

# The Essentials of Open Source Component Management

Open source is great! It is free to use, shortens time-to-market, and there's an entire community that uses, tests and improves it. However, as open source components make a significant part of your software, care should be taken to manage their use:

## 1. License risks and compliance

Open source components are free but neglecting to comply with their license requirements may result in substantial legal, business, and technical risks. **You must ensure that you do not use components in a way that may risk your own intellectual property or affect your business.**

## 2. Security vulnerabilities and version management

Open source components are like any other code: they have security vulnerabilities and bugs. Open source communities are quick to report and fix these, but **it is your responsibility to continuously monitor data sources that announce security vulnerabilities and new versions.**

## The Essentials of Open Source Component Management

To properly manage your open source components, **you must...**

### 1. Know what you are using.

You must know which open source components are already used in your products, and detect new components as they are added by developers. Remember, open source components usually use other components ("dependencies"), and you must know of these too.

## **2. Enforce license policy.**

You must know the licenses of all the open source components in your software (including all dependencies) and understand the associated risks and compliance requirements.

## **3. Ensure security and quality.**

You must know of the security vulnerabilities in all the open source components in your product, as soon as they are announced. You should know of fixes and new versions as they become available.

## **4. Use a complete solution.**

You must manage open source in all parts of your system, no matter what language it is written in or what development environment you use.

## **5. Continuously manage, enforce and report.**

You must control what gets into your software by consistently enforcing your policies. You must readily be able to provide reports instantly when required by partners, customers and management.

WhiteSource does all this for you, so open source management becomes effortless. We'll be glad to show you how.