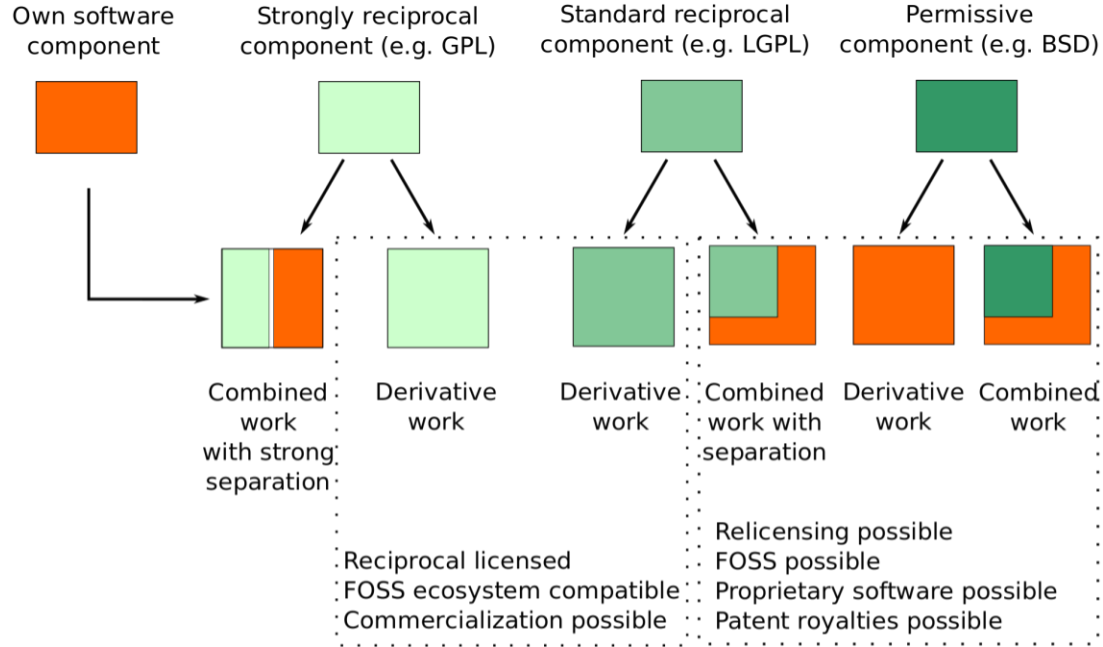


We are  
going to  
publish it



Incompatible  
licenses

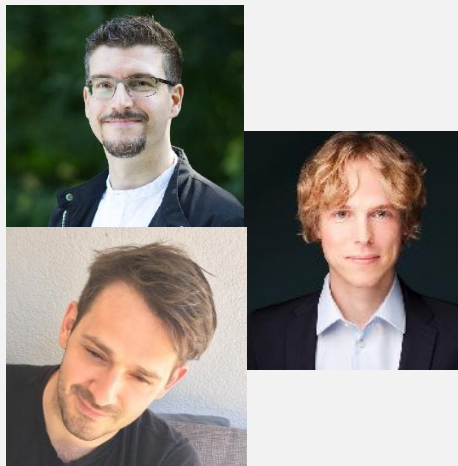
# What's the issue?



To get an overview about combined works and license compatibility, have a look at [Wikipedia](#).

# We are here to help you

## eScience/HIFIS



## Legal



## Transfer & Innovation



HELMHOLTZ  
FEDERATED  
IT SERVICES

# We are here to help you

License compatibility  
consultation

Proprietary licenses  
for sales

Repository  
structure, code quality

Legal documents for  
external developers  
(CLA, DCO)

# When do you need to counsel us?

You just started developing new software	No
You want to involve external developers e.g. PhD students with their office at GFZ but employed at a University	Yes
<b>Publication or distribution of software</b>	<b>Yes</b>
Software for GFZ internal usage	No but recommended

Get more information [on the intranet](#).

# How to contact us

License consultation

Contributor license agreements,  
Code quality, general advice or any other  
questions you have

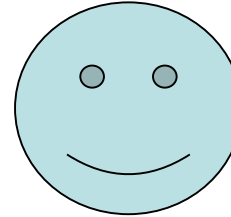
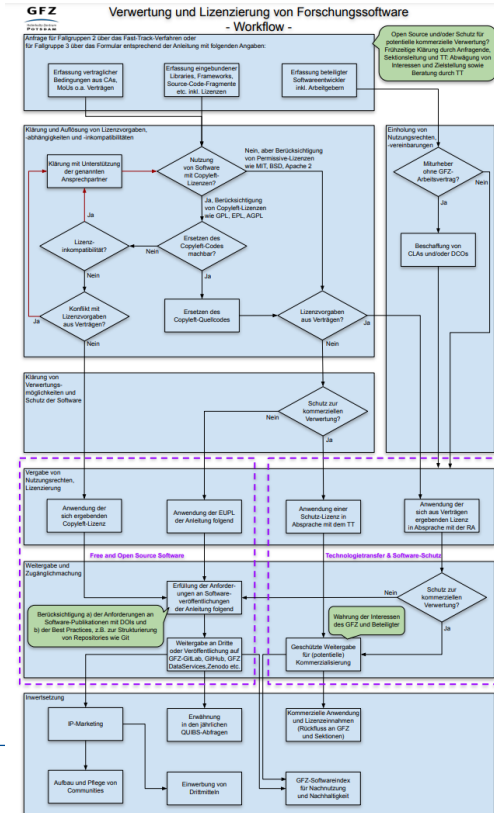
The image displays four overlapping screenshots of the GFZ Potsdam software distribution form. The form is titled 'GFZ POTSDAM' and 'Forms portal / Other / Software distribution'. The sections shown are:

- About the Software:** Includes fields for 'Organisational unit', 'Name', 'Email', 'Telephone', 'Pub classification', and 'Description'. It also has checkboxes for 'Is it new or existing?' and 'Is it simple or complex?'. A 'Next step' button is at the bottom.
- Contributors and funding:** Includes fields for 'First contributor' and 'Second contributor', 'Full name', 'Role', and 'Funding'. It also has a 'Previous step' button and a 'Next step' button.
- Dependencies:** Includes a 'Used programming language(s)' field, a 'Is the software part of a larger software package?' field, and a 'Provide a list of dependencies and their licenses' field. It also has a 'Previous step' button and a 'Next step' button.
- Distribution:** Includes a 'Intended users' field, an 'Intended distribution platform' field, an 'Intended license' field, and a 'Reason for the intended license' field. It also has a 'Previous step' button and a 'Next step' button.

[software-legal@gfz-potsdam.de](mailto:software-legal@gfz-potsdam.de)

<https://forms.gfz-potsdam.de/en/other/software-distribution>

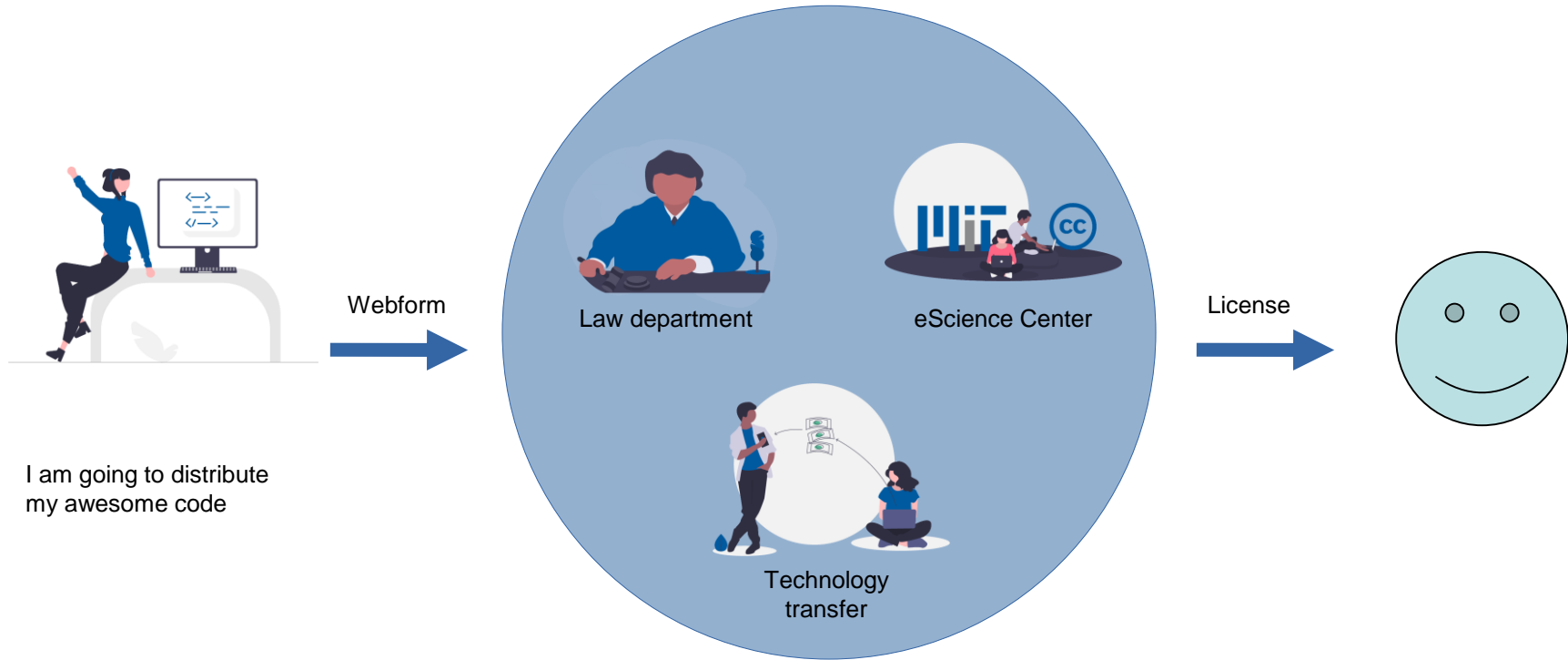
# The process



If you want to know the details, please have a look [here](#).

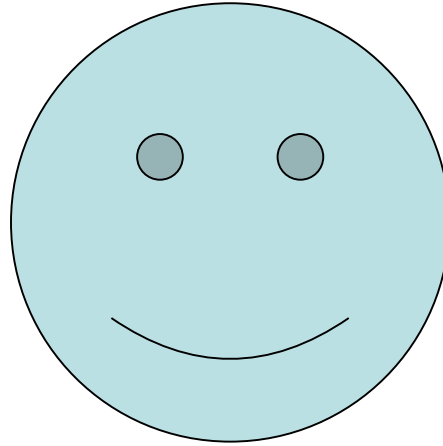


# The process in a nutshell



[software-legal@gfz-potsdam.de](mailto:software-legal@gfz-potsdam.de)

# When you need to apply the license



[visible confusion]

# Applying your license





There are many ways to apply licenses to your code.

We suggest REUSE, because it is established by the FSF (Free Software Foundation) and provides a machine-readable solution.

## Put all license texts inside the /LICENSES folder

 CC-BY-4.0.txt

 CC0-1.0.txt

 GPL-3.0-or-later.txt

## Add per file license headers with copyright statements

```
# SPDX-FileCopyrightText: 2016, 2018-2019 Jane Doe <jane@example.com>
# SPDX-FileCopyrightText: 2019 Example Company
#
# SPDX-License-Identifier: GPL-3.0-or-later
```



## Use the REUSE linter to check compatibility (inside SQA, see next slide)

```
~/Projects/reuse-tool $ reuse lint
[...]
```

```
Congratulations! Your project is compliant with version 3.0 of the REUSE Specification :-)
```

# Software Quality Assurance (SQA)

id2 > FAIR > Software Quality Assurance

**Software Quality Assurance**   
Project ID: 930 

576 Commits 4 Branches 0 Tags 24.8 MB Project Storage

This Framework provides various services for the GitLab CI regarding to software quality.

master software-quality-assurance / Find file Web IDE Clone

**[AUTOMATIC] generated meta/software-quality-assurance-report.md by gitlab ci**  
GitLab CId2/software/services/fair/software-quality-assurance authored 20 May 2021, 13:55

README CHANGELOG CONTRIBUTING CI/CD configuration Add LICENSE Add Kubernetes cluster

Configure Integrations

Name	Last commit	Last update
.gitlab/ci	add exit codes	20 Apr 2021, 09:36
.sqa	add exit codes	20 Apr 2021, 09:36
LICENSES	update submodules	29 Mar 2021, 16:41
build	add exit codes	20 Apr 2021, 09:36
docs	add exit codes	20 Apr 2021, 09:36
src	add exit codes	20 Apr 2021, 09:36
tests	add exit codes	20 Apr 2021, 09:36
.gitignore	update submodules	29 Mar 2021, 16:41
.gitlab-ci.yml	add exit codes	20 Apr 2021, 09:36
.gitmodules	update submodules	29 Mar 2021, 16:41
AUTHORS.md	update submodules	29 Mar 2021, 16:41
CHANGELOG.md	update submodules	29 Mar 2021, 16:41

- Check your repository for
  - Dependencies incl. their licenses (currently JS, Python)
  - REUSE Compatibility
  - Accidentally committed credentials (gitleaks)
- Auto-apply license and copyright info (using reuse-tool)
- Run locally or in a CI/CD Pipeline

## GitLab Repository

## Documentation

The repo is currently not actively maintained, but we are happy to accept contributions :)

# Resources

- Our intranet page with all resources
  - <http://intranet.gfz-potsdam.de/en/topics/policies-and-forms/internal-regulations/general/dissemination-and-publication-of-software/>
- License compatibility
  - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/License\\_compatibility](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/License_compatibility)
- Webform to submit your licensing requests
  - <https://forms.gfz-potsdam.de/en/other/software-distribution>
- Software Quality Assurance tool
  - <https://git.gfz-potsdam.de/id2/software/services/fair/software-quality-assurance>
- REUSE Specification
  - <https://reuse.software/>
- Contact us
  - [software-legal@gfz-potsdam.de](mailto:software-legal@gfz-potsdam.de)