

Consider creating Open Source Software (OSS):

Allows your users to look at, understand, redistribute and modify the source code for your software.

Why?

Anyone can have a part in development of your software. This inspires creative and efficient code.

Companies that use OSS:

- GitHub
- Google
- Facebook
- Adobe
- LinkedIn
- Microsoft
- Intel

# Intellectual Property

Understand how to protect your IP and avoid breaking IP laws.

## What is Intellectual property?

Non-physical property, stemming from an idea or ideas such as a story, invention or artwork. Below are the different types of IP:

1.

### Copyrights

In order to copyright your IP it must be:

- **NEW & PERSIEVABLE** (e.g. a book or source code)

Facts cannot be copyrighted but a book of your discoveries can be. People can use your facts but not express using your words.

Well worked story narratives cannot be copyrighted either (e.g. star-crossed lovers, fables etc.)

2.

### Patents

Excludes other companies from using, manufacturing or selling your invention in exchange for clear and detailed public disclosure.

Conditions for a patent:

- It does not cover abstract ideas, rules of nature or physical phenomenon.
- It must be useful: the technical information given in the design patent can be understood by other engineers or inventors.
- The design patent must be **clear**.

Patents only last up to 20yrs, enough time for the inventor to earn money from their work.

3.

### Trademarks

Used to protect words, names, phrases, or symbols that identify a brand or company. Trademarks must be renewed every 5yrs to prove that the name is still being used. There are some constraints such as: the name cannot be generic (e.g. shop or ladder) or too similar to an existing brand name.

Find out if a trademark exists already here: <https://www.gov.uk/search-for-trademark>

Side note: public interest vs rewarding inventors

Patenting an invention for 20yrs can be an incentive for inventors but it deprives the public of the invention if the buying price is too high. Sometimes these inventions are life saving treatments.

Finding a solution to this is an ongoing problem...

## The difference between plagiarism and copyright infringement?



Plagiarism is claiming to have created someone's else work, this doesn't have to be a copyright infringement as you can plagiarise ideas, facts or plot lines (which aren't covered by copyright)

Copyright is copying, using, modifying or distributing some else's commercially available IP without having the appropriate licence to do so.

The offender doesn't need to have claimed it was theirs.

**Both plagiarism and copyright infringements can have serious legal consequences.**

## Fair Use

Copyrighted works can be copied under **fair use** in some personal and publicly beneficial circumstances.

The act exists to encourage informed public discourse. Such as a reviews on books, films, games etc.

Patents have a similar law that allows minimal use of the invention for idle curiosity.

What to know why copying software counts as thief? Scan the QR code for a short video:

