

Common License Types Explained

When deciding whether you can or can't use content and in which ways, the legalese may become confusing. For this reason, Reboot have created a table of the different terms, ordering them in restrictiveness and providing an explanation for each that is more simplified to understand.

Public Domain Mark *(Public Domain)*

Can you use it?

- If a dataset is within the public domain, then it is publicly available for use. This is typically done when a creator chooses to give up all personal rights to their dataset.
- The work is free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights.
- You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work even for commercial purposes without asking permission.

Things to consider

- This may not be the case in all jurisdictions.
- Unless expressly stated otherwise, the person who identified the work makes no warranties about the work, and disclaims liability for all uses of the work, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law.
- Persons may have other rights in or related to the work, such as patent or trademark rights, and others may have rights in how the work is used, such as publicity or privacy rights.
- In some jurisdictions moral rights of the author may persist beyond the term of copyright. These rights may include the right to be identified as the author and the right to object to derogatory treatments.

Creative Commons Public Domain Dedication *(CC-0)*

Open Data Commons Public Domain Dedication and License *(PDDL)*

Can you use it?

- CC-0 & PDDL enables creators and owners of copyright or database-protected content to waive those interests in their works and place them as much as possible in the public domain.
- This is so that others may freely build upon, enhance and reuse the works for any purposes without restriction under copyright or database law.

Things to consider

- Unlike the Public Domain Mark, this license enables dataset owners to use a license mechanism to surrender their rights in a dataset where they may otherwise be unable to dedicate the dataset to public domain under relevant law.

Common License Types Explained



Standard Attribution License (CC-BY)

Can you use it?

- You can distribute remix, tweak and build upon the work, including commercially.
- You must give attribution to the original author or creator.

Things to consider

- One of the most generous and accommodating licenses offered.

Attribution Share Alike (CC BY-SA)

Can you use it?

- Users can edit, remix, resell and redistribute work, but any redistributed work needs to be shared under the same license as the original.
- Attribution is required if you do use.

Things to consider

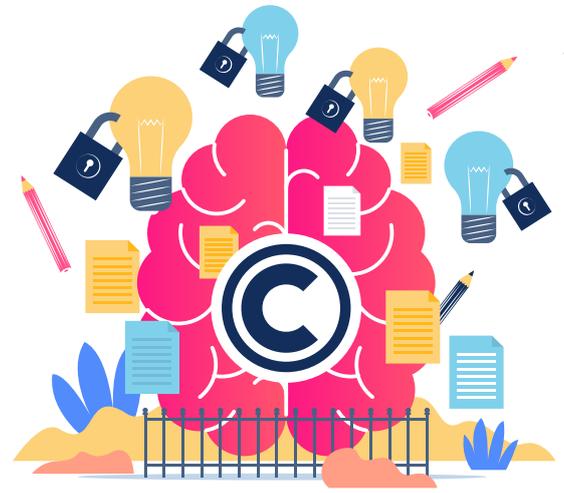
- The difference between this and the standard attribution license (above) is that an individual has the freedom to place a standard copyright license with any work they have created that uses standard Creative Commons CC BY work. With Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike, this isn't possible.

Attribution-No Derivs (CC-BY-ND)

Can you use it?

- Under this, others can reuse licensed work, including commercially.
- You can not transform or build upon the work.
- Can not share adapted versions of it and they must always credit the original author (attribution).

Common License Types Explained



Attribution-Non Commercial

(CC-BY-NC)

Can you use it?

- Under this license type, others can remix, edit and adapt licensed work.
- Attribution is required.
- You can not use commercially, so can not use within your PR.

Things to consider

- If this license is used, any remixed work or edited work can then be copyrighted by new owners.

Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareALike

(CC-By-NC-SA)

Can you use it?

- Under this license, licensed work can be edited, remixed and built upon.
- Can not be used commercially, so cannot be used in your PR.
- Attribution is required.

Things to consider

- Unlike above, the new edited work cannot be copyrighted, it must hold the same Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareALike license (CC BY-NC-SA)

Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs

(CC BY-NC-ND)

Can you use it?

- The most restrictive Creative Commons license.
- It gives some freedom for others to use the work. They can download and share it as long as they credit the original author but they cannot change it in any way.
- Also can not use commercially, so can not use in the PR.

RESTRICTIVE