

The GNU General Public License and Lesser General Public License are licenses distributed and maintained by the Free Software Foundation to help promote and encourage open source and free software. The Lesser General Public License builds on top of the General Public License, and as such they are identical other than the provisions that the LGPL adds on top of the GPL.

Notably, these changes are as follows:

1. Section 3 of the GPL no longer applies, removing restrictions on use with anti-circumvention technology for software licensed under the LGPL.
2. Modified works may be licensed under either the LGPL or GPL, depending on the author's preference.
3. Allows the use of LGPL-licensed works in software whose license is not compatible with the GPL, provided that attribution and access to the source code is made available.

These additions to the GPL allow the LPGL to be more flexible and for libraries to be used more freely in other works. Notably, the Free Software Foundation recommends against using the LGPL as it would prefer to see more GPL licensed software; though the LGPL is still more commonly used for library-type software projects.

The primary difference between these two licenses comes down to the following consideration: should the licensed work be usable within other proprietary works? If not, the GPL is preferable. If this is not a concern, then the Lesser GPL may be preferred.