



ONF Member-Only Software License

Overview for ONF Members

June 2020

Taking Stock of how ONF has launched new projects

- ONF's Model is to create value for the membership through the creation of innovative software
 - ONF membership fees go directly to funding the engineering team that builds platforms & solutions
- ONF has launched every major new software initiative as a private project
 - This was true for: ONOS, CORD, OMEC, Stratum
 - This allowed the projects to build critical mass before being subject to outside pressures
 - Fostered a focused engineering effort amongst committed participants
 - Every one of these projects is now licensed under Apache 2.0
- This has worked well, but ...
 - But this was done slightly differently and ad hoc each time
 - ONF has grown to over 20 projects, so standardizing this practice makes sense at this time
- To address this need, ONF has created the "ONF Member-Only Software License" ...

ONF Member-Only Software License

- To standardize the practice of launching new projects, ONF has created the “Member-Only Software License”
 - Provides clear rules of engagement
 - Ensures all ONF members have uniform access and input into projects based on membership tier
 - Create structure to provide benefits back to the ONF members
- During Incubation, only ONF members can access the source code
 - No forks or commercial use allowed
 - ONF to relicense under Apache 2.0 once the code is deemed ready and the project is self sustaining



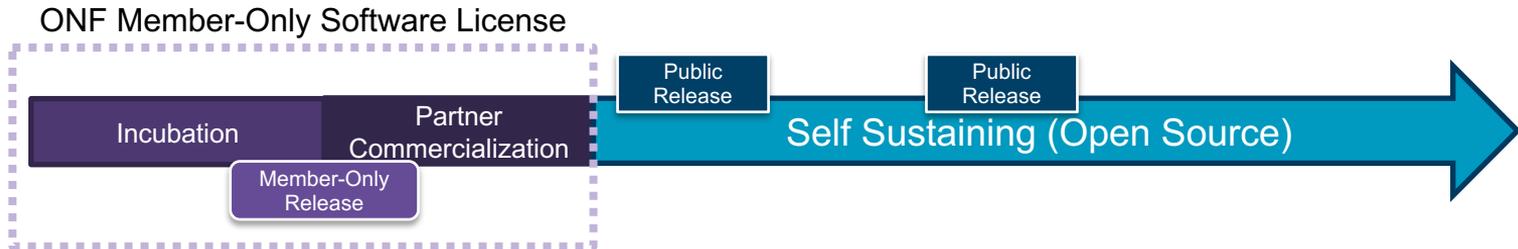
Early Commercialization Phase

- In order to promote investment into the project by ONF's leading benefactors, the license includes a phase during which Partner-level Members can begin to commercialize the project before it is released to open source
- ONF Partners provide 80% of ONF's funding
 - They also put significant resources into ONF projects
 - They contribute back more into the ONF repositories
- To help promote robust Partner contributions, the license includes a 'Partner Commercialization' phase
 - Supports Partners' creation of product and services utilizing the project before it is released to open source
- Expectation is that this will promote greater Partner investment in the projects
 - In turn, this will result in more contributions back to the project, benefiting all members



New Member-Only Software License

- ONF's Member-Only Software License supports both these early phases of a project before it is released to open source:
 - Incubation Phase
 - Partner Commercialization Phase
- ONF Board determines what projects are started under the License
- ONF Board determines when a project moves between phases and when it is open sourced



Aether & SD-RAN

Now Available to Members under the Member-Only License

- ONF Board has determined that the Aether and SD-RAN projects will first be made available under the ONF Member-Only Software License
 - Both projects have been placed in the “Incubation” phase under the license
- ONF Boards reasoning included these considerations:
 - Aether & SD-RAN are generating a great deal of interest across the ONF ecosystem
 - Aether & SD-RAN are still young, and the projects could become the victim of too much early interest
 - Projects are not yet ready for trials without handholding from ONF engineering
 - Excessive commercial interest could pull the projects in many directions
 - Companies could commercialize the projects too rapidly
 - High likelihood for forking
 - ONF wants to build a strong platform & a collaborative community
 - Ensure project code base has chance to solidify within ONF community before commercial interests can drive any redirection
 - We want to define APIs that can become an industry de facto norm. Need critical mass to achieve this
 - ONF learned from Stratum
 - Member-only period promoted creation of a dedicated community that allowed Stratum to mature before it was publicly released
- Upstream projects (like OMEC and ONOS) upon which Aether and SD-RAN rely will remain licensed under Apache 2.0

Learn More

- To learn more, we encourage you to start by reading the license followed by the FAQ:
 - ONF Member-Only Software License
 - <https://www.opennetworking.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ONF-Member-Only-Software-License-v1.0.pdf>
 - FAQ on ONF Licensing and Intellectual Property
 - <https://www.opennetworking.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/ONF-Licensing-and-IPR-FAQ-2020-06.pdf>
 - To get involved with a project and access any Member-Only repositories, see the Project wikis:
 - Accessing the Aether project
 - <https://wiki.opennetworking.org/display/COM/Aether>
 - Accessing the SD-RAN project
 - <https://wiki.opennetworking.org/display/COM/SD-RAN>
- You can also contact us for further assistance at:
 - membership@opennetworking.org



Thank You