



**Project proposal
for a license upgrade
from CC BY-SA 3.0
to CC BY-SA 4.0**

SCP International

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CONTEXT

The SCP Foundation is a long-standing online collaborative creation project that stems from a 2007 creepypasta initially posted on 4Chan. It later evolved into a structured community, first using EditThis as a host and wiki CMS, then Wikidotⁱ.

Wikidot, a wikifarm co-founded by former president of the Foundation for a Free Information Infrastructure and open web advocate Pieter Hintjensⁱⁱ, supported CC BY-SA 3.0 and other CC licenses in its native license chooser. The first users that were moving content and beginning to build a community on this new platform chose this option, and almost all official creations of the SCP universe have been under a CC BY-SA 3.0 license since.

Today, the SCP Foundation is a long-standing project that never stopped creating content since 2007, both through its 16 official and 5 developing language branches that cover a large range of different languages from all over the world and through its off-site fandom that gave birth to fan art, video games and all kinds of other derived media.

The officially recognized SCP branches do however still release all their new content under a CC BY-SA 3.0 license today, despite the 2013 release of the 4.0 update. However, due to the intrinsically international nature of the SCP project and some of the legal trouble it has gotten into in the pastⁱⁱⁱ, an upgrade to an even more internationally recognizable license appears relevant for the least, if not necessary.

The aim of the present document is to provide an analysis of the advantages and challenges of upgrading the default license of SCP Foundation branches as well as a concrete proposal for how to implement this upgrade. It is written by Eliot Fournier as both the Master Administrator of SCP International and a participant in the Creative Commons Certificate course for Open Culture and GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums) and will be reviewed by the facilitators of the course. It should however be noted that none of the following is to be considered legal advice.

GLOSSARY AND PRELIMINARY INFORMATION

Below are explanations of a few terms and concepts that can be useful to understand to read this document.

- **Copyright:** Copyright law protects original creations to ensure their author is recognized certain rights over what they produced. Saying that something is "under copyright" means that one or more people are recognized to have a special status when it comes to deciding what to do with that work, attributing it or getting certain permissions relative to it. By default, all rights recognized by copyright are usually reserved to its creator, but the fact that something is under copyright does not mean it is under an "all rights reserved" regime.
- **License:** A license is a set of terms and conditions under which someone who holds copyright over a work (also called the **licensor**) can allow other people (**licensees**) to make certain uses of it. It can be granted specifically to certain people or organizations for specific uses, for example in exchange of a payment, or more widely to anyone willing to respect a set of conditions.

- **Economic rights:** Economic rights are a part of copyright. They protect the rights of an author to make financial profit off various uses of their works and can be sold or transmitted.
- **Moral rights:** Moral rights are another part of copyright, much more closely tied to the author as a person and recognizing their special link to the work. They are generally not waivable, or at least less easily than economic rights. Moral rights are of higher importance in civil law countries such as European countries compared to common law countries such as the United States.

INTERNATIONAL LAW

The present document is written from an international perspective, meaning that it does not address local law and specificities that might apply in the case of some branches. Branch staff should make sure they are aware of possible local exceptions to otherwise largely applied copyright principles described here. Below are a few international law concepts to better understand what this means.

- **Territoriality:** Copyright is set by national laws and its treatment varies from one country to the other. There are international agreements defining common rules that are followed by most countries, but eventually copyright is determined by the principle of territoriality, meaning that each state defines the law for its own territory. This has several consequences that can be relevant to understand:
 - What law applies to a given work or use case: In general, the relevant law to evaluate a specific use of works under copyright is the one of the countries where the use is made. This is not about nationality but in a strictly geographic sense, just like certain actions or behaviors can be allowed, restricted or forbidden depending on the country and whether a person is inside of its borders.
 - What conditions is a given work available under: Due to the above, certain works might be available under certain conditions in certain countries (for instance, having fallen into the public domain 70 years after the death of their author) but still not be in other countries (for instance in Mexico where a reuser would have to wait 30 more years, as Mexico's copyright law recognizes works as public domain 100 years after the death of their author). See [the global map of copyright terms](#) for more information.
- **National treatment:** All countries that signed the [Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works](#) (see [the global map of Berne Convention signatories](#)) recognize foreign works from other signatories the same protection as works created within their own borders.
- **Rule of the shorter term:** Several countries also apply a rule called the "rule of the shorter term" by which they will not apply a longer copyright term to a work than the one it would have received in its country of origin. See [the list of shorter term status](#) for more information.

A REMINDER ABOUT CREATIVE COMMONS

Creative Commons is composed of a nonprofit organization, a set of licenses it is responsible for curating and a wider movement of open culture advocate and creators who use these tools to promote free online sharing.

The CC licenses were created in 2002 on an initiative by Lawrence Lessig, a Stanford Law professor who had represented open book publisher Eric Eldred in the famous US "Eldred v. Ashcroft" case that led to a 20-year extension of the copyright term to prevent the character Mickey Mouse from falling into the public domain and preserve The Disney Company's profit.

Their goal was to enable authors, artists, and creators to take advantage of the new possibilities offered by the internet to their fullest extent to share their works with the world. The default copyright behavior of "all rights reserved" often conflicted with the actual creators' will when sharing their works online, as it made sharing and remixing them illegal by default unless they went through the complicated process of waiving their rights in a legally viable manner. CC licenses were conceived with the aim of empowering creators with the possibility to do so in a solid, recognizable, and standardized way.

SHAREALIKE LICENSES

The CC BY-SA license(s), or the "ShareAlike" element of CC licenses, are part of what is often called the "copyleft" movement, an approach to copyright that aims to make sure works are *and remain* free to use and remix into new works. All CC licenses work under the copyright system rather than against it, tailoring its legal mechanics for use with the specific intent of allowing large-scale open sharing.

CC BY-SA, the license used by the SCP Foundation for its content, basically means that:

- Anyone can share or remix the content for any purpose.
- To do so, they must:
 - Attribute the original content by providing specific information (typically the source and author's name, but we will get into more detail on attribution requirements in the version comparison below).
 - Make any new content derived from the initial work available under the same terms by releasing it under a CC BY-SA license or another [compatible license](#).

It should be noted that all CC licenses work under copyright and are intended to make sharing and remixing the content accessible (under certain terms) rather than overly restraining it. This means that all exceptions and limitations to normal copyright still apply, and that a CC license will never prevent or add restrictions to a use that would already have been allowed under "All rights reserved" conditions (such as fair use in most common law countries).

COMPARING 3.0 AND 4.0

CC BY-SA 4.0 is the latest version of the CC BY-SA license, published in 2013 and widely used since. Since the release of 3.0 in February 2007^{iv} when only 20% of the world were using the internet^v, copyright law went through quick evolutions to adapt the changes brought by the

exponential development of digital technologies. When version 4.0 of the license was released, the number of internet users had grown of 50%, up to 35% of the world population^{vi}.

The following is an overview and set of explanations about the notable changes made between version 3.0 and 4.0 of the license(s), based on [Creative Common's own comprehensive comparison table](#)^{vii}.

GENERAL LICENSE FEATURES

Most changes are to the definition of the licenses themselves, adapting how they work and what requirements they set. These changes are as follows:

Feature	3.0	4.0	Explanation
Nomenclature (for unported licenses)	International (unported) license	International license	Until 3.0, CC licenses used to have a "porting" mechanism where each license could have a country-specific port made to accommodate and fit local legal restrictions better. This was later dropped as new versions were developed for international use from the beginning, including 3.0 which acted like a transitional phase from one approach to another. 4.0 is the first version to be completely free of the porting mechanism from its very initial conception. To INT's knowledge, no official branch of the SCP Foundation has ever used such a port.
Express permission granted under sui generis database rights	EU ports only	Yes	Modern copyright covers a set of rights known as "database rights" that come from collecting and putting together data. 3.0 only covered these in EU-specific license ports, and 4.0 finally explicitly makes sure database-type content can also be shared and remixed under the terms of the license.
Treatment of moral rights	Varied	Waived/not asserted	Version 4.0 makes sure to reduce the risk of license incompatibility within countries that grant a high value to moral rights by "waiv[ing] moral rights to the limited extent necessary to exercise the licensed rights" ^{viii} .
Trademark and patent explicitly reserved	No	Yes	CC licenses only cover copyright, which is separate from trademarks and patents. This is the case in all versions, but it is clarified in version 4.0.
Licensors expressly waives rights	No	Yes	This makes sure that, if a CC-licensed content is made hard to access (be it reading, downloading, or otherwise

to enforce, and grants permission to circumvent, technological protection measures			disposing of it), <i>the license alone</i> does not make it illegal to recover it anyways through any means. However, this does not have any impact on any other legal provisions that might make this process illegal.
Automatic reinstatement after termination if violations corrected	No	Yes, if corrected within 30 days	3.0 would automatically terminate the license if someone reused content in a way that violated it, then needing explicit permission from the licensor to be able to use it again. 4.0 leaves them a 30-day-period after being made aware of their mistake to correct it and automatically recover the rights granted by the license.
Adaptations of SA material usable under conditions of adapter's license	No	Yes	Under 4.0, reusing a given SA work only requires providing attribution for this work, and not all the "grandfather" works that were already being reused in it. This was unclear and not explicitly permitted under CC BY-SA 3.0, which could force stacking excessive amounts of attribution for a single work depending on the interpretation.

ATTRIBUTION-SPECIFIC ELEMENTS

4.0 also adjusts and clarifies how licensed works should and can be attributed. The changes made are as follows:

Feature	3.0	4.0	Explanation
Attribution reasonable to means, medium, and context	Medium and means, with exceptions	Explicit	Version 4.0 is even clearer than the previous ones that attribution may be provided in any <i>reasonable</i> way considering the possibilities and what can be expected of the licensee.
Reasonableness applies to all attribution requirements	All but license and copyright notices	All	Version 3.0 would not recognize exceptions for what could reasonably be expected of the licensee when it came to providing licensing information. 4.0 makes sure these are included as well so that something that is deemed unreasonable for the author's name on one side can not be required for the license name on the other.

Licensors may request removal of attribution	Adaptations and collections only	Always	Under 3.0, an author could request not to be associated with an adaptation or collection of their work they disliked by removing their name or other attribution information from it. Version 4.0 extends this to all uses of their work.
Title of work required	Yes	No	Version 4.0 does not require the title of a work in its attribution anymore; this information (often a page or file name) will most of the time be made available by providing the link to the source.
URI required	If contains copyright notice or licensing information	Yes	Providing a link to the source material was not always required in 3.0; it now is (if reasonably possible to include it).
Modifications must be indicated	Yes, but only adaptations	Yes	Version 3.0 only required to indicate that a work had been modified if this modification created an adaptation. 4.0 extends this to all kinds of modifications that make the reused content different from its original version, such as taking an excerpt of it. This effect also counts for previous modifications that should also be indicated. It does not cover minor modifications such as fixing spelling errors.
Who must be attributed for the work	Author if supplied and attribution parties if designated in copyright notice, TOS, or other reasonable means	Creator if supplied and attribution parties if designated in reasonable manner	Making the process to indicate other people that should be attributed for the work less specific and more intuitive.

It should be noted that most attribution information is only required when supplied by the source material. For example, if the author of a work did not provide their name, reusers are not required to find it anyways to be able to use the work under the license.

ADVANTAGES OF VERSION 4.0 FOR THE SCP FOUNDATION

The changes brought by version 4.0 bring some advantages in the more specific case of the SCP Foundation project. Below are a few detailed considerations on the positive elements that several 4.0 features could bring to the SCP community.

GENERAL LICENSE FEATURES

- The SCP Foundation is now an international project by essence and lives through many different branches all over the world. The **fundamentally international approach of version 4.0** ensures that SCP content will be protected by a largely recognized license vetted by international lawyers rather than an adapted versions of a license initially intended to work under US law specifically.
- The fact that **adaptations of SA material are usable under the conditions of the adapter's license** (see [the comparison table above](#) for details) is of high interest for SCP works as these very frequently are works that reuse content already under CC licenses and that are in turn going to be reused by users to produce new content. Most of these reuses are already credited in the most convenient and minimal way explicitly laid out by 4.0, but this is of unclear in the current set of things. Upgrading to 4.0 would make sure no one gets in trouble for reusing SCP content in good faith and while providing attribution to the relevant wiki page(s).
- There is a **one-way compatibility mechanism** in CC licenses makes it so that material from a given version of a license can only be licensed under the same version or a later one, never going back to earlier versions. This currently makes it impractical to use 4.0 media in SCP articles as they are licensed under 3.0 by default; upgrading the whole to 4.0 would allow to use all kinds of compatible CC-licensed media without unnecessary complexity.

ATTRIBUTION-SPECIFIC ELEMENTS

- **Attribution reasonable to means, medium, and context** allows for more intuitive attribution under the very numerous forms SCP derivatives have taken over the years: YouTube videos, videogames, books, t-shirts, figures... Making sure third-party creators attribute SCP content correctly is a complex task already; allowing them to do so in a larger panel of reasonable ways will likely improve the situation.
- The fact that **licensors may request removal of attribution** for all works and not only collections and adaptations comes to reinforce a right that SCP staff usually already granted to authors who did not wish to be associated with their contributions to the community anymore. This ensures that this right will be respected even when the decision is not up to SCP staff.
- **The title of a work not being a required attribution information anymore** makes it easier to attribute articles from the wikis, especially for SCPs. This could sometimes be unclear: should SCP-173 be attributed as "SCP-173", "SCP-173 - The Sculpture" or "SCP-173 - The Sculpture - The Original"? The aliases of SCPs only being listed in the SCP series pages and sometimes (but inconsistently) the page's attribution info did not make

it very clear nor easy to determine what to consider the title of an SCP article. Version 4.0 abolishes this problem, and simply providing a link to the page will now provide equivalent information.

This is also great for anyone reusing original SCP content that does not have a very clear title, such as author-created images that sometimes had to be attributed as something like "scp_logo_20029388_turtle_final.jpg" or "1.png"

- **The requirement to provide an URI in the attribution** is particularly relevant for SCP works as all of them are available through web pages, these pages are conceived to be attributed this way, and most branches have a dedicated module with the relevant attribution information.

GENERAL ANALYSIS

Upgrading the default license of all SCP branches would bring precious advantages on two distinct fronts:

- Protect the free and open nature of the SCP universe in a more robust way, and with legal tools that are more suited for an international project on the modern internet.
- Enable the SCP community at large to reuse and create original SCP content in a more intuitive way.

We will now get to elaborating practical steps for implementing this default license change in an efficient way.

CONCRETE GUIDELINES FOR THE UPGRADE

The following is the initial proposal made to all branches of SCP International for how to proceed with upgrading our license. It should be underlined that this process should be as uniform as possible: an important organizational challenge of this project will be the standardization of measures so as to avoid any unnecessary complexification of cross-branch content sharing and translation, as well as spreading confusion among the public on how SCP works may or may not be reused. The following sections go over three aspects of the implementation:

1. How to make the initial license version change.
2. How to manage cohabitation of both versions of the license on a given wiki.
3. How to coordinate ourselves in doing so.

CHANGING THE LICENSE

To upgrade a wiki's default license concretely means to switch which license *new* contributions to a wiki are placed under by default. This is not an extraordinary process, as Creative Commons themselves explain it: "applying the 4.0 license is as simple as stating what license applies to what content"^{ix}. This means the primary action required to change a branch's default license will be to formally state that its default license is CC BY-SA 4.0 as of the date of diffusion of this information.

To do so, we cannot rely on our common wikifarm host Wikidot's site-wide license chooser tool, as it has not been updated in a long time and does not natively support 4.0 CC licenses. Thus, the best and most legally viable way is a change in the site's terms of use. Wikipedia notably

updated its default license to 4.0 in 2023^x after many years of using 3.0, detailing this process in a [public note](#)^{xi} proposing a ToU change.

Most branches of the SCP Foundation never really got to develop their own original terms of use, often relying on those of Wikidot. The license update is an occasion for branches to write their own terms within the limits of not contradicting those of Wikidot, even if only to indicate the site's license. As stated in [Wikidot's Terms of service](#)^{xii}:

Each of the Wiki Sites can choose individual license ("Site License") for content (feature available only if allowed by subscription plans). By posting Content to any of the Wiki Sites you agree to follow this Site License and make the Content you author available under this license. If your content does not follow the Site License it must be clearly stated.

Wikidot does not forbid including content from any other license than the one natively supported, as long as it is clearly indicated what license it is under. It is thus possible to add supplementary terms and conditions to define it.

The proposed phrasing for terms of use as far as the licensing matter is concerned is the following:

By using this site, you agree to release all forms of original content you upload and own the rights to under a [CC BY-SA 4.0](#) license to the fullest extent permissible by the law. Where you own Sui Generis Database Rights covered by CC BY-SA 4.0, you waive these rights.

You also agree to provide the proper attribution information for any content you upload to or otherwise make available on the site that you do not own the rights of so that it is properly marked with its own terms and license.

Unless marked otherwise, content published before the [insert terms of use change date] is available under a [CC BY-SA 3.0](#) license.

For all matters not explicitly mentioned in the present notice, please refer to [Wikidot's Terms of Service](#).

This notice is to be included at /legal on all branches to ensure consistency of information. Branches may decide to use it to include any other relevant information or conditions they wish to apply independently on the present matter. Users should be reasonably informed of the update, i.e. staff should communicate on it in a public and visible manner. The recommended measures to do so are the following:

1. Adding a visible link to /legal in /system:join mentioning that new users agree to these terms by joining the site.
2. Making a public announcement both in their dedicated forum section and official chat (often Discord), using the available means to ensure the announcement is read (typically including an @everyone mention).
3. Including a non-intrusive temporary info message on their wiki, for example through including it in the sidebar (specific method will be determined by discussion between branch delegates for the project, see "[Organizational structure](#)").

4. Branches that are able to customize their page bottom footer (depending on their Wikidot plan) should use it to make a license note similar to the one in the #license-area element.

SUI GENERIS DATABASE RIGHTS

Several countries, especially in the EU, recognize rights designated as "*sui generis* database rights". In short, these mean that copyright can apply to certain databases and ways to organize and provide data - which should be understood in a broad sense, as for instance a United States court ruled that "an organized directory of Chinese-American businesses in a particular area" was covered by such rights^{xiii}. This means that if these rights are not addressed, there is a risk to inadvertently create copyright in the middle of an otherwise CC-licensed website, for instance for large data and information tables or lists.

While CC licenses are not compatible with the addition of supplementary restrictions¹, they may be combined with any other terms that waive more rights than initially required, as explained in the [CC+](#) protocol.^{xiv} Wikimedia already made a similar decision to have contributors waive sui generis database rights whenever they applied to make sure no problem arose from the collection of data on their sites. It would be counterproductive for the SCP wikis to keep these rights, hence why the proposal above includes a sentence that waives them. The sentence in question is directly taken from the [Wikimedia Foundation Terms of use](#).^{xv}

SYNERGY WITH EXISTING CONTENT

It should be noted that the advantages of version 4.0 listed in the primary version comparison in this document will only apply to content newly licensed under a CC BY-SA 4.0 license; legacy content still under 3.0 will continue to follow the rules of version 3.0. This is no problem from a legal standpoint: it should simply be noted that a clear distinction should be made for both versions to cohabitate correctly.

Retroactive application

Considering the significant advantages of version 4.0 compared to 3.0, it is recommended that branches with sufficient resources take a few measures to upgrade part of their existing content. These are by no means required, but they are an interesting possibility this document will provide advice for.

To understand how to update the license of an existing document, we need to examine how works are released under CC licenses and how CC licenses are attached to a work.

Firstly, the creator (or rightsholder, which is the same in our case) of a work gets to decide who may reuse it and under what conditions, if at all. In the case of CC licenses, this is simply done by including a statement that they release the work under a [insert exact license name here] license when they publish it. This makes the work available under the license in question forever (until the whole copyright for this work expires and it falls in the public domain), for whoever will find this original statement along with a copy of the work for them to reproduce, share and remix

¹ It is legally allowed to reuse the base terms of the CC licenses and adapt, reduce, or expand upon them to create a new set of terms, but the result thereof may not be presented as a "Creative Commons license" or "CC BY [...]" anymore.

in any way possible. This means that all the works currently available on the SCP wikis will be available *at least* under the terms of CC BY-SA 3.0 no matter what changes are implemented on the wikis, as long as reusers are able to learn that at least one copy of them was once available under that license (for instance by browsing the Internet Archive's [Wayback Machine](#)). This is intended behavior that makes CC licenses so reliable, and not a problem for us.

However, it is possible for an author to *also* make any of their CC-licensed works available under *another* CC license, or another version of the same one, by simply updating their license statement. New readers will simply see the new license on the page and intuitively use the article under these terms.

Unlike on most other wiki-type sites, articles posted on the SCP Wikis are generally considered the work of their original author(s) only, and only their name is given in the various attribution modules. This is mainly because most contributions on a page after its initial publication are minor edits, such as correcting spelling, punctuation, and grammar errors, updating metadata or optimizing code, which do not constitute new and copyrightable content with a sufficient degree of originality².

The above implies that most pages can only be considered the propriety of their original author, and that the author in question is the only person with the legal right to redistribute the work under an updated license. SCP staff may thus not change the license of an existing article as they do not own the legal rights to it, but they may provide active authors with easy tools to release the works they already contributed to the wiki under a CC BY-SA 4.0 license.

The recommended course of action is to create a meta wiki page at `/meta:license-update`³ for authors to opt-in to a blanket statement that they re-release all their contributions made prior to the default license version update under a CC BY-SA 4.0 license. The proposed model is the following:

[page title] License update

As of [insert terms of use change date], all new content contributed to the XXX branch of the SCP Foundation will be released under a [<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/> CC BY-SA 4.0 license] by default. This page is available for willing authors to opt-in to release their works contributed prior to this update under the same license, for the sake of consistency and ease of use for the public.

If you need more information on the exact implications of this choice, you may read [insert links to any relevant resources: the public alt version of the present document that will be produced by the time of public announcement, your own branch's announcement and informational resources...] or ask ["staff", or any relevant team/people from your staff] about it.

By default, staff will make all the other changes required to properly mark your works as

² Pages where this is the case (i.e., author(s) is not easy to determine) are a relatively small amount and can be left aside of this process to prevent overcomplexification, unless branch staff feels confident that what they are doing is compatible with local law. Content contributed to these pages *after* the terms of use update will however count as 4.0 without needing to take any specific action.

³ Whether or not to use the meta: category will be left to the branches' decision depending on their preference, as long as the final unix name is the same for everyone.

available under these new terms. Your help is welcome in doing so, but please contact ["staff", or any relevant team/people from your staff] before making any changes to get directions on the appropriate process.

To opt in, please edit this page and copy the following statement, changing XXX by your username:

```
> ----  
>  
> [[span class="releasingauthor"]] [[*user XXX]] [[/span]]  
>  
> I, [[*user XXX]], hereby release all forms of original and adapted content I  
uploaded to or otherwise made available on the SCP wiki under a  
[https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/ CC BY-SA 4.0 license] to the  
fullest extent permissible by the law. I understand that they may still be used  
under the terms of the CC BY-SA 3.0 license I initially released them under, and I  
now wish for the relevant licensing indications to be updated so that all my  
original contributed material is marked as CC BY-SA 4.0 for future use.
```

Please do not modify this statement or add anything to it, or your entry will be removed. If you wish for specific pieces to be excluded from this statement, please contact ["staff", or any relevant team/people from your staff] to customize it to better fit your intention.

Staff will then be able, with the help of authors who wish to mark their own works if deemed helpful, to include a dedicated info component on all pages already posted by the authors that chose to opt-in to mark them as available under 4.0. For all content that was not published as a wiki page, such as forum posts, the username list at /meta:licensing-update will provide potential reusers with the necessary information.

The editing of existing pages or marking of non-wiki page content may be automated based on metadata provided by the opt-in page. This will be examined by the branch delegates for the project during the preparation work before public announcement (see "[Organizational structure](#)").

Staff may choose to explicitly solicitate major authors and contributors to inform them of the possibility to opt-in to this process; they should simply make it clear that this is entirely up to the author's decision.

Informing the community

The default license update impacts what terms contributors share their content under and they should be informed of it as well as possible (see [list of ways to announce the terms of use change](#) for those directly related to the terms of use). Moreover, part of what makes the default license update interesting is that it enables users to reuse SCP content in an easier way.

It is thus important that staff of all branches offer sufficient resources to the community to understand what is changing, why it is done and how it might impact them. The license version change is not a major one and will likely not change anything for most users, but even this piece of information is important to provide.

To this aim, an alternative version of this document specifically intended for public diffusion will be elaborated in collaboration with branch delegates during the preparation phase. Moreover, branches are encouraged to hold "town hall" FAQs through a public forum thread and/or voice meeting on their official chat, depending on the estimated relevance of such a process and their own resources in terms of time and expertise. During that process, branches are welcome to pass questions to INT and their fellows through their Reps and/or project delegate if unsure about a specific point, although no warranty is offered on the answers or their availability.

Moreover, contributors and readers alike shall be provided with a clear way to distinguish legacy content still under a CC BY-SA 3.0 license and new or updated content under 4.0. This can easily be done by adding a dedicated line in the licensing module used on each wiki; the stake in our case is how to standardize it so that this information (among others) is available in a consistent format and location on all branches. The exact structure of this module is to be determined by tech and licensing teams of the branches through the structures introduced below.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The goal of this project is that all branches can implement it by themselves following a standardized process to ensure continued compatibility between all of them. This is going to require communication and time to ask and answer questions, discuss specific points whenever required and work on concrete tools together.

The proposed course of action is that each official branch chooses one or two delegates to form an international workgroup dedicated to the default license upgrade project. Delegates in this group would mainly function as relays between for their respective staff team (similar to what Representatives are to SCP International), but in the more specific context of this project. Delegates should be comfortable with understanding CC licenses, with ideally some local licensing experience in their branch, so they can better communicate and explain the project to their colleagues.

The mandate of this group would be to consider and work on (at least) the following elements:

- Identify and forward any specific needs of their branch to the workgroup (for example if they foresee an adaptation of the proposed measures will be necessary for them to properly implement the upgrade).
- Develop a standardized licensing module that all branches would agree and be able to implement to mark 3.0/4.0 content and other licensing information.
- Possibly develop scripts and third-party tools to collect data and make statistics about license use on the SCP wikis.
- Elaborate a public document derived from the present one that will be shared with the SCP community through all official branches to inform them of what the license upgrade means and entails (an initial proposal will be made by Eliot Fournier but will be open to suggestions and additions).
 - Work on translating the document in question or finding competent translators to make it available in all languages covered by Official Branches of the SCP Foundation.

The process will take the time required for all branches to be able to provide feedback, bring up potential problems and address those. It is intended as something that branches will implement out of desire for the advantages this change will bring, and not something that would be

imposed upon them; it is however important that we do not create inconsistencies in how branches share content between each other and how users are able to reuse SCP content. All Official Branches are thus kindly requested to take the time required to ensure it goes correctly and voice possible concerns early on in the process so they can be addressed before jumping to concrete work. SCP International will provide support and advice to the extent of its means to help branch staff (and later, their communities) better understand the point, scope and nature of this project wherever required.

FAQ

How does this change affect the images we can or cannot use in articles?

It essentially makes it possible to use CC BY-SA 4.0 images and resources in newly 4.0-licensed articles while it was hacky and complicated until now. It does not create any new incompatibilities.

How will the license update work with translations?

There are two important principles to consider:

- A translation is an adaptation of the original work: this means it has to respect the terms of the license in adapting the original article, and that the translator has their own independent copyright on the translation as it introduces enough originality (rewriting, rephrasing and adapting the article in a whole other language).
- CC licenses are one-way compatible: this means that an adaptation of a CC BY-SA 3.0 work may only be released under either CC BY-SA 3.0 or any later version (i.e., CC BY-SA 4.0).

Thus, after the international default license update, if for example a DE user translates a KO article still under 3.0, the translation will be released under 4.0 by default when posted on DE due to the provision introduced in the branch's terms of use. This makes an always larger amount of content tend to being licensed under 4.0 without the need to take any more active measures for it.

How will it impact offsite reusers?

It will not require any changes from offsite reusers; people currently reusing SCP content under the terms of the CC BY-SA 3.0 license are allowed to continue to do so for as long as they wish since they were initially provided the contents under 3.0, and no action taken on the main wiki will revoke this license to them.

Reusers may however decide to switch to reusing contents under the terms of the 4.0 license anytime, especially considering that these terms offer more intuitive conditions for attribution and reuse they might appreciate.

[Other questions will be added based on feedback]

CONCLUSION

The needs and practices of the SCP community have evolved a lot since its beginnings, and the SCP Foundation incidentally contributed to making a whole generation of online creators savvier

about copyright and licensing. Now that SCP International and the branches have more extensive resources in terms of knowledge and experience about CC licenses, it appears obvious that we will want to go forward with the most up-to-date and efficient licensing tools and principles. This is why the license update and the development of a common standard for SCP licensing metadata are going to be such important steps to take this year and the next.

Upgrading the SCP Foundation's license to CC BY-SA 4.0 is a rather easy process compared to what it might sound like at first sight. The change would not bring major changes in how SCP Foundation authors, artists and fans can create, adapt, and share content, but it would make these processes more intuitive and legally resilient in today's context of SCP as a large-scale international project. With goodwill and involvement from all branches, conceiving and implementing this project should be just as easy as any other reform.

Of course, some of the information contained in this document might be incomplete or not account for all possible exceptions and specificities, especially when it comes to covering local laws that might apply to individual branches. To gather more information on jurisdiction-specific elements, the [Creative Commons legal database](#) can be of help: it both lists past court decisions in several countries regarding the application of CC licenses and offers academic resources examining the effects and functioning of the licenses. Moreover, CC also maintains a [wiki](#) and an [FAQ](#) with extensive information on many more specific matters. They are both worth reading for licensing staff of all branches as they allow to build a more comprehensive understanding of what CC licenses are exactly and how they work.

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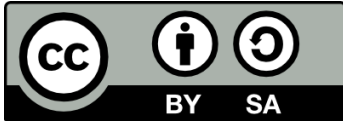
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