

SPDX License Markers in KDE

Progress Update

What is a License?

Via copyright, your work is not reusable by anybody else – a license changes this

License defines under which terms your software can be reused

Free Software License must grant the following 4 rights:

- 1 Use
- 2 Study
- 3 Share
- 4 Improve

Copyleft license requires that same rights preserve in derivative works (e.g. GPL, LGPL)

Permissive license only minimal restrictions of 4 freedoms, but no requirements for derivative works (e.g. BSD, MIT)

License Statements since the 80s – The old way

Example (Example of Traditional License Header)

```
/*
  This file is part of Rocs.
  Copyright 2008-2011 Tomaz Canabrava <tomaz.canabrava@gmail.com>
  Copyright 2008     Ugo Sangiori <ugorox@gmail.com>
  Copyright 2010     Wagner Reck <wagner.reck@gmail.com>
  Copyright 2014     Andreas Cord-Landwehr <cordlandwehr@kde.org>

  This program is free software; you can redistribute it and/or
  modify it under the terms of the GNU General Public License as
  published by the Free Software Foundation; either version 2 of
  the License, or (at your option) any later version.

  This program is distributed in the hope that it will be useful,
  but WITHOUT ANY WARRANTY; without even the implied warranty of
  MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.  See the
  GNU General Public License for more details.

  You should have received a copy of the GNU General Public License
  along with this program.  If not, see <https://www.gnu.org/licenses/>.
*/
```

License Statements Today

Example (REUSE Compatible License Statement)

```
/*
  This file is part of Rocs.
  SPDX-FileCopyrightText: 2008-2011 Tomaz Canabrava <tomaz.canabrava@gmail.com>
  SPDX-FileCopyrightText: 2008 Ugo Sangiori <ugorox@gmail.com>
  SPDX-FileCopyrightText: 2010 Wagner Reck <wagner.reck@gmail.com>
  SPDX-FileCopyrightText: 2014 Andreas Cord-Landwehr <cordlandwehr@kde.org>

  SPDX-License-Identifier: GPL-2.0-or-later
*/
```

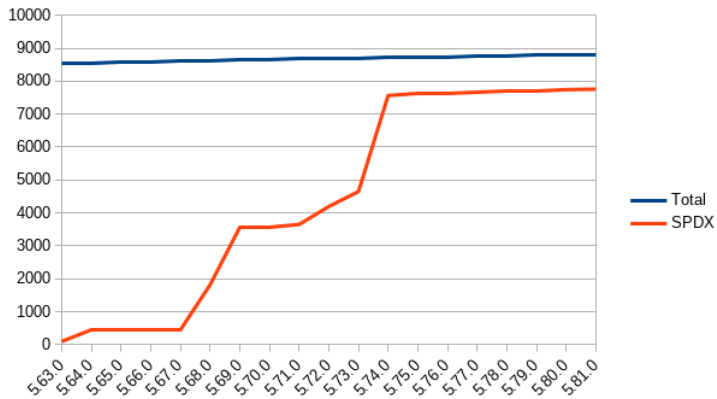
- Easier to read
- Hard to make errors in statements
- Enables automatic tooling for checking
- Decided to be KDE's new way for license statements

Where to find more about REUSE in KDE

- SPDX is a specification, written by legal experts:
<https://spdx.github.io/spdx-spec/>
- <https://REUSE.software> is initiative by FSFE to make reusing easier
- Provide a simple specification that requires only tiny subset and gives guidelines how to apply it
- In a nutshell:
 - 1 Add SPDX-License-Identifier tag to every file
 - 2 Add SPDX-FileCopyrightText tag to every file
 - 3 Add license text in `LICENSES/<license>.txt` for every license
- See KDE Licensing HowTo Wiki page:
https://community.kde.org/Guidelines_and_HOWTOs/Licensing

Statistics 1/4

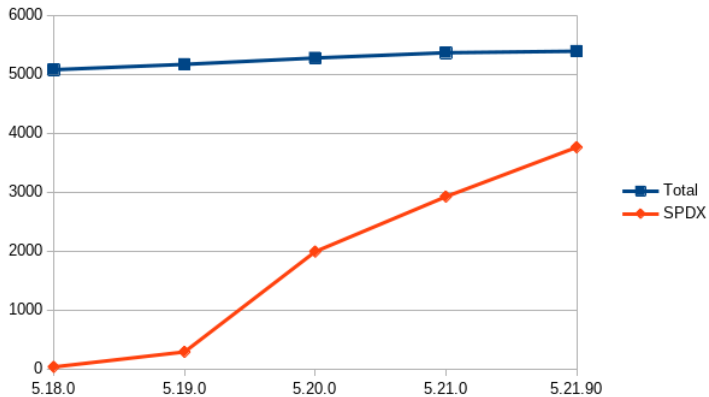
Frameworks are done!



Remaining ones are deprecated

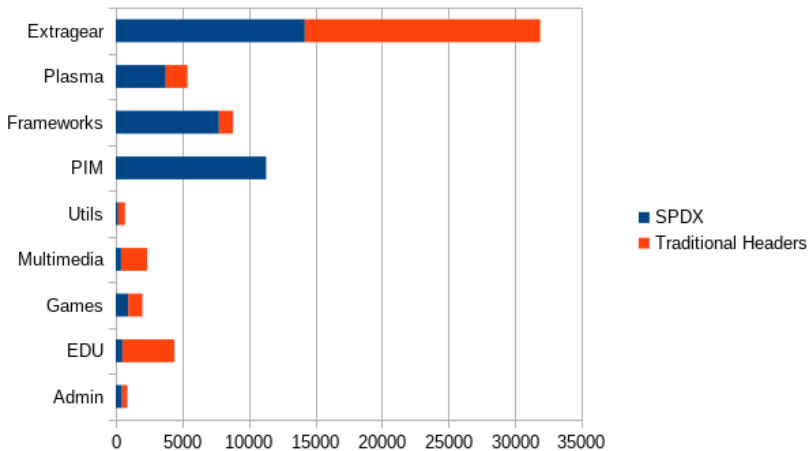
Statistics 2/4

Plasma is following strong



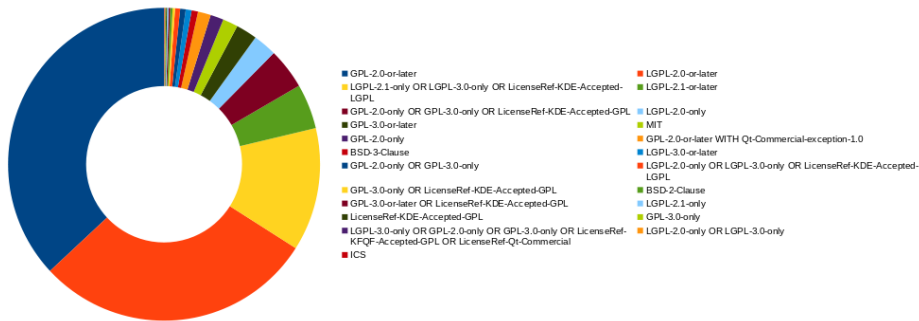
Statistics 3/4 : Current Status (cpp & h)

39.515 out of 67.039 files = 58.94% !!!



Statistics 4/4 : License Statistics for all KDE Code

Disclaimer: Only SPDX marked files included & only licenses that are used > 10 times



Note: Currently, there are 53 different license statements in the code base.

The End

Convert your project today :)

Thanks to all who are helping! It is great to see so many people involved!

Easy Steps to Follow

[KDE License HowTo](https://community.kde.org/Guidelines_and_HOWTOs/Licensing) https://community.kde.org/Guidelines_and_HOWTOs/Licensing

[Licensedigger](https://invent.kde.org/sdk/licensedigger) KDE conversion tooling: <https://invent.kde.org/sdk/licensedigger>

[Support](mailto:cordlandwehr@kde.org) irc: CoLa, mail: cordlandwehr@kde.org