General Public License v2 (GPL) Analysis

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GNU software = "Program"

GPL does not apply to activities other than:
• Copying
• Distributing
• Modifying

GPL
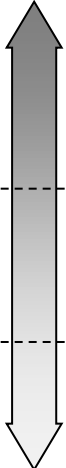
gray area

No GPL

Programs compiled together (same executable)

Static linking (shared address)

Dynamic linking
• fork / exec
• function calls
• data structures

Separate programs
• compiler/kernel
• editor/shell
• pipes/sockets/command lines

* A "modification" includes a "derivative work of the Program" (§0) or "collective work of the Program" (§2).

** "Mere aggregation of another work not based on the Program with the Program (or with a work based on the Program) on a volume of a storage or distribution medium does not bring the other work under... GPL." (§2).

*** If distribution of same sections as part of the whole which is a work based on a program, then distribution of the whole must on the terms of the GPL license (§2).

Does GPL apply to a "work"?

GPL does _not_ apply

Is "work" a copy or distribution of Program? → **Yes** → **GPL _does_ apply**

No

Is "work" a modification* of the Program? → **No**

Yes

"Independent" and "separate" from Program

Is "work" mere aggregation**? → **Yes**

No

"Work based on the Program"

Is "work" distributed as "part of whole"*** based on Program? → **No** / **Yes**

3 Important Attributes to GPL:
• Free source, not open source
• Forbids licensee from forbidding
• Copyright license, not software license
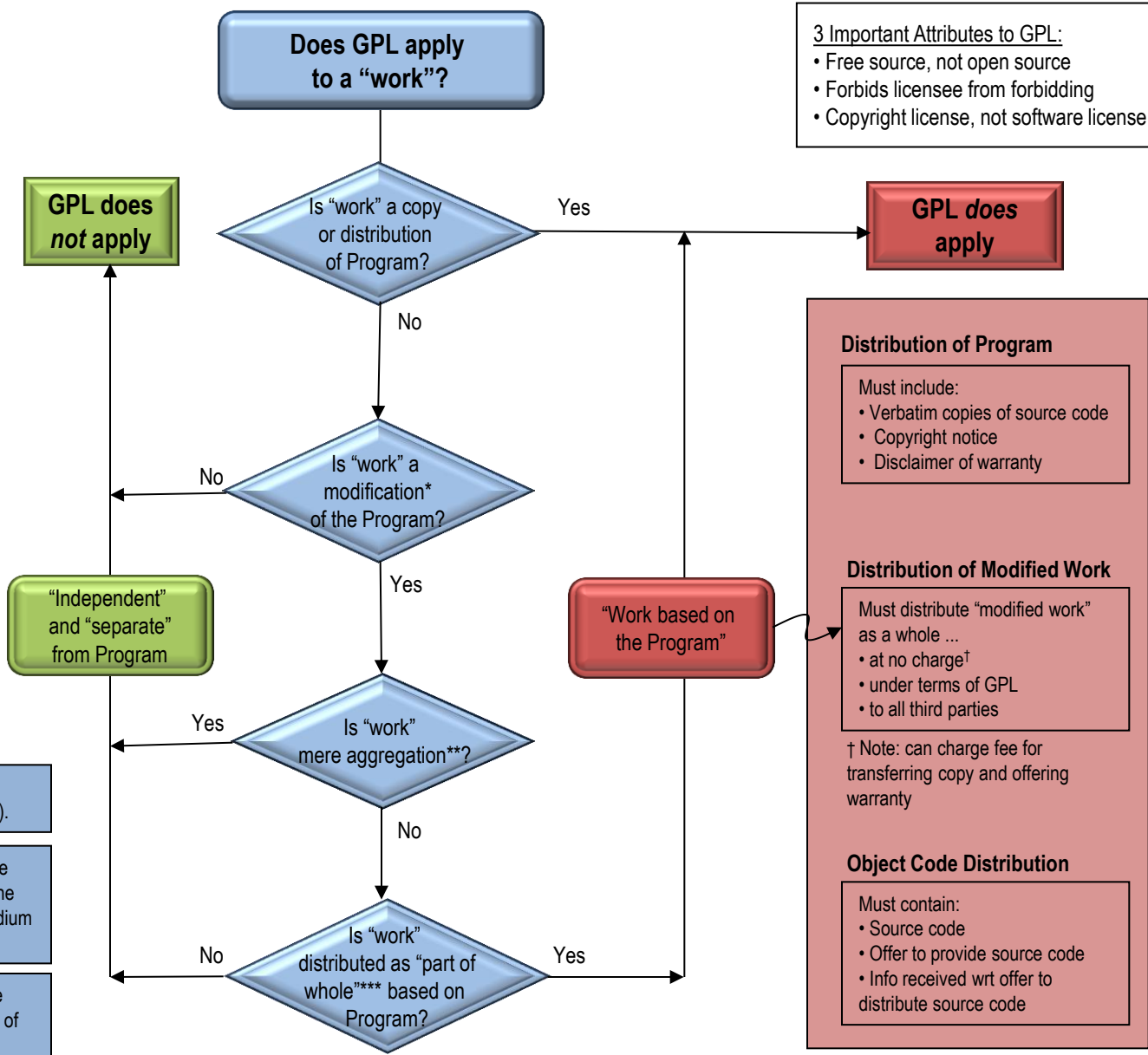
Distribution of Program

Must include:
• Verbatim copies of source code
• Copyright notice
• Disclaimer of warranty

Distribution of Modified Work

Must distribute "modified work" as a whole ...
• at no charge†
• under terms of GPL
• to all third parties

† Note: can charge fee for transferring copy and offering warranty

Object Code Distribution

Must contain:
• Source code
• Offer to provide source code
• Info received wrt offer to distribute source code