Software License in Plain English

The ACM Java Task Force seeks to impose few restrictions on the use of its library packages so that users have as much freedom as possible to use this software in constructive ways and can make the benefits of that work available to others. In view of the legal complexities of software development, however, it is essential for the ACM to maintain copyright over the JTF software as insurance against the following eventualities:

- Someone claims ownership of the JTF software and seeks to restrict the ACM's and other users' access to the material.
- Someone seeks to promote a derivative work as the "official" version of the JTF software without the permission of the ACM.
- Someone takes legal action against the ACM for damages arising from the use of the software.

Each of these situations represents a clear violation of the principles of free software, and the ACM has therefore developed the following legal agreement to guard against such problems.

ACM Java Task Force
Software Licensing Agreement

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