

Notes on GPLv2 WRT the Optiboot bootloader:

In general, it can be hard to interpret exactly how the GPL license applies to microcontroller embedded software.

Assumptions about logically distinct applications, operating systems, dynamically loaded libraries, and the end-user ability to re-compile, re-link, or re-install, don't quite "fit."

There is a "Bootloader Exception" which seems applicable and I've included below, but its current use seems to be in the PyInstaller utility, which is still very far from a Flashed microcontroller bootloader.

The INTENT of the Optiboot maintainers is that Optiboot may be treated much like the operating system on a larger computer, and that its GPLv2 status has no effect on the application itself.

That means that there are no restrictions to using Optiboot with commercial, closed source, or proprietary applications, and no "viral OSSW" infection of any applications by the bootloader. The only requirement is that fixes and enhancements to Optiboot itself be fed back to the Optiboot project.

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