

The Programme Implementation Committee of NPTEL Project has approved the change of license to Creative Commons CC BY-SA on **June 29, 2012** in its programme review meeting held at **IIT Mandi, Mandi, Himachal Pradesh**. The following points were noted prior to its approval.

Creative Commons license Attribution (BY) and Share-Alike (SA)



1. NPTEL Phase I had only web based lecture notes and no streaming videos. All video courses were available only on tapes for broadcast and therefore distribution to a large number of institutions was also impossible.
2. Current copyright for the NPTEL web site was set up in 2006 when the policies for NPTEL usage were largely not known and were evolving and the PIC did not have the availability of YouTube or video streaming files.
3. Since the development of contents for Phase II, the contents have been distributed to many institutions initially for a fee; now everyone is given the contents freely if he /she provides media.
4. The objective of a large project like this is to reach everyone and enable the teachers to create missing links by themselves and use the contents in a manner that is academic and ethical.
5. Industry, not only IT based, but also core and manufacturing, and research organizations must be encouraged to use NPTEL contents and help create a learning environment synonymous with the social learning network practices prevailing on the Internet. The copyright and distribution policy of NPTEL need to be revised to permit this while ensuring that violations do not happen. The license has to be more permissive and flexible but it should remain still as a license only.
6. Universities and degree granting institutions in India, both public and private, must be encouraged to adopt the NPTEL content for their coursework for this project to reach NPTEL's milestones and effective utilization of funds. This will be possible only if they have the formal permission to modify / redesign the same under conditions of distribution, recognition for the source and distribute them like NPTEL does. All of these require a change from the current policy.
7. Students have to be encouraged to download, post and share NPTEL lectures and other notes with their classmates freely without any commercial gains. The license proposed will allow this by stating it explicitly.

8. Social networking groups and sites which provide free online access to learning have been given permission in the past to access NPTEL content and also link them without any commercial gain for the process of distributing. More such partners are likely to start using NPTEL sooner or later worldwide, benefitting many Indian students and professionals throughout the world. They will be in the best position to modify and tailor-make NPTEL contents to different learning environments by agreeing to the offer of CC license.
9. The license change will permit the use of figures, instructional and demonstrative videos, animations, pdf file-editing with attribution to the source files etc. so that the contents can be repurposed while NPTEL is acknowledged and not exploited commercially. This will enable social learning and translation to multiple Indian and foreign languages. The availability of such high quality educational materials for regions like South East Asia, Africa and South America and the possibility of translation of NPTEL contents in their languages, with adherence to copyrights accepted by UNESCO and other Government agencies, will mean that NPTEL will provide the Indian Government and Indian educational institutions an academic ambassadorship of the highest level.
10. Open Universities in India and abroad can now be permitted to use the content under the same license conditions as stated in the website to ensure the widest possible use of NPTEL for all Indian citizens living anywhere in the world. For commercial use, a non-exclusive permission can be given individually through a license agreement and an MOU with a suitable royalty to NPTEL.
11. Distribution has to follow the standard practice of non-exclusive use. This means that, if the creator of the course wants to use his/her lessons later for creating commercial products such as books, Cds and lessons for the industry etc., the license must be permissive without disabling what is available already as free. This permission is given only to the original SMEs (Creators of the Courses in NPTEL Website).
12. OCW consortium is the other major content provider on the web besides NPTEL and has adopted the CC- BY- SA already.
13. Many American, UK, Australian, Canadian and European Universities have already implemented Creative Commons licenses. UNSECO, British Open University and many others have already implemented open educational and licensing policies for wider access and greater coverage of their contents.
14. The CC policy gives NPTEL contents the same level of visibility, permissibility of usage throughout the world with a license that major countries have recognized uniformly and **permits NPTEL content developers the flexibility and freedom to use other CC licensed OERs for building and adapting their**

content. This is most important when NPTEL and content pedagogy projects in India move towards enacting the Washington Accord and India becomes a major global player in the education/training arena.

- 15. Indian Institutions can leverage the NPTEL content license change to add to NPTEL from their own curricula and in the development of a similar programme. Many Universities and Colleges in India have academic partnerships with many International Universities. When NPTEL is shared with a license common to Open Educational Resources of these institutions, there will be synergy in learning and tool and web development.**

The NPTEL PIC therefore approves of the copyright change and permits NPTEL site declare that its contents are distributed under the Creative Commons with attribution and Share-Alike license. The logo that will appear in the site will be the following. The site Creative Commons will be linked in NPTEL.

