

# Types of Geospatial Information Licenses

International Workshop  
on Legal and Policy Frameworks  
for Geospatial Information

## Objective

- Understand the Various Types of Geospatial Information Licenses

## Geospatial Information Can Be Licensed In Various Types of Agreements

- Geospatial Information Licenses
- Data Sharing Agreements
- Website Terms of Service
- Software as a Service (SaaS) Agreements
- Cloud Storage Agreements

## Geospatial Information License Agreements

- Proprietary and Restrictive
  - Often commercial providers
  - But not necessarily
    - Governments and NGO's can assert ownership rights as well
- Open Data
  - Creating Open Data is a policy issue
  - Using Open Data is a legal issue
  - Most Open Data is published under some sort of licensing arrangement
    - Very little data released into Public Domain

## Open Data

- Open Data licenses are not necessarily compatible
- OpenStreetMap
  - Began using a CC-type license
  - Switched to a database license (ODbL)
    - “Users can copy, distribute and use the database ... to produce works from the database and ...to modify, transform and build upon the database”
    - “share-alike”
    - “proper attribution”
- Many organizations have trouble using OSM data because of “share-alike” and attribution requirements.

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## Open Data Licenses

- Creative Commons licenses - <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/>
- Database Contents License - <http://opendatacommons.org/licenses/dbcl/1.0/>
- Open Data Factual Information License - <http://www.opencontentlawyer.com/open-data/open-data-commons-factual-info-licence/>
- Open Data Use License – India - [https://data.gov.in/sites/default/files/Government Open Data Use Licence India.pdf](https://data.gov.in/sites/default/files/Government%20Open%20Data%20Use%20Licence%20India.pdf)
- Open Database License v1.0 - <http://opendatacommons.org/licenses/odbl/1-0/>
- Open Government License - Canada - <http://open.canada.ca/en/open-government-licence-canada>
- Germany GeOLicenses - <http://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Artikel/Digitale-Welt/geolizenz.html>

## Other Forms of Geospatial Information Licenses

- Data Sharing Agreements
  - Often between government agencies
- Website Terms of Service
  - When accessing data on-line
- Software as a Service (SaaS) Agreements
  - When data is included in a SaaS offering
  - Often granting rights in information to SaaS provider
- Cloud Storage Agreements
  - When storing data in the cloud, granting certain rights to storage provider

## Discussion Items

- What types of licenses does your organization use?
- What are the challenges associated with those licenses?