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Non-Patented Software: How to Protect and Extract Value

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Everyone is sending me software!

How can I monetize this?

How can I protect this?

What is my risk in doing so?

Our topics for today...

Your options and risks

- Other Intellectual Property Rights Exist
- Necessary Diligence
- Valuation Models
- Open Discussion

Intellectual Property Basics

Intellectual Property Rights

Four Types of Intellectual Property Rights

- Patents
- Trademarks
- Trade Secrets
- Copyrights

Both Trade Secrets and Copyrights can be licensed

What about data?

- Data is not an "intellectual property" right
- A data point is a fact
- Data is oftentimes not protectable as IP, but it can be valuable

- So what do I do with data?
 - Proprietary data set
 - Trade Secret?
 - Contract restrictions

Licensing Trade Secrets

- Can be difficult in academic setting
- Difficult to maintain
 - Nature of academia
 - Faculty publications
 - Transient students

Licensing Copyrights

- Bundle of Rights
 - Reproduce
 - Distribute
 - Display
 - Modify
 - Perform
- Each right can be separately licensed
- Most common way to exploit software assets

Protecting Copyrights

- Rights spring into being
- Can register them at the Copyright Office
- Drawbacks...
 - Publicly disclose
 - Becomes part of Library of Congress
 - Can still block trade secrets to a certain degree
- Benefits...
 - Infringement lawsuits
 - Greater damages
- If licensing software, consider benefits and risks of registering

Software Licensing Models

Software Licensing: Proprietary

- Paper Licenses (wet ink)
 - User agrees by signing
- Click-Through
 - User agrees by taking some act
- Browse-Wrap
 - User agrees just by accessing

Software Licensing: Proprietary

- End user license agreement
- Terms of service
- Terms of Use
- What a License is NOT
 - Confidentiality Agreement is NOT a software license
 - Software license is NOT a confidentiality agreement

Software Licensing: OSS

- Open Source Licenses
- Copyleft versus open source
- What is the goal with the software asset?
 - Monetization?
 - Branding recognition?

Software Licensing: Hybrid Models

- Can combine open source licenses and proprietary licenses
- Certain uses for open source only
- Certain uses subject to proprietary licenses

Distribution Models

- App platforms
- Website distribution
- FTP feeds
- Platform pulls
- Media

SaaS as a Licensing Alternative

- Software doesn't get distributed
- Software remains hosted by the "licensor"
- Access provided via internet access
- "Service" not a "product"

What other issues do I need to pay attention to when I get software disclosures?

Diligence

- Authorship
- Ownership

- Copyright Law
- Institutional Policies
- Funding Restrictions

Open Source Restrictions

- May restrict what you can do with your software
- Track the OS going in
- Easier than checking the OS after the fact

I want to monetize this, how do I value it to set license fees?

Valuation Models: Set License Fees

- Cost of Development
- Time to Development
- Cost of Replacement
- Cost of Replication
- Comparables

Open Discussion

Thank you!

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