CoCoALib - Support #1555

Software licence

21 Dec 2020 12:33 - John Abbott

Status:	Closed		Start date:	21 Dec 2020
Priority:	Normal		Due date:	
Assignee:	John Abbott		% Done:	100%
Category:	Various		Estimated time:	12.51 hours
Target version:	CoCoALib-0.99800		Spent time:	12.25 hours

Description

Gereon Kremer asks whether we are willing to release some or all of the source for CoCoA/CoCoALib under a different licence (in ptic, BSD or MIT)
His intended use is within the CVC4 software suite.

Discuss; decide.

Related issues:

Related to CoCoALib - Design #855: Copyright and authorship?	**Closed**	**25 Mar 2016**
Related to CoCoA-5 - Bug #1356: CoCoA-5 header files: should use a common pre...	**Closed**	**29 Oct 2019**
Related to CoCoALib - Support #1481: Release CoCoALib 0.99800	**Closed**	**28 Aug 2020**

History

#1 - 22 Dec 2020 15:43 - John Abbott

- Related to Design #855: Copyright and authorship? added

#2 - 28 Dec 2020 17:56 - John Abbott

Here are what we need to do:

- ensure that all copyright lines are correct (Anna and me)
- remove the GPL blurb from each file
- insert MIT/BSD licence blurb in each file -- **which is more appropriate?**
- create a **new type of release** with the revised licence.

Do we give the release just to Gereon? Or should we make it available to all and sundry?
Note that Gereon would be free to further release the code we give him (assuming MIT/BSD permits that).

#3 - 07 Jan 2021 20:26 - John Abbott

- Status changed from New to In Progress

- % Done changed from 0 to 10

Here is a suggestion:

- find out how many different copyright messages we need (headers, source, tests, examples, documentation, other (makefiles))
- in each file write a "placeholder" (*e.g.* COPYRIGHT_FOR_HEADER, COPYRIGHT_FOR_SOURCE, _etc.)
- before making a release go through all files and replace the placeholders by the relevant boiler-plate text.

I'm not entirely sure how one can replace a placeholder ID by a text containing several lines (which must be seen as a comment in the resulting file).

This does imply that we would need to specify under which licence to make the release (default GPL-3+)

#4 - 07 Apr 2021 18:08 - John Abbott

- Assignee set to John Abbott

We seem to have used the standard GPL v3.0 for all source code (headers and source):

- in include/CoCoA/
- in src/AlgebraicCore/
- in src/test/
- in src/CoCoA-5/ **but** these files claim to be part of the source of CoCoALib -- is that right?

Apparently no copyleft message in the following:

- Makefile -- all of them!
- CoCoAHelp.xml

The examples are supposed to be "public domain" (maybe CC0?)

- examples/ex-*.C

CoCoALib documentation has GPL Doc copyright notice:

- doc/txt/*.txt

#5 - 09 Apr 2021 13:40 - John Abbott

As mentioned in #855#note-15 the FSF gives advice at the following URL:

```
http://www.gnu.org/licenses/license-recommendations.html
```


Their suggestion for a non_GPL licence is Apache Version 2.0. I'll ask Gereon if that would be OK for him.

Gereon also said that he did not need a licence change for the documentation (but we should anyway clarify the licence for the documentation in those files which currently say nothing).

#6 - 09 Apr 2021 13:48 - John Abbott

I currently suggest the following:

- add copyright notices to all files (incl. Makefile and other supporting files)

- in source code **add a restrictive copyright notice** which is then replaced by GPL (or whatever we choose) when making a release.

Here is an initial (unsafe) shell script which replaces a single line containing a "keyword" string, by the contents of a file.

```
#! /bin/bash

FILE=$1
STRING=$2
INSERT_FILE=$3

line=`cat -n "$FILE" | fgrep "$STRING" | head -1 | cut -f 1`
echo "line = $line"

nextline=`expr $line + 1`
prevline=`expr $line - 1`

head -n $prevline "$FILE"
cat "$INSERT_FILE"
tail -n +$nextline "$FILE"
```

Not yet sure how to make this script safer (*e.g.* explicit paths for head and tail; checking for non-zero rtn codes)

#7 - 26 Apr 2021 14:07 - John Abbott

Currently our copyright notice in source code files says the following (following guidance from FSF about using GPL):

```
//   CoCoALib is free software: you can redistribute it and/or modify
//   it under the terms of the GNU General Public License as published by
//   the Free Software Foundation, either version 3 of the License, or
//   (at your option) any later version.

//   CoCoALib is distributed in the hope that it will be useful,
//   but WITHOUT ANY WARRANTY; without even the implied warranty of
//   MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.  See the
//   GNU General Public License for more details.

//   You should have received a copy of the GNU General Public License
//   along with CoCoALib.  If not, see <http://www.gnu.org/licenses/>.
```

I presume the equivalent for Apache-2.0 should says more or less the same *mutatis mutandis*, especially the part about "without any warranty".

#8 - 12 Nov 2021 10:28 - John Abbott

We need to consider also the copyright notices in the sources for CoCoA-5.
Should the copyright notice for CoCoA-5 files be identical to that of CoCoALib files?

#9 - 12 Nov 2021 10:31 - John Abbott

- Related to Bug #1356: CoCoA-5 header files: should use a common prefix for CPP variables which enforce read-once added

#10 - 12 Nov 2021 10:43 - John Abbott

We need to decide what the restrictive message should say.
Ideally it should be just 1 or 2 lines long, and placed very uniformly in all files so that the naive script above does not do anything stupid.

```
This is a private copy for your private use; you may not give it to others.
A public open-source version can be obtained from http://cocoa.dima.unige.it/
```


#11 - 04 Feb 2022 21:51 - John Abbott

- Target version changed from CoCoALib-0.99800 to CoCoALib-0.99850

This should not be hard, but will probably take quite a lot of time... which is very scarce at the moment.
Postponing.

#12 - 23 Feb 2022 10:24 - John Abbott

- Status changed from In Progress to Resolved

- Target version changed from CoCoALib-0.99850 to CoCoALib-0.99800

- % Done changed from 10 to 60

I think I have done this mostly now.... quite a gruelling, mind-numbing task. And, yes, it did take a tediously long time.
Hope to make some tests soon.

#13 - 03 Mar 2022 14:42 - John Abbott

- % Done changed from 60 to 80

Gereon has confirmed that the trial version seems to be fine for his purposes:
in ptic, he needed a revised copyright just for the source code of CoCoALib
(and does not care about the licence for documentation, or CoCoA-5 source code).

As mentioned before, a big change is that make a source release is no longer
an almost trivial operation of a making a copy of the source tree from CVS,
but instead requires potentially editing practically every source file in
include/CoCoA/ and in src/AlgebraicCore/. This is done by a development
of the script outlined in comment 6 above.

#14 - 07 Mar 2022 10:04 - Anna Maria Bigatti

- Status changed from Resolved to Closed

- % Done changed from 80 to 100

- Estimated time set to 12.51 h

#15 - 28 Mar 2024 15:36 - Anna Maria Bigatti

- Related to Support #1687: Release CoCoALib 0.99850 added

#16 - 28 Mar 2024 16:10 - Anna Maria Bigatti

- Related to deleted (Support #1687: Release CoCoALib 0.99850)

#17 - 28 Mar 2024 16:10 - Anna Maria Bigatti

- Related to Support #1481: Release CoCoALib 0.99800 added