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Subject: Re: What license Ultimate++ should use? Tell us!!!

Posted by [mirek](#) on Wed, 24 Sep 2008 16:46:40 GMT

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amrein wrote on Wed, 24 September 2008 08:30

Conclusion:

Note 1: U++ original copyright holders needs to find the modified parts themselves if they want to include them back. If not, they can be sued if they change the license or the copyright in the future. U++ should really adopt the "New BSD license".

Note 2: With U++ "Copyright (C) 2008 Mirek Fidler, Tomas Rylek and various contributors (see AUTHORS)", you can't modify the original copyright nor the external file named "AUTHORS". The only ones that can add or remove lines in the files "AUTHORS" are the authors and only if they all agree. To ease external contribution or been able to commit modifications from external source code easily, the authors list shouldn't be modified.

Note 3: Their are several "AUTHORS" files in U++. Each of them contain Mirek or Tomas, or sometimes both. They should be removed. The "(see AUTHORS)" statement should too. Anyone in "AUTHORS" have control over copyright of his contributions. No one can change the license or the copyright if all copyright holders don't agree. "AUTHORS" file is not accurate. A "CONTRIBUTORS" file could be added instead, just for information, and no need to include "CONTRIBUTORS" or "AUTHORS" into the license statement. This creates conflict with external submissions. If you want to know who has made contributions, just use svn repo. If your are not the authors and commit a patch from an external contributor, add his name into the "svn commit" comment. That way, you will know who, where, when and won't have issue with merging external modifications because of different "AUTHORS" listing. Different "AUTHORS" listings = different licenses.

Note 4: Google code doesn't give you choice: your software must use "New BSD" and not BSD like. If you don't want to, you can't be hosted there. Read the the google code hosting doc.

The license was changed to "new BSD 2 clause" on Sep 13, svn revision 436. In the process, "Authors" and "Copying-plain" files were removed.

It is of course possible I have missed something, please check.

Mirek

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