


From: Ben Ramsey ramsey@php.net 
Subject: Updating the PHP License (Action Requested)
Date: June 21, 2025 at 13:08



To: Thies Arntzen thies@php.net, Stig Bakken ssb@php.net, Shane Caraveo shane@php.net, Andi Gutmans andi@php.net, Rasmus Lerdorf rasmus@php.net, Sam Ruby rubys@intertwingly.net, Sascha Schumann sas@php.net, Zeev Suraski zeev@php.net, Jim Winstead jimw@php.net, Andrei Zmievski andrei@php.net
Cc: Pamela Chestek pamela@chesteklegal.com

PHP Group members:

Just over a year ago, I sent individual messages to each of you with the subject line "Requesting feedback and help with a PHP RFC." The email described an RFC I've written that proposes to deprecate the PHP License and Zend Engine License and replace them with the BSD 3-Clause License. I heard back from 7 members of this group, each approving of the proposal.

As part of this process, I also solicited feedback from the FSF License Compliance team, the debian-legal mailing list, the OSI license-discuss mailing list, Perforce (through Matthew Weier O'Phinney), and Zak Greant, all of whom provided valuable recommendations.

I'll summarize the number one recommendation I received using a response from Krzysztof Siewicz, Licensing and Compliance Manager for the FSF:

we believe that it is instrumental to support this change with legal advice from a counsel with whom you have formal attorney-client relationship. It would reassure the community that they can rely on the new license.

To that end, I've spoken with Pamela Chestek of [Chestek Legal](https://www.chesteklegal.com/) about retaining her services to support the PHP project through this transition. Some of you may be familiar with Pamela's work as a member of the Board and Chair of the License Committee for the OSI.

Before entering into a formal attorney-client relationship, the PHP Group needs to approve of my involvement and affirm that I'm acting on behalf of the interests of the PHP Group (regarding the change to the license).


I've Cc'd Pamela on this message. **Please reply-all to this message to voice your approval.**

Once we've taken care of this formality, I'll start discussion of the RFC on the php-internals mailing list.

For reference, the members of the PHP Group are listed here: <https://www.php.net/credits.php>. The RFC for the license change is here: https://wiki.php.net/rfc/php_license_update.

Thanks so much for your help!

Cheers,
Ben

From: Ben Ramsey ramsey@php.net 
Subject: Re: Updating the PHP License (Action Requested)
Date: June 26, 2025 at 21:55

To: Thies Arntzen thies@php.net, Stig Bakken ssb@php.net, Shane Caraveo shane@php.net, Andi Gutmans andi@php.net, Rasmus Lerdorf rasmus@php.net, Sam Ruby rubys@intertwingly.net, Sascha Schumann sas@php.net, Zeev Suraski zeev@php.net, Jim Winstead jimw@php.net, Andrei Zmievski andrei@php.net
Cc: Pamela Chestek pamela@chesteklegal.com

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Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Cheers,
Ben

On Jun 21, 2025, at 13:08, Ben Ramsey <ramsey@php.net> wrote:

PHP Group members:

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Ben



From: Andrei Zmievski andrei@zmievski.org
Subject: Re: Updating the PHP License (Action Requested)
Date: June 26, 2025 at 22:06
To: Ben Ramsey ramsey@php.net, Thies Arntzen thies@php.net, Stig Bakken ssb@php.net, Shane Caraveo shane@php.net, Andi Gutmans andi@php.net, Rasmus Lerdorf rasmus@php.net, Sam Ruby rubys@intertwingly.net, Sascha Schumann sas@php.net, Zeev Suraski zeev@php.net, Jim Winstead jimw@php.net, Andrei Zmievski andrei@php.net
Cc: Pamela Chestek pamela@chesteklegal.com

This is okay with me.

On Thu, Jun 26, 2025, at 7:55 PM, Ben Ramsey wrote:

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Ben

On Jun 21, 2025, at 13:08, Ben Ramsey <ramsey@php.net> wrote:

PHP Group members:

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Attachments:

- signature.asc

From: Shane Caraveo shane@caraveo.com
Subject: Re: Updating the PHP License (Action Requested)
Date: June 26, 2025 at 22:20
To: Ben Ramsey ramsey@php.net, Thies Arntzen thies@php.net, Stig Bakken ssb@php.net, Shane Caraveo shane@php.net, Andi Gutmans andi@php.net, Rasmus Lerdorf rasmus@php.net, Sam Ruby rubys@intertwingly.net, Sascha Schumann sas@php.net, Zeev Suraski zeev@php.net, Jim Winstead jimw@php.net, Andrei Zmievski andrei@php.net
Cc: Pamela Chestek pamela@chesteklegal.com

Hi Ben,

I voiced my general support last year when you first contacted about this, as then I support it. I don't see a recent email so thank you for following up.
Best,
Shane

On 6/26/25 10:55 PM, Ben Ramsey wrote:

Hi, folks! I'm just following up since I haven't heard from anyone yet, and I wanted to make sure this didn't end up in your spam filters.
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On Jun 21, 2025, at 13:08, Ben Ramsey <ramsey@php.net> wrote:

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*

*

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Thanks so much for your help!

Cheers,
Ben

From: Jim Winstead jimw@trainedmonkey.com
Subject: Re: Updating the PHP License (Action Requested)
Date: June 27, 2025 at 10:15
To: Ben Ramsey ramsey@php.net
Cc: Thies Arntzen thies@php.net, Stig Bakken ssb@php.net, Shane Caraveo shane@php.net, Andi Gutmans andi@php.net, Rasmus Lerdorf rasmus@php.net, Sam Ruby rubys@intertwingly.net, Sascha Schumann sas@php.net, Zeev Suraski zeev@php.net, Jim Winstead jimw@php.net, Andrei Zmievski andrei@php.net, Pamela Chestek pamela@chesteklegal.com

I approve.

Jim

On Jun 21, 2025, at 11:08 AM, Ben Ramsey <ramsey@php.net> wrote:

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Thanks so much for your help!

Cheers,
Ben

<signature.asc>

From: Sam Ruby rubys@intertwingly.net
Subject: Re: Updating the PHP License (Action Requested)
Date: June 27, 2025 at 12:32
To: Jim Winstead jimw@trainedmonkey.com, Ben Ramsey ramsey@php.net
Cc: Thies Arntzen thies@php.net, Stig Bakken ssb@php.net, Shane Caraveo shane@php.net, Andi Gutmans andi@php.net, Rasmus Lerdorf rasmus@php.net, Sascha Schumann sas@php.net, Zeev Suraski zeev@php.net, Jim Winstead jimw@php.net, Andrei Zmievski andrei@php.net, Pamela Chestek pamela@chesteklegal.com

I approve

- Sam Ruby

On 6/27/25 5:15 PM, Jim Winstead wrote:

I approve.

Jim

On Jun 21, 2025, at 11:08 AM, Ben Ramsey <ramsey@php.net> wrote:

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<signature.asc>

From: Sascha Schumann sascha.schumann@myrsecurity.com

Subject: Re: Updating the PHP License (Action Requested)

Date: June 27, 2025 at 13:15

To: Sam Ruby rubys@intertwingly.net, Jim Winstead jimw@trainedmonkey.com, Ben Ramsey ramsey@php.net

Cc: Thies Arntzen thies@php.net, Stig Bakken ssb@php.net, Shane Caraveo shane@php.net, Andi Gutmans andi@php.net, Rasmus Lerdorf rasmus@php.net, Sascha Schumann sas@php.net, Zeev Suraski zeev@php.net, Jim Winstead jimw@php.net, Andrei Zmievski andrei@php.net, Pamela Chestek pamela@chesteklegal.com

I approve.

Sascha Schumann

Sam Ruby <rubys@intertwingly.net> hat am 27.06.2025 19:31 CEST geschrieben:

I approve

- Sam Ruby

On 6/27/25 5:15 PM, Jim Winstead wrote:

I approve.

Jim

On Jun 21, 2025, at 11:08 AM, Ben Ramsey <ramsey@php.net> wrote:

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Thanks so much for your help!

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Ben

<signature.asc>

From: Thies C. Arntzen thies@arntzens.net

Subject: Re: Updating the PHP License (Action Requested)

Date: June 27, 2025 at 14:02

To: Thies Arntzen thies@php.net, Stig Bakken ssb@php.net, Shane Caraveo shane@php.net, Andi Gutmans andi@php.net, Rasmus Lerdorf rasmus@php.net, Sam Ruby rubys@intertwingly.net, Sascha Schumann sas@php.net, Zeev Suraski zeev@php.net, Jim Winstead jimw@php.net, Andrei Zmievski andrei@php.net, Ben Ramsey ramsey@php.net

Cc: Pamela Chestek pamela@chesteklegal.com

go ahead & good luck;-)

Mit freundlichen Grüßen
Thies C. Arntzen

Nachricht von Ben Ramsey <ramsey@php.net> am 27. Juni 2025, 04:55 +0200:

Hi, folks! I'm just following up since I haven't heard from anyone yet, and I wanted to make sure this didn't end up in your spam filters.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

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On Jun 21, 2025, at 13:08, Ben Ramsey <ramsey@php.net> wrote:

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Thanks so much for your help!

Cheers,
Ben

From: Rasmus Lerdorf rasmus@lerdorf.com
Subject: Re: Updating the PHP License (Action Requested)
Date: June 27, 2025 at 14:46
To: Ben Ramsey ramsey@php.net



ok

On Sat, Jun 21, 2025 at 2:08 PM Ben Ramsey <ramsey@php.net> wrote:
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Thanks so much for your help!

Cheers,
Ben

From: Zeev Suraski vsuraski@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Updating the PHP License (Action Requested)
Date: June 27, 2025 at 15:18
To: Thies C. Arntzen thies@arntzens.net
Cc: Thies Arntzen thies@php.net, Stig Bakken ssb@php.net, Shane Caraveo shane@php.net, Andi Gutmans andi@php.net, Rasmus Lerdorf rasmus@php.net, Sam Ruby rubys@intertwingly.net, Sascha Schumann sas@php.net, Zeev Suraski zeev@php.net, Jim Winstead jimw@php.net, Andrei Zmievski andrei@php.net, Ben Ramsey ramsey@php.net, Pamela Chestek pamela@chesteklegal.com

+1 from me - best of luck!

On 27 Jun 2025, at 22:02, Thies C. Arntzen <thies@arntzens.net> wrote:

go ahead & good luck;-)

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

Thies C. Arntzen

Nachricht von Ben Ramsey <ramsey@php.net> am 27. Juni 2025, 04:55 +0200:

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Thanks so much for your help!

Cheers,
Ben

From: Stig Bakken stig@stigbakken.com
Subject: Re: Updating the PHP License (Action Requested)
Date: June 30, 2025 at 15:50
To: Ben Ramsey ramsey@php.net
Cc: Thies Arntzen thies@php.net, Stig Bakken ssb@php.net, Shane Caraveo shane@php.net, Andi Gutmans andi@php.net, Rasmus Lerdorf rasmus@php.net, Sam Ruby rubys@intertwingly.net, Sascha Schumann sas@php.net, Zeev Suraski zeev@php.net, Jim Winstead jimw@php.net, Andrei Zmievski andrei@php.net, Pamela Chestek pamel@chesteklegal.com

I approve.

- Stig

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Ben



From: Ben Ramsey ramsey@php.net
Subject: Re: Updating the PHP License (Action Requested)
Date: July 9, 2025 at 22:29

To: Thies Arntzen thies@php.net, Stig Bakken ssb@php.net, Shane Caraveo shane@php.net, Andi Gutmans andi@php.net, Rasmus Lerdorf rasmus@php.net, Sam Ruby rubys@intertwingly.net, Sascha Schumann sas@php.net, Zeev Suraski zeev@php.net, Jim Winstead jimw@php.net, Andrei Zmievski andrei@php.net
Cc: Pamela Chestek pamela@chesteklegal.com

Thank you, everyone!

I've opened discussion on the internals mailing list, here: <https://news-web.php.net/php.internals/127984>

Cheers,
Ben

On Jun 21, 2025, at 13:08, Ben Ramsey <ramsey@php.net> wrote:

PHP Group members:

Just over a year ago, I sent individual messages to each of you with the subject line "Requesting feedback and help with a PHP RFC." The email described an RFC I've written that proposes to deprecate the PHP License and Zend Engine License and replace them with the BSD 3-Clause License. I heard back from 7 members of this group, each approving of the proposal.

As part of this process, I also solicited feedback from the FSF License Compliance team, the debian-legal mailing list, the OSI license-discuss mailing list, Perforce (through Matthew Weier O'Phinney), and Zak Greant, all of whom provided valuable recommendations.

I'll summarize the number one recommendation I received using a response from Krzysztof Siewicz, Licensing and Compliance Manager for the FSF:

we believe that it is instrumental to support this change with legal advice from a counsel with whom you have formal attorney-client relationship. It would reassure the community that they can rely on the new license.

To that end, I've spoken with Pamela Chestek of [Chestek Legal](#) about retaining her services to support the PHP project through this transition. Some of you may be familiar with Pamela's work as a member of the Board and Chair of the License Committee for the OSI.

Before entering into a formal attorney-client relationship, the PHP Group needs to approve of my involvement and affirm that I'm acting on behalf of the interests of the PHP Group (regarding the change to the license).

I've Cc'd Pamela on this message. **Please reply-all to this message to voice your approval.**

Once we've taken care of this formality, I'll start discussion of the RFC on the php-internals mailing list.

For reference, the members of the PHP Group are listed here: <https://www.php.net/credits.php>. The RFC for the license change is here: https://wiki.php.net/rfc/php_license_update.

Thanks so much for your help!

Cheers,
Ben

From: Zeev Suraski vsuraski@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Requesting feedback and help with a PHP RFC
Date: May 13, 2024 at 02:41
To: Ben Ramsey ramsey@php.net
Cc: Andi Gutmans andigutmans@gmail.com

Hey Ben,

Adding Andi to the loop since we discussed it and are aligned - we have no issues with this proposal - so you have our "blessing" to move forward with it. For the Zend Engine, as your analysis shows, the main entity that has to approve is indeed Perforce - we've assigned copyright over the engine to Zend Technologies 20+ years ago, and as such Perforce is the owner of that copyright.

Good luck!

Zeev

On Fri, May 10, 2024 at 5:47 AM Ben Ramsey <ramsey@php.net> wrote:
Hi, Zeev!

It's been a while, and I hope all is well.

I'm writing because I've written a PHP RFC that proposes to deprecate the PHP License and Zend Engine License and replace them with the BSD 3-Clause License. I've put a lot of work into presenting what I think is a sound and well-reasoned argument for this change, I've spoken to a couple lawyers in the open source space for their feedback, and the legal team at Perforce Software has informally approved the proposal.

Now, I'm looking for the "blessing" of the PHP Group before opening this up for discussion on the internals mailing list and in the wider community.

All the details are here on the RFC page: https://wiki.php.net/rfc/php_license_update

Please take a look and share any feedback and concerns you have.

Thanks in advance!

Cheers,
Ben