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Getting Your Plug-in Legal

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**“Why Do I Have to
be a
Lawyer
to
Write Software?”**

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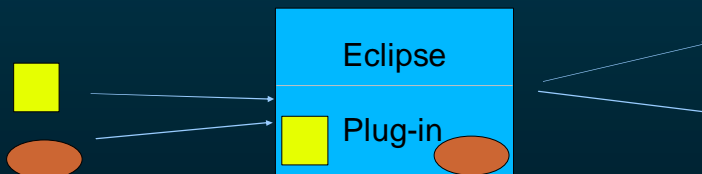
Intellectual Property

- Copyright – “works of authorship”
- Patent – inventions
- Trademark – brand name/logo
- Trade Secret – confidential information

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Consider Both In and Out

- Inbound – others’ software you are using (including Eclipse)
- Outbound – what you are distributing



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Distributing Eclipse

- Distribution license requirements
 - (all met if the EPL is used)
- Retain copyright notices
- Defense of non-IP claims
- State that source code is available and how to obtain it

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Customizing Eclipse

- Must identify changes and author
- Again, distribute under EPL or license that meets requirements
- “Copyleft”
 - “Separate Modules” and
 - “Derivative Works”

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Separate Modules?

**EPL'd
Software**

Commercial

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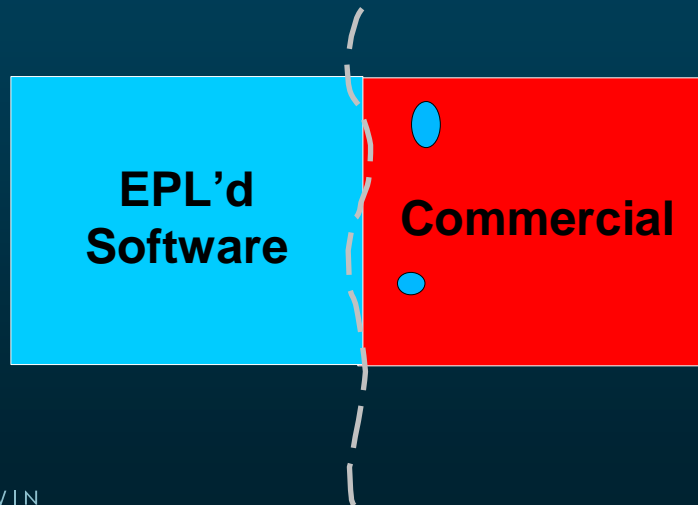
Separate Modules?

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Separate Modules?



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Patents

- EPL patent termination clause
 - “If recipient institutes patent litigation against any entity ... alleging that the Program ... infringes such Recipient’s patent ... then such Recipient’s rights granted under Section 2(b) ... shall terminate....”
- Effect of EPL on your patents
- Prior art searches and your technology

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Your Software

- Know what's in your code
- Copyright notices (about.html)
- License distribution
- License compatibility
 - e.g., GPL
- Source code distribution

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Trademark Issues

- EPL silent on trademarks
- Naming and trademark considerations
- Protecting your own mark(s)

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Your license terms

- Commercial/Open Source?
- Are the terms clear to your users?
- Are your terms compatible with third-party (open source) components?

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Summary

- Meet EPL license obligations
- Protect yourself
- Meet other (open source) license requirements

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