

# EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ODbL LICENSE

*Open Database Licence*

■ *The OpenStreetMap license*  
■ *for the collaborative cartography*

Translation to English

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**EDITORIA  
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**ODbL license,**  
what is this ?

# OPENSTREETMAP

« "The Wikipedia of cartography" »

The world's leading community creating freely usable geographic data:

- ▶ more than 10 million people.
  - ▶ 50,000 active contributors each month.
- And this number is constantly expanding.



OpenStreetMap is the world's most comprehensive open map database

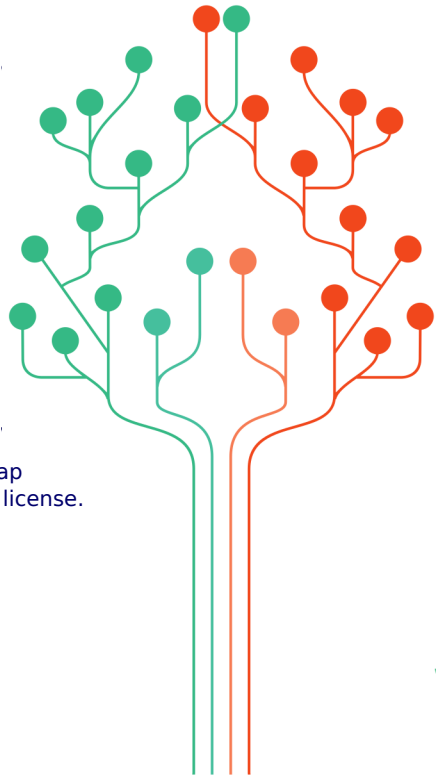
## OpenStreetMap.org

Everyone is free to contribute: businesses, engaged citizens, associations and communities complete and update the OpenStreetMap database. The use of this data is governed by rules: the ODbL license.

This license has the force of a contract: it must be respected by everyone.

This is the condition for the sustainability of the digital commons.

Each data producer using ODbL can define the terms of use for a shared digital resource. The following organizations, for example, have published specific guidelines: data.gouv.fr, SNCF, and the OpenStreetMap Foundation. The "Community Guidelines" specify the license.



# THE SPIRIT OF THE LICENSE

(For what?)

## ▶ ODbL = the virtuous cycle of sharing

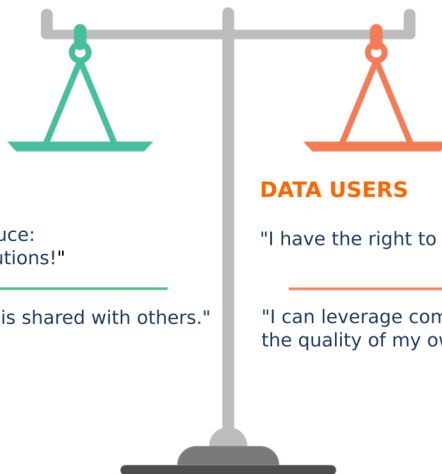


The license allows for the organization of the commons

- ▶ Preserve the **sharing dynamic**
- ▶ Protect the **commons** from abusive appropriation
- ▶ Recognize the **commitment** of contributors

## Balancing risks and needs

The license prescribes the **rights and duties** of each party to ensure a balance between the risks of contributors and the needs of **users**.



### DATA CONTRIBUTORS

Preserve my motivation to produce:  
"Do not appropriate my contributions!"

"The burden of data production is shared with others."

### DATA USERS

"I have the right to use the data that meets my needs."


"I can leverage community improvements to enhance the quality of my own data."

# RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES


## Rights


**1**  **Use, study**

**2**  **Copy, share**

**3**  **Modify, transform**  
The purpose of this license is to share enhancements in order to contribute to the commons. In some cases, however, you can keep your data protected.

**4**  **Create**  
A website, a mobile app, a database, a work of art... anything you can think of.

 Possible non-profit use

 Possible commercial use

## Responsibilities

**1**  **Reciprocity**  
Any modified data must be shared under the same conditions.

**2**  **Attribution**  
Cite the source.

# THE KEY PRINCIPLES



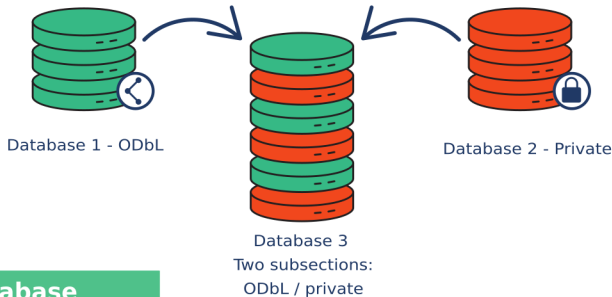
## Reciprocity Obligation / Share-Alike

Let's now get into the details: how can/should the data be used in your situation?

When you combine OpenStreetMap data with other data, the reciprocity clause applies under certain conditions. The ODbL license distinguishes between two ways of combining data:

### Collective database

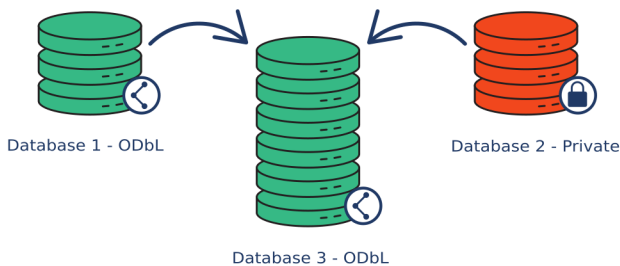
An assembly of untransformed, independent databases.



### Derived database

A database built upon the original database which includes any translation, adaptation, arrangement, modification or any other alteration of the database or a substantial part of its content.

This includes, but is not limited to, extracting or reusing all or a substantial part of the content in a new database.



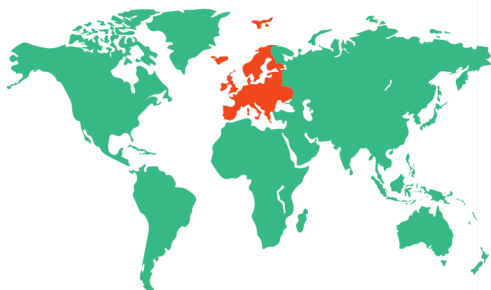
# GENERAL GUIDELINES

(How to do?)

The license defines "collective" and "derived" within a generic framework. The OSM Foundation has published guidelines that clarify these terms in the case of the OpenStreetMap project. Let's see how to implement these guidelines in your use cases.

## OpenStreetMap Community Guidelines

Conditions required for a collective database:



### Regional divisions

It is possible to use OpenStreetMap data for one region and data from a private database for another region, with no obligation to reshare the private database.

For example, a mobile app using private data in Europe can display OpenStreetMap data for the rest of the world.

- ▶ The **area boundary** is clearly defined.
- + The covered area must be at least the **size of a country**.
- + The area must be **contiguous, with no gaps**.

If all these conditions are met, it is possible to combine heterogeneous data within a single database: each retains its own licence.

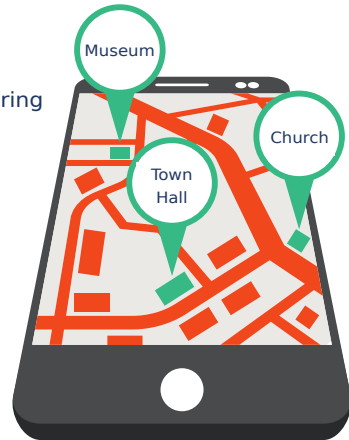
## Independent layers

It is possible to use OpenStreetMap data covering one theme and data from a private database covering a different theme, with no obligation to reshare the private database.

For example, a mobile app can display shops from OpenStreetMap while independently showing the road network and buildings.

Conditions required to have a collective database:

- ▶ The themes must be **clearly distincts**.
- + The basemap used must not display data from the same theme

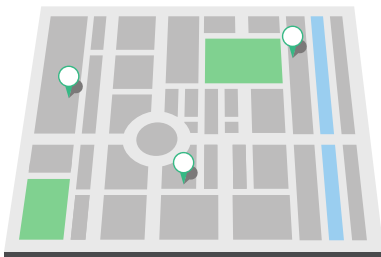


You should do your best to ensure that the different layers have clearly distinct themes.

## Substantial quantities

It is possible to use a negligible amount of OpenStreetMap data without restriction.

For example, all the restaurants you have visited to make a personal map or to share with your loved ones, or the location of historical buildings mentioned in a book you are writing.



▶ **Fewer than 100 features**

**OR More than 100 features,**  
but only if data retrieval is non-systematic  
(manual and one-off)

**OR** The geographic coverage  
**does not exceed a territory with**  
**1,000 inhabitants**



The use of data samples  
for personal or educational  
projects is encouraged.

## Minor transformations

You may freely manipulate OpenStreetMap data without significantly enriching it. For example, simplifying country outlines to print a world map.



- ▶ No other data source is involved in the transformation.
- OR** No enrichment of the geometry or attributes takes place.
- OR** The transformations only serve to better integrate the data into your service/app: format conversion, data size optimisation.

**If your transformations are useful to OpenStreetMap, contribute them back to OpenStreetMap.**



## Geocoding

This refers to converting a place name or address into geographic coordinates (latitude + longitude), or the reverse.

For example: geocoding the address '73 avenue de Paris, 94165 SAINT-MANDE' returns the geographic position '48.8457083; 2.4245225', which you can add to your dataset.

- ▶ You may use OpenStreetMap to geocode addresses from a private database.
- OR** You can retrieve the place name from OpenStreetMap for a known geographic location.

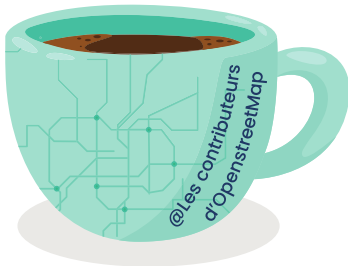


**In all these cases, simply credit OpenStreetMap. The obligation of reciprocity does not apply.**

## Derivative works

OpenStreetMap allows you to create so much more than a database! You are free to create maps, sculptures, games, merchandise... The only obligation is to credit OpenStreetMap.

For example, when printing your city map, don't forget to add the attribution "OpenStreetMap Contributors".



## Do you know?

**The credits of the film "Blade Runner 2049" clearly mention OpenStreetMap: maps of Las Vegas and Los Angeles from OpenStreetMap appear on the screen.**

# ATTRIBUTION

## (How to give credit?)

As a general rule, mention "OpenStreetMap" and its community in all your creations:



### Why?

- ▶ **Recognition:** thanking the contributors.
- ▶ **Visibility:** promote the project, unequivocally.
- ▶ **Promotion:** encouraging contribution.
- ▶ **Transparency:** specify the origin of the data.

### How?

- ▶ Mention the project and the community:
  - Depending on the display context: "OpenStreetMap Contributors", "OpenStreetMap Community"...
  - The mention must be unambiguous and directly visible, limiting the effort required for the reader to find the source.
- ▶ Add a link to get more information on the page: [openstreetmap.org/copyright](https://openstreetmap.org/copyright)



The General Guidelines provide numerous examples of attribution context. Legal issues are often complex and subject to interpretation.

Read the license and the General Guidelines, and consult a qualified intellectual property professional. This document is not a substitute for them.

# Some tips

## They use OpenStreetMap data



### FAQ

#### ► How was the license ODbL written?

The license was written in 2010 by the Open Knowledge Foundation to promote open data specifically for databases. See the license in English:

[opendatacommons.org/licenses/odbl/1-0/](https://opendatacommons.org/licenses/odbl/1-0/)

#### ► Who wrote the General Guidelines?

The Licensing Working Group is a working group within the OpenStreetMap Foundation: its members defined the scope of the ODbL license by writing the Community Guidelines.

[osmfoundation.org/wiki/Licensing\\_Working\\_Group](https://osmfoundation.org/wiki/Licensing_Working_Group)

#### ► Is the license available in English?

Yes, there is a license in English:

<https://opendefinition.org/od/2.1/en>

#### ► Who has standing to bring a legal action relating to a breach of the ODbL licence?

The ODbL is a contractual licence between two parties: the OpenStreetMap Foundation and the contributors/users of the data.

Anyone who can demonstrate substantial contributions is entitled to take legal action against any infringer. This relates to the sui generis right of database producers.

# THE FÉDÉRATION DES PROS D'OSM

The Fédération des Pros d'OpenStreetMap represents the interests of French companies offering services related to OpenStreetMap.

## Free

A rich ecosystem of service providers using open-source software: ideal for avoiding vendor lock-in.

## Open

Open data, an open innovation approach compatible with your business.

## Collaborative

A collective project for true technological sovereignty data.

The federation's members are committed to supporting and growing OpenStreetMap, paying particular attention to promoting, respecting and enforcing the rules and spirit governing the community.

Discover all our commitments in our Ethical Charter -  
Fédération des Pros d'OSM - <https://fposm.fr/charte-ethique>



[ivides.org/livros](https://ivides.org/livros)

## Our members

2i2L

ADRIEN PAVIE

ALVI MAPS

AFITUX  
AUBI - CONSEIL - FORMATION - OUTILS

Carto Cité

DATAACTIVIST

dynartI/O  
[flux + données + territoire(s)]

Facilitateur de Mobilité  
Conseil et Expérience  
par Julien Riccio

geovelo

JawgMaps

JUNGLE BUS

LATITUDE CARTAGÈNE

MAKINA CORPUS

multi

OSLANDIA



Terra Data  
Services  
de Données  
& Services  
Collaboratifs

TERRITORIO  
Géocartographie, urbanisme, pour être au service des villes

verso.  
SMART OPTIMIZATION

Web Geo Data  
V o i e



wemap

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