

SOFTWARE DISCLOSURE FORM – AUTHORSHIP GUIDELINES

The Software Disclosure Form requires to state the authors/inventors (both BSC and external) that have contributed to the development of the technology. Identification of authors allows BSC to have a point of contact for any issues related to the software, ensures the recognition of their work, and allows them to benefit from royalties if the technology is commercially exploited.

The level of contribution of each author must be expressed through a percentage, totalling 100%. Authors should agree on how to distribute authorship, based on their level of contribution to the code.

If you are not sure of how to distribute authorship, please go through the following steps:

1. Identify commits (or blocks of contributions) in the code

- For the purposes of determining authorship, consider software as a set of commits (contributions).
- Identify what commits integrate the code.
- Identify what commits can be considered major (if they are key to the value of the software or enable key functionalities) or minor (if they do not add substantial value or do not contribute to key functionalities). If you have several commits, try to identify the weight of each commit within the code.

2. Identify commits' authors

- There may be different roles to consider when determining who is the author of a code. Normally, two types of roles can be considered when determining who is the author:
 - Intellectual author (i.e. a group leader/manager): the person who had the idea on which the development is based and provided instructions to implement it.
 - Developer: the person who implemented the idea, developing the code following the instructions from the manager.
- In theory, if an idea was exclusively conceived by the intellectual author and precise instructions were provided on how to implement it, the authorship would correspond exclusively to this intellectual author.
- In practice, both roles are often not so clearly defined. It is not uncommon that, even if implementing instructions, the developer still contributes by determining exactly how to implement them, or adding their own ideas or creative contributions along the way.
- Each case is unique and each team should determine who contributed what – however, authorship will be shared to some extent in many cases when both roles are present.

Other issues regarding identification of authors:

- Please consider that non-BSC authors also have to be identified in the Software Disclosure Form. If the author is an ex-BSC, please include them as an external author and indicate “Ex-BSC” as institutional affiliation.

- If you have more than four authors, please contact the Technology Transfer Office (TTO) at techtransfer@bsc.es indicating you need a personalised form and how many authors you have identified.

3. Assign a percentage to identified authors

- Based on the weight/importance you have assigned to the commits, and the different authors in each of them and their roles, agree with your team on the percentages of authorships to be assigned to each of you.
- Please bear in mind that distribution of authorship is always an approximation based on the agreement between the authors – it is impossible to determine the extent of the contribution with absolute certainty.

4. Update if needed

- If a newer version of the software has been developed since its registration, and new authors need to be included, you can update the Software Disclosure Form.
- To do so, please contact TTO at techtransferoffice@bsc.es at any time to update the Software Disclosure Form.
- TTO also contacts heads of research groups once a year to update information related to registered software. If new authors have participated in the development of new features, please indicate so.