Open Source E&P Software Licensing Strategies

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This presentation will explore the legal issues involved in adopting one of various open source licensing models for E&P software and related technologies. The differences between common types of open source licensing schemes (academic, reciprocal, and “standards”-oriented) will be described and a decision tree for selecting the right approach will be set forth, based on the institutional goals of the organization considering the implementation of such a strategy. The presentation will also examine the inherent potential liabilities that accompany open source licensing models and propose mitigation strategies that can be employed to limit the risks. Throughout the presentation, there will be a review of the underlying intellectual property concepts that are pertinent the decisions that must be made in the course of planning and implementing an open source strategy.