Keeping the Lawyers Happy,
Keeping the Developers Happy,
and Making Your Boss \textit{Happier}

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“History doesn’t repeat itself, but it often rhymes”

– Mark Twain
MySQL

- 1995 - Startup for someone who could not afford Oracle DB
- Becomes the M in the LAMP stack
- Send in a patch, get a job
- Sold to Sun for $1,000,000,000
- Sun sold to Oracle
- Life is very good at Oracle for MySQL
  -- Making $
  -- Roughly quintupled staff
  -- Best releases of software
  -- Growing in rankings.
Oracle

The Pythia (/ˈpiθia/, Ancient Greek: Πυθία [pyːˈtʰi.aː]), commonly known as the Oracle of Delphi, was the name given to the High Priestess of the Temple of Apollo at Delphi who also served as the Oracle.

The Pythia was established in the 8th century BC, and was widely credited for her prophecies inspired by being filled by the spirit of the god, in this case Apollo. The Pythian priestess emerged preeminent by the end of 7th century BC and would continue to be consulted until the 4th century AD. During this period the Delphic Oracle was the most prestigious and authoritative oracle among the Greeks, and she was without doubt the most powerful woman of the classical world. -- Wikipedia

In antiquity, the people who went to the Oracle to ask for advice were known as “consultants,” literally, “those who seek counsel.”

Consultants worked only the 9 warmest months of the year

The job of a priestess, especially the Pythia, was a respectable career for Greek women. Priestesses enjoyed many liberties and rewards for their social position, such as freedom from taxation, the right to own property and attend public events, a salary and housing provided by the state.
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Wants and Needs

So why do we need contributor agreements??
What do developers want?

- Want to code
- Want to share
- Want recognition (fame, fortune, $, groupies)
What do lawyers want?

- Protect employer
- Protect rights
- Want recognition (fame, fortune, $, groupies) for employer
What do bosses want?

Produce

Balance needs

Want recognition (fame, fortune, $, groupies) for employer
What do we all not want??
MySQL’s Evolution of a process

–Send in patch, get a job, cannibalize development from community
–Uh, how do we know software is 'original'
–GPL II
–SUN Microsystems
–Oracle
–Oracle org chart
The Oracle Contributor Agreement:
--Make sure code comes from someone who owns it
--What goes wrong if code not original
--Deep pockets = Target
Current Process

How to file an OCA
Current Process

- Developers/Companies discovers code/project
- Download Oracle Contributors Agreement
- Form checked, data entered, Developer notified
- Code accepted
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