## A summary of the GPL

Copying and distribution: You may copy and distribute the program as long as you comply with some copyright notice and disclaimer requirements. Those requirements are that you publish on each copy an appropriate copyright notice and disclaimer of warranty, keep intact all notices that refer to the GPL and the absence of any warranty, and give recipients a copy of the GPL along with the program. (Section 1)

Fees: You may, if you wish, charge a fee for transferring a copy of the Program and/or for warranty protection. (Section 1 as well)

Modifications / derivative works: You may modify the Program or any part of it and distribute the modifications or new work as long as modified files contain notices regarding the existence and date of changes and any work that you distribute or publish that contains or is derived from the Program or any part of it is licensed as a whole at no charge to all third parties under the GPL. (Section 2)

Distributing non-source forms: You may copy and distribute the program or a work based on it in object code or executable form, on the terms of sections 1 and 2, as long as you accompany it with either:

• the complete corresponding machinereadable source code; or

- a written offer (valid for at least 3 years) to give any third party the source code, for a charge that is no more than the cost of distribution; or
- information you received as to such offer (this option is allowed only for noncommercial distribution and if you received the non-source form(s) with such an offer. (Section 3)

Termination: If you copy, modify, sublicense or distribute the Program other than as permitted, your rights under the GPL will terminate automatically. (Section 4)

Downstream licensing: Downstream recipients of the Program or any work based on it automatically receive a licence from the original licensor to copy, distribute and modify the Program on the terms of the GPL. As a distributing licensee, you are not allowed to impose any further restrictions on the recipients' exercise of the rights under the GPL. (Section 6)

## The GPL in a small nutshell

A super-condensed summary would be along these lines: you can copy and distribute the program, you can charge a fee for transferring the program or providing warranty protection, and you can modify the program and distribute your resulting derivative work. But, if you distribute your derivative work, you need to license it under the GPL, otherwise your licence to use the program will terminate (and you'll be infringing copyright in the program).