

Re-License of Vaultwarden to AGPLv3 #2450

[Edit](#)

BlackDex started this conversation in Ideas



BlackDex

on May 3, 2022

Collaborator

edited

Category



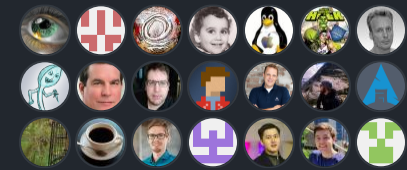
Ideas

Labels



enhancement

31 participants



and others

Hello contributors to Vaultwarden,

I'm starting this discussion because we want to change the open source license of Vaultwarden. Currently it is licensed under GPLv3 which is nice, but this has a gap which could allow commercial usage of Vaultwarden without providing back to the community.

For this reason Bitwarden has it's server licensed under the AGPLv3. That same license we want to use for Vaultwarden to keep Vaultwarden fully open source.

To be clear, this will not effect any (end)user or any self-hosted environment which you share with your family and friends.

This will only have an effect on companies or self-hosted environments that build proprietary tools using Vaultwarden code or modify the Vaultwarden code.

This is also more fair towards Bitwarden, since currently the GPLv3 license of Vaultwarden could allow other companies to compete with Bitwarden by modifying the Vaultwarden code and not providing these changes back to the community, which is not something we want.

What we need to do

We need a consent from all major contributors who made Vaultwarden towards what it is now. This only includes actual changes to the Rust code and does not include spelling changes, formatting, clippy fixes etc...

For this we have compiled a list of all these users from whom we would like to have a consent to continue to fully change the Vaultwarden code to AGPLv3.

The only thing you need to do is comment below using the following template, and change the parts in between `{{ }}`:

```
I, {{ Name }} hereby grant permission to re-license Vaultwarden under the GNU Affero General Public License.
```

```
A portion of the commits made by {{ github username }} are copyright of {{ name }}.
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```

If for some reason you do not want your real name to be visible, please use the same as is visible on Github, or just your Github username instead.

What is GPL?

[GPL \(Gnu Public License\)](#) was originally written by Richard Stallman, the founder of the Free Software Foundation for the GNU project. All licenses in the GPL series are copyleft licenses which means that the derivative works should be released under the same license or an equivalent license.

The difference between GPL and AGPL

GPL says that if the software is redistributed, you have to release the source code of the modification. But the GPL license doesn't mention anything about modifying the software and providing it as a service. This is due to the fact that letting users interact with software over a network cannot be considered as redistribution. Redistribution is thus the triggering event of GPL. This is often referred to as the SaaS loophole of GPL.

AGPL added one more requirement to GPL, which is:

```
If you run a modified program on a server and let other users communicate with it there, your server must also allow them to download the source code corresponding to the modified version running there.
```

This just means that the software cannot be sold as a proprietary product with modification without providing the source of the modifications to the users of the product.

AGPL is also recommended by the Free Software Foundation (FSF) if the software is commonly run over a network, which is what Vaultwarden is.

Tagging contributors

This list is just in alphabetic order. I hope i haven't missed anyone, if I did, please let us know, but it would be even better if you would sign it right away 😊 .

- ✓ @aksdb
- ✓ @ArmaanT
- ✓ @aveao
- ✓ @Baelyk
- ✓ @BlackDex
- ✓ @dani-garcia
- ✓ @domdomegg
- ✓ @dongcarl
- ✓ @endyman
- ✓ @farodin91
- ✓ @janost
- ✓ @jjlin
- ✓ @Kurnihil
- ✓ @MFijak
- ✓ @mprasil
- ✓ @njfox
- ✓ @olivierllogika
- ✓ @paolobarbolini
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- ✓ @RealOrangeOne
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- ✓ @stefan0xC
- ✓ @Step7750
- ✓ @swedishborgie
- ✓ @tessus
- ✓ @thelittlefireman
- ✓ @TheMardy
- ✓ @TinfoilSubmarine
- ✓ @tomuta
- ✓ @tycho
- ✓ @ViViDboarder
- ✓ @vplme

Thanks

And, thanks for all your support to the Vaultwarden Project!

↑ 23 😊 42 🗨️ 1 😞 3 ❤️ 10 🖋️ 12

50 comments · 23 replies

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BlackDex on May 3, 2022 Collaborator Author

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0 replies

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TinfoilSubmarine on May 3, 2022

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aveao on May 3, 2022

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ViViDboarder on May 3, 2022

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TheMardy on May 3, 2022

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swedishborgie on May 3, 2022

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**ArmaanT** on May 3, 2022

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**mprasil** on May 3, 2022

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**shauder** on May 3, 2022

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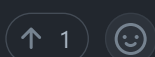


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**rfwatson** on May 3, 2022

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dani-garcia on May 3, 2022 Maintainer

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janost on May 3, 2022

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domdomegg on May 3, 2022

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aksdb on May 4, 2022

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endyman on May 4, 2022

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Skeen on May 4, 2022

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RealOrangeOne on May 4, 2022

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Baelyk on May 6, 2022

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tycho on May 7, 2022

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paolobarbolini on May 8, 2022

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dongcarl on May 22, 2022

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**njfox** on Jun 17, 2022

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0 replies

This comment was marked as off-topic.**thelittlefireman** on Aug 3, 2022

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**endyman** on Aug 3, 2022

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*This comment was marked as off-topic.**This comment was marked as off-topic.***stefan0xC** on Oct 14, 2022

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vplme on Oct 14, 2022

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Step7750 on Oct 15, 2022

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olivierlllogika on Oct 17, 2022

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samueltardieu on Jan 12

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tessus on Jan 12

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pjsier on Jan 13

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MFijak on Jan 13

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Kurnihil last month

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sirux88 3 weeks ago


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 **farodin91** last week edited ▾

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 **soruh** 20 hours ago

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 **BlackDex** 7 hours ago Collaborator Author

I want to thank everybody who signed the consent to make it possible to convert Vaultwarden from GPLv3 to AGPLv3 🙏
We couldn't have done this without you. Not only the Re-License, but also bringing Vaultwarden to the state it currently is at.
We hope you keep contributing and help make Vaultwarden better.

Thanks!



0 replies

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