

Attribution Required



by [Jeff Atwood](#) on June 25, 2009



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But our cc-wiki licensing, while intentionally permissive, does **require attribution**.

Attribution — You must attribute the work in the manner specified by the author or licensor (but not in any way that suggests that they endorse you or your use of the work).

I thought it was pretty clear what "attribution" meant, but given the semi-scummy way the content is popping up in some seedier areas of the internet, maybe not:

- <http://hiveminds.se/vote/framed/story.php?id=23472>
- <http://programmingfaq.w3ec.com/>

(there may be others; these are just the ones I know about)

So let me clarify what we mean by attribution. If you republish this content, we **require** that you:

1. **Visually indicate that the content is from Stack Overflow or the Stack Exchange network** in some way. It doesn't have to be obnoxious; a discreet text blurb is fine.
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3. **Show the author names** for every question and answer
4. **Hyperlink each author name** directly back to their user profile page on the source site (e.g., <http://stackoverflow.com/users/12345/username>)

By "directly", I mean each hyperlink must point directly to our domain in standard HTML visible even with JavaScript disabled, and not use a tinyurl or any other form of obfuscation or redirection. Furthermore, the links must *not* be [nofollowed](#).

This is about the spirit of fair **attribution**. Attribution to the website, and more importantly, to the *individuals* who so generously contributed their time to create that content in the first place!

Anyway, I hope that clears up any confusion — feel free to remix and reuse to your heart's content, as long as a good faith effort is made to attribute the content!

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Author



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Co-Founder (Former)

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Raphael says:

September 18, 2015 at 7:16 am

The need of attribution is clear and not up to discussion. I wonder about the need for linking author profiles.

1. In the case of creating PDFs, do the URLs have to be readable in prints?
2. Should we not also list all editors, since posts may well be the result of combined efforts?
3. When posting a whole q&a thread, is it really practical to list "all" answers?

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Lashundra Williams says:

November 23, 2018 at 5:33 am

Agree

[Reply](#)



Mike Feldsman says:

November 6, 2018 at 9:18 am

What does Republish mean here? If I include some SO post code in my application, and distribute the application, is that consider republishing? Or does republishing mean taking a post and posting it as a blog or elsewhere on the internet

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grolschie says:

March 25, 2019 at 3:06 pm

Great question. And does the license require your app to be released under a CC license if you use any code snippets on SO?

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Erica Robinson says:

April 6, 2019 at 3:38 pm

Nice

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David Kastrup says:

December 11, 2018 at 9:05 am

It would appear that "attribution" here is regulated to mean what StackExchange rather than what the actual copyright holders want, meaning you are only allowed to let yourself be attributed in terms of your StackExchange user identity.

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