Docker images' distribution and licencing

CLARIN Centre Meeting

Lightning Talk

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13th of June 2023

Problem

- Docker container registry effectively works as means of distribution of software in binary form.
  - CLARIN is distributing (e.g.) full packaged OSes

- How to ensure compliance with all licenses present in an image
  - Applies to all image layers not only the final view. (tools?)
  - Pulling an image at runtime does not provide a natural place to deliver licence information

- What are the (acceptable) risks of non-compliance?

References

- Docker containers: What are the open source licensing considerations?
  - https://www.linuxfoundation.org/resources/publications/docker-containers-what-are-the-open-source-licensing-considerations
- A Preliminary Analysis of GPL-Related License Violations in Docker Images
  - https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/9825809
- Ubuntu IPP
  - https://ubuntu.com/legal/intellectual-property-policy
- Docker hub "licence" section:
  - e.g. https://hub.docker.com/_/alpine

From Ubuntu IP policy

✅ You can redistribute Ubuntu, but only where there has been no modification to it.

✅ You can redistribute Ubuntu in its unmodified form, complete with the installer images and packages provided by Canonical (this includes the publication or launch of virtual machine images).

✅ Any redistribution of modified versions of Ubuntu must be approved, certified or provided by Canonical if you are going to associate it with the Trademarks. Otherwise you must remove and replace the Trademarks and will need to recompile the source code to create your own binaries. This does not affect your rights under any open source licence applicable to any of the components of Ubuntu. If you need us to approve, certify or provide modified versions for redistribution you will require a licence agreement from Canonical, for which you may be required to pay. For further information, please contact us (as set out below).

Discussion

- Slack channel:

  #licensing

  https://clarineric.slack.com/archives/C05C3640KQE