



WHITEPAPER

# Reinventing Open Source Auditing

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## Navigating the Complexities of Open Source Auditing

Open source software has rapidly become a critical component of modern technology, with a vast majority of the world's software relying on open source code. Open source accounts for 90% of the software we use today, a drastic increase from just 36% back in 2015, according to The Forrester Wave™ Software Composition Analysis, Q3 2021. This growth has made it increasingly important for companies to have reliable and efficient auditing solutions for open source software.

However, as the reliance on open source continues to expand, so do the security concerns associated with it. Ensuring license and trade compliance has also become a critical challenge, and the rise of AI-assisted coding has further increased the complexity of open source audits. Therefore, it is imperative to have accurate and efficient auditing solutions that can handle the volume and complexity of open source code while ensuring compliance with licensing, trade regulations and security requirements.

Fossity is an innovative startup dedicated to redefining the way open source auditing is conducted. The company provides a complete solution to the challenges that businesses face, especially those involved in M&A due diligences and pre-delivery auditing from product development. With its unique approach to zero trust auditing, Fossity offers a secure and confidential process that prioritizes privacy, cost savings, and human error elimination.

Fossity's team of experts has decades of combined experience in the field of Open Source auditing. Drawing on their extensive knowledge and expertise, the team has taken a bold step forward and created a new approach that promises to revolutionize the industry. By thinking out of the box and taking a fresh look at the challenges facing businesses today, Fossity has developed a novel

approach that provides a scalable solution to the problems of Open Source auditing. Fossity enables companies to achieve unprecedented levels of speed, precision, and confidentiality in Open Source Auditing that were previously unattainable.

## Reinventing Open Source Auditing: Strategies for Success

Open Source Auditors face a myriad of challenges when conducting software audits, and these challenges can make the process time-consuming and costly. The lack of specialized tooling is a significant factor contributing to these challenges, further exacerbated by the ever-increasing open source adoption, mounting regulation requirements, and heightened cybersecurity concerns around the world. Auditors rely on Software Composition Analysis (SCA) tools that provide raw identification and a monolithic user interface that solves an entire audit from start to finish, leading to several challenges for businesses dealing with large-scale audits or running multiple audits simultaneously:

**Confidentiality:** As Open Source audits are commonly conducted during Due Diligence processes for Mergers and Acquisitions, privacy is a significant concern. Auditing can expose sensitive information about a company and its source code. Fossity addresses this privacy challenge by isolating auditors from the source code or any information about the company or product being audited. With Fossity's unique zero-trust approach to auditing, confidentiality is built into every step of the process. This ensures that auditors are isolated from any sensitive information, and that the audited company's privacy is protected at all times, by definition.

**Delivery Times:** Timing is a crucial aspect of any open source audit, and it becomes even more critical when conducted during Mergers

and Acquisitions. Delays in the audit process can result in missed opportunities, increased costs, and even legal liabilities. This is because the audit process must be conducted as efficiently and accurately as possible, while still adhering to strict timelines and deadlines. By breaking down the audit process into a decentralized network of auditors, Fossity enables auditors to work more efficiently, resulting in faster turnaround times and timely delivery of audit reports. This not only ensures that M&A transactions proceed smoothly but also helps companies to make critical business decisions quickly and with confidence. With Fossity's approach to open source auditing, timing becomes less of a concern and more of a competitive advantage, since delivery times can be reduced up to 80%.

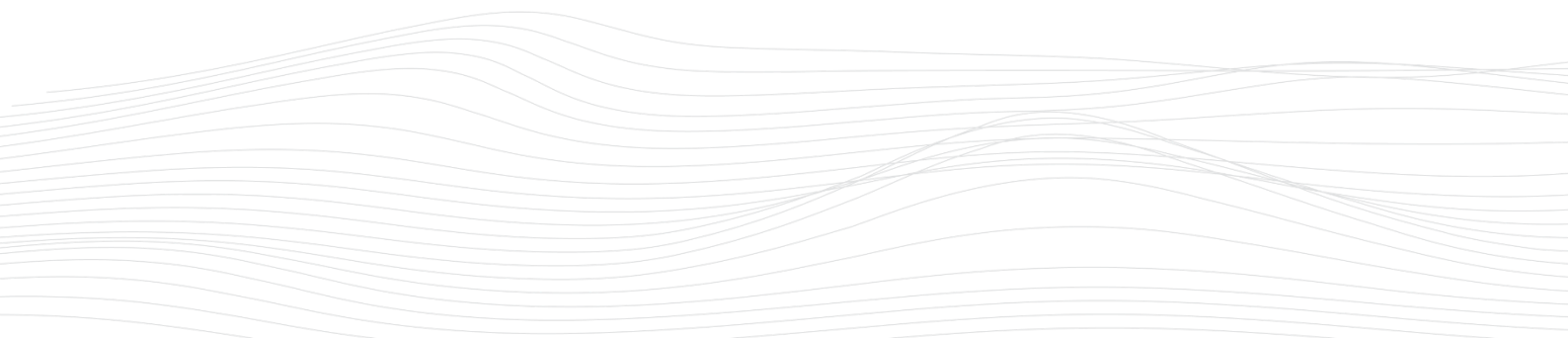
**Human error:** Without specialized tooling, auditors often work in isolation and issue individual assessments, which can vary in quality and may not be subject to review or revision. This approach can lead to inaccuracies, inefficiencies, and missed identifications. In addition, without a standardized process, it can be difficult to ensure that auditors are using consistent criteria and best practices. Fossity addresses these challenges by implementing a collaborative and consensus-based approach to auditing that leverages the expertise of multiple auditors and ensures that all assessments are subject to review and revision. With Fossity's approach, companies can achieve greater accuracy, efficiency, and confidence in their open source auditing processes.

**Accurate Estimates:** Obtaining a timely and accurate quotation for an open source audit can be a time-consuming and frustrating process, often involving multiple rounds of back-and-forth communication. This can result in delays and miscommunications, as the final scope of the audit may not match the initial expectations. As a result, companies may end up paying more than they initially budgeted for or may receive an audit that falls short of their expectations. Fossity's innovative pre-quotation step simplifies

this process by capturing fingerprints of the source code to be audited, allowing for a more accurate preliminary identification and more precise delivery time and pricing estimates. This enables customers to plan and budget more effectively, without the frustration and delays often associated with traditional open source auditing processes.

**Cost Savings:** Fossity addresses the cost challenges associated with Open Source auditing by streamlining the auditing process through a decentralized network of auditors. This approach requires a shorter learning curve, enabling auditors to quickly become proficient in specific critical areas of the audit process. This increased efficiency leads to reduced costs for companies, making Open Source auditing more accessible for businesses of all sizes. With Fossity's innovative approach, companies can benefit from up to 75% cost savings in open source auditing.

In conclusion, Fossity's innovative approach to Open Source auditing addresses the key challenges facing businesses today. By providing a secure and confidential auditing process that prioritizes privacy, reduces costs, increases performance, and eliminates human error, Fossity enables companies to experience enhanced accuracy, efficiency, and confidence in their open source auditing processes. With Fossity, businesses can streamline their auditing procedures, reduce delivery times, and make critical business decisions quickly and confidently. By redefining the way Open Source auditing is conducted, Fossity has the potential to revolutionize the industry and bring about a new era of open source auditing excellence.



## A New Era of Efficiency, Accuracy, and Accessibility.

As a part of its innovative approach, Fossity leverages specialized SCA tools to provide an initial input for Open Source auditing. The results of these tools are then cross-referenced with Fossity's vast knowledge base of curated Open Source identifications, which enables the team to narrow down the scope of work and focus on critical areas that require further analysis. Fossity's knowledge base includes millions of curated identifications from its team of experts, who have curated and refined a comprehensive set of best practices and criteria for Open Source auditing. This approach allows Fossity to work more efficiently, with a higher degree of accuracy and a reduced risk of missing critical issues.

In addition to the knowledge base, Fossity also utilizes supervised learning to assist auditors in their assessments. The knowledge base serves as the training data for an AI-based auditing assistant, which uses the curated identifications to make predictions and recommendations. By leveraging the collective knowledge of multiple auditors, the AI-based assistant can make accurate and informed identifications. This approach improves the accuracy and efficiency of the auditing process, enabling auditors to quickly and confidently identify open source components and assess their compliance with licensing and trade regulations.

This knowledge base, along with AI-assisted mechanisms, significantly reduces the training and examination time for auditors. The knowledge base serves as a recurring benchmark for auditor performance and accuracy, which helps to minimize human errors and distractions and produce the most reliable results possible.

The Open Source Auditing Platform developed by Fossity enables a decentralized and redundant network of auditors to work completely remotely. Due to the platform's built-in confidentiality,

auditors are no longer constrained by geographical locations or restrictive confidentiality agreements. The auditing work is conducted in isolation from the sensitive data, and the platform is specifically designed to handle multiple parallel audits on a large scale. Additionally, the platform offers a customized training and certification program that is designed to equip auditors with the necessary skills to perform high-quality audits. As a result, auditors are available around the clock worldwide, without any geographical constraints.

## The Future of Open Source Auditing Starts with Fossity

Fossity offers a groundbreaking approach to Open Source auditing that combines the power of specialized SCA tools, AI-assisted mechanisms, and a vast knowledgebase of curated identifications to provide a streamlined, efficient, and cost-effective auditing process. By leveraging its unique methodology, Fossity enables businesses to make critical decisions quickly and confidently, while minimizing the risks and costs associated with traditional auditing methods. With Fossity's innovative approach and cutting-edge technology, the future of Open Source auditing is here, and it's more accurate, efficient, confidential and accessible than ever before.

## Our Mission

At Fossity, our mission is to redefine the way open source auditing is conducted by leveraging innovative technologies and a vast knowledge base of curated identifications. Our goal is to provide businesses with a streamlined and efficient auditing process that maximizes accuracy, reduces costs, and prioritizes privacy. We strive to empower our clients with the confidence and agility they need to make critical business decisions quickly and with certainty, as we continue to lead the way towards a new era of open source auditing excellence.

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