

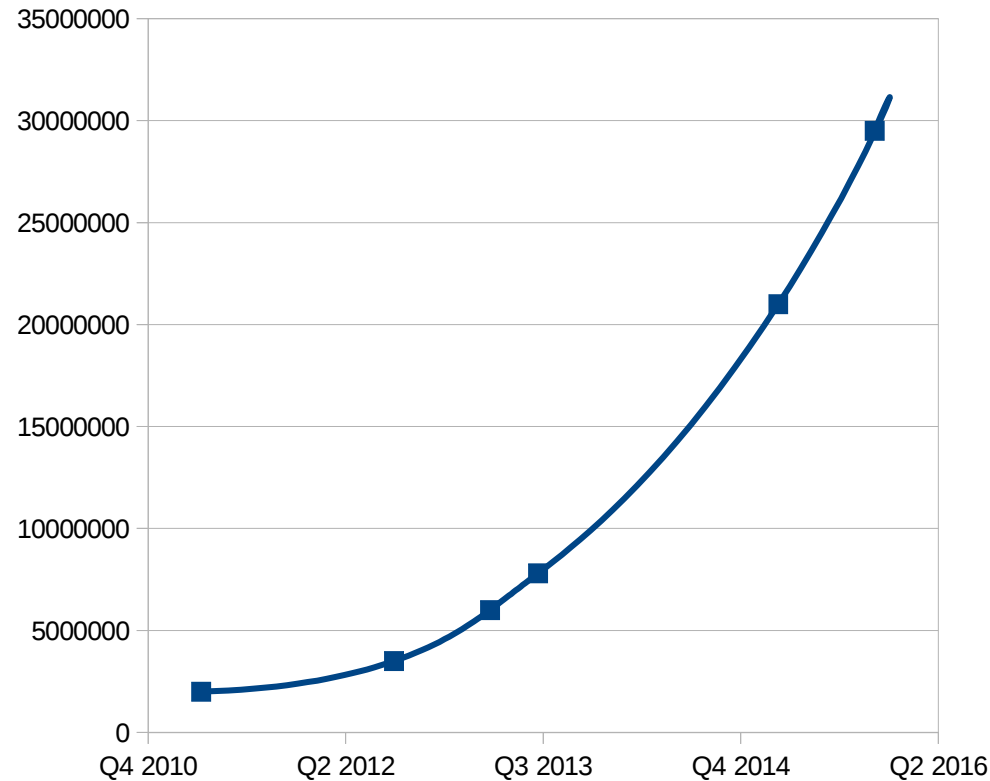
# Taking the lead

Setting standards for the future

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# Code everywhere!



*GitHub code repositories, data from April 2011 to November 2015*



# Shift to permissive licensing

- There is a clear trend towards more permissive licenses (RedMonk, 2013)
- License usage show permissive licenses (MIT) in clear majority (GitHub, 2015)

# Imbalances in MIT-GPL

- Copyleft code happily incorporate permissively licensed code, but permissive code can not include copyleft
- A decision on permissive or copyleft influence your ability to act

# Non-legal terms

- Licenses set the norm for what behaviour is expected and tolerated in different communities
- Community practices differ between copyleft and permissive cultures

# Non-licensed code

- 87% of code not licensed at all (Williamson, 2013)
- It's difficult to win if you don't know the rules of the game to begin with

# Non-code

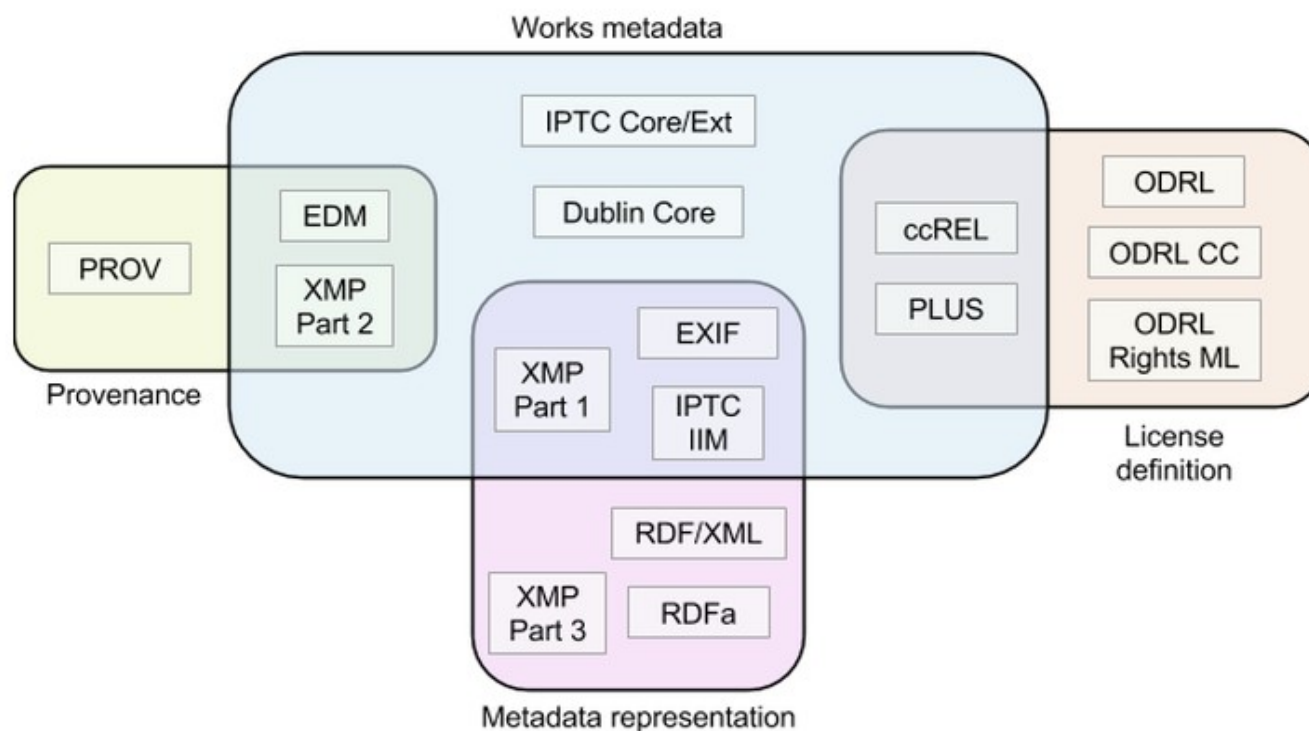
- All digital works need provenance, information about their history and permissions
- Provenance contribute not only practical information, but provide value to both parties

# The case for standards

- Standards, such as SPDX, help tremendously in conveying license terms unambiguously



# The case for standards



*Metadata standards for creative works / Commons Machinery / 2013*

# The case for tools

- There are more standards than anyone can reasonably expect to deal with, for any sort of work
- To be useful, we also need tools that work with those standards

# The right tooling

- Index of openly licensed works (Elog.io, CC Registry, etc)
- The possibility for free and open source software is tremendous

# Growth of a project

- As projects grow older and more well used, they tend to “clean house” with copyright
- Establish procedures for managing both downstream and upstream chain

# Non-license factors

- Community praxis differ between projects
- License and security audits?
- Bug/feature reporting procedures?
- Responsibility towards downstream?
- What upstream dependencies?

# Define the praxis

- What we choose makes a difference!
- By giving preference to regular license audits, we will see more regular license audits
- Supply and demand

# Actions have effect

- Number of GitHub licensed repositories spiked to 30% in mid 2013 (GitHub, 2015)
  - Introduction of license picker and [choosealicense.com](http://choosealicense.com)

# Support the communities

- The more scaffolding we provide, the easier it will be to build robust structures
- Establishing proper procedures for licensing is difficult, but getting easier
- This will help everyone, both up and down the stream



# What do we need?

- Activities that encourage policies & licensing
- Standards for expressing policies & licenses
- Tools that work with those standards
- Actionable procedures for proper use
- Networking and competence building

**Thank you!**  
Set the standards!

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